

*Meat and Drink;  
Butchers, publicans and yeomen of the Fells*

*Park, Swarbrick and Walker families in Lancashire*

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*August 2018*



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## Acknowledgments and Disclaimers

I would like to thank those Record Office staff who have responded patiently to my endless requests for documents, and helped me find my way round a variety of sources. Most of all, I must acknowledge the work done by my cousin Gilbert Park, who not only shared his research with me but introduced me to my father's unknown cousin Helena Patton who in turn was able to give me greater insights into a line about which little information had come down to me. To all my father's cousins who responded years ago to my somewhat gauche requests for information, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

This volume started out with the aim of covering all lines on my Park family tree, but became somewhat unwieldy, so the ancestors of John<sup>2</sup> Park's wife Miriam Coulthurst - all Protestant as opposed to largely Catholic - will be followed in a separate volume.

For many years, I followed the wrong Park line, and no doubt also sent others in the wrong direction. For this I apologise. Hopefully, this document - which is still prey to human error - will go some way to redressing the balance.

## Abbreviations

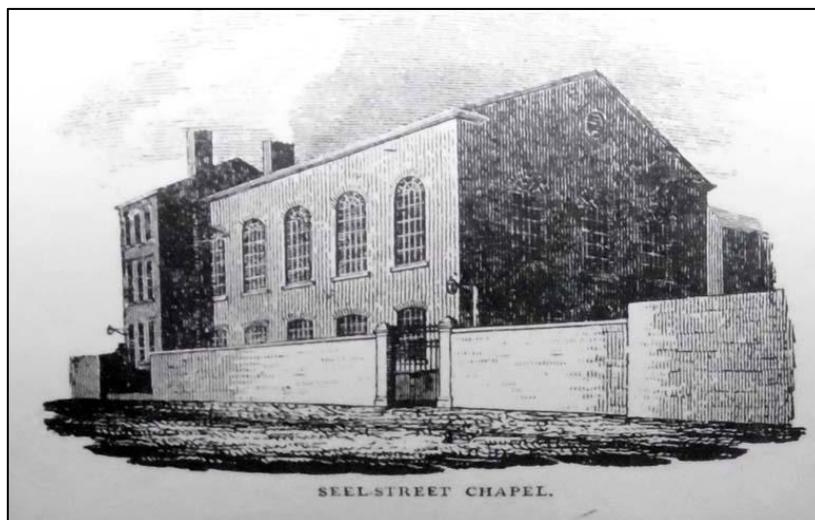
|     |                         |
|-----|-------------------------|
| LA  | Lancashire Archives     |
| LL  | Liverpool Library       |
| SoG | Society of Genealogists |
| TNA | The National Archives   |

## Richard<sup>1</sup> Park - Liverpool

My father knew nothing about his paternal grandfather apart from his name, and the fact that he had lived in Liverpool. Census returns gave me a clue as to his age, but for some time I searched in vain for a baptism. I was looking in the wrong place, and it was only when I turned to the Catholic records that I finally found him.

Richard<sup>1</sup> Park was born at 17, Slater Street in Liverpool on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1838, in other words, just into the era of General Registration. However, his birth was not registered. Maybe, as Catholics, his parents - John<sup>1</sup> Park and Elizabeth née Swarbrick - were suspicious of this new centralised system, or, like many of their Anglican counterparts, they felt baptism was registration enough or more important. By the time Richard's younger siblings arrived, his parents must either have been reconciled to the bureaucracy or fearful of prosecution as the authorities began to insist on compliance with the new law, and both were registered.

Richard<sup>1</sup> was baptised as a Catholic, at St Peter's Priory (also known as St Peter's, Seel Street) in Liverpool, on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1838. His sponsors are listed as Richard<sup>2</sup> and Mary Park. Although no relationship is given, I am sure that Richard<sup>2</sup> was uncle to the new baby and brother to the boy's father, John<sup>1</sup>. Details of the relationship and this man's story will be followed later.



**St Peter's Priory Seel Street**

Virtually nothing is known about Richard<sup>1</sup>'s childhood, although it was spent in a bustling and ever-expanding city. The population of Liverpool in 1841 was already over 286,000 and movement in from surrounding areas added to the vast influx of Irish fleeing the Potato Famine meant that it had risen by nearly another 100,000 by 1851. By 1861, it was nearly 463,000. The city was a port of major importance, importing huge quantities of raw cotton, meat, cereals, rubber, wool, live animals, copper, timber, tobacco and sugar. At the same time it exported

manufactured cotton, woollen goods and iron and steel, along with machinery, cotton yarn, chemicals, carriages, china and hardware<sup>1</sup>. It was only with the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861 and the resulting cotton famine that there was a brief decline in trade, a phenomenon repeated during the general slump from 1890-95. Burgeoning population and overcrowding made the city insanitary, and there were cholera outbreaks in 1832 and 1849.



**17 Slater Street**

Both the 1841 and 1851<sup>2</sup> censuses show Richard<sup>1</sup> living at 17, Slater Street, the house where he was born. This was on a street which still exists, though now full of fashionable eateries. It lies midway between the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Albert Docks, quite a good site for his father's butcher's shop. It was probably a fairly new property when the Parks lived there. Certainly, St Peter's Seel Street, when it was built nearby in 1788, was considered to be in a semi-rural area. It may be that Richard<sup>1</sup> did not particularly want to follow in his father's footsteps and become a butcher, as in 1861, when the family was living at 123, Crown Street in West Derby<sup>3</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup> was listed as an apprentice engraver. His older brother John, already married in 1858 (Richard witnessed the wedding), had established himself as a die sinker and engraver, and presumably Richard was learning the trade from him. However, their father was still re-establishing himself as a butcher after an absence which will be explained later, so maybe there was not enough trade to justify employing Richard and his brother William.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics from <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol4/pp37-38>

<sup>2</sup> HO107/562 & HO107/2189, 1841 & 51 censuses, Liverpool

<sup>3</sup> RG9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

**Tree 1 - Family of Richard and Harriet Park**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Richard Park</b><br/>                 Born: 2 December 1838<br/>                 in 17, Slater St. Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 9 December 1838<br/>                 St Peter's Priory, Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Died: 10 January 1907<br/>                 in 8, Jersey St, Bootle, Lancs<br/>                 Burial: 14 January 1907<br/>                 Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Harriet Porter</b><br/>                 Born: 11 February 1849<br/>                 in High St. Burton on Trent, Staffs<br/>                 Baptism: 23 May 1849<br/>                 Burton on Trent, Staffs<br/>                 Married: 19 August 1865<br/>                 in Register Office, Stoke on Trent, Staffs<br/>                 Died: 4 August 1887<br/>                 in 178, Beacon Lane, Everton, Lancs<br/>                 Burial: 7 August 1887<br/>                 Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool</p> |
|--|--|

|  |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Bertha Park</b><br/>                 Born: 15 May 1867<br/>                 in Everton, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 26 May 1867<br/>                 St. Francis Xavier RC<br/>                 Died: 2 June 1930<br/>                 in Bootle, Lancashire<br/>                 Burial: Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Bernard Golding</b><br/>                 Born: 1870<br/>                 in Newry, Down and Armagh, Ireland<br/>                 Married: 1895<br/>                 in Old Fylde Register Office or registrar attended<br/>                 Died: 28 March 1930<br/>                 in Bootle, Lancashire<br/>                 Burial: Kirkdale Cemetery, Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Richard Stanley Park</b><br/>                 Born: 18 December 1868<br/>                 in Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 27 December 1868<br/>                 St. Francis Xavier RC<br/>                 Died: 15 February 1935<br/>                 in St. Helens, Lancs</p> | <p><b>Margaret Alice Cummins</b><br/>                 Married: 10 October 1891<br/>                 in Holy Cross, St. Helens, Lancs<br/>                 Died: 27 January 1934<br/>                 in St. Helens, Lancs</p> | <p><b>Percival Douglas Park</b><br/>                 Born: 6 December 1870<br/>                 in Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 1 January 1871<br/>                 St. Augustine RC<br/>                 Died: 1872<br/>                 in Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Lilian Harriet Park</b><br/>                 Born: 4 December 1872<br/>                 in Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 12 January 1873<br/>                 St. Peter, Liverpool<br/>                 Died: 1 May 1956<br/>                 in Penn, Bucks</p> | <p><b>Andrew Agnew</b><br/>                 Married: December 1891<br/>                 in Liverpool RD<br/>                 Died: 1934<br/>                 in West Derby RD</p> | <p><b>Beatrice Maud Park</b><br/>                 Born: 13 April 1877<br/>                 in Birkenhead, Cheshire<br/>                 Baptism: 27 May 1877<br/>                 St. Paul, Birkenhead<br/>                 Died: 7 August 1938<br/>                 in Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood, Lancs<br/>                 Burial: St Francis, Goosnargh</p> | <p><b>Frederick Drake</b><br/>                 Born: Abt. 1879<br/>                 in Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire<br/>                 Married: 1 December 1903<br/>                 in Halifax, Yorkshire<br/>                 Died: 14 May 1956<br/>                 in Fulwood, Lancs<br/>                 Burial: St Francis, Goosnargh</p> | <p><b>Percival Clifford Park</b><br/>                 Born: 13 March 1879<br/>                 in Birkenhead<br/>                 Died: 5 December 1937<br/>                 in Liverpool, Lancs</p> | <p><b>Helena Florence Hoskisson</b><br/>                 Married: 12 May 1907<br/>                 in St. Chrystostem, Everton<br/>                 Died: 1958<br/>                 in Victoria, Australia</p> | <p><b>Gertrude Evelyn Park</b><br/>                 Born: 30 April 1882<br/>                 in 178, Beacon Lane, Everton<br/>                 Baptism: 18 June 1882<br/>                 St. Cuthbert, Everton<br/>                 Died: 23 July 1958<br/>                 in Eastbourne, Sussex<br/>                 Burial: Streatham Crem.</p> | <p><b>Louis George Grainge</b><br/>                 Born: 20 April 1881<br/>                 in Highgate, Hornsey<br/>                 Married: 9 December 1903<br/>                 in St Marylebone Registry Office<br/>                 Died: 17 December 1958<br/>                 in Sth Park Hill Rd Nursing Home Croydon, Sy<br/>                 Burial: Streatham Crematorium</p> |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|

The brothers were close enough for Richard<sup>1</sup> to stand as godfather at St Francis Xavier's to his brother John's first child Emma Elizabeth in December 1858. Had Richard<sup>1</sup> stayed with his brother, his life might well have been very different, but at some time in the next few years he met, and fell in love with, my great-grandmother Harriet Porter, some nine years younger than him. By the time they married, he was presumably working with his father, as he put his occupation down as butcher on the certificate. Harriet was a Protestant, so possibly not an ideal bride from the point of view of Richard's Catholic family. The upshot was that the couple eloped, to marry in the register office at Stoke on Trent (where Harriet had an aunt living nearby) on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1865:

Richard Park, 25, Bach, butcher, 45, Brunswick Rd, L'pool, John Park, butcher  
Harriet Porter, 16, Spins, Etruria, James Porter, draper;  
before Wm T. Palmer, Registrar. Witnessed: Eliza and Joseph Higgins

They returned to Liverpool to face the music, but although family lore has it that a church wedding followed, I have found no record of it. The couple had seven children, all but one of whom survived to adulthood (**see tree 1 - p. 6**).

Either soon after his wedding, or more likely when his father died in 1866, Richard<sup>1</sup> ceased to be a butcher. When the couple's first child Bertha was born - at 3, Deacon Street on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1867 - her birth certificate showed her father to have been working as an assistant ironmonger. Subsequently, for a considerable number of years, he always referred to himself in official documentation as a licensed victualler, but in fact he held few licenses on his own behalf, so was perhaps really a pub manager for much of the time. Bertha was baptised at St Francis Xavier Catholic church in Liverpool on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1867, with Richard's brother John and his wife Henrietta standing as sponsors.

Under the heading 'Spirit Vaults & Spirit Dealers' the 1868 directory<sup>4</sup> records:

Park Richard, victualler, *Rupert House*, 9, Rupert St, Evrtn. E

It seems likely that this was the premises for which he had taken over the licence in November the year before. The *Register of Ale House Licences*<sup>5</sup> for that year records an unnamed property on Mill Road licensed to one Thomas Gardner, but under remarks is recorded:

28 Nov /67 Transferred to Richard Park

Rupert Street was close to the Necropolis on one side, and Brunswick Road - his old home - on the other. The western end formed a junction with Mill Street, so presumably Richard's pub was on one of the corners. At the other end of the street, where it crossed with Canton Street, Rupert Street became Deacon Street<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs* 1868

<sup>5</sup> LL, 347 JUS 1/1/24, Register of Alehouse Licences, 1867/8

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.liverpool-city-group.com/street-guide-1901/d2.htm> & [e2.htm](http://www.liverpool-city-group.com/street-guide-1901/e2.htm) & [e3.htm](http://www.liverpool-city-group.com/street-guide-1901/e3.htm)



Richard Park on his brother's wedding day, 1858

Richard did not hold the licence for very long, as on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1868 his name appeared in a list of the transfer of publicans' licenses in the *Liverpool Daily Post*<sup>7</sup>. He was transferring his license for premises in Mill Road to one Thomas Gladman. The 1869 directory<sup>8</sup> has an entry for:

Spirit Vaults and Spirit Dealers  
Park Richard, 86, Mill road, Everton

showing once again how the directories tended to be always slightly out of date.

I don't know when Richard<sup>1</sup> decided that being a publican was the career for him, but there was plenty of precedent in the family; his paternal grandfather had been an innkeeper at one time, and there were innkeepers further back on the paternal line and among his mother's relations. At one time, his father had considered running a pub as well. Liverpool in the 19<sup>th</sup> century - especially the second half, had a reputation for drunkenness; pubs and ale houses proliferated, especially near the docks, and the city fathers and reformers constantly tried to keep things under control. *Mawdsley's Map of the city of Liverpool and suburbs*<sup>9</sup> of 1883 has a street plan marked with all the premises where drink could be obtained marked with a red dot; they were legion. This may be partly why he seems to have changed premises so often and also why he apparently failed to make a long-term success of his chosen career.

Where Richard and Harriet went next is not known, but a second child, Richard Stanley, born on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1868, was also baptised at St Francis - on 27<sup>th</sup> December. Only a god-mother was recorded for him, Maria Riley, who seems to have no family connection. Certainly Richard Stanley believed his father to have been a publican at the time of his birth when he filled in a form to apply for a copy of his birth certificate in 1924. Richard<sup>1</sup> and Harriet must have been considered part of the Catholic congregation still at this time by his family as a few months earlier at St Francis Xavier on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1868 they stood as sponsors at the baptism of Lilian Gertrude Francis, daughter of Richard's sister Caroline.

The next record of a licence issued to Richard<sup>1</sup> was for a pub in Waterloo Road<sup>10</sup>, which he received from Robert Catton late in 1870. Again the stay was short, for in 1871 he transferred this license to John A Anderson<sup>11</sup>. Again, the *Register of Alehouse Licences*<sup>12</sup> records the events, and also shows that there were 17 licences granted that year in Waterloo Road alone:

| Streets       | No of licenses | Persons Licensed | Signs   |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Waterloo Road | 40             | Robert Catton    | Letters |

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 15.5.1868

<sup>8</sup> LL, *Slater's Directory of Liverpool*, 1869

<sup>9</sup> LL, 674.94 SMY, *Mawdsley's Map of the city of Liverpool and suburbs 1883 with the licensed public houses*

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Liverpool Courier and Commercial Advertiser*, 14.10.1870

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 4.8.1871

<sup>12</sup> LL, 347 JUS 1/1/27 *Register of Alehouse Licences 1870/1*



**Harriet Park with Bertha, Richard Stanley and Percival Clifford c 1871/2**

and under 'remarks':

13 Oct /70 Transferred to Richard Park  
17 July /71 John Allen Anderson authorised  
3 Aug / 71 Transferred to John Allen Anderson

The last child to be baptised into the Catholic faith was Percival Douglas, born 6<sup>th</sup> December 1870 and baptised at St Augustine's church in Liverpool on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1871. Clearly by then, the family's connection to Catholicism was becoming tenuous, and they weren't regular, well-known members of the congregation, as the baptism record shows. In the left-hand column, above their address in Waterloo Road, Douglas – as a surname – is crossed through, to be replaced with Park, and the child is recorded as belonging to:

Ricardi et Harrietta Douglas (olim [formerly] Park)

Presumably someone pointed out the error in the child's surname, as Park was then squeezed in between Douglas and the bracket, but no one has corrected Harriet's maiden name. The sponsors were Frederick and Eliza Caines – again, no relation.

The 1871 census<sup>13</sup> shows the family at 60A Waterloo Road, which was on the corner of Vandries Street, so opposite Trafalgar Dock. It lists Richard<sup>1</sup> (a licensed victualler) and Harriet with their three children, Bertha, aged 3, Richard S, aged 2 and Percival D aged 4 months, along with a domestic servant, Elizabeth Blundell. In point of fact, Bertha was probably with her Porter grandparents round the corner in Marsden Street, presumably to give Harriet more time to devote to the new baby. She was enumerated in James Porter's household<sup>14</sup> as a granddaughter, aged 4, although she was actually a couple of months shy of her fourth birthday. Percival may have been a sickly baby, as he didn't survive infancy and his death was recorded in the third quarter of 1872.

The other four children – Lilian Harriet, Beatrice Maud, Percival Clifford and Gertrude Evelyn - were all baptised in the Church of England. Lilian, born on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1872 was baptised at St Peter's in Liverpool on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1873. Her birth certificate shows that the family was living then at 93 Soho Street, away from the docks and back towards Everton. This was probably a nicer area, but Richard was no longer his own boss as the victualler of the Spirit Vaults at that address was one John Parry<sup>15</sup>.

By 1877, the family had moved again, and Richard<sup>1</sup> was now running the *Borough Hotel* at 1, Borough Road Birkenhead. This was no doubt a step up, out of the city centre, and across the Mersey on the Wirral. Beatrice was born in Birkenhead on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1877 and baptised there at St Paul's on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1877;

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<sup>13</sup> RG10/3763, 1871 census, Liverpool

<sup>14</sup> RG10/3840, 1871 census, Everton

<sup>15</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1872

Percival Clifford was born on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1879 and baptised at St Chrysostom in Everton on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Both these births were announced in the paper<sup>16</sup>:

PARK – April 13, at Borough Hotel, I, Borough-road, Birkenhead, the wife of Richard Park, of a daughter

and

PARK – March 13, the wife of Richard Park, Borough Hotel, Birkenhead, of a son

The directories<sup>17</sup> show Richard at the *Borough Hotel* from 1878 to 1881, but by the last year, the Parks were back in Liverpool, albeit in West Derby rather than the city centre. The 1881 census<sup>18</sup> shows the family – complete with servant Elizabeth Quigley – at 6, Winter Street, within spitting distance of Deacon Street where it had begun, with Richard and Harriet, Bertha, 13, Richard – now obviously known as Stanley – 12, Lilian, 8, Beatrice, 4, and another Percival aged 2. Richard gave his occupation once again as licensed victualler.



**New Brighton Hotel, 178 Beacon Lane**

Another move followed shortly, though. My grandmother Gertrude was born on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1882, at 178, Beacon Lane, Everton, known otherwise as the *New Brighton Hotel*, and she was baptised at St Cuthbert's Everton on 18<sup>th</sup> June that year. The Alehouse register<sup>19</sup> shows Richard's acquisition of the licence in the autumn of 1881:

| Streets | No of house | Persons Licensed | Description of license |
|---------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|
|---------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>, *Liverpool Mercury*, 16.4.1877 & 20.3.1879

<sup>17</sup> *Morris and co Directory and Gazetteer of the Cheshire Towns with Wrexham*, 1880; LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1878-81

<sup>18</sup> RG11/3699 1881 census, West Derby

<sup>19</sup> LL, 347 JUS 1/1/38 Register of Alehouse Licences 1881/2

or premises  
Beacon Lane 178 John Salmon Victualler  
Transfers, Records of Convictions, Remarks etc  
13<sup>th</sup> Oct / 81 Transferred to Richard Park

The owners were noted as:

Orrell Brothers Wrexham St Brewers

Although Richard's occupation on Gertrude's birth certificate was licensed victualler, the baptismal register has him listed as a Steel Engraver and Die Sinker, which suggests he was either back working with his brother John, for a time at least, or more likely maybe holding two jobs to feed his growing family.

Richard<sup>1</sup> appears in the directories<sup>20</sup> as the licensed victualler of the *New Brighton Hotel* at 178, Beacon Lane, Everton from 1883-90, but in 1891 he was recorded at 38, Tennyson Street, Linacre<sup>21</sup>. This was possibly the last pub tenancy he held, and clearly things weren't going well for him. Again, the directory is slightly out of sync, as, when the 1891 census<sup>22</sup> was taken in the early part of the year, he entered his occupation as joiner's labourer, although possibly he was working at two jobs again. Harriet had died on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1887, and it may well have been this which finally spelled the end of what had not been a particularly glittering career. Bertha would have been 20 when her mother died, and the children ranged in age down to 5 year-old Gertrude, who was sent south to be brought up by her childless maternal aunt, Sarah Williams, in Gospel Oak in North London.

The 1891 census found the rest of the family at 3, The Crescent in Northwich, in Cheshire. Richard<sup>1</sup>, at 51, was a widower; Bertha, aged 23, put her occupation down as General Servant. Whether this meant she was running the household or was occupied in service elsewhere during the day is not clear. Lilian, at 18, had no recorded occupation, while Beatrice and Percival, 13 and 12, were scholars. There was no other servant in the house, but there was a seven-year-old 'visitor', Charles Agnew, younger brother of the Andrew Agnew Lilian was later to marry.

It is possible that, having failed to make good permanently as a publican, Richard reverted briefly to employment as a butcher. The 1893 directory<sup>23</sup> has a single entry for someone listed as:

Park Richard, butcher, 38 Fielding St. E

Richard<sup>2</sup> had died some years earlier, so, as this is an address quite close to his old stamping grounds in Deacon Street and Brunswick Road, I suspect this is Richard<sup>1</sup>. Having said this, Helena Patton, daughter of Percival, was sure that her father

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<sup>20</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1883-90

<sup>21</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1891

<sup>22</sup> RG12/2838, 1891 census, Northwich

<sup>23</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1893

helped serve in his father's bar as a youngster, and given that he was born in 1879, it must have been in the 1890s at least. Perhaps Richard later found another pub tenancy. It is also possible that he was working alongside his son-in-law Andrew Agnew, who appears in the mid-1890s directories<sup>24</sup> as licensee of 49 Portland Place and *The Portland Arms*, Rose Vale (probably the same property), not far from Beacon Lane.

By 1901<sup>25</sup>, if anything, Richard's fortunes had sunk even lower. He was enumerated at 20 Florida Street, Bootle in the household of his married daughter Lilian. Her husband Andrew Agnew's occupation was given as joiner's labourer, but Richard was now recorded as a paviour's labourer, in other words a road worker. Whether he had simply been a poor businessman as a publican, or whether he had had a tendency to drink the profits can never be known, although family sources confirm that his son-in-law Andrew definitely had alcoholic tendencies, so maybe they were partners in crime. He died aged 68 on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1907 of bronchitis and cardiac failure while at 8, Jersey Street, Bootle. His daughter Bertha, whose home this was, registered the death, slightly inflating his age to 69. His occupation was given as dock labourer, if anything, an even harder occupation than working on the roads.

Harriet, who had died while living in Everton, was buried in the local cemetery at Kirkdale. The register is detailed:

| Register no.          | Denomination      | Date of burial           | Age            | Late residence       |                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 7187                  | C                 | Aug 7 <sup>th</sup> 1887 | 37             | 178, Beacon Lane     |                 |
| Parishsh/<br>district | Mode of<br>burial | Order<br>Section<br>No.  | No of<br>Grave | By whom<br>performed | Registrar's sig |
| Everton               | Private           | 4                        | 497            | W Warburton          | ?J Wallace      |

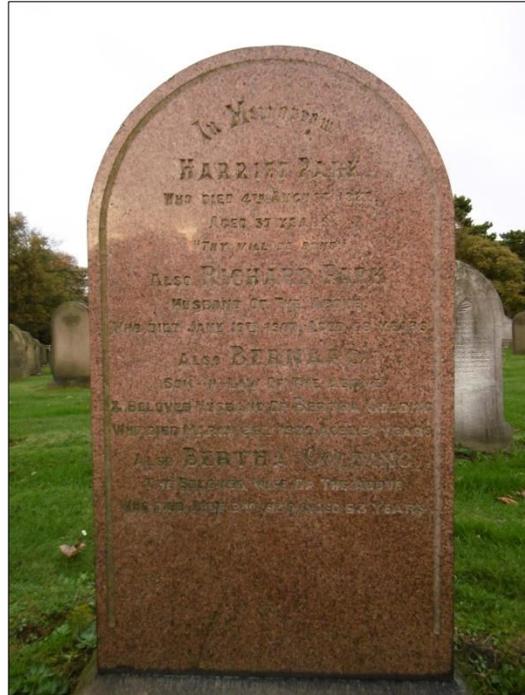
Although Richard died in Bootle, he was buried in Kirkdale alongside his wife, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1907. It may have been he who instigated the original headstone for Harriet, but the engraving looks all of a piece so it may have been erected later, possibly by Richard Stanley Park, who was Bertha's executor. It reads as follows:

**In memoriam**  
**HARRIET PARK**  
**WHO DIED 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1887**  
**AGED 37 YEARS**  
*'THY WILL BE DONE'*  
**ALSO RICHARD PARK**  
**HUSBAND OF THE ABOVE**  
**WHO DIED JANY 10<sup>TH</sup> 1907 AGED 68 YEARS**  
**ALSO BERNARD**  
**SON-IN-LAW OF THE ABOVE**

<sup>24</sup> Kelly's Directory of Liverpool and Birkenhead, 1894; LL, Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs, 1895-7

<sup>25</sup> RG13/3460, 1901 census, Bootle cum Linacre

BELOVED HUSBAND OF BERTHA GOLDING  
 WHO DIED MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> 1930 AGED 61 YEARS  
 ALSO BERTHA GOLDING  
 BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE  
 WHO DIED JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 1930 AGED 63 YEARS



**Grave of Harriet and Richard<sup>1</sup> Park, Kirkdale Cemetery**

Richard<sup>1</sup> Park's story is a sad one. He was born into what was at first glance a comfortably off family (his father was a butcher and his brother became a very successful businessman as an engraver), and to begin with I wondered whether it was his rash marriage which set him in the wrong direction, or whether he simply was the 'black sheep' of the family. Further research (explored later) shows that he was not the only Park to experience a fall in fortunes. It is interesting to note that the story which came down through my third cousin Gilbert Park's family, was that Richard and his brother William had gone to America to fight in the Civil War in the 1860s and were never heard of again. All the time, Richard and his family were living in the same city, or close by. Whether John<sup>3</sup>, who was after all Bertha's godfather, tried to help his brother out in later years, or whether contact had been broken off, is not known for sure. Either way, by the end of their lives, the gap in their social status was considerable.

Richard<sup>1</sup> died well before my father was born, and as I said, my grandmother Gertrude spent most of her childhood with an aunt, so I have no close family recollections of him. However, Helena Patton, daughter of Richard's son Percival, offered the following commentary:

I know my mother used to say that on the occasion of her first meeting with Richard... she was invited to tea which included shrimps. They must have been served au naturel as she said she was so rigid with fright at Richard's abrupt manner and not having ever tasted shrimps before, that she found herself gobbling heads and tails regardless.



**Harriet Park née Porter**

A pair of portraits, showing Richard<sup>1</sup> and Harriet, painted in oils, hung on the wall of Helena's childhood home. Although she was able to identify the photograph above of Harriet from her recollection of these, unfortunately, both were destroyed in the Blitz, but from memory, she described Richard as:

quite a short man, as was my father, and, judging by his portrait, quite a stern-looking one, with dark hair and a moustache.

She also said that her father always spoke in compassionate terms about Richard, calling him 'Poor old Dad', but that her mother thought him rather selfish. This was partly based on the fact that Richard had promised his rather artistic son Percival the birthday present of training in draughtsmanship or architecture, but ended up giving him a football jersey. Both trainings, however, would have been expensive, and no doubt beyond the means of a household where money was tight. Stanley was also artistic, but had to settle for a labouring job instead.



Supposed Porter-Park arms

I wonder, too, whether Richard<sup>1</sup> was embittered by his fall from family grace and subsequent financial hardships. The unlikely oil portraits suggest a desire to make a statement, as does another artefact which has travelled down several lines of the family. This is a spurious coat of arms, with 'Porter Park' written beneath it. Ironically, the motto:

Sapienter et pie

means 'wisely and piously', neither of which attributes seem to apply to Richard and Harriet. In heraldic terms, the description is as follows:

Dexter: Azure a fess chequy Argent and Gules between in chief three Cinquoils Argent and in base a Stag's head caboshed proper  
Sinister: Per chevron Sable and Argent three Bells each charged with one ermine spot all counterchanged.  
Crest: Ducal Coronet Or and Lion passant crowned with Ducal Coronet.

In layman's language, this amounts mainly to 3 silver cinquefoils on a blue background, above a red and white checkerboard and a stag's head on the left, and 3 bells – the top two silver on a black background and the bottom one with colours reversed - separated by a chevron. Clearly, neither Richard nor Harriet came from families which were armigerous, and this is obviously a made-up shield of the kind which was very popular in Victorian times. In point of fact, the left-hand side comes from the arms of a Scottish family to whom we have no connection, Park of Holland, while the right-hand side comes from a grant of arms to one George Porter of Stansted Bury in Hertfordshire in 1796 – again, no connection.

As an aside, there was a Park family with the right to bear arms originating at Goosnargh, less than three miles away from Barton, where Richard's father was born. William Philip Park, civil engineer and JP, was awarded a grant of arms in 1875. There are some points of similarity between his genuine arms and Richard's fake ones, and his are described as:

Or a fess inverted chequy Azure and Argent between three stags' heads caboshed in chief and one in base Gules.

Maybe Richard got wind of this and decided to cash in on the act.

### **John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Park and family: mainly Barton and Liverpool**

Although Richard<sup>1</sup>'s father John<sup>1</sup> spent most of his adult life in Liverpool, he wasn't born there but in Barton, in the chapelry of Broughton near Preston some 37 miles to the north. Broughton is on the eastern edge of the Fylde, Lancashire's flat, coastal plain. For over 30 years I believed that John Park was the son of Richard Park and Betty Hoole of Broughton, with an ancestry almost totally based in the Fylde. The research I followed was done in the days when records were far less

accessible than they are now, and living some 250 miles from the Lancashire Archives, I had few opportunities to check out original sources, so took what I was told by family members on trust. It was the combination of so many registers appearing on-line, along with newspapers and other sources, which finally allowed me to reappraise. What I found was a Catholic Park family whose earlier ancestors hailed from the uplands areas beyond Longridge, making much more sense of the following statement from Helena Patton:

I remember my mother telling me that Lily Park [Richard<sup>1</sup>'s daughter], Dad's sister, often spoke of 'Pa' or 'Grandpa' being 'a squire of the Fells' but where the Fells in question were, I never found out.

I am now sure they are the Fells around Bleasdale and Chipping.

John<sup>1</sup> Park gave his place of birth as Barton on both the 1851 and 1861 censuses<sup>26</sup>, along with an age suggesting a birth in 1807. Barton is a township in the chapelry of Broughton, so the baptism of a John Park at St John the Baptist in Broughton on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1807, son of Richard Park and his wife Elizabeth, seemed eminently feasible. However, that entry specifically calls the father Richard Park of Broughton (which is a separate township about a mile from Barton) not Barton. Another piece of evidence which made me look again at an alternative baptism of a John Park a little later in 1807 was a marriage announcement which appeared in the *Preston Chronicle*<sup>27</sup> in February 1832:

On Friday last, at Ribchester, Mr. John Park jun., of Broughton, butcher to Miss Isabella Swarbrick, of Longridge

This needs unpicking a little. Broughton parish included Barton township and a Preston paper might well go for the chapelry rather than the township. The designation 'junior' can be used to refer to any relationship, so for example, a man named John with a father Richard and an uncle John might be referred to as junior, but more commonly it was used to identify father and son. It seems highly unlikely that John son of Richard would refer to himself as John junior when there were a father and son both called John Park in the same parish. Finally, the name Isabella, when John's bride was actually Elizabeth, is probably a slip-up – the two names were synonymous. To clinch the argument, John Park senior was a butcher, and Richard<sup>2</sup> Park – whose life in Liverpool mirrors John's so closely that I am sure he was John's brother – was also a butcher, and moreover named his father as John Park, butcher, on his marriage certificate in 1840.

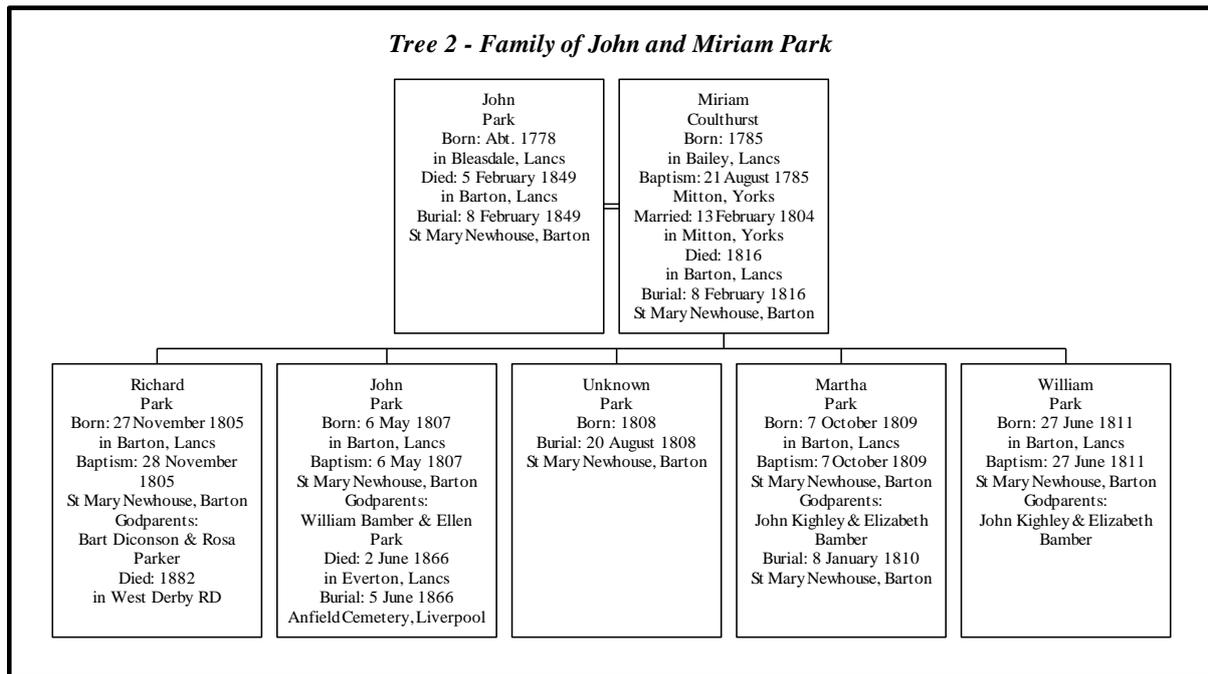
The 'other' baptism, which I now believe refers to John<sup>1</sup>, took place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1807 at St Mary Newhouse Roman Catholic chapel at Barton (**see tree 2 – p. 20**). This Catholic heritage would fit well with the later history of the family and John's choice of a Catholic bride. The baby had been born the previous day:

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<sup>26</sup> HO107/2189, 1851 census, Liverpool; RG9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Preston Chronicle*, 25.2.1832

Maii 6, 1807 natus et die seq baatus fuit Johannes Park filius Joan: et Mariae  
 Prot: Parks (olim Coulthurst) conj: Pat: Gul: Bamber, Mat Helena Park



The Latin text states that John<sup>1</sup> was the son of John<sup>2</sup> Park and Mary (formerly Coulthurst) and highlights the fact that the mother was Protestant. In fact, Mary was really Miriam – but of course this is another form of Mary, and no doubt the priest couldn't find a closer Latin equivalent. The register also records the fact that the parents were married, and names the godparents as William Bamber and Ellen Park. These were both relations; Catholics were of necessity a close-knit community, and aunts and uncles were frequently chosen as sponsors, another factor which suggests John<sup>1</sup> and Richard<sup>2</sup> were brothers as each sponsored two of the others' offspring.. Ellen was John<sup>2</sup>'s youngest sister and William Bamber was married to Elizabeth Park, another sister. (This couple baptised children at Barton at the same time. Their marriage at Whitewell in 1797 recorded Elizabeth as a spinster of Bleasdale, where John<sup>2</sup> was born.)

John<sup>1</sup> was the second child of the family. His older brother Richard<sup>2</sup>, who was to play such a big part in his life, was born 18 months earlier, on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1805, and baptised at St Mary Newhouse the following day. His godparents were Bartholomew Diconson and Rosa Parker – who also appears elsewhere in the story. Richard<sup>2</sup>'s own life will be followed later. I imagine that the child buried as an 'infant of John Parks' on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1808 may either have been born before term or been still-born, as no name or gender is given and the word 'Alleluia' appears after the entry – a sign of acceptance of God's will, maybe. The next child was named Martha, after John<sup>2</sup>'s mother; she was born and baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1809, with John Kighley and her aunt Elizabeth Bamber as sponsors, but was buried on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1810. The final child, William, was born and baptised on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1811,

with the same god-parents as Martha. There is no further certain record of him, though; maybe he also died young.



### **St Mary Newhouse Barton - the Sanctuary**

John<sup>1</sup> Park was born in 1807 - a year after his grandfather Henry Park married Margery Singleton by licence at Broughton. Margery Park's will<sup>28</sup>, written in 1813, made over 30 bequests, mainly to religious orders and members of her own family. However, she must have had a soft spot for her new step-grandson, as tucked away in the middle of the will is a bequest to:

John Park son of John Park Innkeeper twenty pounds.

As has already been said, John<sup>1</sup> Park married Elizabeth Swarbrick, a member of a family which had been staunchly Catholic for generations. They married by the rites of the Church of England, the only option unless you were a Jew or a Quaker at this time - the law changed in 1836. As Catholics, they married by licence:

On the 13th day of February... 1832... appeared personally John Park of Broughton in the parish of Preston in the county of Lancaster Butcher...and made oath...that he is of the age of twenty-one years and upwards and a bachelor and intends to marry Elizabeth Swarbrick of Longridge in the parish of Ribchester... aged nineteen and upwards and a spinster... and the said John Park further made oath that the consent of Richard Swarbrick the father...has been obtained...

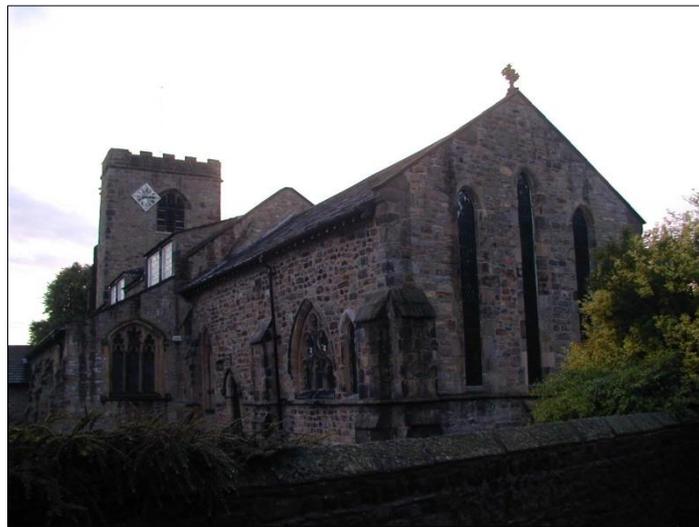
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<sup>28</sup> LA, W/RW/A/R/136/7, will of Margery Park, Broughton, 1813

This shows that John<sup>1</sup> was already a butcher, which again suggests a tie to John Park, butcher of Barton. Once again, Broughton and Barton are conflated under the parish name, just to heighten the confusion, but as the following entry shows, place names were fluid, as the officiating clergyman put the name of the mother parish for John, rather than that of the chapelry. The marriage took place at St Wilfred's in Ribchester on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1832:

John Park of the parish of Preston and Elizabeth Swarbrick of this parish were married in this church by licence with consent of her father

The witnesses were one John Barton and the bride's sister, Alice Swarbrick. John Barton was probably the son of Richard Barton, innkeeper of the Shuttleworth Arms in Broughton - another clue, perhaps as to John's origins. John<sup>1</sup>'s father leased the pub opposite at Four Lane Ends, so the Bartons would have had close links to the Parks.



**St Wilfred, Ribchester**

John's bride, Elizabeth - or Betty as she was known - seems to have been the first of her generation to marry. She was only just 19, having been baptised by her parents, Richard and Caroline Swarbrick at Lee House on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1813. Her father probably gave consent for her to marry as a minor because she was already pregnant, though only just; Ellen was baptised almost exactly seven months later. She gave birth to a child every two years until Richard<sup>1</sup> was born in 1838, then there was a three year gap followed by one of four years to her last child, Caroline (**see tree 3 - p. 24**). Apart from that, little is known of how she spent her life; probably a mixture of childcare, house management and helping John run his butcher's shops.

Elizabeth maintained a strong devotion to her Catholic religion, by all accounts; I suspect it may have been her influence which ensured that her son Richard<sup>1</sup>'s older children were baptised Catholics.

When John<sup>1</sup> and his bride settled in Liverpool after their wedding, John's brother Richard<sup>2</sup> was already there, plying his trade as a butcher; the directory in 1827 shows him with a stall at 97 St John's Market and a shop at 112 St James Street<sup>29</sup>. The 1829 edition of *Gores' Directory*<sup>30</sup> shows him at the same addresses, but Gore's doesn't then list him until 1837 by which time he had moved to Byrom Street. He married Mary Wilson at St Philip's church in Liverpool on 3rd June 1833 and both were described as 'of this parish', so he must have been there long enough to meet and court his bride. Maybe John<sup>1</sup> had always planned to follow his brother to the big city.

The first reference to John<sup>1</sup> in the Liverpool directories<sup>31</sup> was at 78, Pitt Street in 1834. Gores' entry reads:

Park John, butcher 78, Pitt St.

So this was presumably where he set up shop. As the directories are often a year or two behind, this was probably his first butcher's premises in the city. The following year's entry<sup>32</sup> gives a domestic address as well:

Park John, butcher, Ball Place, 169 Upper Frederick St  
- Shop 78, Pitt St

So in all probability it was at Ball Place that their first daughter, Ellen, was born on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1832. She was baptised ten days later at St. Peter's Priory. The baby's sponsors were Elizabeth's sister Ellen and Richard<sup>2</sup> Park, a maternal aunt and paternal uncle, as might be expected. This little girl was destined for a short life, as she was buried from 17 Slater Street on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1842 at St Nicholas Copperas Hill. John and Elizabeth's next child had an ever shorter life. Caroline was born on 6<sup>th</sup> and baptised 21<sup>st</sup> November 1834 with one Amelia Parker as god-mother. However, she was buried on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1836 at St Anthony's; the cause of death was given as decline.

A few months before Caroline's birth, Richard<sup>2</sup>'s wife Mary Wilson gave birth to their first child, Isabella (**see tree 4 - p. 27**). The infant was baptised at St Anthony's on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1834, but was buried at the same church on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1835. The register gives convulsions as cause of death. Two unfamiliar names appeared as her god-parents: Edward Eccles and Sarah Morley. A second child, Mary Ann, was baptised on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1836, with her uncle John<sup>1</sup> as sponsor alongside Jane Cowell. Mary Ann disappears from the records, after 1841<sup>33</sup>, when she was enumerated with her stepmother's Swarbrick family at Longridge, so presumably also died young.

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, *Gores' Directory and View of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1827

<sup>30</sup> LL, *Gores' Directory and View of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1829 -

<sup>31</sup> *Pigot's Directory*, 1834, LL, *Gores' Directory and View of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1834

<sup>32</sup> LL, *Gores' Directory and View of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1835

<sup>33</sup> HO 107/501/7, 1841 census, Longridge

**Tree 3 - Family of John and Elizabeth Park**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>John Park</b><br/>                 Born: 6 May 1807<br/>                 in Barton, Lancashire<br/>                 Baptism: 6 May 1807<br/>                 St Mary Newhouse,<br/>                 Barton, Lancs<br/>                 Died: 2 June 1866<br/>                 in 45, Brunswick Rd,<br/>                 Everton<br/>                 Burial: 5 June 1866<br/>                 Anfield Cemetry,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Elizabeth Swarbrick</b><br/>                 Born: 1813<br/>                 in Dilworth,<br/>                 Longridge, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 11 February<br/>                 1813<br/>                 Lee House Chapel,<br/>                 Thornley, Lancs<br/>                 Married: 14 February<br/>                 1832<br/>                 in Ribchester, Lancs<br/>                 Died: 6 November<br/>                 1868<br/>                 in 47, Compton St,<br/>                 Everton<br/>                 Burial: 9 November<br/>                 1868<br/>                 Anfield Cemetry,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> |
|---|---|

|   |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Ellen Park</b><br/>                 Born: 13 September<br/>                 1832<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Baptism: 23<br/>                 September 1832<br/>                 St Peter's Priory,<br/>                 Liverpool<br/>                 Godparents:<br/>                 Ellen Swarbrick &amp;<br/>                 Richard Park<br/>                 Died: 1842<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Burial: 2 January<br/>                 1842<br/>                 St Nicholas RC,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Caroline Park</b><br/>                 Born: 6 November<br/>                 1834<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Baptism: 21<br/>                 November 1834<br/>                 St Peter's Priory,<br/>                 Liverpool<br/>                 Godparents:<br/>                 Amelia Parker<br/>                 Died: 1836<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Burial: 8 May 1836<br/>                 St Anthony RC,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>John Park</b><br/>                 Born: 2 October 1836<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Baptism: 10 October<br/>                 1836<br/>                 St Peter's Priory,<br/>                 Liverpool<br/>                 Godparents:<br/>                 Michael &amp; Sarah<br/>                 Devlin<br/>                 Died: 29 August<br/>                 1907<br/>                 in New Brighton,<br/>                 Cheshire<br/>                 Burial: 31 August<br/>                 1907<br/>                 Anfield Cemetry,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Henrietta Jinks</b><br/>                 Born: 1838<br/>                 in Leicester,<br/>                 Leicestershire<br/>                 Married: 4 May 1858<br/>                 in St Anne's Edge<br/>                 Hill, West Derby<br/>                 Died: 8 October 1926<br/>                 in Liscard, Cheshire<br/>                 Burial:<br/>                 Anfield Cemetry,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Richard Park</b><br/>                 Born: 2 December<br/>                 1838<br/>                 in 17, Slater St.<br/>                 Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Baptism: 9 December<br/>                 1838<br/>                 St Peter's Priory,<br/>                 Liverpool, Lancs<br/>                 Godparents:<br/>                 Richard &amp; Mary Park<br/>                 Died: 10 January<br/>                 1907<br/>                 in 8, Jersey St,<br/>                 Bootle, Lancs<br/>                 Burial: 14 January<br/>                 1907<br/>                 Kirkdale Cemetry,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>Harriet Porter</b><br/>                 Born: 11 February<br/>                 1849<br/>                 in High St. Burton on<br/>                 Trent, Staffs<br/>                 Baptism: 23 May<br/>                 1849<br/>                 Burton on Trent,<br/>                 Staffs<br/>                 Married: 19 August<br/>                 1865<br/>                 in Register Office,<br/>                 Stoke on Trent, Staffs<br/>                 Died: 4 August 1887<br/>                 in 178, Beacon Lane,<br/>                 Everton, Lancs<br/>                 Burial: 7 August<br/>                 1887<br/>                 Kirkdale Cemetry,<br/>                 Liverpool</p> | <p><b>William Park</b><br/>                 Born: 4 August 1841<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Baptism: 22 August<br/>                 1841<br/>                 St Peter's Priory,<br/>                 Liverpool<br/>                 Godparents:<br/>                 Richard Swarbrick &amp;<br/>                 Helen Fitzpatrick</p> | <p><b>Caroline Clara Park</b><br/>                 Born: 12 November<br/>                 1845<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Baptism: 23<br/>                 November 1845<br/>                 St Peter's Priory,<br/>                 Liverpool<br/>                 Godparents:<br/>                 Richard Swarbrick &amp;<br/>                 Mary Lucass<br/>                 Died: 1934<br/>                 in West Ham RD</p> | <p><b>Robert Douglas Francis</b><br/>                 Born: 1840<br/>                 in Liverpool<br/>                 Married: 7 August<br/>                 1865<br/>                 in Everton, Lancs<br/>                 Died: 1917<br/>                 in West Ham RD</p> |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|

John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth, now living in Slater Street, were more successful with their next child, John<sup>3</sup>, born nine months after his cousin on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1836 and baptised on 10<sup>th</sup> at St Peter's Priory. His sponsors were Michael and Sarah Devlin. Elizabeth was obviously sufficiently well-known by now to be recorded as Betty Swarbrick. John junior's story will be followed later in this section. During this period, John<sup>1</sup> appears twice on the Liverpool Electoral Roll<sup>34</sup> – in 1840 and 1845 courtesy of his house and shop in Slater Street.

Before John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth's next child was born, Richard<sup>2</sup> and Mary had a son, also named John, baptised at St Nicholas Catholic church in Liverpool on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1837, with William and Mary Cottriall as god-parents. (This couple, who came from Preston, had baptised a son at St Nicholas a few months earlier). Sadly, this child was no luckier than its older siblings, and was buried at the same church on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1841. Richard's abode was recorded as Byrom Street.

John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth's next child was my great-grandfather, Richard<sup>1</sup>, born in 1838, and he was followed three years later by another son, William, born on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1841 and baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, like his siblings, at St Peter's Priory. His sponsors were Helen Fitzpatrick and Richard Swarbrick, presumably Elizabeth's brother or father. It is perhaps noteworthy that this is the second generation in which the names John, Richard and William were used for the boys. William appears with his family on the 1851<sup>35</sup> census as a scholar, and again in 1861<sup>36</sup> as an apprentice engraver like his brother Richard. However, that is the last definitive sighting of him. There is no sign of him in Liverpool on any subsequent censuses – or anywhere else for that matter. He doesn't appear to marry or die locally. A family story<sup>37</sup> had it that William and Richard<sup>1</sup> went to America to fight in the American Civil War. My research has proved this not to be the case for Richard, and I have often felt that this story was perhaps told to prevent the next generation asking awkward questions about their presumably disgraced uncle. Whether William went off to fight is unknown. The only possible clue I have found which might relate to him is on a Liverpool Crew list<sup>38</sup> for 1865 which has a William Park aged 24, born Liverpool, ship's steward. Of course, this may be an entirely different William Park – there were plenty of Park families in Liverpool. However, the ship was named the *Virginia*, and I have wondered whether this might have been garbled in family lore to him having gone to Virginia. There is, unfortunately, no way of proving things one way or another, so I suspect William will remain an enigma.

Caroline Clara, John and Elizabeth's last child, was born on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1845 and baptised, like her siblings at St Peter's Priory, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November with Richard Swarbrick and Mary Lucass as sponsors. Her story will be followed later.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/Liverpool,England,ElectoralRegisters,1832-1970>

<sup>35</sup> HO107/2189, 1851 census, Liverpool

<sup>36</sup> RG9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>37</sup> LA, *Park Family History*, (Gilbert) John Park, 1967

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/Liverpool,EnglandCrewLists,1861-1919>

In the meantime, life was taking a downward turn for Richard<sup>2</sup>. He had appeared in the 1837 directory<sup>39</sup> at 5, Byrom Street as a butcher, and might have felt that he was becoming a successful tradesman. However, having already lost a child, he now lost his wife. Mary died towards the end of August 1840 – the papers differ on the exact date. The *Liverpool General Advertiser*<sup>40</sup> reported:

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> ult, Mary, wife of Mr Richard Park, Butcher, Byrom St.

in its obituaries column, while the *Liverpool Mercury*<sup>41</sup> noted:

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> ult., after a short but severe illness, Mary, wife of Mr Richard Park, butcher, Byrom Street, much and deservedly respected by all who knew her.

Richard<sup>2</sup> didn't mourn for long, though. Mary Ann and John were still alive and in need of a mother. Richard<sup>2</sup> remarried on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1840 at St Nicholas Liverpool. His new wife was Ann Swarbrick, Elizabeth's younger sister. The wedding certificate was one of the documents which made me question the relationships in this family. It records Richard as of full age, widowed, a butcher living at Byrom Street, and with a father named John Park who was a butcher. If, as seemed most likely, given the parallel nature of their lives, John<sup>1</sup> and Richard<sup>2</sup> were brothers, then John<sup>4</sup> Park butcher of Barton had to be both men's father. Ann Swarbrick was also recorded as of full age (though in fact she was 20), a spinster from Longridge, Preston, with a father – Richard Swarbrick – who was also a butcher. Richard<sup>2</sup>'s brother John<sup>1</sup> witnessed the ceremony, along with one Ann Coup. Richard was probably the first of this family to be married:

according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Catholic Church

something only legal since 1836.

In the same year, Richard<sup>2</sup> appeared in the Liverpool Poll Book<sup>42</sup>, his right to vote coming from the property in Byrom Street. The brothers were living less than a mile apart in central Liverpool, but things were about to go badly wrong for Richard. Whether his first wife's medical bills had been expensive or whether he had over-reached himself at Byrom Street, Richard was in financial difficulties. Two entries appeared in the *London Gazette*. The first<sup>43</sup> contains an error in that it refers to Richard as a hatter – the occupation of the following person in the list - but it is clearly the right man. The page is headed:

The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors

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<sup>39</sup> SoG, Gore's *Directory of Liverpool and its Environs* 1837

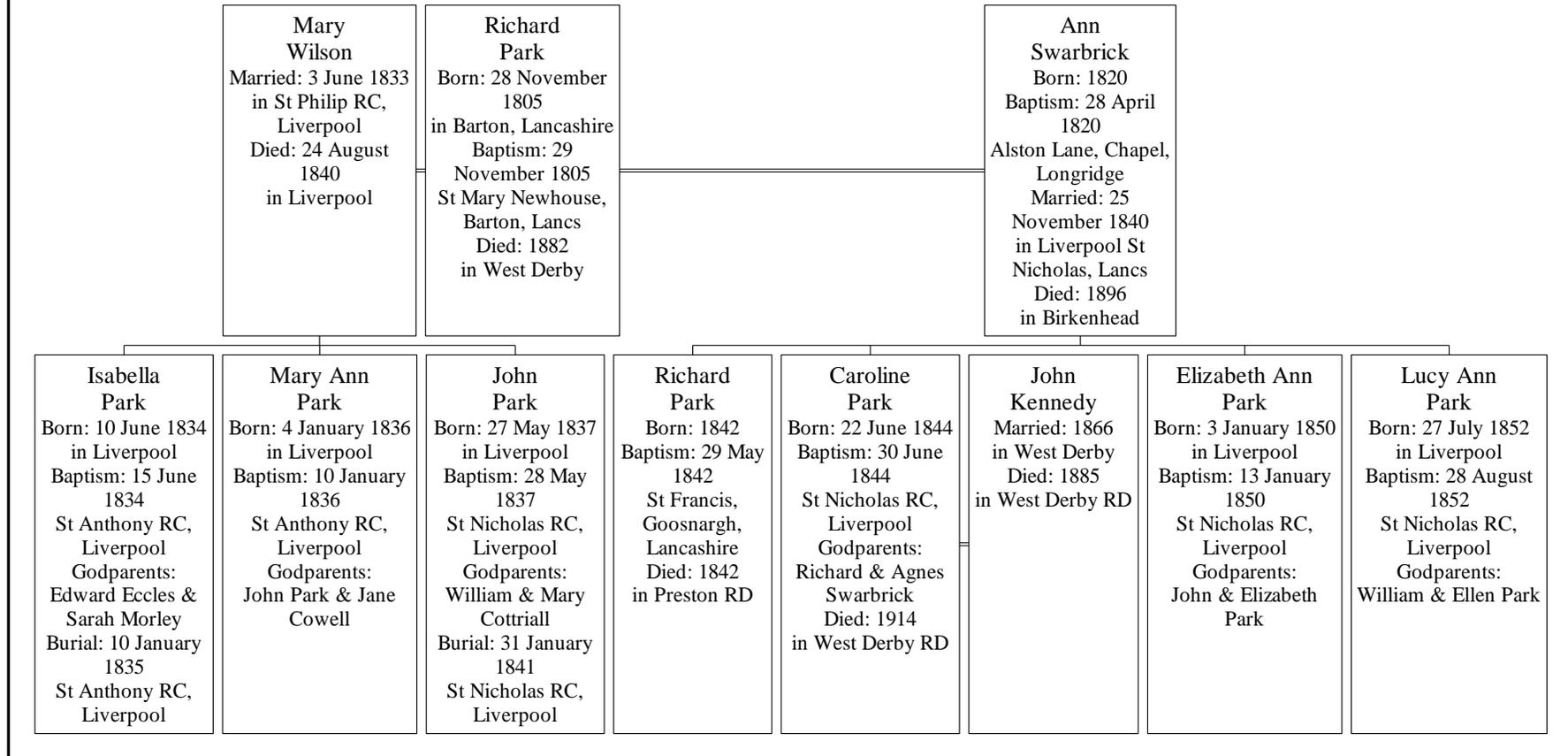
<sup>40</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Gore's Liverpool General Advertiser*, 2.9.1840

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Liverpool Mercury*, 4.9.1840

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Poll Books and Electoral Registers

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/19953/page/422/data.pdf>

**Tree 4 - Family of Richard and Mary and Richard and Ann Park**



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 1841.

ORDERS have been made, vesting in the Provisional Assignee the Estate and Effects of the following Persons:  
(On their own Petitions.)

A long list of names follows, and then:

Richard Park, late of Byrom Street, Liverpool, Hatter. - In the gaol of Liverpool

I take the last sentence to read that he had been imprisoned awaiting trial, as was the norm then. Bankruptcy didn't exist as such until a decade later; an insolvent debtor was in a similar situation financially, but under Victorian law could be imprisoned until the debts were paid. Of course, being incarcerated made earning a decent living difficult so many unfortunate debtors remained in prison for many years. The Insolvent Debtors' Act was passed in 1813 which allowed those imprisoned for debt to apply to the court to be released, provided they had not been found guilty of fraud or other criminal behaviour, and as long as they had reached an agreement with their creditors for a fair distribution of their present and future assets.

A second reference<sup>44</sup> appeared in March:

The following PRISONERS whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by Order of the Court, having filed their Schedules, are ordered to be brought up before a Commissioner on Circuit, to be dealt with according to the Statute as follows:

At the Court-House at Liverpool in the county of Lancaster, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1841, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, precisely.

Again there is a long list of names, and then:

Richard Park, late of Byrom-street, Liverpool, Lancashire, Butcher, and latterly carrying on business in Byrom-street aforesaid, as a butcher, under the name of Margaret Coupes.

A notice at the end of the entries warns creditors who have any objection to the discharge of their debtor must give notice three days before the hearing. Presumably none of Richard's creditors objected, allowing him to be back in his own home by the time the census<sup>45</sup> was taken on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1841 where he was recorded as a butcher with his wife Ann and a female servant named Margaret.

To return to John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Park, they, having already established a shop at 78 Pitt Street and a home at Ball Place, Upper Frederick Street in the early years of

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<sup>44</sup> <https://books.google.co.uk/books>, *The London Gazette*

<sup>45</sup> H0 107/556/21, 1841 census, Liverpool.

their marriage, had moved to Slater Street by at least 1836 when Caroline died. The directory<sup>46</sup> gives no. 10:

Park, John, butcher, 10, Slater St

but either this was just the shop address or they had moved a few doors away by 1841, when the census<sup>47</sup> recorded the family at no. 17. This is one of the few properties in Liverpool associated with this family which still exists. John's age was rounded down to 30 and Elizabeth's to 25, which would have made her a very young mother to nine-year-old Ellen! The only other child enumerated is two-year-old Richard<sup>1</sup>. There is no sign of his brother John; whether he was missed by accident or was staying elsewhere is not known. There were two servants, however, Irish Catherine Carew, and Richard Woods, born in Lancashire.

John was missing from the 1839 directory; maybe he felt his shop in Slater Street was sufficiently well-known. Richard, now at 9, Byrom Street, was, however, listed (and appeared on the 1840 electoral roll<sup>48</sup> for the same place). The next year, though, both brothers had an entry<sup>49</sup>, maybe because John<sup>1</sup> had branched out and was now listed as:

Park John, *Butcher*, 17, Slater St, Bold St & 30 St Johns mkt

The following year he only entered the Slater Street address, although Richard was still recorded at Byrom Street. In 1843, John put himself in the directory<sup>50</sup> at 17, Slater Street, but in 1845 and 1847 he was entered as:

Park John, butcher, 17, Slater St: shop, 23 St. John's market

In 1848, John advertised himself in a new directory<sup>51</sup> where he appeared as:

Parke John, butcher, 23 St John's market - house 17 Slater St

but in 1849 he returned to the familiar Gore's<sup>52</sup> to record a change in circumstance:

Park John, butcher, Aintree; shop 17, Slater St

This showed that the city centre house was now only used for business and that the family was living in Aintree 5 miles from the centre of Liverpool, and no doubt quite rural at the time.

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<sup>46</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory and view of Liverpool and its environs*, 1837

<sup>47</sup> HO 107/562, 1841 census, Liverpool

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/Liverpool,England,ElectoralRegisters,1832-1970>

<sup>49</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory and view of Liverpool and its environs*, 1840 and 1841

<sup>50</sup> LL, *Gores' Directory of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1843 and 1847, and *Gore's Directory of Liverpool*, 1845

<sup>51</sup> LL, *M'Corquodale's Annual Liverpool Directory First Publication* 1848

<sup>52</sup> LL, *Gores' Directory of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1849

In the same year, John<sup>1</sup> received some unwelcome publicity<sup>53</sup> in the form of a report on the use of false weights:

DEFICIENT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

On Friday last, his Worship the Mayor sat in the Sessions-house, to hear information against persons for using false weights, scales, measures, &c. The following is a list of the persons fined....

...John Park, butcher, 17, Slater-street, (two convictions,) 10s

Had it just been one conviction, it might be possible to infer that it was an accident, but two convictions seems more damning. Having said that, the number of cases appearing in the press suggest that this kind of cheating was pretty much endemic. The mid-nineteenth century was an era where adulteration of food was common, especially in big cities, and selling short was in some ways an extension of this.



**Liverpool Session House**

In 1851, John<sup>1</sup> appeared again in Gore's<sup>54</sup>, living at Aintree and running the butcher's business from Slater Street. The 1853 directory<sup>55</sup> also has an entry, but just for the Slater Street address. This is John's last appearance in the directories as a butcher for nearly a decade, after advertising his business on a regular basis for nearly 20 years. The possible reason for this will be explored later.

In the decade leading up to 1851 Richard<sup>2</sup> presumably got himself back on his feet. He and his wife Ann had their first child about 18 months after their marriage. He was named Richard, and was baptised on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1842 at the Catholic chapel of St Francis at Goosnargh. Presumably, as Ann's parents were later buried at this church, the family already had connections here. Unfortunately, this child died as a

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<sup>53</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Mercury*, 20.2.1849

<sup>54</sup> LL, *Gores' Directory of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1851

<sup>55</sup> LL, *Gores' Directory of Liverpool and its Environs*, 1853

young infant. The next baby, born on 22<sup>nd</sup> and baptised on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1844 at St Nicholas in Liverpool, was named Caroline after her grandmother, and this may help to explain why her double first cousin Caroline (John and Elizabeth's youngest child) was given the extra name Clara - to avoid confusion in two families so close to each other. Richard and Agnes Swarbrick - maternal uncle and aunt, presumably, were god-parents. A second daughter, Elizabeth Ann, was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> and baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1850 at St Nicholas, with John and Elizabeth Park as sponsors. The final child, Lucy Ann, born 27<sup>th</sup> July and baptised 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1852, also had Park godparents, namely William and Ellen. Given Richard and Ann's use of uncles and aunts as sponsors for their first two children, I would like to believe that this is the missing third brother and his wife, but I can find no records to corroborate this. There is no further record of this child.

In 1851<sup>56</sup>, the other Park family was still at 17, Slater Street. John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth were listed as butcher and butcher's wife, and their ages were given as a more realistic 44 and 38. Both have Barton recorded as their place of birth, which admittedly wasn't accurate in Elizabeth's case. John, 14, Richard, 12, and William, 10, were all recorded as scholars, and born in Liverpool, but Caroline was absent; she was staying with her Aunt Ellen in Alston<sup>57</sup>. Another Irish servant, Catherine Fitzsimmonds, completes the household. A Liverpool directory places John at this address as late as 1853<sup>58</sup>, though was probably a bit behind as usual. In 1851<sup>59</sup>, Richard<sup>2</sup>, Ann and their daughters Caroline and Elizabeth were at Swan View in Liverpool. I suspect this was not far from Byrom Street, though the address no longer exists. Richard was still a butcher.

The last census John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth appeared in was that of 1861<sup>60</sup>, when he was living at 123, Crown Street. Both John and Elizabeth's ages have risen by two years more than they should have done, and both are given the occupation butcher, although this time, Elizabeth's birthplace is correctly identified as Longridge. John<sup>3</sup>, now married, is elsewhere, but 21 year-old Richard<sup>1</sup> and 19 year-old William both give their occupation as apprentice engraver, suggesting that they were working for their brother John. Caroline, aged 14, is still at school, and there is a shop boy, Thomas Billington, aged 15, from Preston, who, although he is recorded as a servant, could be Elizabeth's nephew, son of her sister Mary Ann. Completing the household is John and Elizabeth's niece, also Caroline, aged 17, and the daughter of Richard<sup>2</sup> and Anne Park. She is enumerated as a visitor, born in Liverpool.

The directory<sup>61</sup> places the Parks at 123 Crown Street in 1862, suggesting they may well have been there from around 1860. In the intervening period (in a story handed down to Gilbert Park,) between the censuses, John<sup>1</sup> is supposed to have gone

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<sup>56</sup> HO 107/2189, 1851 census, Liverpool

<sup>57</sup> HO 107/2268/381, 1851 census, Alston

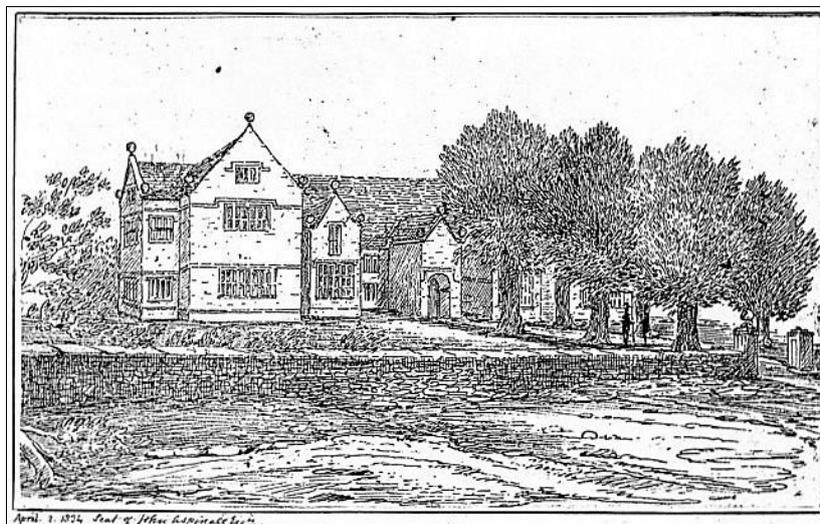
<sup>58</sup> [LL, Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its Environs, 1853](#)

<sup>59</sup> HO 107/2192, 1851 census, West Derby

<sup>60</sup> RG 9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>61</sup> [LL, Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its Environs, 1862](#)

on a quest for the fabled family inheritance. This story even filtered down to the cadet branch of the family, though in a somewhat garbled form, as my father – the youngest of Richard and Harriet’s grandchildren - got the wrong branch of his family and thought it was a case of a disputed inheritance having been lost when a case went into Chancery. Presumably this is why later members of the family dubbed Richard<sup>1</sup> ‘Squire of the Fells’, as a reference to the fact that several members of our Park family believed that an ancestor had married into the Holt family, one-time owners of Mitton Hall, at Little Mitton (about half way between Ribchester and Clitheroe). The story was that she had been disinherited for making a marriage beneath her, but that in John’s time, Little Mitton Hall was sold for the lack of an heir. John presumably believed that he could supply the deficit and should have been considered as a descendant of the disinherited bride.



**Little Mitton Hall in 1834**

Richard<sup>2</sup>, as the older brother, would have had a greater claim to whatever inheritance the Park brothers believed they were entitled to and it may well be that his previous financial problems made him even keener to follow this particular rainbow. My guess, given later events, is that both men set off to try and prove their claim. Certainly, Richard<sup>2</sup> is also absent from the directories after 1851 until 1857. The quest failed, of course, but would explain later events in John<sup>1</sup>’s life, as well as the fact that the 1861 census<sup>62</sup> shows Richard and his family lodging in the household of Mary Woods, a widow, in a Beer House in the Scotland Ward of Liverpool. His wife – here called Nancy – and daughter Elizabeth are with him, but Caroline was enumerated with John’s household. Richard was still calling himself a butcher but was hardly living in comfortable circumstances.

*British History Online*<sup>63</sup> gives a detailed description of Little Mitton Hall, showing exactly why John and probably Richard Park were reputedly so keen to prove a right to it. Just a small section gives a flavour:

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<sup>62</sup> RG 9/2655, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol6/pp388-392>

The great hall, including the screens, is 40 ft. long by 23 ft. 5 in. wide, and has an open timbered roof 18 ft. high to the wall plate... the south end [is] occupied by a square recess for the dais with a doorway on either side and the north end by the screens... The roof has been considerably restored, but the original moulded wall-posts and principals remain in excellent condition, dividing it into six bays.

It was built originally in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century by the Catterall family, Lords of the Manor of Little Mitton. Its owners up until the present day have been helpfully catalogued by Nick Kingsley<sup>64</sup>, one-time archivist of the Bodleian Library, as follows:

*Descent: built c.1485-95 for Ralph Catterall; to son, John Catterall (b. c.1478); to son, Thomas Catterall (d. 1579) who settled estate 1560 on his daughter Dorothy, wife of Robert Sherburn (d. 1570); to son, Thomas Sherburn (d. 1636); to son, Robert Sherburn (fl. 1651); to son, Thomas Sherburn (d. 1664); to brother Richard Sherburn (d. 1665) who sold 1665 to Alexander Holt (c.1624-87); to grandson, Alexander Holt (c.1675-1713); to son, William Holt (d. 1737); to daughter, Elizabeth (d. 1791), wife of Richard Beaumont (1719-64) of Whitley Beaumont (Yorks); to son, Richard Henry Beaumont FSA (d. 1810); to brother, John Beaumont (d. 1831); to natural grandson, Richard Henry Beaumont (1805-57); who sold c.1833 to John Thomas Walshman Aspinall (1812-65); to son, Ralph John Aspinall (1847-1913), who leased to John Hick MP (1815-94) from c.1874; to son, John Ralph Aspinall (1878-1946); to son, John Edward Ralph Aspinall (b. 1927), who sold c.1966 for conversion into an hotel and restaurant.*

The first key name to note in this list is Alexander Holt, who bought the property in 1665. He was a citizen and gold-smith in London<sup>65</sup>, though he came from a knightly Lancashire family which was based at Gristlehurst near Bury. He fathered nine children in London, namely Dorothy (b 1652), Alexander, Robert, Edward, Mary, Jane, Elizabeth, Sarah and Anne, the last being born in 1664. Jane and Elizabeth died young. One of the Park brothers' ancestors, according to family legend, eloped with and married Elizabeth Holt, daughter and eldest child of Alexander's son Robert in 1687. For this, she was supposedly disinherited. The only problem is, there is no record of the marriage, and no record of Robert Holt having a daughter named Elizabeth. This apparently didn't stop John from pursuing his claim and apparently spending a great deal of money in the process.

Having realised the story passed down didn't hold together, my cousin Gilbert Park (treasure-hunter John's great-great grandson) came up with an alternative theory, which puts the heiress a generation earlier. However, this depends on the existence of a daughter born to Alexander Holt and a first wife, and again, there seems to be no evidence. Nevertheless, several generations seemed convinced there was something to the story, as both John<sup>3</sup> (the engraver) and his son Arthur spent time and money pursuing their claim. If, as I now believe, the Parks were always Catholic, this would explain the lack of evidence of a marriage, and be

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<sup>64</sup> <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk/2016/04/214-aspinall-of-standen-hall.html>

<sup>65</sup> <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/> Boyd's Inhabitants of London

another reason why the Protestant Holts might disinherit a wayward daughter – always assuming there is any truth at all in the story.

The second name of interest in Kingsley's list is John Thomas Walshman Aspinall, who bought Mitton Hall in 1833. If John<sup>1</sup> Park didn't go on the inheritance hunt until the 1850s, he was 20 years too late. Unfortunately, if any paperwork existed for this abortive exercise, it doesn't seem to have found its way into any repository I have found. It is impossible to tell at this distance whether there was any truth in this story, or whether it was as lacking in foundation as the supposed link between the Durbeyfield family and the aristocratic D'Urbervilles as described in Thomas Hardy's novel. However, the story passed down through Gilbert Park's family was as follows<sup>66</sup>:

As we have seen, in 1851 John was a reasonably well-to-do butcher, a well-established middle-class tradesman. Class was all important to the Victorian mind and this must have played on John's mind, for he started a long and costly search to prove the family tradition, handed down over a period of nearly 170 years, that they were the inheritors of Mitton Hall and its estates in the Clitheroe district, and, more important, in London....

To pursue this, John sold his butchers business and house at 17 Slater St. in 1854 to a John Dinsdale, and we next find the family at 62, Gregson Street, Everton, near his cousin [sic] Richard. This is described as a lodging house. Possibly it was run by his wife Elizabeth while John was away searching to prove his ancestry...It is thought that ...[Elizabeth and Caroline] were taken into Richard's house during John's desertion upon his hopeless treasure hunt. (Richard's wife was her [Elizabeth's] sister).



**Interior of Little Mitton Hall in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century**

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<sup>66</sup> LA, *Park Family History*, (Gilbert) John Park, 1967

Certainly, John is conspicuous by his absence in the 1859 directory<sup>67</sup>, which does list his son John:

Park, John, engraver, 16 Napier St Everton,  
Office 34 Basnett St

and his brother:

Park, Richard, Butcher, 18, Napier St, Everton

John Dinsdale presumably bought the butcher's business as a going concern. From at least 1847 until 1853<sup>68</sup>, he appeared in the directories as a butcher with a shop in Gill Street market; maybe the Slater Street shop was a better prospect. Certainly, it is John Dinsdale who appears there in the 1855 directory<sup>69</sup>. However, by 1857<sup>70</sup> he had moved it a few doors away to no. 21 Slater Street, where in 1861<sup>71</sup> he was described as a master butcher. In the meantime, John does indeed seem to have opened a lodging house. The 1855 directory has:

Park John, Lodging House, 62, Gregson St, Everton

Gregson Street was a side turning off Brunswick Road, where John was living in 1865, so it does seem possible, especially as Richard<sup>2</sup> seems to have dabbled in similar enterprises: in 1845 a Richard Park was running a lodging house at 121 Portland Street and in 1847 an eating house at 121 Dale Street. In 1849 he was back in Portland Street but at no. 119<sup>72</sup>. Both these are really close to Byrom Street where Richard<sup>2</sup> had been operating as a butcher. It seems that in Liverpool in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, you turned your hand to whatever you could. In 1851<sup>73</sup> he was recorded once more as a butcher, in Dance, or Dansie Street – still in the same general area. In 1857 he had diversified again and was advertising himself as a butcher and greengrocer at 64, Hygeia Street, still in the same part of town. In 1859 this itinerant tradesman was back in the centre of his home turf, with the directory placing his butcher's shop at 18, Napier Street, right next door to his nephew John the engraver at no. 16, and both on a road which crossed Gregson Street.

If John did leave Liverpool on a mad treasure hunt, he was back in Liverpool, by the early 1860s, operating as a butcher again out of 123, Crown Street. I wonder if it is significant, though, that for the first time the census<sup>74</sup> described Elizabeth as a butcher, and that the business appeared in the 1860 directory as under the aegis of John Park junior, even though it also has an entry for his own business:

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<sup>67</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1859

<sup>68</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*

<sup>69</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1855

<sup>70</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1857

<sup>71</sup> RG9/2573, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>72</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1845 & 7, and *M'Corquodale's Annual Liverpool Directory First Publication*, 1848

<sup>73</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*, 1851

<sup>74</sup> RG9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

Park John, engraver and printer, 61, Cable St  
 - John jnr, butcher, 123, Crown St

John junior clearly wasn't living at the Crown Street address, as he was already married. The census showed the household as follows:

|                   |       |   |    |                     |                  |
|-------------------|-------|---|----|---------------------|------------------|
| John Park         | H     | M | 56 | Butcher             | Lancs, Barton    |
| Elizabeth Park    | W     | M | 50 | Butcher             | Lancs, Longridge |
| Richard Park      | Son   | U | 21 | Apprentice Engraver | Lancs, L'pool    |
| William Park      | Son   | U | 19 | Apprentice Engraver | Lancs, L'pool    |
| Caroline Park     | Dau   | U | 14 | School              | Lancs, Liverpool |
| Thomas Billington | Serv  | U | 15 | Shopboy             | Lancs, Preston   |
| Caroline Park     | Niece | U | 17 | Visitor             | Lancs, Liverpool |

*Park Family History* describes John after the search as a ruined man; perhaps he was a broken one too. Presumably John junior had rented the property in Crown Street, on behalf of his father but at the end of the year, only four months after the census showed the family there, it was being advertised to let<sup>75</sup>. Either the butcher's business was not prospering or John was no longer capable of running it:

TO BE LET, a good BUTCHER'S SHOP, in an improving neighbourhood, now doing an excellent business. Reason for leaving is on account of the present occupier declining the business to go into the public line. Apply on the premises, 123, Crown street.

For a time I had no idea what was meant by going 'into the public line' but a chance encounter with the phrase in Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* made me realise it was a reference to becoming a publican. As far as I know, this ambition remained unrealised, but, it is possible, in the years before his son Richard's marriage to Harriet Porter, that father and son had considered the idea of running a pub together.

The newspaper announcement clearly didn't bring in the punters as another advert appeared in December<sup>76</sup>:

TO BUTCHERS and Others - To be LET, is a great bargain if taken immediately, must be by the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1862, a good BUTCHER'S SHOP and HOUSE, containing ten apartments, situated 123 Crown-street: now doing a steady business, and in an improving neighbourhood. Satisfactory reason given for leaving. Rent £36, and goodwill £15.

I feel that 'the lady doth protest too much'. At any rate, nobody took up the offer for some time, and increasingly desperate adverts appeared in the press<sup>77</sup>:

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Mercury*, 28.8.1861

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 26.12.1861

<sup>77</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Post*, 7.5.1862 & 7.7.1862



**Elizabeth Park née Swarbrick in 1858  
on the occasion of her son John's wedding**

To Butchers. – To be Let, an old established Butcher’s Shop, doing a good business.

By 1863, with the property presumably still not taken, the rent was lowered<sup>78</sup>:

To be Let, a capital Shop and Dwelling–house, No. 123 Crown-street. Rent £35 only. Gas fittings throughout the house, which is at present fitted up for a Butcher’s Shop, but suitable for a Chemist or any other business. Apply Mr George Turner, Auction Mart and Estate Agency Offices, 45, Lime-street.

Maybe the fact that an estate agent was now involved, instead of application to the premises suggests that the family had moved out. At any rate, the final notice in the *Liverpool Daily Post*<sup>79</sup> suggested that the owners – whether Parks or otherwise – had lost patience:

To be Sold, Two Shops adjoining, situate in Crown-street, the corner of Blanche-street. – For further particulars apply on the premises, 123, Crown-street, Liverpool.

Around a year later, John set up his final butcher’s shop at 45, Brunswick Road in Everton. The 1864/5 Electoral Roll<sup>80</sup> shows him in possession of a house and shop in Brunswick Road, while the 1865 directory<sup>81</sup> places three members of the Park family:

Park, John, butcher, 45, Brunswick road  
Park, John, die and seal sinker and endorsing stamp cutter, 64 Cable St  
Park, Richard, butcher, 87, Radcliffe St, Everton

Richard junior, who gave the Brunswick Road address and occupation butcher on his marriage certificate that year, was probably working for his father at this time. John senior died a year later on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1866. He was 59 years old and described on the certificate as a master butcher. Tellingly, maybe, the cause of death was given as:

disease of the liver

Is it fanciful to imagine that, in a city which had a pub on every street corner, John had drowned his sorrows over his lost inheritance, and thereby hastened his death? Of course, his consumption of meat as a butcher may alternatively have led to a build-up of fat within his liver cells; or it could have been nothing to do with lifestyle at all. He was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Anfield Cemetery, in section 2, grave no. 2399. He may not have expected death so soon, as he left no will, but maybe there was little to leave. The *Liverpool Mail*<sup>82</sup> announced his death:

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<sup>78</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 20.6.1863

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 1.10.1863

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> *Liverpool, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1970*

<sup>81</sup> LL, *Gore’s Directory for Liverpool and its environs*, 1865

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Mail*, 16.6.1866

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, at 45 [sic], Brunswick-road, aged 59 years, Mr. John Park,  
Butcher

I suspect John's travels took their toll on his wife as well, as probably did the unhealthy and smoke-ridden atmosphere of a Victorian industrial city. John died in 1866, but Elizabeth only outlived him by two years, dying on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1868 of bronchitis at the home she had presumably occupied since her husband's death:

6<sup>th</sup> November 1868, 47 Compton St Everton, Elizabeth Park, female, 53 years,  
widow of John Park a butcher, Bronchitis 14 days certified, John Park present  
at death 88 Bank Rd Bootle, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1868.

She was buried alongside John<sup>1</sup> in Grave 2399, section 2, Anfield Cemetery, three days later, on 9<sup>th</sup> November. The register index gives her age as 53, a little less than her actual 55. The newspaper obituary<sup>83</sup> errs in the other direction:

PARK – November 6, aged 58 years, Elizabeth, relict of the late John Park,  
butcher, Brunswick-road

She left no will, but clearly had a small personal estate. Letters of administration were granted to her son John<sup>3</sup>, who was granted probate nearly two years later on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1870<sup>84</sup>. The effects were valued at under £200.



### **Anfield Cemetery – approximate position of John and Elizabeth Park's graves**

A photograph taken on the occasion of her son John's wedding in 1858 shows Elizabeth in all her finery: a plaid skirt, made of some silky or other shiny fabric, a dark-coloured coat with sleeves above the wrist in contrasting fabric, lace at her wrists and round her bonnet, which also sports flowers and a huge ribbon bow to hold it in place. Her dark hair is parted in the middle, Jane Eyre style, combed

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<sup>83</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 12.11.1868

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, National Probate Index

smoothly into place; she sits upright and solemn, the picture of Victorian respectability: at 45 she is in her prime and possibly knows it.

What with the Blitz and later slum clearance, Liverpool has changed out of all recognition since John and Elizabeth lived there. Both Upper Frederick Street and Pitt Street, where they started out, still exist as names, but the roads are flanked by neat, modern houses. When John and Elizabeth moved to this part of Liverpool, less than half a mile from the docks, it was already packed with houses and the only green space nearby seems to have been the cemetery. Slater Street was a little further from the docks, but still very much a city centre location. Crown Street was out towards West Derby, within reach of green spaces and with lower density housing. Today the road has been bisected into two parts, and it's not possible to work out where John's shop was. Brunswick Road is now part of a busy one-way system leading towards Lime Street. However, a map of the time<sup>85</sup> shows fields and a Pleasure Ground nearby while a 1901 map<sup>86</sup> shows just how close-knit the family was. Although they all moved constantly, many of their addresses are found overlapping in a small area close to Brunswick Road. Elizabeth's final home in Compton Street must have been in a new build, as it doesn't show up on Benson's plan, though the *Liverpool A-Z* based on maps from 1847 and 1864 shows it on the border between Everton and West Derby, just off Boundary Road.

John<sup>1</sup>'s elder brother Richard<sup>2</sup> outlived him by some years, but he too seems to have been a broken man. In 1861 he once more appeared in the papers<sup>87</sup> because of financial difficulties. The Insolvency Court at Lancaster:

Discharged forthwith, Richard Park, butcher and cattle dealer, Liverpool

No doubt desperate to make ends meet, he was caught two years later adulterating the meat he sold<sup>88</sup>:

Richard Park and John Carney, two butchers, were each on the information of meat inspector Reed fined 10/- with costs for having "dressed meat" by the process of "blowing" so as to give it a deceptive appearance at a slaughter-house in Peter Street.

The practice is exactly as described, blowing air into meat carcasses to make them seem plumper. It was dangerous both for the person doing it and the recipient as it was an obvious means of spreading infection. It is to be hoped that it was desperation rather than greed that made Richard behave in this way. Life in a Victorian city like Liverpool must have been a hard and unforgiving one.

From 1862-68, the directories<sup>89</sup> show Richard<sup>2</sup> as a butcher at 87, Radcliffe Street, Everton – clearly a period of relative stability for him, but in 1870, although

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<sup>85</sup> Benson's plan of Liverpool, 1860/1

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.liverpool-city-group.com/street-guide-1901/liverpool-street-index-a-z-1901.htm>

<sup>87</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>, *Liverpool Mercury*, 15.3.1861

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>, *Liverpool Mercury*, 14.5.1863

he appears on the electoral roll<sup>90</sup> for the Radcliffe Street house, he seems to have had to diversify again, advertising himself<sup>91</sup> as a provision dealer, first at 44, Fowler Street and then 66, Lombard Street – both properties close to Compton Street where Elizabeth had been living when she died.

Richard<sup>2</sup>'s daughter Caroline had married John Kennedy in a civil ceremony in 1866. Gilbert Park believed this was another runaway marriage; there were no family witnesses. Kennedy had been previously married at the tender age of 17 but was now widowed. In 1871<sup>92</sup> he was the head of a household in Berwick Street, in the Fairfield St John area of the city. With him were his wife Caroline, their daughter Marion or Meriam and one week old infant son. Also in the house were Richard<sup>2</sup>, Ann and their daughter Elizabeth. Of course, they may have been there to help out after the birth, but it may also be that they were dependant on John Kennedy for somewhere to live, although Richard, now 66, gives his occupation as cattle dealer. He does seem to have rallied somewhat, as Gore's<sup>93</sup> once again listed him as a wholesale butcher at 72, Berwick Street, still in the same area he had operated in for the last decade.

The 1881 census<sup>94</sup> shows the family at 9, Tulloch Street, sharing the property with another family and Richard puts his occupation down as shoemaker, unemployed. Ann has no occupation but daughter Elizabeth is employed as a charwoman. There is also a four-year-old boy, Harry, listed as grandson, presumably a son of Elizabeth's. Richard is still giving Broughton as his place of birth rather than Barton, but Ann gives Preston, an even more generic term for her birthplace. As an aside, an entry in the prison minute books<sup>95</sup> on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1841 makes reference to prisoners being taught crafts, including shoemaking. Was this, I wonder, where Richard learnt the skill he later fell back on?

The following year, Richard<sup>2</sup> died; his death was registered in West Derby in the third quarter of 1882. Sometime after this, Ann and her younger daughter seem to have moved to Liscard, where they were recorded in 1891<sup>96</sup> at 1 Belmont Road, with Elizabeth running a boarding house with the help of a servant. However, Elizabeth's age seems to have decreased, and she puts her mother's place of birth as Liverpool. Ann lived on until 1896.

We follow now the lives of John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth's other known surviving children. I am indebted to my cousin Gilbert Park for the detail of John<sup>3</sup>'s story. In comparison with his errant brother, he must have seemed the model son. In 1851<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory for Liverpool and its environs*

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/Liverpool,England,ElectoralRegisters,1832-1970>

<sup>91</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory for Liverpool and its environs*, 1870 & 1871

<sup>92</sup> RG 10/3847, 1871 census, Liverpool

<sup>93</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory for Liverpool and its environs*, 1874 & 1876

<sup>94</sup> RG 11/3700, 1881 census, West Derby St John's

<sup>95</sup> LL, 347/JUS/4/1/1 Records of Borough Gaol and Walton Prison

<sup>96</sup> RG 12/2894, 1891 census, Liscard

<sup>97</sup> HO 107/2180, 1851 census, Liverpool

he was enumerated with his family at 17 Slater Street as a scholar, but by 1861<sup>98</sup> he was married, had two children and was listed at 49 Cable Street as an engraver. He had married Henrietta Jinks on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1858 at St Anne's Edge Hill, at which time he was living in Radcliffe Street. His brother Richard and Jane Ann Appleton were witnesses. Like his father, though, John<sup>3</sup> led a pregnant bride to the altar; their first child was born in November and named Emma Elizabeth (see tree 5 - p. 44). Seven more children followed: Adelaide, John Arthur, Florence Henrietta, Clara, Frank Swarbrick, Frances Bargary and Mabel.

Much of what is known about John<sup>3</sup> and his family comes from his great-grandson Gilbert John Park, who undertook extensive research in the 1960s and wrote up his findings in a volume entitled *Park Family History*<sup>99</sup>. According to him, the couple lived first at 16 Napier Street, off Radcliffe Street, next to his uncle and aunt Richard<sup>2</sup> and Ann Park. John ran his business as an engraver and die sinker at 34 Basnett Street in the city centre, having started the firm in 1856.



**John Park and Henrietta Jinks on their wedding day**

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<sup>98</sup> RG 9/2572, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>99</sup> LA, *Park Family History*, (Gilbert) John Park, 1967

John<sup>3</sup> clearly prospered. His name appears for many years in the trade directories<sup>100</sup>, either simply as engraver and printer or as:

die and seal sinker, and endorsing stamp cutter

By 1865 and 66 adverts like the following<sup>101</sup> were appearing in the local papers:

WANTED an APPRENTICE. – Apply to J. Park, die and seal sinker, endorsing stamp cutter, heraldic and general engraver, 64, Cable street

According to Gilbert Park, the family business stayed in Cable Street for nearly 60 years. He briefly seems to have dabbled in his father's business as the 1860 directory<sup>102</sup> shows the butcher's shop at 123 Crown Street in the name of John Park jnr, but he may have been simply bankrolling his father, or even his brother Richard.

In 1863, a son John Arthur was born, at Park Street, Bootle, then a country suburb. Five years later they were at Cambridge Terrace in Bank Road, Bootle but, by the time Frank Swarbrick Park was born in 1869, they were at 10, Seaview Road, and initially named their property Swarbrick House after John's mother. It later became Seaview House. The 1871 census<sup>103</sup> shows John and Henrietta and their growing family at 89, Sea View Road West, Walton in Bootle, whether they had moved or the street had been renumbered is not known. The house<sup>104</sup>:

was a large one known as Seaview House, built prior to 1839 and with land in the triangle bounded by Irlam Road and Marsh Lane, a good sized piece of land. Across the ...road stood Bootle Hall and its parkland. All around were fields, with a few large houses.

John was clearly sufficiently wealthy to dabble in property by this time, and, again according to Gilbert Park, invested in the building of two new houses next to his own. In 1872, he offered one of these to an order of nuns so that they could run a school. When he and his family moved to Maghull in 1873, the nuns took over the family home as well as part of their school. In 1874, they had apparently completed a convent and new school buildings on the land as well.

In the same year, 1874, John<sup>3</sup> and Henrietta's last child, Mabel, was born at Magull. John apparently commuted into Liverpool on horseback, being held up by robbers on one occasion on his way home. Later, and understandably, he preferred to travel by train. Another move took the family to Breeze House in Walton, described as having four bedrooms, four downstairs rooms, stables, large garden and surrounding land. Once again, John dabbled in property<sup>105</sup>:

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<sup>100</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory for Liverpool and its environs*

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Liverpool Mercury* 18.6.1866

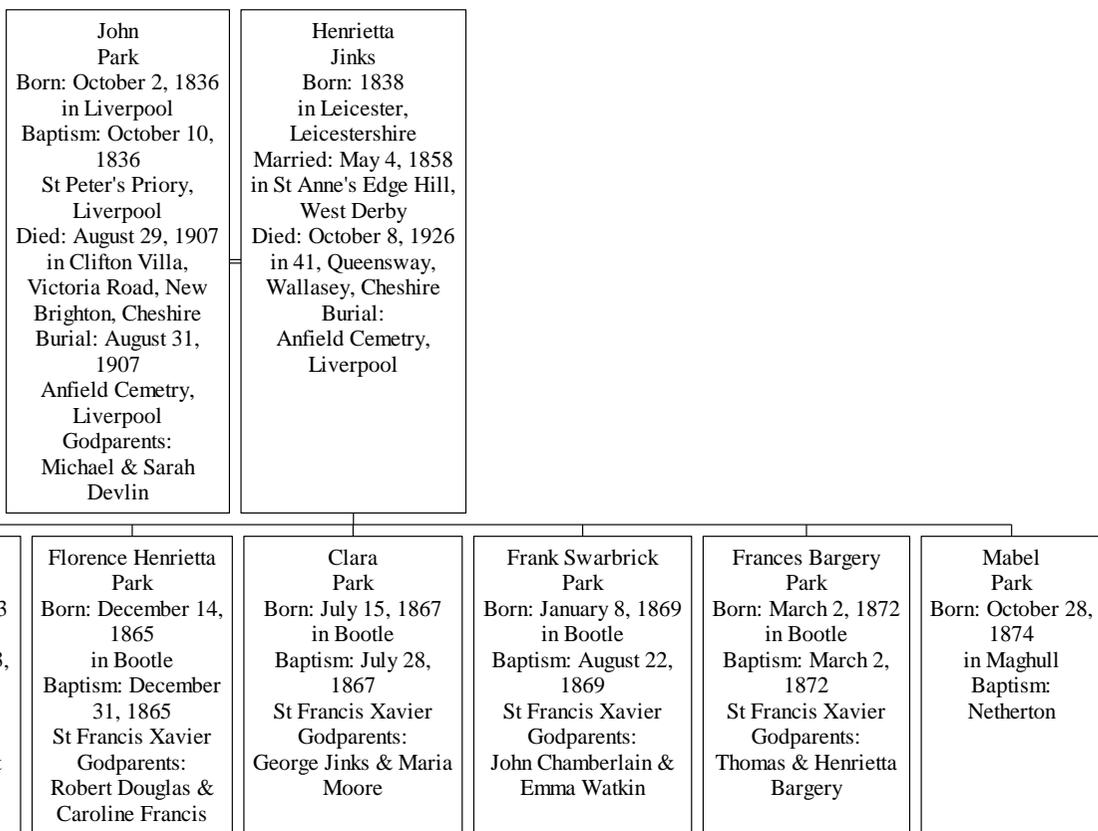
<sup>102</sup> LL, *Gore's Directory for Liverpool and its environs*, 1860

<sup>103</sup> RG10/3833, 1871 census, Walton, Bootle

<sup>104</sup> LA, *Park Family History*, (Gilbert) John Park, 1967

<sup>105</sup> LA, *Park Family History*, (Gilbert) John Park, 1967

*Tree 5 - Family of John and Henrietta Park*



John built a terrace of 3 houses adjoining his own house and named it Park Road.

He appears with his family on the 1881 census<sup>106</sup> as an engraver at 1, Park Road, Walton-on-the-Hill; there is also a servant. The presbytery for the Blessed Sacrament Church opposite was at no. 5. They were still in this house ten years later<sup>107</sup>, along with four of their daughters and a live-in servant, and in 1901<sup>108</sup> with two of their daughters and a servant. In 1904, presumably retired, John and Henrietta moved to Cheshire, initially Liscard but finally New Brighton. Here John<sup>3</sup> died on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1907, at Clifton Villa, Victoria Road - ironically only seven months after his brother Richard, who died with nothing. His estate, proved by Henrietta and their son Frank, amounted to £2,723 3/10.

Henrietta moved out of the big house, and after a couple of moves, by 1911<sup>109</sup> was living with three of her daughters, two widowed and one single, in Fairhaven in Lytham. She died on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1926 at 41, Queensway, Liscard, Wallasey.

Caroline Clara, the youngest child of John<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth's family, was at home with them on census night 1861<sup>110</sup> but a decade earlier<sup>111</sup> had been staying at the Bull Inn at Alston, run by her aunt, Ellen Wilkinson - Elizabeth's sister. She was enumerated as a visitor, aged 4, but there is no knowing whether this was a brief holiday or a longer arrangement. It does, though, confirm a degree of closeness between Elizabeth and her family despite the move to Liverpool.

On 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1865, aged 20, she married Robert Douglas Francis (**see tree 6 - p. 46**), a Commercial Clerk, at St. Silas' church, Liverpool. He was an Anglican - yet another mixed marriage in this family. Robert presumably converted and the children were baptised into the Catholic faith - and in 1871<sup>112</sup> the family was enumerated in Walton-on-the-Hill, not far from her brother John<sup>3</sup>. Two daughters, Edith and Lilian, were part of the household (as was a servant). Edith was baptised at St Francis Xavier in 1866 with John and Henrietta - Caroline's older brother and wife - as sponsors and Lilian in 1868 with Richard and Harriet as god-parents. The next child, Evelyn Maude, died as an infant. The sponsors at her baptism in 1870 were Richard and Elizabeth Park, maybe the child's great-uncle and first cousin once removed. The last of this brood to be born in Liverpool was Robert James, although the baptismal register calls both him and his father Rupert. The sponsors at this 1871 baptism were named Du Temple, and appear to have no family connection. Sometime in the next three years, Robert and Caroline moved south, to settle in Dalston in Middlesex, where a further seven children were born to the couple.

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<sup>106</sup> RG11/3688, 1881 census, Walton

<sup>107</sup> RG12/2976, 1891 census, Walton

<sup>108</sup> RG13/3451, 1901 census, Walton

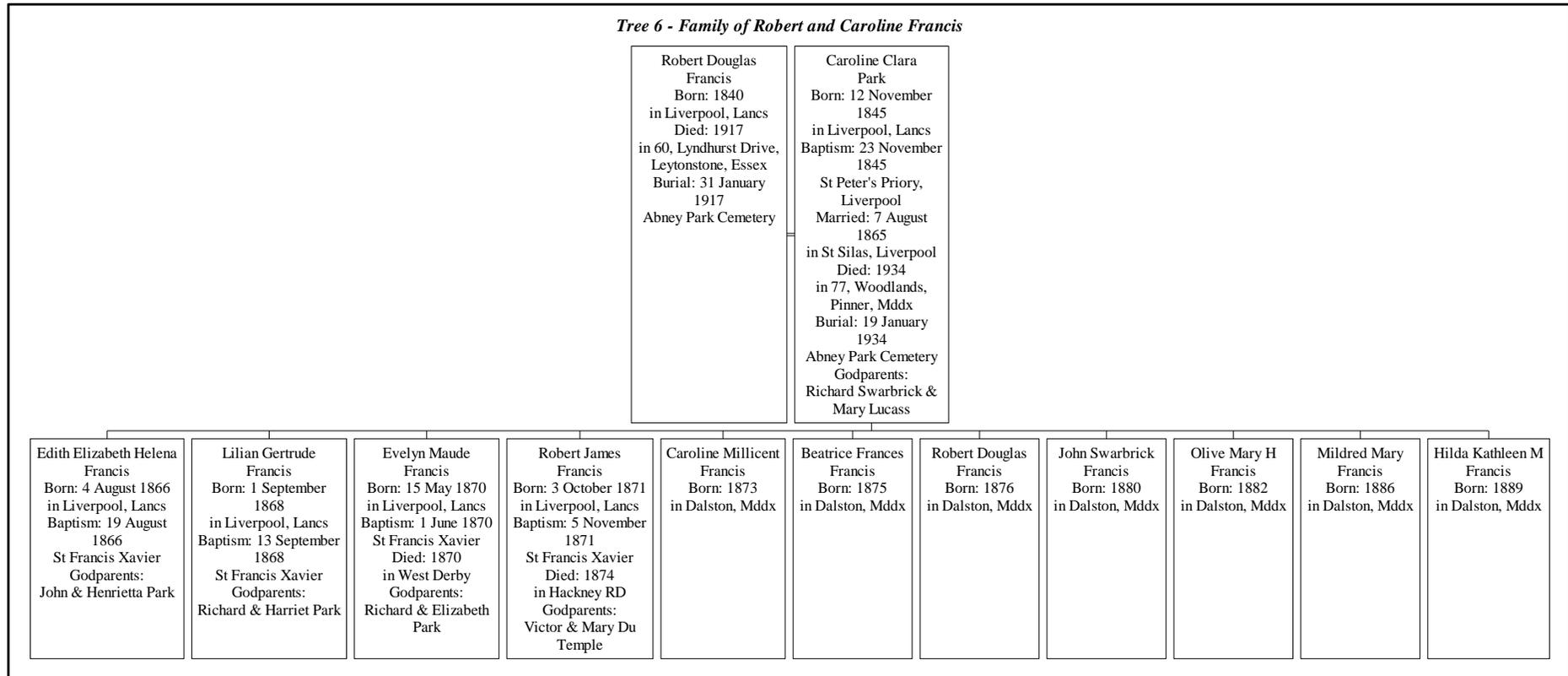
<sup>109</sup> RG14/25392, 1911 census, Lytham

<sup>110</sup> RG9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

<sup>111</sup> HO107/2268, 1851 census, Alston

<sup>112</sup> RG10/3831, 1871 census, Walton

*Tree 6 - Family of Robert and Caroline Francis*



Caroline Millicent, Beatrice Frances, Robert Douglas, John Swarbrick, were born before the next census was taken in 1881<sup>113</sup>. Robert now described himself as a provision broker, and there was a live-in nurse, presumably to help with one-year-old John. By 1891<sup>114</sup>, another three children had been born – Olive, Mildred and Hilda - and a domestic servant completed the household. By 1901<sup>115</sup> the family had moved to Manor Road, Leyton, where Robert was recorded as a commercial clerk and four of the grown-up children had employment of some kind. Seven of the children were still at home and unmarried, cared for by a servant.

The 1911 census<sup>116</sup> found Robert and Caroline at 44, Lyndhurst Drive Leyton; Lilian, Mildred and Hilda were still at home and unmarried, and there was still a live-in servant. Robert, aged 71, was assistant manager for G.S. Smith Dalby Welsh Addressing Agents, Gresham House EC. This building no longer exists, but was on Broad Street in the City of London, where the Nat West Tower now stands. Lilian was an assistant manager at Muller and co. Picture Frame Makers, High Holborn. The couple had been married for 46 years, quite an achievement in that age. The census showed that of their 14 children, nine were still living, and that the property they lived in had eight rooms (bathrooms and sculleries didn't count).

Robert Douglas Francis died in 1917 but his wife Caroline didn't die until 1934. His death was registered in West Ham but hers in Hendon. Both were buried in Abney Park Cemetery<sup>117</sup> where their addresses are given in the record. Robert died at what I imagine was the family home at 60 Lyndhurst Drive Leytonstone, but Caroline was at 77 Woodlands, Pinner, maybe staying with one of her offspring in old age. Neither seems to have left a will. A letter from Geoffrey Burgess (Caroline and Robert's great-grandson) to Gilbert Park<sup>118</sup> suggests that, despite this lack, the couple prospered in the South, and often held large parties for 70 or more family and friends. He described her as:

...small in stature, she was a lady of immense dignity, who commanded respect from family and servants alike. She never raised her voice, however displeased, and this apparently filled her dependants with fear and dread

and added that he never heard anything but good spoken of her. Gilbert also saw a photograph of her:

A coloured photographic portrait, taken in 1861 when she was 16, shows her in a pale-blue crinoline gown, with a black mantilla falling from her shoulders and a rosary pinned to her bodice. With her dark hair in ringlets, she was an attractive, rather Spanish-looking, young lady.

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<sup>113</sup> RG11/291, 1881 census, Hackney

<sup>114</sup> RG12/186, 1891 census, Hackney

<sup>115</sup> RG13/1618, 1901 census, Leyton

<sup>116</sup> RG14/9662, 1911 census, Leyton

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.devsys.co.uk/ap/>

<sup>118</sup> LA, *Park Family History*, (Gilbert) John Park, 1967

## The earliest Swarbricks – Singleton, Kirkham, Ribchester and Hothersall

Lack of records amongst Catholics, who were often rightly fearful of persecution, means that the Swarbrick line cannot be followed back very far, but three generations beyond Elizabeth can be traced with certainty.



**Swarbrick Hall**

The surname Swarbrick, which appears in several forms, is presumably a locative one as, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, one Theobald le Butiler<sup>119</sup> appears in an Inquisition post mortem as holding land in Yorkshire and Lancashire, including, in the latter, at Swarbrick. This is listed alongside Weeton and Greenhalgh, and several other small places also in the Fylde. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Quarter Session records<sup>120</sup> note an incident regarding fowling at Swarbrecke, which is no doubt the same place. In the same century, there was litigation<sup>121</sup> over a:

Messuage, milne etc., called Swartbricke's

No township or even hamlet called Swarbrick exists today, although there is a Georgian farmhouse named Swarbrick Hall which lies in Weeton with Preese civil parish and next to that of Greenhalgh with Thistleton. I suspect, therefore, that the place named Swarbrick was somewhere in this area, about a mile north-east of the village of Weeton. This surmise is confirmed by an entry in *A History of the County of Lancashire*<sup>122</sup>:

Weeton proper occupies the southern half of the township, the northern half containing Preese on the west and Swarbrick on the east. Each of the

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<sup>119</sup> <http://discLAovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<sup>120</sup> <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<sup>121</sup> <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<sup>122</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp176-178> 'Townships: Weeton-with-Preese', in *A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 7*, ed. William Farrer and J Brownbill (London, 1912), pp. 176-178. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp176-178>

four places named occupies a piece of rising ground, one piece being divided by depressions from the others; at Weeton 112 ft. above the ordnance datum is attained, at Swarbrick and Preese 100 ft. and at Mythop 50 ft.

A road from Kirkham goes west and north through Weeton and Swarbrick to Singleton; from Weeton a cross road goes west through Mythop to Blackpool and another east to Greenhalgh. The old Danes' Pad is traced in Mythop, running north-west. The railway from Preston to Fleetwood and Blackpool also runs north-west through the township, and a branch line to Blackpool crosses the south-west corner....

The soil is sandy, with subsoil of clay; wheat, oats, beans and barley are grown, but more than half the land is devoted to pasture....

SWARBRICK in Preese seems always to have been a member of Weeton [manor]. It gave a surname to a family.

The Fylde is a broad, flat, coastal plain, about 13 miles square, bounded by the M6, Morecombe Bay and the estuary of the River Ribble. It used to be dug for peat, and is a fairly featureless and flat area; nowhere in the region of Swarbrick Hall seems to be much above 30 metres above sea level, which makes the fact that the name supposedly means 'Black's Hill'<sup>123</sup>, deriving from a nickname 'Svartr' – black, and Norse 'brekka' – slope, seem somewhat ironical. However, in a low-lying area, any rise, such as those described above, is likely to be called a hill.

Whatever the meaning of the place name, it spawned quite a tribe, and Swarbrick is a common name in Lancashire, almost unknown outside the county in the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>124</sup>, though it has now spread quite widely across the country.

Elizabeth Swarbrick was born into a family which had been adherents of the Old Faith for generations; indeed, probably they did not change their allegiance with the Reformation. According to J A Hilton<sup>125</sup>:

In Lancashire, there were strongholds of Catholicism in the Ribble Valley and the coastal region as well as in the Deaneries of Warrington, Leyland, Amounderness and Blackburn.

Amounderness was the Deanery which covered most of the Fylde. Life for Catholics was hard. Until 1778 when the *Catholic Relief Act* was passed, they were not allowed to inhabit or purchase land – and then only if they took the oath of Allegiance to George III. Only after 1791, with a further *Catholic Relief Act*, were penal laws repealed and public celebration of mass permitted. Before that date, although some did exist, Catholic chapels were illegal. Nevertheless, in Lancashire there were between 16-18,000 Catholics in 1700 and around 26,000 in 1770. Again according to

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<sup>123</sup> <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Swarbrick>

<sup>124</sup> <http://gbnames.publicprofler.org/>

<sup>125</sup> *Catholic Lancashire: From Reformation to Renewal - 1559 - 1991*, J A Hilton; Philimore, 1994, Bath Press

Hilton, it was concern over the high numbers which led to a *Return of Papists* being taken nationally in 1767.



Map showing Great Singleton and Swarbrick Hall (to right of E - see insert)<sup>126</sup>

The earliest proven members of the Swarbrick line from which Elizabeth came were John Swarbrick and his wife Ann (see tree 7 - p. 53). Most of the knowledge gleaned about them comes from their wills, written over 30 years apart, but clearly dealing with the same offspring. John Swarbrick's will<sup>127</sup>, written on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1747/8, names in this order, Robert, Margaret, Thomas, Mary, Ann, Richard<sup>1</sup>, John,

<sup>126</sup> <http://maps.nls.uk/view/102343916>

<sup>127</sup> LA, WRW/A/R996/102, will of John Swarbrick of Singleton Grange, 1749

James, Elizabeth and Elling (presumably Ellen). Ann Swarbrick's will, dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 1781 omits daughters Ann and Ellen who had died in the interim, but names all the others in John's will. Although none of the names is uncommon, to have eight matches in an unconnected family is stretching credibility somewhat. Ann Swarbrick was buried at Ribchester on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1761 as:

A spinster from Hothersall

She would have been around 25 years old. Ellen had died before the family left Singleton as an entry in the Kirkham register records the burial of:

Ellen daughter of Ann Swarbrick     Singleton

on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1750. Interestingly, the entry above, on the previous day, is for Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Swarbrick, confirming perhaps the theory that Robert had already married before the family moved to Ribchester.

John Swarbrick referred to himself modestly as a husbandman in his will<sup>128</sup> – a term repeated on the will's wrapper. However, the obligation binding his executors calls him a yeoman:

Ann Swarbrick, Richard and John Robinson to perform the last will and testament of 'John Swarbrick yeoman late of Great Singleton in the parish of Kirkham'.

Given that the inventory showed an estate of nearly £350 the term seems justified. Singleton Grange was a township, not a house, and was also known as Newbigging. It was differentiated from Great and Little Singleton (although it lay in the latter). Originally it was the grange or outlying farm-land of Cockersand Abbey but, after the suppression of the monasteries, the land was leased out in small parcels. Maybe John held one of these. The inventory was taken by William Hoole and Richard Melling, presumably neighbours, and shows the bulk of his value to be in cattle and crops, although the farm was clearly a mixed one:

|                             | £  | s  | d |
|-----------------------------|----|----|---|
| 13 cows                     | 47 | 0  | 0 |
| 3 twinter heifers           | 8  | 10 | 0 |
| 5 yearling heifer stirks    | 10 | 0  | 0 |
| 3 spring calves             | 2  | 0  | 0 |
| 4 work horses               | 16 | 0  | 0 |
| 2 old horses and a bad foal | 1  | 0  | 0 |
| 2 swine                     | 1  | 12 | 0 |
| 7 sheep                     | 3  | 10 | 0 |
| wheat in sheaf and out      | 9  | 0  | 0 |
| barley                      | 3  | 10 | 0 |

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<sup>128</sup> LA, WRW/A/R996/102, Will of John Swarbrick, 1739

|  |            |           |          |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| oats in the sheaf                              | 15         | 15        | 0        |
| beans  | 0          | 14        | 0        |
| 4 carts with a pair of wheels ?7 <sup>li</sup> | 7          | 15        | 0        |
| 2 plows and 3 harrows                          | 0          | 15        | 0        |
| husbandrie gear                                | 1          | 13        | 0        |
| winnowing choath sacks<br>and riddles          | 1          | 15        | 0        |
| hay in mow                                     | 18         | 0         | 0        |
| goods in the house                             | 3          | 5         | 0        |
| goods in the parlour                           | 3          | 0         | 0        |
| in the buttery                                 | 0          | 15        | 0        |
| in the kitchen                                 | 2          | 10        | 0        |
| chamber over the house                         | 2          | 10        | 0        |
| chamber over the parlour                       | 4          | 17        | 6        |
| cheese   | 12         | 10        | 0        |
| 2/3 of wheat growing                           | 32         | 0         | 0        |
| in bonds bills and cheese                      | 13         | 12        | 6        |
| by Robert Thornton for cheese<br>desperate     | 11         | 7         | 6        |
| purse and apparell                             | 14         | 0         | 0        |
| all  | <b>349</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>0</b> |

Twinter is a term denoting an animal that is two years, i.e. two winters old. John's first bequest in his will<sup>129</sup> was to his wife, Ann, of £40 to be paid when their youngest child, Elling [sic], reached the age of 14. Robert, presumably his eldest son, was to receive £10 immediately after his father's death. The remainder of his estate was to be shared between the rest of the children, namely Margaret, Thomas, Mary, Ann, Richard<sup>1</sup>, John, James, Elizabeth and Ellen once Ellen was 14. John helpfully gave a date for this event, 1761, which suggests that she was born in 1747. He also stipulated that, should the interest from his estate be sufficient, each child should receive £10 as they came of age. His wife Ann, and Richard and John Robinson were named as executors and the document was signed in front of Richard Gregson and John Heslam on 7<sup>th</sup> March - 1747 if you count New Year from 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1748 if from 1<sup>st</sup> January.

John lived another 8 months after writing his will, and was buried at Kirkham, with Singleton given as his abode, on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1748. It was nearly another year before:

Ann Swarbrick, Richard Robinson and John Robinson executors of this will,  
were sworn well and truly to execute the same before me  
Robert Loxham Surrogate

and were granted probate on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1749.

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<sup>129</sup> LA, WRW/A/R996/102, will of John Swarbrick of Singleton Grange, 1749

Tree 7 - Descendants of ?Robert Swarbrick

?Robert Swarbrick

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| John Swarbrick<br>Born: 4 July 1702<br>in Singleton, Lancs<br>Died: 1748<br>Burial: 13 November 1748<br>Kirkham, Lancs | Ann<br>Born: Abt. 1707<br>Died: 1782<br>in Cockhill,<br>Hothersall,<br>Ribchester, Lancs<br>Burial: 1 February 1782<br>Ribchester, Lancs | ?Edward Swarbrick<br>Burial: 8 January 1714<br>Kirkham, Lancs | ?Ann Swarbrick<br>Burial: 6 November 1718<br>Kirkham, Lancs |
|--|--|---|---|

|                                     |                                      |  |   |   |  |  |                                   |                           |  |   |  |  |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Robert Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1729 | Margret Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1731 | Richard Hodgkinson<br>Married: 21 August 1754<br>in Kirkham, Lancs | Thomas Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1733<br>Died: 1807<br>Burial: 15 January 1807<br>Ribchester, Lancs | Margaret Greenwood<br>Married: 24 July 1763<br>in Ribchester, Lancs | Mary Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1735<br>Died: Aft. 1781 | Ann Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1736<br>Died: 1761<br>Burial: 6 November 1761<br>Ribchester, Lancs | John Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1737 | Ann<br>Married: Abt. 1759 | Richard Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1740<br>Died: 1797<br>Burial: 4 June 1797<br>Ribchester, Lancs | Ellen Rishton<br>Born: Abt. 1743<br>Married: 24 April 1775<br>in Ribchester, Lancs<br>Died: 1813<br>Burial: 28 June 1813<br>Ribchester, Lancs | Elizabeth Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1742 | William Crutchley<br>Married: 15 February 1768<br>in Ribchester, Lancs | ?James Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1742 | Elling Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1747<br>Burial: 15 April 1751<br>Kirkham, Lancs |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|

|   |                                  |   |   |   |  |  |  |                       |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| John Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1776<br>Burial: 12 January 1779<br>Ribchester, Lancs | Ann Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1777 | John Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1779<br>Died: 10 March 1849<br>in Longridge, Lancs | Jane Rawcliffe<br>Married: 26 August 1799<br>in Ribchester, Lancs | Betty Swarbrick<br>Born: Abt. 1781<br>Burial: 21 July 1809<br>Ribchester, Lancs | William Patchett<br>Married: 30 May 1804<br>in Ribchester, Lancs | Caroline<br>Died: 7 September 1845<br>in Alston, Lancs<br>Burial: 10 September 1845<br>St Francis, Goosnargh | Richard Swarbrick<br>Born: 1783<br>in Hothersall, Lancs<br>Baptism: 28 December 1783<br>Ribchester RC, Lancs<br>Died: 24 February 1858<br>in Longridge, Alston, Lancs<br>Burial: 2 March 1858<br>St Francis, Goosnargh | Mary Rhodes nee Brown | Ellen Swarbrick<br>Born: 1785<br>Baptism: 20 December 1785<br>Ribchester RC, Lancs | Margaret Swarbrick<br>Born: 1788<br>Baptism: 10 January 1788<br>Ribchester RC, Lancs | Thomas Fisher<br>Married: 21 October 1811 | Alice Swarbrick<br>Born: 1789<br>Baptism: 7 January 1789<br>Ribchester RC, Lancs | Joseph Walmsley<br>Married: 26 November 1809<br>in Ribchester, Lancs | Mary Swarbrick<br>Born: 1791<br>Baptism: 12 May 1791<br>Ribchester RC, Lancs |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|

John Swarbrick may well have been the son of Robert Swarbrick of Singleton whose burial appears in the Kirkham register on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1737; it seems feasible as John named his eldest son Robert. If so, he appears as a curious entry in 1702 on the Kirkham BTs under the heading:

An account of the births of Recusants Children

John, son of Robert Swarbreck of Singleton, was born on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1702. Two siblings appear in the burial register – Edward on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1714 and Ann on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1718. (There was also in Singleton at the time a Catholic James, who baptised a son John on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1703, who may have been our John's father, but given that John named his eldest son Robert, this seems the more likely connection.) If he was the son of Robert, then his father may have been convicted on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1717 for refusing to take the oath to uphold the Protestant Succession<sup>130</sup>. In the light of this, it is tempting to wonder whether one of the three Catholic husbandmen from Singleton – George, James and John Swarbrick – who were held as Jacobite prisoners after the Battle of Preston in 1715<sup>131</sup> – was related. (32% of those who joined the uprising to restore the Stuart line were husbandmen, farmers or yeoman, and 74% were Catholic.) A 'John Swarbrick servant' appears on the same Quarter Session list in 1717. Given that children often spent their time between the age of twelve and marriage in service, not as inferiors, but as part of the household or farm economy, this would not be incompatible with John's later status as yeoman.

The maiden name of John Swarbrick's wife Ann is unknown, as are her parentage and place of birth. What is known is that at some point after John's death she must have moved her family to the Ribchester area. Maybe she had family there; she would have needed some support in raising a family the youngest of whom was only around a year old when Ann was widowed. The fact that the family unit as a whole decamped pretty much en masse – with the exception of Robert and Margaret – the two oldest – is suggested by the fact that several of Ann's children appear at Ribchester in the Returns of Papists of 1767<sup>132</sup>. Margaret had married Richard Hodgkinson as a spinster of Singleton at Kirkham on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1754, and although no record has been found, I suspect Robert also married in that area.

Ribchester, where the widowed Ann took her family, lies around 3 ½ miles south east of Longridge. Although closely connected to the townships of Longridge, Ribchester was actually in the Hundred of Blackburn, rather than Amounderness. It began life as a Roman fort on the River Ribble, but despite its importance at that time, by the time the Swarbricks lived here, it was a relatively isolated parish. It was well-known as an area with Catholic sympathies<sup>133</sup>, and had an almshouse for Catholic widows and spinsters, so might have appealed to the Swarbricks:

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<sup>130</sup> TNA, FEC 1/1176, Popish Recusants, Abstracts of Estates

<sup>131</sup> *The Last Battle on English Soil - Preston 1715*, Jonathan Oates, 2016, Abingdon, Routledge

<sup>132</sup> LA, Returns of Papists Chester Diocese, 1767

<sup>133</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/> *A History of the County of Lancashire, vol 7*, Farrer & Brownbill, London, 1912

The Reformation left traces in the prosecution of recusants, some of the gentry and a large portion of the yeomanry remaining faithful to the Roman Catholic religion.

A Thomas Swarbrick – presumably John and Ann’s third child if John ordered them by age in his will – appears on the Return with his wife Margaret (née Greenwood - married at Ribchester on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1763) and their six-month-old daughter Betty. Thomas was 34, so born around 1733, and Margaret 30. He was a farmer, fitting the profile of the family, and claims to have lived in Ribchester for seven years. It may be his burial recorded at Ribchester on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1807.

John Swarbrick, farmer, aged 30 with a 32 year old wife Ann, appears on the Return, also claiming to have lived here for seven years. The similarity to Thomas’ profile is striking. If he has given his age correctly, he would have been born around 1737, three years ahead of our ancestor Richard<sup>1</sup>, who gave his age as 27, so born around 1740. This would fit the spread of births that can be gleaned from the sources available. There is no information for Robert and Margaret, who didn’t make the move to Ribchester, but it would be reasonable to suppose births in around 1729 and 1731. Thomas was born in about 1733, and Richard in 1740. In between seemingly came only Mary and Ann; there would be room for a birth of John in 1737, whereas it is difficult to fit him in after 1740 and before the birth of Elizabeth (and maybe James) in around 1742. Her father implied that Ellen was born in 1747, satisfying a common pattern in which the last-born child often appears after a longer than average gap.

There is a slight mismatch between information about Thomas and John, and Richard<sup>1</sup> whose family has supposedly always lived in Ribchester, rather than just seven years, but perhaps that statement refers to John Bamber, who was in the same household. After all, we know that Ann spent at least part of her married life in Singleton so can’t have always lived in Ribchester.

Betty Swarbrick, aged 25, so born around 1742, was with her mother and brother on the return, but the following year she married William Crutchley or Critchley at Ribchester on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1768. William witnessed his brother-in-law Richard<sup>1</sup>’s wedding in 1775. It is just possible that the James Swarsbrick, tailor, who appears on the Return for Longridge, aged 25, is also part of the family. He had only lived there for three months so may have only recently left home. Elizabeth and James were both apparently 25; if they were siblings, they may have been twins. Alternatively, he belonged to one of the several other Swarbrick families in the area.

Ann Swarbrick, widow of John, wrote her will<sup>134</sup> on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1781. She described herself as:

Ann Swarbrick late of Ribchester but now of Cockhill in Hothersall in the county palatine of Lancaster widow

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<sup>134</sup> LA, WRW/A/R114a/88, Will of Ann Swarbrick, Hothersall, 1782

Cock Hill Farm is just off Hothersall Lane. Her first two bequests were to her son Richard<sup>1</sup> and daughter Mary. Given that she had been living with Richard<sup>1</sup> in 1767 – presumably in Ribchester – it is possible that after his marriage she had moved in with her daughter Mary, presumably still unmarried:

I give and bequeath unto my son Richard for his own use and benefit such of my household goods and other goods chattels and utensils as he shall have in his custody at the time of my decease in any wise belonging to me and unto my daughter Mary such other household goods and other goods chattels and utensils as she shall have in her custody at the time of my decease in any wise belonging to me.

She then goes on to deal with the children of two of her own children who have died. She names four children of her deceased son Robert: Ann is given £3, John £7 and £10 to each of Elizabeth and Mary. The implication from what follows is that these sums satisfy her husband's wishes for their son Robert's inheritance. (It may be this Mary who married James Kighley at Ribchester on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1777. I had assumed it was Ann's daughter, but this Mary baptised a number of children at Alston Lane, the last of which was born in 1792, by which time Ann's daughter would have been too old for child-bearing.) George, the son of Ann's dead daughter Elizabeth and her husband William Crutchley, is given £40, presumably in the same spirit as the bequests to Robert's children.



### **Hothersall**

Next, her executors are directed to pay Richard<sup>1</sup> £40 which is to be invested and the interest paid annually to his sister, her daughter Margaret, wife of Richard Hodgkinson. He is to have no control over this money, which is for Margaret's use entirely. When Margaret dies, the principal sum is to revert to Ann's estate. It sounds as if there were no children from this marriage and that Ann was keen that her money did not fall into Hodgkinson's hands. The residue is to be divided equally between her remaining children - Thomas, Richard<sup>1</sup>, John, James and Mary.

As executors, she chose two friends, George Hull from Thistleton in Kirkham, and William Fisher of Sholley Hall, 'minister'. This looks like a non-conformist clergyman, but in fact William Fisher of Showley Hall in Clayton-le-Dale was a Catholic chaplain there from 1761 and was responsible for promoting the building of St Peter and Paul Catholic church at Stidd, erected in 1789. Witnesses were Robert Kay and N Carr. George Hull proved the will on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1782, with power reserved for the second executor. The inventory showed an estate worth over £300.

Apart from what is written above, and what will follow about Richard<sup>1</sup>, I have discovered little about the rest of John and Ann's family, with the exception of their son John. He was clearly a key mover in the proto-Building Society which was formed in Longridge in 1793. An article entitled *Longridge Building Clubs of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* by R Sharpe France<sup>135</sup> sets out how the club was run.

Articles of Agreement for Building a House, with Necessary and Coalhouse, for each Subscriber : (according to a Plan to be fixed on by a Majority of the Subscribers) entered into and agreed upon by us whose names are under-written, at the house of John Swarbrick, in Dilworth, this sixth day of March, 1793. Preston : printed by E. Sergent, Market-Place.

Article First.

A Committee of three subscribing Members to be appointed by a Majority of the Subscribers, for the Purpose of Contracting for Land sufficient for such Houses, and convenient Gardens thereto, providing Materials, setting the Work, letting the Houses as they become habitable, and transacting all other Business relative thereto, to the best Advantage of the Society

A Secretary or Book-keeper also to be appointed by a Majority of the Subscribers, for entering all necessary Accounts into a book to be kept for that Purpose. Each Committee-man to have Sixpence allowed him each monthly Meeting for his Trouble, with reasonable Expences [sic] for any Journeys they may have relating to the Society's Business.

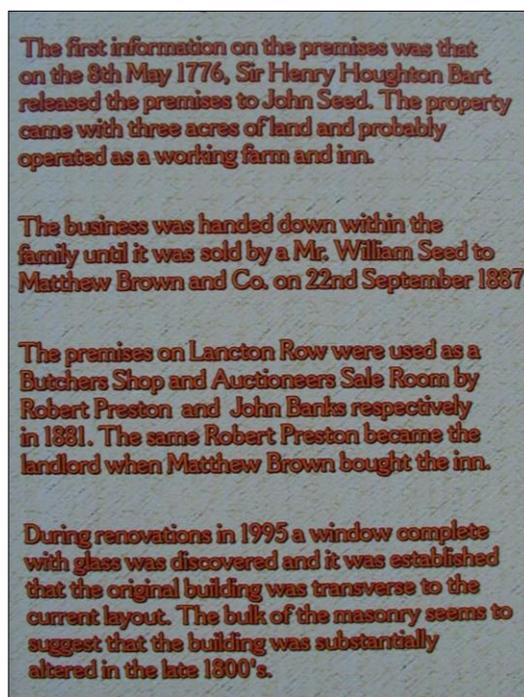
II. Each Member shall deposit the Sum of *one Guinea* on signing these Articles, to be applied to the Benefit of the Society ; and shall, on the *first Saturday* in every month, between the Hours of Seven and Ten o'clock in the Evening, attend at the house of the said *John Swarbrick*, and pay into the Hands of such Secretary, the Sum of ten shillings and Sixpence, as the subscription or Club-money, and Threepence each for the Expence of such monthly Meeting. The Club-money to be deposited in a Box provided for that Purpose, with four Locks, and lodged with the said *John Swarbrick*. Each officer to have a key, and to attend each monthly Meeting, or send his Key, or on Default thereof, to forfeit the Sum of one Shilling to the Fund. The first monthly Meeting to be held at the said *John Swarbrick's*, on *Saturday* the sixth Day of *April* next ...

In the list of subscribers that follows, John Swarbrick of Dilworth is described as a yeoman, as is one Joseph Walmsley – maybe father of the man of the same name who married John's niece, Alice. The following paragraph opens:

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<sup>135</sup> <http://www.hslc.org.uk/documents/PDFS/1947.pdf> Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, vol xcix

On 4 May 1793 the members agreed to purchase from John Seed of Whittingham, late of Dilworth, yeoman, before 2 February 1794, a plot of land, 120 yards by 30 yards, as staked out from the front of two closes in Dilworth near the village of Longridge, lying east from John Seed's inn the White Bull, and in the tenure of John Swarbrick, adjoining the highway from Longridge to Chipping.



### Plaque on the wall of *The White Bull*

This must be the plot of land for which John was paying Land Tax<sup>136</sup> in 1798:

| Names of Proprietors | Names of Occupiers | Sums assessed | Date of contract          |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| John Seed            | John Swarbrick     | 4/7           | 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1799 |

The account book<sup>137</sup> for the society still exists. Its beautifully written title page is set out as follows:

*The Account-book  
belonging to the Building Society  
established  
at  
Longridge  
March y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>  
1793*

At the start is a page headed:

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> UK Land Tax Redemption, 1798, Ribchester

<sup>137</sup> LA, DDH/995, *The Account Book belonging to the Building Society established at Longridge*

The order in which the Lot has fallen to each respective Subscriber viz:

followed by a list with William Seed's name at the top. John Swarbrick appears as number ten of twenty subscribers. Further pages list the amount of entrance money and subsequent payments made. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 1793, John Swarbrick, along with most of the other subscribers, paid £1 1/- entrance fee. A few only paid 10/6 of their guinea owed on this first occasion. Thereafter, monthly payments of 10/6 were made by all, although after 1801 subscriptions increased, and the final subscription page, dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 1801 shows payments of £2 each.

The right-hand pages of the account book show disbursements. There are numerous references to bills owed to John Swarbrick. For example, he was paid 4/2 for ale in 1801, suggesting perhaps that he too was making at least part of his income in the licensed trade. In 1807, he was in arrears to the tune of 23 threepences – the princely sum of 5/9. Other items include tax paid on the new houses, and the wages of the committee-men. Interest to April 1801 amounted to £32 17/10 ½.



### Hothersall Hall

John Swarbrick also appears on Land Tax<sup>138</sup> returns at Hothersall, paying 2/8 in 1796 and 1797, and again in 1798<sup>139</sup>, first with Mr Leckonby (presumably of Hothersall Hall) as proprietor and then with Mr Leckonby's heirs. As other members of the family paid land tax in both Ribchester and Hothersall, presumably this is the same man, with another small plot of land – maybe with plans to build another set of houses. Of course, there is a caveat; there may be two John Swarbricks, one at Ribchester and one at Hothersall! A John Swarbrick, farmer, had administration granted on his estate in March 1821<sup>140</sup>. It is feasible that it is this John, who would have been well over 80 by this time and maybe not capable of making a will.

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<sup>138</sup> LA, QDL 1781 A/1 Land Tax Alston with Hothersall

<sup>139</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> UK Land Tax Redemption, 1798, Hothersall

<sup>140</sup> LA, [W/RW/A/R153b/59](#), Admon of John Swarbrick of Ribchester, 1821

## **Richard<sup>1</sup> and Ellen Swarbrick – Ribchester and Hothersall**

To reiterate; Richard<sup>1</sup> Swarbrick, son of John and Ann and our direct ancestor, appeared with members of his family on the Returns of Papists<sup>141</sup> of 1767:

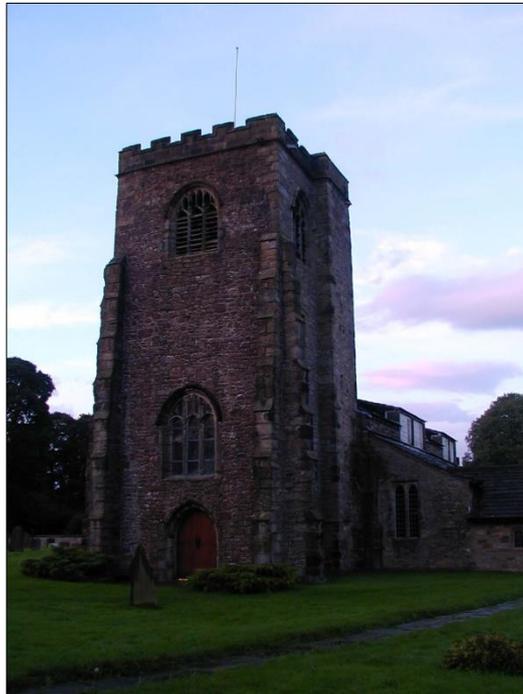
Ribchester and Stidd – a true list of the Papists or reputed papists within the townships of Ribchester, Dutton and Huthersall in the parish of Ribchester

Richard Swarbrick, farmer 27, Ann his mother, 60, Betty his sister 25, John Bamber 50, Betty his serv. This family has always resided here. 5 [persons].

Again, the entry tantalises as much as it enlightens. It gives a probable date of birth for Richard of 1740, and for his mother Ann of 1707, but is John Bamber part of the family, and if so, how? Is the second Betty a Swarbrick, and to whom is she a servant? Finally, given that Richard's father had been buried from Singleton Grange in Kirkham parish in 1749, it seems unlikely that the family had 'always' lived there. Maybe they were afraid of being moved back to Singleton if they admitted to being more recent arrivals.

Richard Swarbrick was a mature 35 years old when he married Ellen Rishton. They wed, as the law at the time required, in an Anglican ceremony. After banns on 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1775, they were married at St Wilfred's Ribchester:

The said Richard Swarbrick of the parish of Ribchester, husbandman and Ellen Rishton, spinster were married in this church by banns this 24<sup>th</sup> April 1775 in the presence of William Crutchley and Richard Richmond



**St Wilfred's Ribchester**

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<sup>141</sup> LA, Returns of Papists Chester Diocese, 1767

William Crutchley married Richard's sister Elizabeth.

A John Swarbrick married Alice Balmer at Ribchester on the same day. However, it would have had to be a second marriage for Richard's brother, who was married to Ann and a farmer in the 1767 Return, and, as the Longridge Building Society records show, was prospering. The groom is recorded as a labourer, which hardly fits the profile of Richard's brother, and in addition, the godparents recorded for Richard and Ellen's son, Richard<sup>2</sup> in 1783 were John and Ann Swarbrick, almost certainly his uncle and aunt. Maybe this is the son of Richard's brother Robert, a theory which may be strengthened by the marriage of a Mary Swarbrick (Robert's daughter?) to James Kighley at Ribchester on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1777, and the subsequent string of baptisms to this couple at Alston Lane. (It may be a speculation too far, but James and Mary's first child had a godfather named Robert Swarbrick; could he have been another sibling, but not named in his grandmother's will?)



**Alston Lane Chapel**

The year after Richard<sup>1</sup> married, he was called upon to stand surety<sup>142</sup> for one Giles Walmsley of Ribchester; another candidate to be the father of the Joseph Walmsley who later married Richard's daughter Alice, and if the families were already close this would explain why Richard was willing to gamble such a substantial sum. The Quarter Session records show the following:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Giles Walmsley of Ribchester in the said county weaver acknowledges to owe to our Sovereign Lord the King the sum of                                  | 20£ |
| Richard Swarbrick of Ribchester husbandman and John Forrest of Samlesbury chapman severally acknowledge to owe our Sovereign Lord the King the sum of | 10£ |

It appears that Giles was being called to answer the charge of having:

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<sup>142</sup> LA, QSB 1/1776/Oct/pt5/33, Richard Swarbrick, surety, 20.7.1776

lately made an assault upon William Moorhouse otherwise Morris of Dilworth in the said county husbandman.

Should he leave the court without permission, then both his £20 and the £10 of each of his sureties would be forfeit.

Of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Ellen's family, four were born before the start of the Catholic register at Stidd, where the younger children's baptisms were recorded. One of these, John, died as an infant, and was buried at Ribchester on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1779. Both the parish register and the BTs specify that he is the son of Richard Swarbrick of Ribchester, though Dilworth, Alston and Hothersall appear on the same page, so presumably Richard and Ellen were living within Ribchester township at that time. A daughter Ann came next; in his will<sup>143</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup> refers to her as:

my eldest daughter Ann Swarbreck

confirming her position in the family. I suspect she was born around 1777, but apart from the fact that she must have been alive when Richard wrote his will in 1797, I know little of her life. She was bequeathed house number 1 in the will (this will be explained below), but there is no reference to any Swarbrick occupying a house with this number in the Land Tax returns<sup>144</sup>, which begs the question of whether she sold her inheritance or died without an heir to leave it to.

Her brother John, born probably in 1779, leaves a much clearer paper trail. He married two and a half years after his father's death, aged around 20. The bans published beforehand show him to have been a butcher like his brother Richard who witnessed the subsequent marriage. John wed Jane or Jenny Rawcliffe on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1799 at Ribchester St Wilfred: he signed the register; his wife made her mark.

These two baptised eleven children, though not all survived infancy. The first seven were baptised at the Catholic chapel at Stidd, in Ribchester. Richard, baptised on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1800 became a butcher in Preston<sup>145</sup>, and having raised his own family, was buried in the Preston Township burial ground on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1860. An unnamed girl was baptised on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1803, but presumably died, as did a boy John, baptised with his twin sister on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1805. The girl is unnamed in the register, but must have been Ellen, who appears in later documents. Another John was baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1807 and was enumerated at Blackburn in 1861<sup>146</sup> as a brick-maker employing 20 men and running a grocer's shop probably overseen by his wife. He died in Blackburn in 1868. James, baptised 18<sup>th</sup> February 1809, married, raised a family and in 1851 was a cotton twister in Preston<sup>147</sup>, but seems to have died before the following census was taken. The next child was George, baptised on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1811. He also probably died young, and may be the child buried at

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<sup>143</sup> LA, WRW/A/R120/60, will of Richard Swarbrick, Hothersall, 1797

<sup>144</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1832

<sup>145</sup> HO 107/2267/754, 1851 census, Preston

<sup>146</sup> RG 9 3104, 1861 census, Blackburn

<sup>147</sup> HO 107/2287, 1851 census, Preston

Ribchester on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1819 as the son of John Swarbrick of Hothersall, papist. The only snag is that the BTs record his age as 1 rather than 8, but this may be a transcription error.



### Alston Lane Chapel

Presumably, sometime around 1810 - 1812, John and Jane moved to Longridge, as most of the rest of the family was baptised at Alston Lane, although Margaret, like her cousin Elizabeth born the same year, was baptised on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1813 at Lee House. Robert, who also pursued a career as a brick-maker in Blackburn<sup>148</sup>, and died there in 1874, was baptised on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1815. Both he and his younger brother Joseph gave Dilworth rather than Ribchester as their place of birth. Joseph, who was present at the death of his uncle and our direct ancestor Richard<sup>2</sup> Swarbrick, was baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1818. He spent most of his working life as a stone mason<sup>149</sup>, but at some point between 1861 and 71 briefly swapped this occupation for the family business of butchering<sup>150</sup>. By 1881<sup>151</sup>, he had reverted to stone masonry, and was living in Preston. He didn't die until 1902. John and Jenny baptised one more child, Mary, on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1820, but the name Mary Swarbrick was too common in the area to be sure whether she lived to marry.

Curiously, John Swarbrick, having called himself a butcher when he married Jenny Rawcliffe, appeared on the 1841 census<sup>152</sup> in Alston as an agricultural labourer, living next door to his son Richard. He does not seem to have prospered in the same way as his brother Richard. As the oldest son, he had been executor to his father's will, and benefitted from it, receiving both:

All that my messuage or dwelling house with the yard garden and

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<sup>148</sup> HO 107/2257, 1851 census, Blackburn

<sup>149</sup> HO 107/2268, 1851 census, Alston

<sup>150</sup> RG 10/4202, 1871 census, Alston

<sup>151</sup> RG 11/4235, 1881 census, Preston

<sup>152</sup> HO 107/501, 1841 census, Alston

appurtenances thereunto belonging situate in Ribchester marked No.2

along with (shared with his brother Richard as tenants in common)

All that my close piece or parcel of land situate in Ribchester aforesaid called Isabel Hole and all my barn and buildings situate in Ribchester aforesaid called Randall Barn with their appurtenances

From 1807 he seems to have taken over property on which his mother Ellen had been paying land tax<sup>153</sup> at 4/-. In the same year he and Richard were recorded together paying 1/8, presumably for their shared ownership of Randall's Barn and Isabel Hole, and John also paid 5<sup>d</sup> on house number 2. By 1810, though, his name has disappeared from the Ribchester Land Tax. Maybe this is when he moved to Longridge, and maybe this is when things began to go awry for him, as, in 1817 he and his family appear in the Quarter Session records as subject to a removal order. This only happened when people became chargeable to the parish through poverty, and parish worthies were keen to pass the buck onto the parish where the pauper in question had his or her official place of settlement. For John and his family, this appears to have been Dilworth, so they must have been there long enough to be entitled to settlement, although they seem to have returned, for a time at least, to Ribchester. A petition<sup>154</sup> dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 1817 was presented at the Epiphany Session in January saying the following:

Complaint having been made by the Churchwardens and Overseers ...of Ribchester... that John Swarbrick and Jane otherwise Jenny his wife and Richard aged seventeen years, Thomas aged fifteen years, Ellen aged twelve years, John aged nine years, James aged eight years, George aged six years, Margaret aged four years and Robert aged two years their children, are come to inhabit the said township of Ribchester, not having gained a legal settlement there... and that they are poor and actually chargeable to the said township of Ribchester, and that their last legal settlement was in Dilworth.

It goes on to request that the family be removed from Ribchester and that the overseers of Dilworth take responsibility for them.

All this is very strange, as John had lived presumably lived in Ribchester before, but maybe not long enough to have earned settlement. It also seems strange, given the apparent financial position of others in his immediate family. Did he, like Richard<sup>2</sup> Park, somehow over-reach himself as a butcher, and effectively go bankrupt? At the bottom of the form is a cryptic comment, in which the key word is not clear. It reads:

Set aside ?in full hearing.

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<sup>153</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1778-1832

<sup>154</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) , Lancashire Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, QSP 2729/34

It would seem too, that the overseers of Dilworth were not impressed, as the Quarter Sessions Order Books<sup>155</sup> shows:

The appeal of the inhabitants of the township of Dilworth... to the order made... [on] 24<sup>th</sup> day of July last, for the removal of John Swarbrick, and Jane otherwise Jenny his wife, and Richard, Thomas, Ellen, John, James, George, Margaret and Robert their children, poor persons out of the township of Ribchester ... into the township of Dilworth, is by this court respited and adjourned until the next Quarter Session...

The case was still rumbling on at the Michaelmas Session in the autumn, where the same petition<sup>156</sup> was laid out, but with a note at the bottom saying:

Appeal Ent [entered?] & Respited

Finally, an order book<sup>157</sup> records that Dilworth's appeal was set aside, so presumably the family was returned there. We can hardly blame the worthies of Dilworth for not wanting to have to provide food and clothing for ten more people, and no doubt at this point Jenny was pregnant with Joseph.

The whole saga is curious, and I have wondered whether this is another Swarbrick family, given that at least three of John's supposed siblings were happily paying land tax on their houses in Ribchester at this time. However, baptism patterns, Catholicism, the fact that John was living at his brother Richard's house when he died in 1849<sup>158</sup> and that his son Joseph must have been the man in attendance when Richard died in his turn make the suggestion of a family link sufficiently strong as to be almost undeniable:

On Wednesday last, at the house of his brother, Mr Richard Swarbrick, butcher, Longridge, Mr John Swarbrick, aged 70

The next child of Richard<sup>1</sup> Swarbrick and Ellen Rishton was named Betty, and was born in around 1781. On 30<sup>th</sup> May 1804, at Ribchester St Wilfred, she married William Patchett, who described himself in the marriage register as a:

surgeon and man midwife

The marriage register formalises his bride's name as Elizabeth. Betty died five years later, and was buried at Ribchester on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1809. There seem to have been no children. However, her widower, William Pratchett paid land tax<sup>159</sup> on house number 3 in Ribchester, which had been willed to Betty by her father.

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<sup>155</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) , Lancashire Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, RB40

<sup>156</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) , Lancashire Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, QSP 2725/119

<sup>157</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) , Lancashire Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, RB41

<sup>158</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Preston Chronicle* , 10.3.1849

<sup>159</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1810



### SS Peter and Paul Stidd

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1783, our ancestor Richard<sup>2</sup> was the first of his siblings to have his baptism recorded in the new register at the Catholic chapel at Stidd, along with the names of his godparents – and presumably paternal uncle and aunt - John and Ann Swarbrick. Almost exactly two years later, on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1785, Richard<sup>1</sup> and Ellen baptised a daughter. The godparents were Thomas Swarbrick and Ann Rishton – presumably paternal and maternal kin respectively. Strangely, the girl herself is unnamed, but was probably Ellen, who was named in her father's will in 1797, where she was devised the house marked number 5 in Ribchester. She paid land tax<sup>160</sup> on this specific property from 1808 – 1812; her sister Margaret is recorded with her paying 1/3 for no. 5 and 6. After that they continued paying the same sum together for the next two years, although the property wasn't specified, and then it went up to 1/8, which the sisters paid together until 1823. 1824's return shows Ellen Swarbrick as the owner of a house occupied by James Eccles, and paying 8<sup>d</sup> tax.

Margaret, baptised 10<sup>th</sup> January 1788, was god-child to James Rishton – who may have been her uncle, and Margaret Swarbrick, who was probably her aunt (the wife of Richard<sup>1</sup>'s brother Thomas). She probably married Thomas Fisher at St Wilfred's Ribchester on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1811, giving birth to a daughter Ellen, (named after her grandmother?) the following year. As stated above, she paid land tax with her sister Ellen until 1823, though, possibly because her sister was unmarried, under the surname Swarbrick. The god-parents of Alice, baptised 7<sup>th</sup> January 1789, are not recorded. She married Joseph Walmsley at Stidd on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1809, and they baptised their children in the same church. She paid land tax<sup>161</sup> at Ribchester of 10<sup>d</sup> in 1808 and 9, and then as Alice Walmsley in 1810. The last-born in this family was Mary, baptised on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1791 with Richard Glover and Elizabeth Weaver as godparents. She too appears in the land tax<sup>162</sup> records, paying 10<sup>d</sup> on house number 8 from 1808-1812.

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<sup>160</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1810 & 1811-32

<sup>161</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1810

<sup>162</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1810

In 1775, the Catholic Relief Act, allowing Catholics to own land, was still three years away, so although a farmer, Richard<sup>1</sup> would have had to be a tenant, and maybe didn't feel sufficiently financially secure to marry until his mid-thirties. Given the amount of tax he was able to pay, though, perhaps he just hadn't met the right person before that! The next decade or so was no doubt devoted to raising his large family, and, once he was able to own land, ensuring that he had property to leave them at his death. Despite owning property in Ribchester, he remained a tenant at Hothersall, first of a Mr Heatley - from 1781 - 1784, paying land tax<sup>163</sup> as follows:

| Proprietor's Name | Occupier's Name   | Yearly Land Tax |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mr Heatley        | Richard Swarbrick | £5 12/9         |

and from 1785 until his death in 1797 of a Mr Leckonby. The land tax paid is the same, so presumably it was the ownership which changed, not the farm. Catholics had been subject to double land tax since 1692, and despite attempts to remove this injustice in 1797 with the *Land Tax Redemption Act*, a bill was brought again to attempt to remedy the situation as late as 1828<sup>164</sup>. An act had been passed in 1794 allowing Catholics to appeal against overpayment<sup>165</sup> but the fact that Richard's bill didn't change suggests he did not benefit from it. Even if he was paying double, though, it was quite a hefty bill. None of my other ancestors who paid this tax even got to £1.

In addition, at some point he had acquired a considerable amount of property in Ribchester on which he was also taxed<sup>166</sup>. In 1782 he was the proprietor of three properties:

| Proprietor's Name            | Occupier's Name  | Yearly Land Tax |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Richard Swarsbrick           | William Robinson | 3 /3            |
| Richard Swarsbrick house     | James Rushton    | 1 /4            |
| Richard Swarsbrick barn etc. | William Hayhurst | 2/4             |

and the occupier of a fourth:

|           |                  |     |
|-----------|------------------|-----|
| Miss Ward | Rich: Swarsbrick | 1/9 |
|-----------|------------------|-----|

The fact that James Rushton was one of his tenants maybe suggests that he was Ellen's brother. The entries continue in this vein, with slight variations in the spelling of his name, in the tenants and sums assessed, until 1788. In 1789 the entry specifies:

|                               |                 |      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Richard Swarbrick             | Edward Hall     | 1 /5 |
| Richard Swarbrick Randle Barn | Edward Hall     | 2/3  |
| Miss Ward                     | Rich: Swarbrick | 1/5  |

<sup>163</sup> LA, QDL 1781 A/1 Land Tax Alston with Hothersall

<sup>164</sup> <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1828/feb/04/roman-catholic-land-tax-bill>

<sup>165</sup> <https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/the-land-tax-1692-1963.pdf>

<sup>166</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1810

and continues in this vein until 1794:

|                             |                  |     |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Rich <sup>d</sup> Swarbrick | Randle Barn etc  | 3/8 |
| Rich <sup>d</sup> Swarbrick | for 4 new houses | 2/6 |

Was he involved in building these, as his brother had been with the new development in Longridge? At any rate, by the following year there were five new houses, and he was assessed on them at 3/8. These would be the five houses his widow was later taxed on.

As the strictures on Roman Catholics eased and they were able to make declaration of their faith without risk, Richard<sup>1</sup> appeared at Preston<sup>167</sup> on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1792 as:

Richard Swarbrick yeoman Hothersall in the County of Lancaster

at:

the General Quarter Session of the Peace held by adjournment at Preston in and for the County Palatine of Lancaster on 14<sup>th</sup> day of July in the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the reign of his Majesty King George the third 1791.

in order to make the following declaration:

I AB do hereby declare that I do profess the Roman Catholic religion.

The second part of the volume records as a Catholic:

Richard Swarbrick yeoman Hothersall in the county of Lancaster

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1797, he made his will<sup>168</sup>, aged only around 57, and with most if not all his children still minors. He describes himself as:

Richard Swarbrick of Hothersall in the co. of Lancashire yeoman

After the payment of his debts, he asks that his executors put all his personal estate apart from what is specifically mentioned into trust, to be shared equally between all surviving children once the youngest is 16. From what follows, his involvement in property is clear, whether in a similar way to his brother John's activity in the Longridge Building Society or in simple investment in houses already built isn't stated, but the fact that they are all numbered could either suggest a block of houses together or dispersed properties marked on some kind of map or plan. Whatever the truth, the wording for each bequest was similar. The first was to his daughter Ann:

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<sup>167</sup> LA, QSJ/4/1, Oaths of Roman Catholics under the Act of 1791

<sup>168</sup> LA, WRW/A /R120/60, Will of Richard Swarbrick of Hothersall

All that my messuage or dwelling house with the yard garden and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate in Ribchester in the said county marked No. 1 I do give and devise unto my eldest daughter Ann Swarbreck her heirs and assigns for ever.

No. 2 went to son John, no. 3 to daughter Betty, no. 4 to son Richard and 5 to daughter Ellen. Margaret, Alice and Mary had nos. 6, 7 and 8 respectively. To have eight properties to give his eight children at this stage in their life shows considerable foresight, not to mention considerable financial acumen, especially as his widow was later taxed on a ninth.

Mary would have been only five at the time of her father's death, so the following clause is unsurprising:

as to the said dwelling house marked number 8 devised to my said daughter Mary as aforesaid I do reserve and devise the use of so much and such part thereof as will be sufficient for a dwelling house for my wife (in the discretion of my other executors) to her my said wife to her own use only during her life if she shall so long continue my widow but not longer.

Only Ann and John would have been old enough to support themselves, so unless some of the children were farmed out to other relatives – something not likely to happen with the three under ten, I suspect – there must have been room for at least some of Ellen's children in the property. Ellen is also granted an annuity of £6 from:

the interest and produce

of his personal estate, with any deficiency to be made up from the rent of the eight houses. Ellen's bequest continues as follows:

I do give and bequeath unto my said wife during the term of her natural life if she shall so long continue my widow one bed and bedding and all things thereunto belonging and furniture sufficient for one room at the discretion of my executors, and after her decease or marriage which shall first happen the same to fall into and be considered part of my personal estate bequeathed as aforesaid.

The two boys are bequeathed the land:

All that my close piece or parcel of land situate in Ribchester aforesaid called Isabel Hole and all my barn and buildings situate in Ribchester aforesaid called Randall Barn with their appurtenances I do give and devise unto the use of my sons John Swarbrick and Richard Swarbrick their heirs and assigns for ever equally as tenants in common and not as joint tenants.

The final bequest was to his younger daughters and Richard, suggesting perhaps that Ann and John had already received their beds when they left home:

And I do give and bequeath unto my said daughters, Betty, Margaret, Alice

and Mary and my son Richard each one bed, bedding and all things thereunto for their own use forever.

His wife Ellen, brother James and either son or brother John were charged with executing the will and Richard made a very shaky signature in front of witnesses James Rishton, Henry Ireland and Robert Barton. He must have been very close to death, as he was buried at St Wilfred's Ribchester only three days later, on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1797 as:

Richard Swarbrick, Hothersall

Ellen and James proved the will on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1797, reserving power for the third executor, John Swarbrick, which maybe suggests that this was the 17-year old son rather than the adult brother. The estate was valued at under £1,000, a considerable sum for a Catholic farmer in rural Lancashire. Ellen lived on as a widow for another 16 years before she joined her husband in St Wilfred's churchyard.



### **SS Peter and Paul Stidd**

Ellen Rishton, Richard<sup>1</sup>'s wife, was probably born around 1743, if her age is given accurately on the Papist Returns of 1767<sup>169</sup>, and presumably her ancestors hailed from Rishton, a small township about seven miles south-east of Ribchester and a few miles north-east of Blackburn. Although there is no record of her baptism, once the strictures against Catholics were relaxed, she presumably worshipped at Stiid. The survey recorded Ellen, presumably with her family:

Ribchester and Stidd – a true list of the Papists or reputed papists within the townships of Ribchester, Dutton and Huthersall in the parish of Ribchester:

Agnes Rushton, spinster, aged 50. Ellin her daur aged 24, James 21.  
Wm 14, Ricd 6. This family has resided here 14 years. 5 [persons].

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<sup>169</sup> LA, Returns of Papists, Chester Diocese, 1767

The entry is irritatingly obscure. To begin with, the surname is recorded as Rushton, but I suspect this is a variant of Rishton or a clerical error. Agnes Rushton, who must be Ellen's mother, is listed as a spinster. Are we meant to infer that she was a single parent, or that she had wed by Catholic rather than Anglican rites, so was not deemed legally married? If the former, illegitimacy was rife in the Catholic community in Ribchester, as several mothers on the list are designated in the same way. The assumption is that James, William and Richard were Ellen's brothers, but although the group is described as a family, the relationships are not stated.

Ellen appeared in the Land Tax Assessments<sup>170</sup> at Hothersall in 1797, when, newly widowed, she paid for her late husband's land; in the same year she was granted probate as her husband's executrix. She appeared in the land tax records again the following year, still paying £5 12/9 as occupier of land belonging to Mr 'Lettenb'ys' [sic] heirs. She also has a long run of entries in the Ribchester land tax records<sup>171</sup>, beginning in 1797, when the entry reads:

|                 |                         |     |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Widow Swarbrick | Herself and Randle Barn | 3/8 |
| Widow Swarbrick | Herself and 5 houses    | 3/8 |

The same entry appears in 1798, but, presumably once her husband's affairs were settled, the entry was changed to read:

|                 |                    |     |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| Widow Swarbrick | Herself and others | 7/4 |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----|

This style of entry persisted from 1800 – 1807, with an additional entry in 1806 reading:

|           |                 |     |
|-----------|-----------------|-----|
| Mr Cooper | Ellen Swarbrick | 4/- |
|-----------|-----------------|-----|

The following year, this part of the tax was picked up by her son John. From 1808, the children paid tax on their own inherited properties. It gets a little confusing then, as there are two Ellen Swarbricks listed, but I presume the entries which read:

|                 |              |    |
|-----------------|--------------|----|
| Ellen Swarbrick | Herself no 9 | 5d |
|-----------------|--------------|----|

from then until 1810 refer to the mother rather than the daughter. She disappears from the taxation records at this point. Maybe, in her final years, she went to live with one of her children.

Ellen's only other appearance in official records is in her burial, which took place at St Wilfred's Ribchester on 28<sup>th</sup> (or possibly 26<sup>th</sup>) June 1813. I take 'Pt' to be a contraction for papist where the register notes:

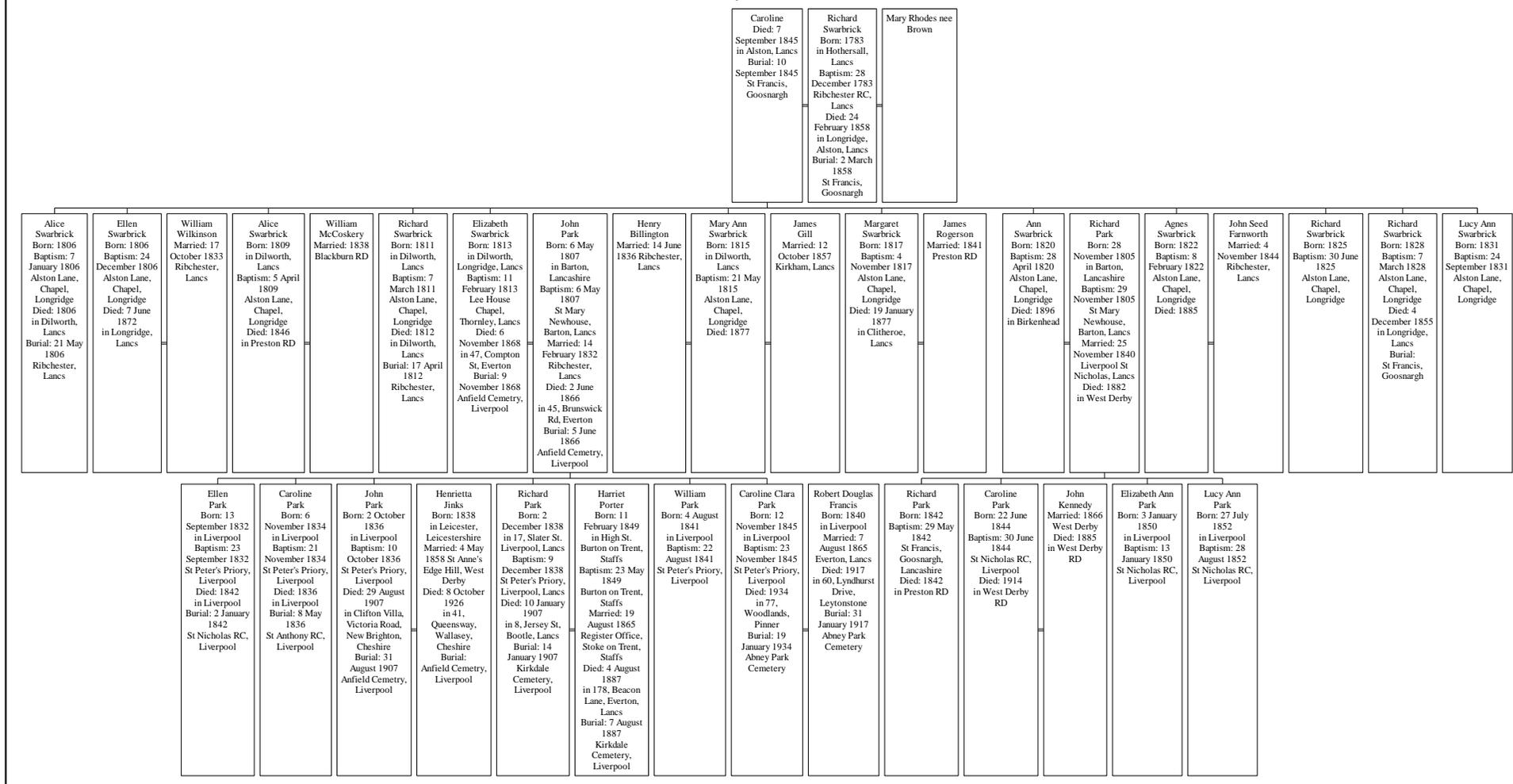
Ellen Swarbrick widow of Ribchester ... Pt

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<sup>170</sup> LA, QDL 1781 A/1, Land Tax Assessment, Alston and Hothersall

<sup>171</sup> LA, QDL/B/63 Ribchester Land Tax, 1782-1810 & 1811-32

Tree 8 Descendants of Richard and Caroline Swarbrick



## Richard<sup>2</sup> and Caroline Swarbrick - Alston, Dilworth and Longridge

Elizabeth Swarbrick's parents were Richard<sup>2</sup>, son of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Ellen, and Caroline - or as she seems to have been known - Lina Swarbrick. Caroline is an enigma. Given that her first child was born in January 1806, it would be reasonable to expect a marriage sometime in the previous two years. However, none has been found in the Longridge area. There is, though, a marriage at what is now Manchester Cathedral on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1804 between a Richard Swarbrick and a Caroline Parkinson. Her age was given as 61 when she died in 1845, suggesting she was born around 1784. There is a baptism of a Caroline Parkinson at Blackburn at the beginning of 1786, which is maybe close enough, but, there are several big 'buts', which lead me to doubt this is the right marriage and the right baptism.

At the time Richard and Caroline would have married, the ecclesiastical parish of Manchester covered a huge area. Although Ribchester is now part of the diocese of Blackburn, I have been told that this area fell earlier under the influence of Manchester diocese, although possibly not until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. St Mary, St Denys and St George parish church in Manchester was famed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for its mass services. Not only was Manchester a rapidly-growing town, but there were few other churches licenced to perform weddings etc., and those that did also demanded a double fee, as one went to the mother church. The Blackburn Caroline was Anglican, whereas Richard was Catholic. The romantic side of me saw a runaway mixed marriage, carried out where the clergy were going to be too busy to ask questions, but the hard-nosed researcher looked more closely.

As there is no full entry of this marriage on-line, I contacted Manchester Cathedral Archives, and a helpful volunteer sent me the following information:

I have had a search of our records and have located a marriage between Richard Swarbrick and Caroline Parkinson on 23 July 1804. For some reason, Ancestry.com details don't show anything more than a one line with this information. I have therefore looked at our signed records and they show that at the time of the marriage Richard was in the parish and township of Stretford and is a publican. Caroline is shown as being from the parish of Manchester.

Every other piece of documentation about Richard's occupation makes him a butcher, farmer and freeholder. It is feasible that, like John<sup>2</sup> Park, Richard dabbled in running a pub at one time in his career. However, assuming the entry in the Manchester register was accurate it seems highly unlikely that he would have suddenly settled in Stretford to run a pub, or that Caroline would have moved to Manchester just to facilitate their marriage. I admit that, despite repeated searches, I have found no later record of either a Richard or a Caroline Swarbrick in either Stretford or Manchester, so I suppose it is possible that he had moved to the big city to take up a career as a publican, but that, on taking a wife from Manchester, he decided to return home and follow in his father's footsteps.

Numerous family trees on-line cite this as the marriage for this couple, but I am not totally convinced. Unfortunately, Caroline died before the 1851 census was taken, so there is no concrete clue as to where she came from. Whatever Caroline's origins, she spent her life from some time in 1805 until her death on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1845 in Longridge, Alston, Dilworth or Hothersall! These place names seem to be used interchangeably, but, Alston, Dilworth and Hothersall are all neighbouring townships in Longridge, which was described in Pigot's directory<sup>172</sup> in 1828 as:

a populous village

Richard<sup>2</sup> and Caroline's first child, Alice, was born on 6<sup>th</sup> and baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1806 at Alston Lane Chapel (as were all her siblings except Elizabeth), with her aunt Elizabeth Patchett as one of her sponsors. However, the baby only lived a few months; her burial took place on 1<sup>st</sup> May the same year at Ribchester with her father recorded as Richard Swarbrick of Dilworth (see tree 8 – p. 72).



### The White Bull Alston

The couple were luckier with their next child, also a daughter. Ellen was baptised, as Helen, on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1806, less than a year after her sister. She grew to adulthood, married William Wilkinson at Ribchester on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1833, and as oldest daughter was eventually executor for her father's will. The 1841 census<sup>173</sup> found her and her husband, with their four daughters and a son named Isaac, running a pub in Alston called *The White Bull*. Ellen was widowed in 1846, but continued to run an inn. 1851<sup>174</sup> found her at the presumably renamed *Bull Inn*, Bull Lane in Alston, with her son and daughters and 4 year old niece, Caroline, her sister Elizabeth's child. Ellen recorded her place of birth as Dilworth, confirming that Richard and Caroline lived in this part of Longridge in the early years of their marriage.

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<sup>172</sup> <https://books.google.co.uk/books/> Pigot and Co's National Commercial Directory for 1828-9

<sup>173</sup> HO 107/501/7, 1841 census, Alston

<sup>174</sup> HO 107/2268, 1851 census, Alston



### The Swarbrick Arms

By 1861<sup>175</sup> she had moved to the Market Place, to run the *Swarbrick Arms* and is described as a Beer House Keeper. 1871<sup>176</sup> found her at the same address, as a Licensed Victualler, but with only daughters Mary and Caroline to keep her company. By 1881<sup>177</sup>, Caroline was running the business herself, her mother Ellen having died on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1872. She was buried in the same grave as another daughter Alice. Ellen left a will<sup>178</sup>, which was proved by Isaac and Mary, but there was less than £100 in the estate.

In *A History of Longridge and its People*<sup>179</sup>, the author writes:

A few steps further was *The Swarbrick Arms*, a beerhouse kept by Ellen Wilkinson and her daughter, Caroline, for over twenty years in the late nineteenth century. It had no cellar of its own, but used the cellar of the cottage next door. It was probably named after Richard Swarbrick, a farmer and butcher who was either living there or very close by in 1841 and later.

Richard<sup>2</sup> and Caroline named their next child Alice again. She was baptised on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1809 with Richard's brother John and his wife Jane (recorded in Latin as Joanna) as sponsors. She was unmarried when she witnessed both her sister Elizabeth and Mary Ann's weddings - the latter taking place in 1836. Her own marriage, to William McCaskory in 1838, took place in the Blackburn Registration district. Three years later<sup>180</sup> the couple was enumerated on the High Street in Dilworth, where William was a butcher. There was also a two-year-old son, William. There were obviously other children from this marriage: John and Richard

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<sup>175</sup> RG 9/3142, 1861 census, Alston

<sup>176</sup> RG 10/2146, 1871 census, Alston

<sup>177</sup> RG 11/4245, 1881 census, Alston

<sup>178</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

<sup>179</sup> *A History of Longridge and its People*, Joseph M Till, Carnegie Publishing, Preston, 1993

<sup>180</sup> HO 107/505/10, 1841 census, Dilworth

appear with their widowed father on the 1861 census<sup>181</sup>, and the inevitably named Caroline, born around 1845 and married in 1873<sup>182</sup>, was living with an aunt at the same time<sup>183</sup>. Interestingly, Richard Rhodes, who had been a servant/butcher in Richard Swarbrick's household in 1851 was working for William McCoskory in 1861, providing yet another instance of the links in this close-knit occupational community. Alice died in 1846 aged 36, probably at Dilworth, though the death was registered in Preston, with her name recorded as Coskery.



### Memorial to Ellen Wilkinson and family

The next baby was a boy, named Richard after his father, and baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1811 with his uncle Joseph Walmsley as sponsor. Unfortunately, he followed his eldest sister to Ribchester churchyard at just under a year old, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1812. Again, his father's abode was given as Dilworth. Elizabeth, who married John<sup>1</sup> Park, was born around 10 months later.

Elizabeth Swarbrick, the fifth of twelve children belonging to Richard<sup>2</sup> and Caroline Swarbrick and our direct ancestor, was born at Longridge in 1813. At least, that's what the 1861 census<sup>184</sup> says; however, the fact that her father consistently gives his abode as either Dilworth or Alston, both townships in Longridge, suggests that she actually grew up first in Dilworth and then in Alston. All her siblings were baptised at the Catholic chapel at Alston Lane (now Our Lady and St. Michael), but Elizabeth was baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1813 at Lee House Chapel at Thornley-cum-Wheatley, a short distance north of Longridge. John and Jane Swarbrick had baptised Elizabeth's cousin Margaret there three months earlier. Maybe this

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<sup>181</sup> RG 9/3142, 1861 census, Dilworth

<sup>182</sup> <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJD8-2M6Q>

<sup>183</sup> RG 9/3142, 1861 census, Dilworth

<sup>184</sup> RG 9/2731, 1861 census, Liverpool

influenced the choice of church for Elizabeth's baptism. In *Salford Diocese and its Catholic Past*, by Charles A Bolton, the author says Lee house<sup>185</sup> is a:

very ancient mission [which] was founded in 1738, although there is every likelihood that Mass was said here in the old farmhouse at an earlier periods. There are still parts left of the old sixteenth-century farmhouse, very low built, and an attic which is supposed to have been a hiding place. A tiny cupboard, in the sacristy looks like a rough tabernacle.

The parish was founded by a yeoman farmer, Thomas Eccles of Lee House, who left land and farms in trust for the use of "a Friar or Friar Minor of the order of St. Francis of the English province to live and officiate at the Lee House and to have a chapel there, and that all the church stuff for the priest and altar, and my book of Religion may be preserved at the Lee House, and that the priest be not absent more than one week in the month."

The same author cites an old tradition:

which no doubt goes right back to the days of persecution, [and] states that when Mass was to be said at Lee House the washing was hung out in a certain field. This signal could be observed from farms on the hillside around, often several miles away, and then word would be passed from neighbour to neighbour that the priest was in the district.



**Lee House Chapel Thornley**

The Franciscans ran the mission until 1826, which means that Elizabeth was probably baptised by one Father Joseph Tate. Given that the chapel proper wasn't built until the 1820s, Elizabeth may have been christened in the attic of the farmhouse, where mass was celebrated. I have not been able to find any reason why Elizabeth, of all her siblings, was baptised here rather than closer to home in Alston. Maybe Father Tate was a popular priest.

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<sup>185</sup> <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LAN/ThornleywithWheatley/StWilliam>

The sixth child was named Mary Ann, and was baptised on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1815. Aged 20, she married Henry Billington at Ribchester on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1836. The wedding was by banns, so presumably Mary Ann accepted the Anglican rites. Henry Billington was also a butcher, operating in 1841<sup>186</sup> in Preston, while the 1851 census<sup>187</sup> found him, Mary Ann and four children at Huyton, near Liverpool. Sometime between 1851 and 1857, Henry died, and Mary Ann remarried, to a widowed saddler six years younger, named James Gill. The ceremony, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1857, took place at Kirkham parish church but with the note 'Registrar's certificate', suggesting a Catholic involvement. By 1861<sup>188</sup> the couple were in Blackburn, lodging at the house of Elizabeth Benton. There is no sign of Mary Ann's children. In 1871<sup>189</sup> the couple were lodging with the McGuinness family, still in Blackburn. Mary Ann died in 1877; her death was registered in the Preston district, and they may have moved back to Longridge, which is where, widowed once more, James Gill married for a third time.

Margaret, baptised 4<sup>th</sup> November 1817, was probably the most successful of the family in terms of financial stability. Early in 1841 she married James Rogerson, a veterinary surgeon from Goosnargh, at a registrar attended service in the Preston Registration District. Later that year she and her husband were enumerated as part of a separate household under the same roof as her mother, Caroline Swarbrick, but at Alston, rather than Dilworth<sup>190</sup>. The whole household was listed as follows:

|                    |     |                    |   |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|---|
| Caroline Swarbrick | 55  | Butcher            | Y |
| Agnes Swarbrick    | 19  |                    | Y |
| Richard Swarbrick  | 15  |                    | Y |
| Lucy Swarbrick     | 9   |                    | Y |
| Thomas Swarbrick   | 4   |                    | Y |
| Richard Swarbrick  | 7   |                    | Y |
| /                  |     |                    |   |
| Charles Norris     | 20  | Butcher I          | Y |
| Ellen Hollinshead  | 55  | FS                 | Y |
| James Rogerson     | 23  | Veterinary Surgeon | Y |
| Margaret Rogerson  | 23  |                    | Y |
| Caroline Rogerson  | 3 m |                    | Y |
| Merriam Park       | 7   | Lodger             | Y |

Unfortunately, relationships are not given in the 1841 census; Caroline was mother to Agnes, Richard and Lucy, but how Thomas and Richard aged 7 fit in is not immediately clear. However, Thomas appears 10 years later<sup>191</sup> as Richard's grandson. As there was no son old enough to be his father, he must have been the child of either Alice or Margaret (Elizabeth and Mary Ann were already married at the time of his birth). My guess is that the mother was Margaret, as a Thomas and

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<sup>186</sup> HO 107/498/5, 1841 census, Preston

<sup>187</sup> HO 107/2193, 1851 census, Huyton

<sup>188</sup> RG 9/3185, 1861 census, Blackburn

<sup>189</sup> RG 10/4172, 1871 census, Blackburn

<sup>190</sup> HO 107/501/7, 1841 census, Longridge

<sup>191</sup> HO 107/2268, 1851 census, Longridge

Margaret Swarbrick baptised a son Thomas at Lee House in 1837. Whether this suggests an earlier marriage for Margaret or a love affair with a 'cousin' who acknowledged the child is not clear. In the second household unit on the 1841 census, Margaret Rogerson has just named her first child with her husband after its grandmother, Caroline Swarbrick. My guess is that Merriam Park is actually the child baptised Mary Ann, daughter of Richard<sup>2</sup> Park and his first wife Mary Wilson. Probably she was named after Richard's mother, Miriam. She is Caroline's daughter Ann's step-daughter – which would perhaps explain why she is recorded as a lodger rather than a relation. The population<sup>192</sup> of Longridge at this time was 1006 people in 191 houses, so not a large place.



### Longridge Fell

Caroline's husband Richard<sup>2</sup> is notable by his absence, but can be found at Settle<sup>193</sup>, over the county boundary in Yorkshire, staying at *The Joiners Arms* along with cattle dealer Richard Billington (Could this be a connection of Henry Billington's?), butcher Thomas Shaw and cattle driver William Willman. Richard was no doubt there on business, either buying or selling or both<sup>194</sup>:

Settle was an important centre and a new Market Charter was granted in 1708, allowing for extra fairs to be held for the sale of livestock and the many goods and commodities produced in the area. Many of the surrounding villages also had their own livestock fairs, some being especially associated with the large sales of Scotch cattle driven south for the purpose.

To return to Margaret, by 1851<sup>195</sup> she and her husband and two children were living in Clitheroe, which was to remain their home. On the 1861<sup>196</sup> census (now

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<sup>192</sup> <http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NCHTJ2013/2013/Longridge/Longridge.html>

<sup>193</sup> HO 107/1320/4, 1841 census, Settle

<sup>194</sup> [http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/exhibitions/exhibitions\\_2011/boards.pdf](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/exhibitions/exhibitions_2011/boards.pdf)

<sup>195</sup> HO 107/2256, 1851 census, Clitheroe

<sup>196</sup> RG 9/3087, 1861 census, Clitheroe

with four children) she gave her place of birth as Dilworth, confirming that the Swarbricks were still there in 1817. Just two children remained in the household in 1871<sup>197</sup>, and on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1877, having been widowed for nearly three years, Margaret died at Moor Lane, Clitheroe. Administration was granted to son John, with effects valued at under £1,500<sup>198</sup>.

We have already met Ann, the next child, as she married Richard<sup>2</sup> Park at St Nicholas' Chapel Liverpool on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1840. She was seven years younger than her sister Elizabeth, having been baptised on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1820. In 1841 the couple were enumerated<sup>199</sup> at Byrom Street in Liverpool; in 1851<sup>200</sup> they were living at Swan View in West Derby, where Richard was again recorded as a butcher. There were two children with them – Caroline – named not surprisingly after her grandmother – and Elizabeth; the third child, Lucy Ann, was not born until the following year. In 1861<sup>201</sup>, as has already been recorded, just Richard, Ann and Elizabeth were in lodgings in St. Martin's and by 1871<sup>202</sup> Ann and her husband were living in Berwick Square with their married daughter, Caroline Kennedy, along with Elizabeth. Richard is described as a cattle dealer still, but it is interesting that he is no longer the head of the household. They do seem to have fallen on hard times, as, in 1881<sup>203</sup>, aged 76, and living in Tulloch Street, Richard has been supporting himself as a shoe maker, though now unemployed. His unmarried daughter Elizabeth is working as a charwoman, and there is a four-year-old grandson, Harry. In contrast, Caroline's husband, John Kennedy was a civil servant, and by 1881<sup>204</sup> he had moved his family out to Seacombe in Cheshire. When Richard died in West Derby in 1882, Elizabeth ran a boarding house in Liscard and presumably cared for her elderly mother. Ann died in 1896, aged 75, and her death was registered in the Birkenhead registration district.

Yet another girl followed for Richard and Caroline. Agnes was baptised on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1822, and grew up to marry John Seed Farnworth at Ribchester on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1844. The marriage took place by banns, an Anglican service, and was witnessed by Ann Rogerson, sister of James. The groom was another butcher – definitely a family trade. John must have travelled to markets much as his father-in-law did, as in 1851<sup>205</sup>, Agnes was alone with just her six-year old daughter at Skerton, north of Lancaster; the enumerator has written her place of birth as 'Yorkshire Longrigg', but also noted down 'cattle dealer's wife', so this is obviously the right person. To confound the issue further, *Ancestry* has recorded the surname as Farnsworth on two further censuses, 1871 and 1881<sup>206</sup>. On both occasions the

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<sup>197</sup> RG 10/ 4164, 1871 census, Clitheroe

<sup>198</sup> <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/NationalProbateCalendar>

<sup>199</sup> HO 107/556/21, 1841 census, Liverpool

<sup>200</sup> HO 107/2192, 1851 census, West Derby

<sup>201</sup> RG 9/2655, 1861 census, Liverpool St Martin's

<sup>202</sup> RG 10/3847, 1871 census, West Derby

<sup>203</sup> RG 11/3700, 1881 census, West Derby

<sup>204</sup> RG 11/3592, 1881 census, Wallasey

<sup>205</sup> HO 107/ 2272, 1851 census, Skerton

<sup>206</sup> RG 10/4230 & RG 11/4263, 1871 & 1881 census, Skerton

family is on Main Street; in 1871 John is a butcher, but in 1881 a shepherd. There were at least six children who survived infancy, and inevitably, one was named Caroline. John Farnworth was admitted to Lancaster Asylum on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1892 and died there on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1893. Given his age, I suspect he was suffering from dementia. Agnes had predeceased him, dying in 1885, aged 62.

When Agnes was a baby, Richard<sup>2</sup> appeared in the county directory under Ribchester, Alston, Longridge<sup>207</sup> as:

Swarbrick Richard, wholesale butcher, Ribchester.



**Pub sign - White Bull Alston**

Another directory in the late 1820s<sup>208</sup> described him in exactly the same way. It was also in the year of Agnes' birth that Richard stood surety for one William Walker, another indication that he was seen both financially sound and an upright citizen<sup>209</sup>. The Quarter Session entry is formulaic, but shows that:

William Walker of Dilworth an the said county Farmer  
And Richard Swarbrick of Dilworth in the said county Butcher  
acknowledge themselves indebted to our Lord the King, in the sum of  
sixteen pounds sixteen shillings £16 16 0  
On condition that the said William Walker be and personally appear at  
the next General Quarter Session of the Peace to be held by adjournment  
at Preston in and for the said County and then and there appeal against  
a certain order under the hand and seal of Charles Whitaker and J P Hindle  
two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said county bearing  
date the thirtieth day of September last whereby the said William Walker  
was ordered to pay unto James Quartly clerk the sum of eight pounds eight  
shillings and before the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October instant  
and do not depart the said Court without Leave, otherwise the above Sums

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<sup>207</sup> *Pigot's Lancashire 1823*

<sup>208</sup> *Pigot and co.'s national commercial directory for 1828-9*

<sup>209</sup> LA, QSB/1/1823/Jan pt 2/58

to be levied upon their several and respective Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements, to his Majesty's use.

Taken and acknowledged the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord 1822...

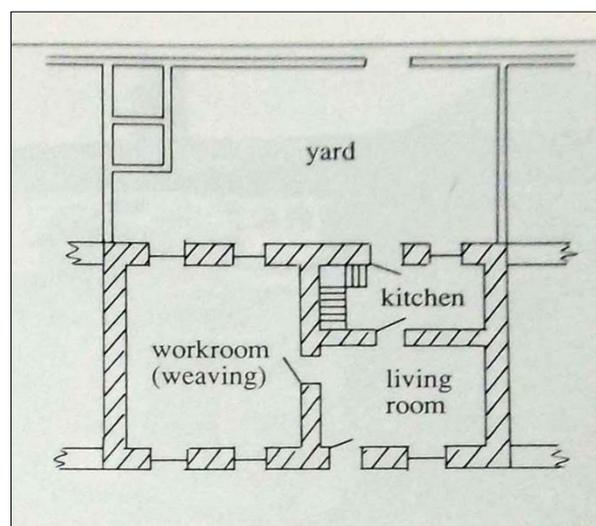
Two years later, he stood surety again, for a fellow butcher<sup>210</sup>:

Richard Swarbrick of Dilworth butcher acknowledges himself indebted .... £40 On condition that John Brown of Preston butcher appear at Quarter Sessions at Preston ... And abide and perform such order or orders as shall be made in pursuance of an act passed in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth concerning bastards begotten and born out of lawful matrimony for begetting Mary Salisbury of Alston with Hothersall in the said county with child...

These must have been good years for Richard, financially at least, as in 1825 he became part of a consortium led by one Edmund Eccles, who had already undertaken a building development in King Street in Longridge. According to Joseph Till in his book about Longridge<sup>211</sup>:

His [Eccles'] plans were ambitious: the building of a house for himself, plus a small hamlet. Along with William Hubbertsy, yeoman, of Salmesbury, John Francis Clarkson, yeoman, of Grimsargh, and Richard Swarbrick, butcher, of Dilworth, a trust was formed, and the building commenced in 1825.

The cottages of Newtown... had to... be equipped to accept hand-loom, but there were no cellars in Newtown; the workroom was constructed as a through-room at the side of the domestic living quarters.



**Typical ground floor design for cottage in Newtown<sup>212</sup>**

<sup>210</sup> LA, QSB/1/1824/Oct pt 2/14

<sup>211</sup> *A History of Longridge and its People*, Joseph M Till, Carnegie Publishing, 1993, Preston

<sup>212</sup> *A History of Longridge and its People*, Joseph M Till, Carnegie Publishing, 1993, Preston

These houses were designed to be occupied by either weavers or nailers. Twenty-six houses were built and completed by 1835. The level of comfort afforded was probably quite basic, as there was no fire in the loom room, and the floor was earthen.

After Agnes, the next child to be born was a son, named Richard to replace his dead brother. However, all that is known about him is the date of his baptism – 30<sup>th</sup> June 1825. Presumably he too died as an infant, as another Richard was born three years later on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1828 – exactly 17 years after his first namesake. This son survived infancy, and was recorded as a 15 year-old at Alston on the 1841 census<sup>213</sup>. However, he appears as a supposedly married prisoner in the Preston House of Correction, occupation butcher, on the 1851 census<sup>214</sup>. The criminal registers<sup>215</sup> show him to have been tried on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1851, so he was presumably awaiting trial on census night, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The entry reads:

|                   |         |            |
|-------------------|---------|------------|
| Richard Swarbrick | Larceny | Not Guilty |
|-------------------|---------|------------|

The *Preston Chronicle*<sup>216</sup> reported the case:

Richard Swarbrick, 23, Thomas Noblett, 28, and Samuel Wilson, 21, charged with stealing, at Preston, ten shillings in copper, the moneys of Jane Lancaster. Swarbrick and Noblett not guilty, Wilson three months.

I have not managed to confirm his status as a married man, but his acquittal must have been a great relief to both him and his father. He did not have long to enjoy his freedom, as he died four years later. He is memorialised on his mother's headstone at St Francis Goosnargh as follows:

ALSO RICHARD son of the above  
Who departed this life  
December 4<sup>th</sup> 1855 AGED 27 YEARS

The *Preston Chronicle*<sup>217</sup> reported his death too:

On Monday last, at the house of his sister, Mrs Wilkinson, Longridge, Richard only son of Mr. Richard Swarbrick, butcher, of the above village, aged 28

A few days later, another paper<sup>218</sup> printed his obituary, adding the detail that Richard senior was 'late butcher' suggesting that he was now retired.

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<sup>213</sup> HO 107/501/7, 1841 census, Alston

<sup>214</sup> HO 107/2267, 1851 census, Preston

<sup>215</sup> [https://www.ancestry.co.uk/ England and Wales Criminal Registers 1791-1892](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/England%20and%20Wales%20Criminal%20Registers%201791-1892)

<sup>216</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Preston Chronicle*, 12.4.1851

<sup>217</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Preston Chronicle*, 8.12.1855

<sup>218</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*,

When Richard junior was around 18 months old, his father made a further appearance at the Quarter Sessions, this time on his own account<sup>219</sup>:

Richard Swarbrick of Dilworth in the same county Butcher, Richard Billington of Dilworth aforesaid Butcher, Ralph Partington shoemaker, tenant of a house number 57 Church Street within the said borough, William Birke pawnbroker tenant of number 172 Friargate in the said borough, and Isaac Gate pawnbroker tenant of number 176 Friargate in the said borough, Thomas Eccles husbandman of Bilsborough in the said county and Ellen Smith of the borough aforesaid, lodger at a house number 50 Church Street in the said borough and Thomas Walton Constable tenant of a house number 98 Fishergate in the said borough severally personally came before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said borough and acknowledged themselves to owe to our said Lord the King the sum of forty pounds each ... to be made and levied of their goods and chattels, lands and tenements respectively... if default be made in the condition hereunder written.

The condition of this Recognizance is such that if the above-bounden Richard Swarbrick shall personally appear at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden by adjournment and there prefer a bill of indictment against Thomas Forrest for felony.

And also if the said Richard Swarbrick, Richard Billington, Ralph Partington, William Birke, Isaac Gate, Thomas Eccles, Ellen Smith and Thomas Walton shall severally, personally appear before the Jurors, who shall pass upon the trial of the said Thomas Forrest and give evidence upon the said indictment, and not depart without the leave of the court; then this Recognizance to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue.

It seems that Richard had an extensive circle of peers on whom he could draw for support. There is no record of what Thomas Forrest's felony was, but he was sentenced to six months in prison. Also on record is the Prosecutor's bill<sup>220</sup>, headed:

The King on the Prosecution of Richard Swarbrick against Thomas Forrest

which shows Richard being paid an attendance fee for four days at 7/6, i.e £1 10/- in all. The overall cost of the trial came to £13 4/4. A Richard Swarbrick was involved as witness in a similar case at Kirkdale<sup>221</sup> in 1826, but the prosecution bill doesn't give his address, so it's not possible to be sure if this is Richard<sup>2</sup> or another member of the clan.

Richard and Caroline's last child, born 25 years after their first, was named Lucy Ann and baptised at Alston Lane on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1831 with her cousin Richard (son of her father's brother John) and his wife Alice as god-parents. Her life

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<sup>219</sup> LA, QSB/1/1827/Apr/pt 2/72, Recognizance

<sup>220</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk, QSP 2885/168](http://www.ancestry.co.uk, QSP 2885/168)

<sup>221</sup> [www.ancestry.co.uk, QSP 2868/170](http://www.ancestry.co.uk, QSP 2868/170)

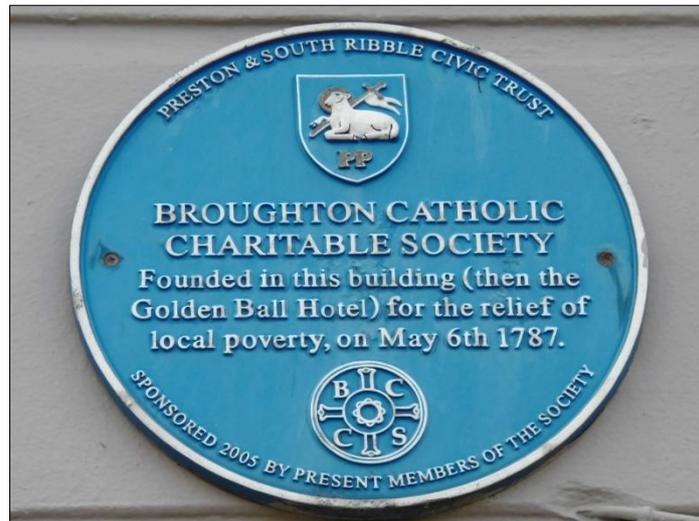
was a short one, though. She was living in Alston as a 9 year-old in 1841<sup>222</sup> but may well have gone to visit or live with one of her siblings in Liverpool as it is there that her death was registered in 1846 when she was 15 years old.

With the birth of Lucy Ann, Richard and Caroline's family was finally complete. Clearly the family was active in its Catholicism, as in 1834 Richard was one of three nominees for president of the Broughton Catholic Charitable Society<sup>223</sup> and in 1836:

Mr Richard Swarbrick, Longridge

was appointed President<sup>224</sup>. The society was founded at the Golden Ball Inn at Broughton near Preston in 1787, and described its objectives as:

the spiritual benefits of its members, both living and dead, and the relief of hardship, wherever it is encountered, by making grants of money.



### **Plaque on the one-time Golden Ball Inn Broughton**

As an institution it came into being, according to tradition, when a smallpox epidemic laid waste to that part of the Fylde. Women and girls, immune through having contracted cowpox when milking, were often left with no support when their menfolk died. So the local community collected money for the bereaved, helped work their land, and organised masses and prayers for the dead. The original subscription cost 6/6, which it would take a labourer three or four days to earn, but in return, after a year's membership, they could request help for someone in need. Members had to be either a priest or born or living in Lancashire.

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<sup>222</sup> HO 107/501/7, 1841 census, Alston

<sup>223</sup> LA, DDX 830/2/1, Broughton Catholic Charitable Society, Register of Members 1812-41

<sup>224</sup> <http://www.broughtonsociety.org.uk/history.htm>

In the same year the Tithe Commutation Act was passed, and commissioners were tasked with recording the value of lands on which tithes were payable, so that this tax could be commuted to a cash payment. The awards made took nearly half a century to complete. Dilworth<sup>225</sup> was assessed in 1837 and includes:

| Owner             | Occupier          | Plot | Property                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Richard Swarbrick | Richard Swarbrick | 24   | Butcher's Shop             |
|                   | James Gill        | 25   | Saddler's Shop             |
|                   | John Fletcher     | 39   | Cottage and a half of fold |
|                   | Richard Swarbrick | 40   | Barn and stable            |
|                   | John Hodgkinson   | 43   | Cottage and garden         |
|                   | Henry Hodgkinson  | 73   | Cottage and garden         |
|                   | George Watson     | 74   | Cottage and garden         |

showing Richard to be a substantial property, although the shops and cottages were no doubt quite small. James Gill was later his son-in-law. Richard's property in Ribchester was surveyed the following year<sup>226</sup>:

| Owner             | Occupier       | Plot | Property         |
|-------------------|----------------|------|------------------|
| Richard Swarbrick | Richard Wilson | 168  | House and garden |
|                   | Robert Ward    | 169  | House and garden |

In the same year, Richard, clearly a substantial member of the community, stood surety for one Mr Halsall who wished to become an officer on the Board of Guardians<sup>227</sup>. In April 1839, his name appeared in the *Blackburn Standard*<sup>228</sup>:

To be sold by auction, ....

At the House of Mr. RICHARD PARKINSON, the *Old Dog Inn*, within Longridge, in the County of Lancaster, on FRIDAY, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL INSTANT, at Six o'clock in the Evening, and in the following or such other Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced;

LOT I.

THE Fee-Simple and Inheritance of and in all that Commodious and Well-built MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, Out-buildings, Garden, and Hereditaments, situate in Longridge aforesaid, and now in the occupation of *Mr. Richard Swarbrick*.

...

LOT 3. - The Fee Simple and Inheritance of and in all that BARN, Shippon, Stable, Outbuildings, and Premises, (adjoining the last-mentioned Lot), and also in the occupation of the said *Richard Swarbrick*.

LOT 4. - The Fee-Simple and Inheritance of and in all those TWO CLOSES of Meadow and Pasture LAND, situate near Longridge aforesaid, and containing, 3A. 2R. 0P., Statute Measure, or thereabouts, be the same more or less, and now in the occupation of the said *Richard Swarbrick*.

<sup>225</sup> LA, DRB 1/63, Dilworth Tithe Apportionment, 1837

<sup>226</sup> LA, DRB 1/64, Ribchester Tithe Apportionment, 1838

<sup>227</sup> [http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk Preston Chronicle, 7.7.1838](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/Preston_Chronicle,7.7.1838)

<sup>228</sup> [http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk Blackburn Standard, 17.4.1939](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/Blackburn_Standard,17.4.1939)

*The above Premises are eligibly situated; in the occupation of respectable Tenants from year to year; the Buildings are newly built, and in a good state of repair; the Land is in a high state of cultivation...*

It's a shame the advertisement doesn't specify exactly where this property was, though it may be matched to the Dilworth Tithe Apportionment, but at least Richard is described as a respectable tenant!

As has already been said, Richard Swarbrick was in Settle when the 1841 census<sup>229</sup> was taken. I imagine he must have travelled around a fair deal, to the various cattle fairs which were held when drovers brought their animals to town from other areas. An agricultural survey<sup>230</sup> of Lancashire taken in 1814 shows that many towns had fairs, often two or three during the year, and that these were 'encouraged by' or organized 'for convenience to' the local butchers. The book mentions fairs at Blackburn, Chipping, Clitheroe and Preston, but they existed all over the county. A website devoted to nearby Garstang<sup>231</sup> says:

During the 19th century Garstang was famous for its cattle and Cheese Fairs when some 3000 head of cattle were brought down from the north each November for sale.

Longridge, where Richard lived, had always been a cattle-raising area. According to Hilary Walklett<sup>232</sup>, even in the 17<sup>th</sup> century livestock counted for between 60 and 86% of the value of estates, and:

it is clear that raising cattle is the major occupation, with sheep also featured, and that the main crops are hay, oats and wheat.... The village provided a market place for the local farmers to sell their produce, as is evidenced by the name of the central road in the old village – Market Place.

Richard seems to have been at the heart of a family empire of butchers. As well as his son, his brother John's son Richard was also a butcher by trade, and of his seven daughters who survived to marry, five married butchers. However, in an area where arable farming was difficult due to the terrain, and possibly climate, it is perhaps not surprising that raising and processing cattle was such an important and prominent occupation.

In the mid-1840s, Richard's fortunes changed somewhat. In September 1845, his wife Caroline died. The certificate read as follows:

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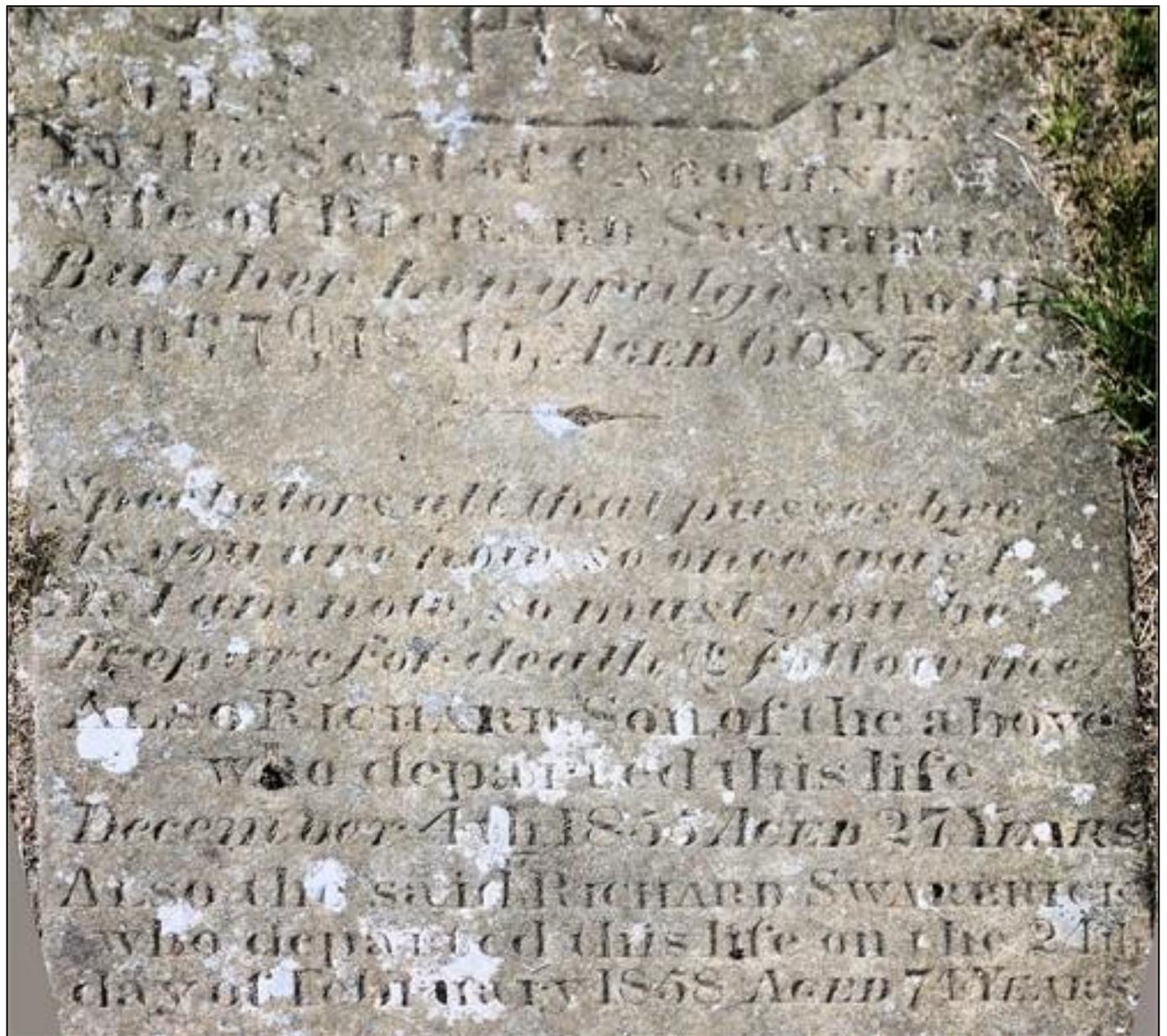
<sup>229</sup> HO107/1320/4, 1841 census, Settle

<sup>230</sup>

[https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=9sFMAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA616&lpg=PA616&dq=cattle+airs+Lancashire&source=bl&ots=Z1517zQPF5&sig=0TYrEYNBn2M3y8YyjB\\_NoevLTZ8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjMrQuPLSAhUMDcAKHVrdDPEQ6AEIRjAE#v=onepage&q=cattle%20airs%20Lancashire&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=9sFMAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA616&lpg=PA616&dq=cattle+airs+Lancashire&source=bl&ots=Z1517zQPF5&sig=0TYrEYNBn2M3y8YyjB_NoevLTZ8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjMrQuPLSAhUMDcAKHVrdDPEQ6AEIRjAE#v=onepage&q=cattle%20airs%20Lancashire&f=false) *General View of the Agriculture of Lancashire...* W Stevenson

<sup>231</sup> <http://www.garstang.net/>

<sup>232</sup> <http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NCHTJ2013/2013/Longridge/Longridge.html> *Longridge - A Victorian New Town*



**Memorial to Caroline and Richard Swarbrick  
And Richard Swarbrick junior at St Francis, Hill Chapel, Goosnargh**

Courtesy of  
[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/10717591/person/174606154/media/4b523baf-cb7f-482b-939a-5fcd2b62a6b3?\\_phsrc=BzZ2887&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/10717591/person/174606154/media/4b523baf-cb7f-482b-939a-5fcd2b62a6b3?_phsrc=BzZ2887&usePUBJs=true)

7<sup>th</sup> September.1845 at Alston, Caroline Swarbrick, female, 61 years, Wife of Richard Swarbrick, butcher, Inflamed bowels 14 days certified, William Wilkinson in attendance Alston, 8<sup>th</sup> September1845



### St Francis Goosnargh

I wonder whether the fact that Caroline's son-in-law registered the death implies that Richard was away. She was buried at St Francis Goosnargh rather than at Ribchester where her infant children lay, but by this time it was acceptable, presumably, to be placed in a Catholic graveyard. Her headstone, which also includes memorials to her husband and adult son, reads as follows:

IHS  
... PRAY  
for the soul of CAROLINE  
Wife of Richard Swarbrick  
*Butcher Longridge* who died  
Sep<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1845 AGED 60 YEARS

*Spectator all that passes bye  
As you are now so once was I.  
As I am now so must you be.  
Prepare for Death and follow me.*

The following year saw the deaths of their fifteen year-old daughter Lucy Ann and their 37 year-old daughter Alice McCoskery. Three years later, in 1849, Richard's older brother John also died<sup>233</sup>:

On Wednesday last, at the house of his brother, Mr Richard Swarbrick, butcher, Longridge, Mr John Swarbrick, aged 70

In the meantime, though, Richard<sup>2</sup> had found consolation in a new wife. He married Margaret Rhodes née Brown, (widow of Robert Rhodes) at the Catholic

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<sup>233</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> *Preston Chronicle*, 10.3.1849

chapel at Stidd, Ribchester, in 1847. In 1851<sup>234</sup> the household was at Billington Farm, village of Longridge, Alston. Whether this was a new home or the same farm that Caroline had been enumerated at ten years earlier is unknown. Billington Farm can be seen in an old photo on a local history website<sup>235</sup>, a substantial-looking house surrounded by barns and fields. The census return shows a tight-knit community, all born locally:

|                             |         |    |  |                   |
|-----------------------------|---------|----|--|-------------------|
| Rich <sup>d</sup> Swarbrick | H M     | 67 | Butcher, farmer of<br>26 acres, no labourers | Lancs, Hothersall |
| Marg <sup>t</sup> Swarbrick | W M     | 57 | Farm wife                                    | Lancs, Alston     |
| John Ray                    | servU   | 21 | Ag lab                                       | Lancs, Dilworth   |
| Robert Rhodes               | servU   | 20 | Butcher                                      | Lancs, Dilworth   |
| Rachel Parkinson            | servU   | 21 | House servant                                | Lancs, Thornley   |
| Thomas Swarbrick            | g'sonU  | 13 | Scholar                                      | Lancs, Alston     |
| Richard Robinson            | lodgerU | 23 | Saddler                                      | Lancs, Chipping   |



**Overlooking Billington Farm**

It's interesting that Richard records himself as having no labourers. Presumably, John Ray, as a live-in farm servant, didn't count. He appeared in the directory<sup>236</sup> for this year under:

Butchers: Swarbrick, Richard, Longridge

A final directory entry appeared in the *History and Directory of Mid-Lancashire 1854*<sup>237</sup>. Under Longridge, Butchers, is listed:

Swarbrick, Mr Richard

<sup>234</sup> HO 107/2268, 1851 census, Alston

<sup>235</sup> <http://townarchive.longridgestation.co.uk/archive/1615/>

<sup>236</sup> Slater's Commercial Directory of Lancashire 1851

<sup>237</sup> SoG, History of Lancashire: Lancashire Directories and other books - CD rom - LA/DIR

He had written his will a couple of years previously, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1852<sup>238</sup> making an initial bequest to his wife:

first I give and bequeath unto my wife Margaret or Peggy Swarbrick all that my freehold cottage or dwelling house being number 4 in the old club row in Longridge and now in the occupation of William Alston to have and to hold the same during her life.

The reference to Club Row shows that Richard owned one of a row of houses built by what was effectively the first building society in England<sup>239</sup>. His uncle John Swarbrick had been a key player in this enterprise, which may be how come Richard owned it:



### Club Row Longridge

Longridge has the distinction of having the first Building Society in Britain, formed in 1793. This was, unlike modern, permanent building societies, a 'terminating' society – in other words, investors paid in monthly until all the houses were built, then the society wound up, or 'terminated.' This was not a 'self-help' society which could be compared to present-day Housing Associations or co-operatives. The members were all people of some affluence who were building these houses as an investment, for tenants to rent. The monthly subscription to the society was 10s 6d, (52½p) which was as much as a labourer earned in a week at that time. The plan was for twenty houses to be built and the rules were very strict. As each house was completed, it would be assigned to one of the subscribers by ballot. But, so that early owners did not benefit more than later ones, the rents – which were set by the society - were all paid into the society funds until the last house was completed and the society wound up. This ensured that early beneficiaries continued to pay their monthly subscription, as the rules clearly state that anyone failing to keep up payments would lose all rights to the property or to money already paid in! The estimated cost of each house was £138 3s 6d

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<sup>238</sup> LA, WLa 1/2, will of Richard Swarbrick of Longridge, 1859

<sup>239</sup> <http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk/NCHTJ2013/2013/Longridge/Longridge.html>

(£138-17½p). Building seems to have started about two years after the society was formed and the last house was completed in 1804.

Rental from no. 4 Club Row was designed to give Margaret a small income at least. She doesn't seem to have inherited anything else from Richard; maybe her first husband had left her sufficiently well-provided for. After her death, the property was to devolve to her stepson Richard Swarbrick, along with:

all those my two freehold cottages situate at or near the stone quarries in the township of Dilworth unto and to the use of him my said son for and during his life.

Grandson Thomas Swarbrick was bequeathed the sum of £10, as was:

my granddaughter Ann Dugdale a child ~~of my daughter~~

I have not been able to unravel this cryptic reference.

The residue of his estate, household goods, furniture, debts owed to him and:

all my several freehold cottages gardens and appurtenances thereto belonging

were to be sold. Once debts and funeral expenses are paid, the remainder was to be divided among:

my seven daughters, Ellen, Alice, Betty, Mary, Margaret, Nancy and Agnes share and share alike.

This puzzled me initially, as Alice was already dead. However, he added a caveat, which shows both that he did not consider himself to be in imminent danger of death, and that he wanted grandchildren to inherit if his own offspring were no longer around:

And such of them as are now dead and may die in the meantime and left issue, that is any child, children or grandchild, it is my will and mind that such issue may and shall receive their deceased parent's share.

He then nominated his executors: Oliver, son of John Hothersall, yeoman of Alston, and his widowed daughter Ellen Wilkinson. John Parkinson, grocer, and Thomas Wilcox, surveyor, witnessed the document.

Richard<sup>2</sup> was right in not expecting to die in the near future. The next death in the family was that of his son Richard, in 1855. Richard senior died in 1858:

24<sup>th</sup> February 1858, Richard Swarbrick, male, 74 years, old age, Joseph Swarbrick in attendance, Longridge, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1858

Joseph was, I believe, Richard's nephew – son of his brother John. Richard was buried with his first wife and son at St Francis Goosnargh, with the following added to the headstone:

Also the said RICHARD SWARBRICK  
Who departed this life on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Day of February 1858 AGED 74 YEARS



**St Francis Goosnargh**

His will was proved on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1859 by his daughter Ellen Wilkinson, who initially swore the effects were under £100. It was later re-sworn as £200.

*See Part 2 for continuation*