

Fullers, Poultens, Dodds and Whitmells

London, Warwickshire and Northants

Part 3

The early Whitmells: Crick, Newnham, Litchborough and Maidford

George Dodd's wife Jane was born at Crick, a village in Northamptonshire about six miles east of Rugby, seven north of Braunston, and also close to the Grand Union Canal. The register gives:

Jenny daughter of Thomas and Jenny Whitmell

against the date 6th January 1780. She was still known as Jenny when she married, and it is only her burial on 27th July 1836 at Braunston, aged 56, which gives her the more formal name of Jane. As with many women of her time, there is very little information about her, although she does seem to have witnessed a couple of weddings: the first was that of William Farmer (her uncle by marriage) and Hannah Howgood at Braunston in 1801, the second nearly 30 years later, between Edward Robinson and Mary Ann Bosworth at Braunston on 18th March 1830. Usually witnesses are either parents or friends or relatives of the same age, so this is unusual. Maybe one of the participants was a godchild.

The Whitmell family had been established in Crick for at least 150 years when Jenny was born, mainly as yeoman farmers, and it was relatively easy to trace the line from her to her three times great-grandfather Edward Whitmell who settled in Crick in the first half of the 17th century. Discovering where he came from was more difficult. There were other Whitmells in the county in that early period. For example, there was an Edward Whitmell whose will was written at Deanshanger¹ in the parish of Passenham, nearly 30 miles south of Crick. This will is extremely hard

¹ NRO, Deanshanger 126, Book Z, 1st series, Will of Edward Whitmell, 1609

to read; but it is dated 20th November 1609, with probate granted in January 1609, and it is possible to list the benefactors as follows: brother Joseph Whitmell, wife Agnes, daughter Elizabeth (a minor) and brother-in-law William Meake, along with the poor of the parish of Passenham. The testator describes himself as Edward Whitmell the younger, but makes no reference to a son named Edward. There is nothing in this will, apart from the surname, to link the owner to Edward Whitmell of Crick.

Another Whitmell in the area at the time was Thomas of Syresham, (about 11 miles from Deanshanger), whose Inquisition Post Mortem² dated 1635 names a son Edward. However, there is no way of telling whether there was a link, although Thomas proved a popular name with later generations.



Newnham

Edward Whitmell must have been born around 1600, but I have found no trace of his baptism. For a long time all I knew about him was based on evidence from Crick, including the suggestion from his will that his wife had been a Russell or Rushall. It had been suggested by other researchers that this wife was from Newnham, and that they had baptised their first child there. Several sources suggested that Edward's wife was Elizabeth Rushall, the daughter of John and Margaret Rushall, née Gybbens, although a proposed date of birth for Elizabeth in 1597 seemed rather early for someone starting a family in the 1630s. Having now looked at the original parish register for Newnham, my guess is that some errors crept into this part of the family tree in transcription. This isn't surprising, as some sections of the early part of the register are almost impossible to read.

I believe Edward Whitmell married twice, both times at Newnham. His first wife was Isabell Chambers, whom he married on 3rd February 1624. There don't

² TNA, C 142/780/66

seem to have been any children from this marriage and presumably Isabell died sometime in the next five years, allowing a second marriage in 1630:

Edward Witmell and Elizabeth Rushall were married October the 4th

The only Elizabeth Rushall whose name could be read in the register or its transcript was baptised on 25th April 1611 as:

Elizabeth Rushall the daughter of Henrie Rushall and Elizabeth his wife

which, I reasoned, would make her a plausible, if rather young, bride. Proof that this was correct came in the form of a huge, detailed marriage settlement³ dated 13th September 1630 between:

Edward Whitmell of Bugbrooke in the County of Northampton Yeoman on the one part and Henry Rushall of Newnham in the said County of Northampton Yeoman and Elizabeth Rushall eldest daughter of the said Henry

in consideration of a marriage to be:

solemnised between the said Edward Whitmell and the said Elizabeth Rushall and for the sum of three score pounds of lawful money of England to the said Edward by the said Henry Rushall for the marriage portion of the said Elizabeth and also for and in consideration of two years board tabling diet and lodging to be provided and allowed by the said Henry to and for the said Edward and Elizabeth but the charge of the said Henry Rushall

The indenture then goes on to ensure that, if Edward dies first, Elizabeth is not left destitute. Reference is made, in fulsome detail to:

all that messuage tenement one close of pasture and 2 yard lands with the appurtenances now or late being in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Clark or his assigns situate lying and being in Crick

and the deal would seem to be that, if she outlives him, she will inherit one half of the property and its appurtenances while the other goes to their joint heirs, or to Edward's heirs if she has no children.

Edward had only recently acquired this land in Crick. Another indenture⁴, dated 20th March 1628 between:

Agnes Boughton the relict of John Boughton late of Ashenden in the County of Bucks Yeoman deceased of the one part and Edward Wytmell of Ashenden aforesaid Yeoman of the other part

³ NRO, ZA 7127

⁴ NRO, ZA 7126

details:

all that messuage or tenement and 2 yard land with appurtenances in Crick in the County of Northampton now or late in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Clark

Agnes is described as the widow of John Boughton of Ashenden, and although she receives £168 from Edward in payment for the land, the indenture states that she is acting:

in performance of the last will and testament and the codicil thereunto annexed in these presents... touching the land tenements and hereditaments hereafter in these presents mentioned

In other words, she is carrying out the terms of her husband's will, or at least her attorneys or agents are – and these are named Peter Boughton and Joseph Whitmell. No address is given for these two, but the most likely candidate for the latter would seem to be Joseph Whitmell of Maidford, for reasons outlined below.



SS Peter and Paul Maidford

Other researchers have suggested a link between Joseph Whitmell of Maidford and Edward Whitmell of Crick, usually as brothers (See **Tree 11 – page 98**). The will⁵ of Joseph's father – Edward Whitmell of Maidford – survives, dated 1st July 1611, and shows all his possessions going initially to his wife Elizabeth before being parcelled out to his sons. It is possible that this couple were the Edward Whitmell and Elizabeth Colle who supposedly married at Brackley on 4th October 1565. I have not verified this marriage from the original register, but if it is correct it would

⁵ NRO, Will of Edward Whitmell of Maidford, 1611

comfortably allow for two generations between this Edward and Edward Whitmell of Crick. The first bequest made in the will is of:

all my lands tenements and hereditaments in the... parish fields liberties and ... of Creeke [Crick] in the said County of Northampton unto my said wife for and during her natural life only and after her decease unto Thomas Whitmell my eldest son and unto his heirs and assigns for ever

Edward's son Joseph was bequeathed land in Maidford and another son William property in Buckingham. These two younger sons also were to receive money when they married: William 20 marks and Joseph 70, the inference being presumably that Thomas was already married. No other children were mentioned in the will, and the fact that Thomas was designated the eldest even scotches the possibility that there was an elder son Edward who, as heir at law, did not need to be mentioned to inherit. So there is no way that Edward Whitmell of Crick and Joseph Whitmell of Maidford could be brothers. Could they, though, be uncle and nephew?

In his will⁶, written in 1643, Joseph Whitmell described himself as of Adstone, the parish next-door to Maidford, but all his bequests refer to land and property in Maidford. Not surprisingly his worldly goods went to wife Margaret, sons Joseph, Samuel and John and daughters Mary, Susan and Sarah. He appointed several overseers to ensure his will was properly carried out, and one of these was named Edward Whitmell. When his time came, Edward of Crick chose for this task his brother-in-law John Rushall, by then a mature man but more than 20 years younger than he, and so likely to live long enough to carry out the required work. The nephew of an older brother would probably allow for a similar age differential.



Bugbrooke village sign

⁶ NRO, Will of Joseph Whitmell of Maidford, 1643

Of course, the fact that a Joseph and Edward Whitmell both turn up together in legal documents nearly 15 years apart is not proof of a family relationship, but this together with the fact that one Edward Whitmell settled in Crick and was ancestor to a run of Thomases while an earlier Edward left property in Crick to another Thomas seemed highly suggestive. In addition, as well as apparently living in Ashendon in Buckinghamshire in 1628, Edward of Crick had described himself as Edward Whitmell of Bugbrooke, a parish only a few miles from Maidford, in the marriage settlement of 1630. The parish registers of Maidford and next-door Litchborough don't survive for the period in question, but Bugbrooke's do. There is no sign of a marriage for Thomas there, or of a baptism of an Edward, but there is a baptism for a William Whitmell son of Thomas yeoman and Agnes on 12th April 1621. Could this be a brother's son? It is probably impossible to prove, but my hunch is that Thomas of Bugbrooke and Edward of Crick were related to each other and to Edward of Maidford.

Another piece of the jigsaw is to be found in the will⁷ of John Boughton of Ashenden, written in 1626. The original document deals with bequests to his immediate family: wife Agnes, sons John, Thomas, James and Robert and daughters Agnes and Mary. However, a codicil was added on 14th October 1626 which confirms his earlier bequests but makes provision for the raising of cash to service these by selling a piece of land, namely:

...all that my messuage or tenement and two yardlands of arable meadow and pasture ground [with appurtenances] ... in Crick in the county of Northampton...

This is to be reserved:

upon trust...that if my nephew Edward Wittmell son of Thomas Wittmell deceased ... do pay....my said executrixthe full and just sum of £168... on the five and twentieth day of March 1628

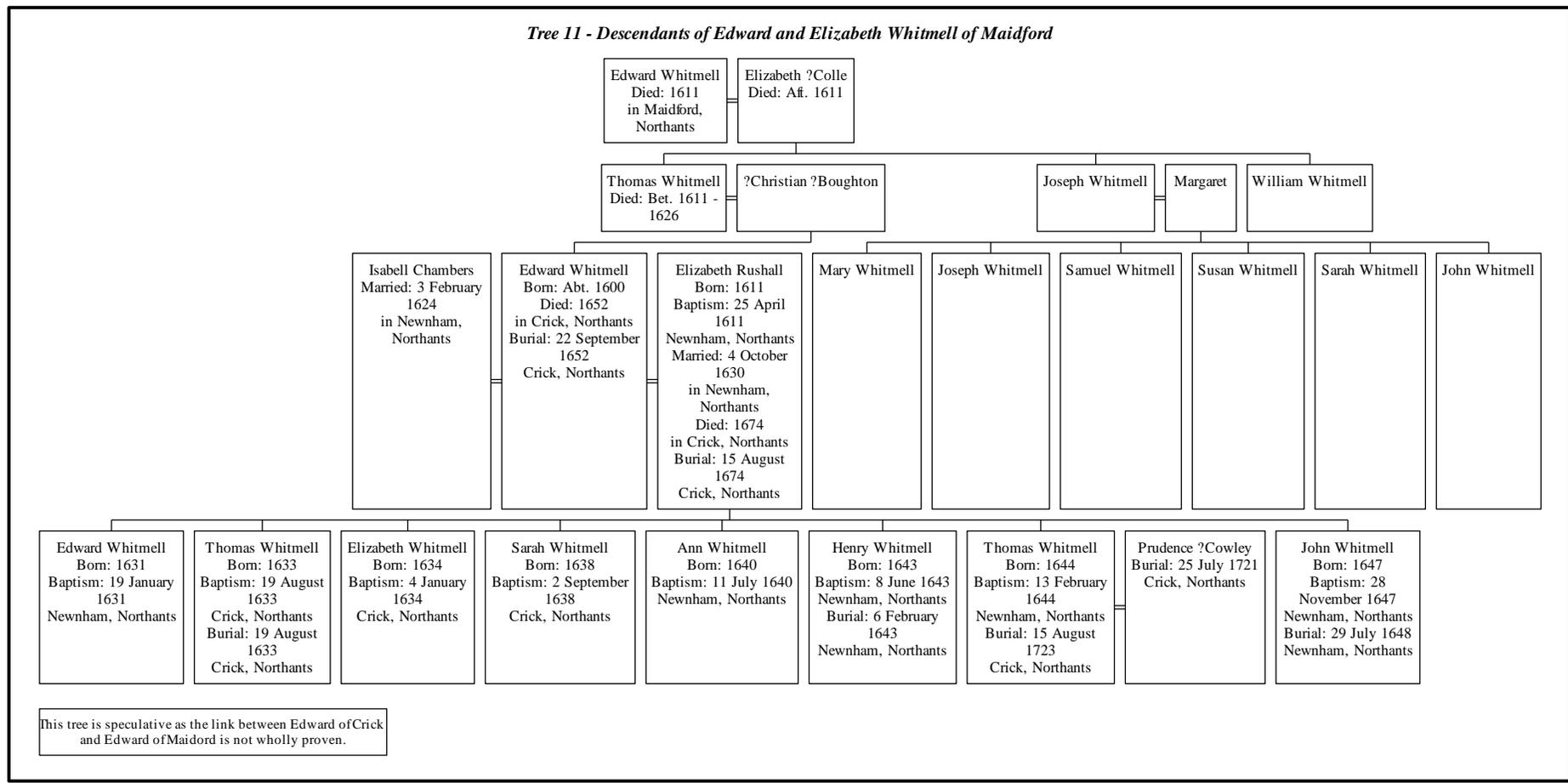
he will own the land. He goes on to add that the said Edward Whitmell shall hold these premises and:

... make and convey a good lawful and absolute estate in fee simple... in as ample manner as they were conveyed to me by the said Thomas Witmell

Given that it would be too much of a coincidence to have two Thomas Whitmell's living in the south of the county and owning land in Crick in the north of the county, the most likely inference to draw from all this is that at some time following his mother's death (which, from the terms of Edward of Maidford's will must have been after 1611) and the writing of John Boughton's will in 1626, Thomas Whitmell, eldest

⁷ CBS, D/A/Wf/26, Will of John Boughton, Ashenden, 1626

Tree 11 - Descendants of Edward and Elizabeth Whitmell of Maidford



This tree is speculative as the link between Edward of Crick and Edward of Maidford is not wholly proven.

son of Edward Whitmell of Maidford, sold a house and land in Crick – his inheritance from his father – to his brother-in-law John Boughton. If John Boughton was Thomas' brother-in-law then his wife must have been a Boughton, as he had no sister – unless of course, John's wife Agnes was the link, and sister to Thomas' wife.

The other useful detail which can be gleaned from John Boughton's will is the fact that Edward's father Thomas had died by 1626, and this points perhaps to his father being a testator called Thomas Witmell, from Litchborough (next-door to Maidford), whose will⁸ was written on 10th July 1623. It is very brief, and not very informative, but its very brevity suggests perhaps that this is a relatively young man, who was not expecting to die, settling his affairs in something of a hurry. Apart from the usual openings and appointment of his wife as executor, in its entirety it reads:

I give and bequeath to Christian Witmell my now wife all and all manner of my goods chattels household stuff and implements of household to the intent and purpose that the said Christian Witmell shall pay my debts therewith and also employ the remainder thereof (after my debts be paid) for and towards her own maintenance and the maintenance of all my children.

The fact that the children require maintenance suggests that some of them were minors. There is no signature or mark for Thomas, suggesting again a will made in sudden extremis, as does the fact that the children are not named. It was witnessed though, by William and Elizabeth Miles, and William Witmell, who made his mark. This would fit in with my hypothesis, as Edward of Maidford's third son was named William. It is possible that William and Elizabeth Miles were relatives but the fact that they are a couple being asked to witness the will implies they may have been neighbours, called in at short notice. It is a pity that there is no mention of a Boughton in the will, which would strengthen my theory. There was a Boughton family living in Litchborough at the time - Henry and Alice Boughton wrote wills⁹ there in 1613 and 1632 respectively – and there were others in nearby Pattershall, but there is no mention of any Whitmell in their wills. So the idea that Edward's mother was named Christian Boughton remains a speculation.

We know that a son Thomas was alive in 1611, when Edward of Maidford died, and if this is Edward of Crick's father, there is only a fifteen year time frame for his death. The main road from Banbury to Northampton goes through Maidford, and almost immediately through Litchborough, then crosses Watling Street before reaching Bugbrooke. So, two possibilities present themselves regarding that parish: one that Thomas of Litchborough fathered sons named Thomas and Edward, who both spent some time at Bugbrooke; the other, that they were unrelated! It is also perhaps noteworthy that Edward married first in 1624. It seemed common practice for a marriage to take place shortly after a parent's death, often because this gave financial independence. Again, this is circumstantial, but enough pointers have

⁸ NRO, Will of Thomas Witmell, Litchborough, 1623

⁹ NRO Will of Henry Boughton, Litchborough, 1613; Will of Alice Boughton, Litchborough, 1635

accrued to make me believe that this ancestry for Edward Whitmell of Crick is the most likely one.

From here on, the history is on much firmer ground. A first child was born to Edward and Elizabeth Whitmell on 19th January 1631, named Edward after his father and baptised at Newnham. Using the calendar of the day, with the year starting in March, this would place his birth about 15 months after his parents' marriage. He is not mentioned later in his father's will, so presumably died young.

The family was either living in Crick and returned to the bride's parish to baptise their firstborn, as was customary, or they were living with Henry Rushall in Newnham as part of the marriage deal, but whatever the situation the next three children were baptised at Crick. Thomas, the next child, was baptised and buried on the same day, 19th August 1633. Two girls followed, Elizabeth, baptised 4th January 1634 and Sarah, baptised 2nd September 1638, both named in their father's will which also names a son Thomas, from whom the Crick family descends. There was no baptism for him in the parish, and it was only when I was looking for evidence of the Rushall family in Newnham that I suddenly discovered a baptism for Thomas and three other siblings. Ann was baptised on 11th July 1640, Henry on 8th June 1643 and presumably named after his grandfather. Thomas was baptised on 13th February 1644 and John on 28th November 1647. Henry died as an infant and was buried on 6th February 1643. John was buried on 29th July 1648 aged less than a year.

All these baptisms at Newnham referred to Edward Whitmell and Elizabeth his wife, making it unlikely that it is a different couple, and it is impossible at this distance in time to be sure why, when they were presumably living in Crick, they chose to have these ceremonies performed at Newnham. The vicar of Crick from 1622 was the infamous Archbishop Laud, whose attempted reforms to make a uniform and high church were one of many triggers for the Civil War. Crick was not his only living; his diary¹⁰ records that on 23rd July 1624 he:

went to lie and keep house and preach at my Livings, held at Comendam, Creeke and Ibstock

According to an account written by Annie Whitmell¹¹, a Parliamentary Commission evicted a Rector in 1644. It doesn't say whether it was Laud – who was executed in 1645 – or someone else, but clearly Crick was being affected by the political turmoil of the times, and the Battle of Naseby, the first important battle of the war, and one which Charles I lost, was fought less than 9 miles away in June 1645. Annie's account says that Cromwell marched his troops through the village on the way to fight, having first stabled his horses in the church and removed a statue of the Virgin and Child. No source is given for this story, however. Maybe the

¹⁰ <http://books.google.co.uk/> Lecture: *Laud's Position in the History of the Church of England*, Michael Creighton, 1895, Burt Franklin, New York

¹¹ *Whitmells of Crick AD 1534 to 1900*, Annie Whitmell, of Ivanhoe, Wythe County, Virginia

Whitmells weren't in agreement with Laud, or maybe the couple simply returned to Elizabeth's home parish to baptise the majority of their children.

In 1635 a deed of agreement was drawn up between Edward Whitmell of Crick, yeoman, and the inhabitants of Crick¹², to be in force for nine years:

Articles made indented concluded and agreed upon the third day of May in the eleventh year of the reign of our Sovereign lord Charles... 1635 by and between the inhabitants of Creeke in the county of Northampton whose names are hereunder subscribed of the one part and Edward Whitmell of the same town and county yeoman of the other part as followeth: Whereas the abovenamed Edward Whitmell by virtue of an ancient custom hath the right to put down and store two mares and foals, or avens as they call them, in the lower pasture of Creeke aforesaid yearly at the third of May, the said mares and foals or avens going and coming with the herd till Lammas Memoranda that it is fully conditioned and concluded and agreed upon by and between the said inhabitants of Creeke aforesaid of the one part and the said Edward Whitmell of the other part, that the said Edward Whitmell shall restrain himself of the said liberty and forbear to put down his said two mares and foals or avens unto the lower pasture of Cricke aforesaid for and during the terme of nine years next after the date hereof, if the said Edward Whitmell shall live so long. And in lieu and consideration thereof the said inhabitants of Cricke aforesaid are content to give way that the said Edward Whitmell shall have four beasts pastured in the said lower pasture from the third of May yearly so long as beasts common, and go in fields of Creeke aforesaid during the said term of nine years next after the date hereof, if the said Edward Whitmell shall live so long: In witness thereof the inhabitants of Creeke and the said Edward Whitmell to those present Articles interchangeable have set to their hands the day and year first above written

Edward Whitmell

I have quoted this document almost in full, using the original spelling, as in her account Annie Whitmell names two Edward Whitmells in this document, i.e. father and son. She writes:

Whereas by virtue of ancient right and custom Edward Whitmell has power to send two mares and also to pasture going and returning with the cows to common: the said Edward Whitmell the father and Edward Whitmell the son shall refrain from sending his mares and asses to pasture so long as cows do common for the space of 50 years if the said Edward Whitmells shall live so long.

The wording is sufficiently different that it must be assumed she was either working from a different document or from memory. Given that the next sentence reads:

¹² NRO, ZA 7128 3.5.1635

Then follows signatures truly remember two, T. Marston and Kilworth

I suspect it might be the latter. I searched carefully for evidence of two different men in the document I read but could find none.



Crick Manor

Another document is also slightly puzzling. A Copy Inclosure Agreement for Crick, dated 1651¹³ (which has on the dorse a list of complaints to be made to the Knights of parliament about such issues as the expenses of royal progresses and payment of ship money) is worded as follows:

We the inhabitants freeholders and land owners of the fields and territories of Creeke in the co. of Northampton do for ourselves our heirs and successors give and acknowledge our free consents and willingness to inclose all our fields by laying them out into several closes according to every man's proportion:

And we do further consent and desire that there be good provision made for the poor of our parish: In wittness hereof we have hereunto set our hands this nine and twentieth day of December in the year of our lord God according to the computation of the Church of England one thousand six hundred fifty and one 1651

Thus far, all is clear. A list of 39 names follows – presumably the inhabitants, freeholders and landowners, but after 18 of them is the word 'dead'. (One is also labelled as not willing). Edward Whitmell is amongst those listed as dead. However, he wrote his will on 19th March 1651, that is, under the old calendar in

¹³ NRO, 92P/164

which the year began on 25th March, three months after he was apparently listed as dead in the document quoted above. Several possible explanations offer themselves. Firstly, the dead Edward was this Edward's father assumed by Annie's account – this is unlikely, given the fact that John Boughton's will names him Thomas. Secondly, there is confusion over the dates: maybe the document was dated in the new style, with December following March. Thirdly, someone annotated the document at a later date. Having looked closely at the document again, I think this is the most likely explanation as the hand seems different. Either way, the Whitmells were obviously important enough in Crick to have an opinion which counted regarding enclosure.

In fact, Edward must have died in the autumn of 1652 as his burial is recorded in the Crick register on 22nd September that year. His will, quoted here in full, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, something which usually meant either that the testator owned property in more than one area or that he was sufficiently status-conscious to show that he could, but in this instance, although both may be true, it may well be that during the interregnum, from 1653-60, the civil 'Court of Probate of Wills and Granting Administrations' was the only option:

In the name of God amen the 19th day of March 1651 I Edward Whitmell of Cricke in the county of Northampton yeoman being in health both of body and mind thanks be to God therefore do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and above all things I do bequeath my soul into the hands of the Lord my God who gave it, and my body to the earth from whence it came, and as for my earthly goods, I dispose of them as followeth.

I give and bequeath unto my eldest daughter Elizabeth Whitmell the full and just sum of £200 of lawful money of England to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish the full age of 20 years.

I give and bequeath unto my other daughter Sarah Whitmell the full and just sum of £200 of lawful money of England to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish the full age of 20 years. And my will is that if either of my daughters happen to depart this life before they do accomplish the age of 20 years that the survivor of them shall have and enjoy both the portions. And if they should happen both to depart this life before they should accomplish the said age of 20 years then it is my will that my son Thomas Whitmell shall have and enjoy both the portions to be paid to him or for his use when it shall so happen to be due.

And I give unto my son Thomas Whitmell when he shall accomplish the age of twenty and one years half my lands and tenements which I have now in occupation with the land ready sowed with good seed according to the custom of the place; and also I give him 3 horses one cart and a plow a harrow with gears and such necessaries to them belonging as shall be worth in value the sum of £20.

And also I give him nine bease and heifers fit to be kept on the common and

40 sheep or £40 to be paid to him in lieu of the said bease and sheep which he shall then ... [illegible]. And also I give unto him half my household goods movable and unmovable. And also I give unto the poor of Crick the sum of 40 shillings to be ... [illegible] at the discretion of my executors and I will that ten shillings of this same be given Edw. Howlett. And also I give unto my well-beloved wife Eliz. Whitmell whom I do make my full and whole executor the house wherein Edward Howlett now dwells with the plot of ground belonging unto it and also three quarters of homeland thereunto belonging as purchased of William Mason of Crick lately deceased and as expressed in a deed bearing date the first of May 1648 to her and her heirs and assigns for ever for and towards the payment and discharge of the portions and legacies herein expressed. As also my will is that if the heirs executors or assigns of Will: Mason do pay the money due upon the aforementioned deed that then my wife do make them a full release upon the aforesaid deed and house and three-quarters of land. And all the rest of my goods and chattels my legacies being paid and my funeral expenses being discharged I give as aforesaid to my wife Elizabeth Whitmell whom I have made my whole and full executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have put my hand and seal the day and year first above written. And also my will is that Edward Hilton of Daventry and my brother-in-law John Russell of Newnham be overseers of this my last will and testament to whom I give twenty shillings apiece.

Edward Whitmell. Sealed and delivered in the presence of John King his mark, Thomas Watson.

Proved at Westminster by the oath of Elizabeth Whitmell, 3rd August 1653.

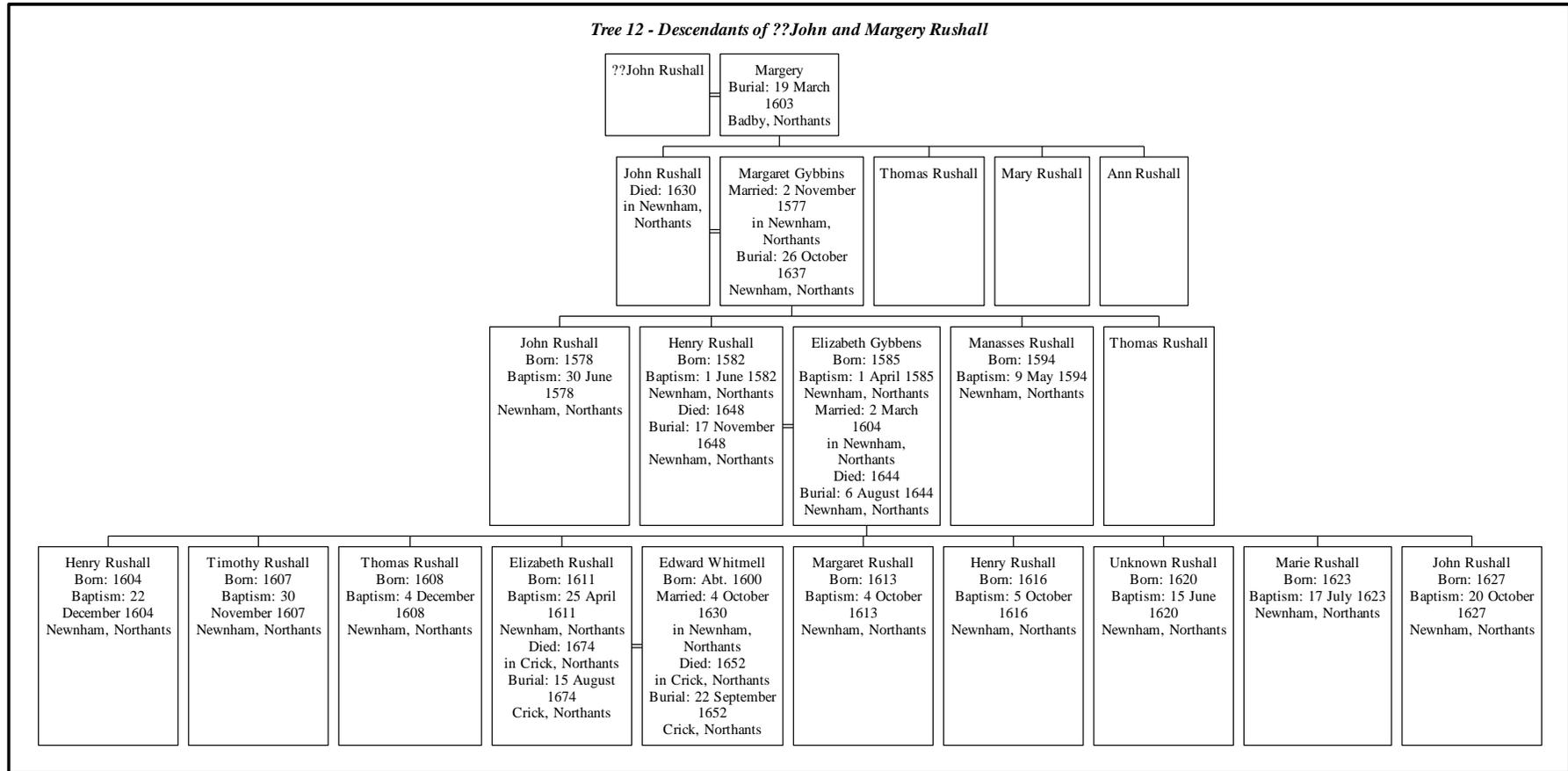
The will is both lengthy and informative, stating for example that his wife was the sister of John Russell or Rushall of Newnham, which ties in with the register entries in that parish. It is clear that Edward was not writing in extremis, as he describes himself as healthy. It is also clear that both his two daughters and a son named Thomas¹, although minors, are alive, as is his wife Elizabeth.

Edward Whitmell's goods and chattels, carefully listed in an inventory taken on 30th September 1652 by John Bucknell, Henry Church and Edward Hilton, were valued at £663 12s 7d, an enormous sum in those days. It is hard to say what the value would be today, but probably somewhere close to £1,000,000 as a lower estimate, and possibly twice that. Most of the money - £527 16s 11d - was listed as:

Item debts mortgages goods and desparate

which suggests that Edward Whitmell was perhaps acting as a kind of banker in the community, loaning money out to his neighbours, sometimes with only 'desperate' hopes of getting his investment back. In addition, there were the usual items one would expect on a yeoman's inventory: four horses, 20 beasts and two bulls, 104 sheep, with another 18 counted separately as with lambs, four hogs, crops including

Tree 12 - Descendants of ??John and Margery Rushall



corn, peas and hay, and farming equipment. Inside the house were a hall, a parlour, a buttery, and two upstairs chambers. There were four beds with accompanying bedding and furniture, chairs, stools and a table and frame in the hall, a cupboard, and a number of chests and coffer. One of these contained:

four pair of sheets and one dozen of napkins with other trumpery there

I wonder whether the word 'trumpery' is a masculine put-down on feminine luxury goods or a barbed puritanical comment on a household considered to be slightly out of step with the excessive plainness of the times. There were also six cushions, maybe also seen as trumpery!

Another item listed was:

6 todde of wool

This was itemised as worth £6, slightly less than the hay crop but more than the 18 sheep with lambs. A tod is a measure of wool weighing around 2 stone (12.7.kg), so he had around 12 stone of wool. It's not entirely clear whether this was just raw wool sheared from his flock or whether he was involved in the cloth trade - which would account for him being better off than the average yeoman farmer. According to the *Victoria County History, A History of the County of Northamptonshire*, volume III¹⁴, at around this period the wool trade was second only to leather in Northamptonshire. There were barrels, tubs, pails and a malt mill in the buttery and kitchen, suggesting perhaps the brewing of ale. These are listed as items of little value, so I suspect that any malt milled and beer brewed may have been for domestic consumption rather than as a commercial enterprise, although it is possible that this was the genesis of what later became a more important source of income for the family.

Rushall and Gybbens: Newnham

Wherever he came from originally, Edward Whitmell was by the time of his death a substantial member of the community in Crick. His wife, the erstwhile Elizabeth Rushall, outlived him by many years and was buried at Crick on 15th August 1674 as:

Elizabeth Whitmeal widdow

Elizabeth was part of a large family, all baptised at Newnham (See [Tree 12 - page 105](#)). Her parents married in the same parish:

Henry Rushall and Elizabeth Gibbens were married the second

¹⁴ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66253&strquery=wool>

day of March 1604

Their first child, named Henry after his father, was baptised on 22nd December 1604. The next baptism recorded was for Timothy, on 30th November 1607. Thomas followed, on 4th December 1608, with his surname recorded as Russell. Elizabeth came next, then Margaret, baptised on 4th October 1613. Presumably the first Henry died, as the name was given to the next son, baptised on 5th October 1616. Another daughter was baptised on 15th June 1620, but her first name is illegible, although from later references probably Ann. Marie was baptised on 17th July 1623, and finally came John, named overseer in Edward Whitmell's will, baptised on 30th June 1627.

On 20th October 1637, Henry Rushall served as one of the appraisers¹⁵ of the estate of John Thornton esquire of Brockhall. Originally from Newnham, the Thornton family¹⁶ had recently bought the manor and advowson of Brockhill for £6,000. The inventory is huge, a long roll with several parchment sheets stitched together rather than the usual single sheet and is headed as follows:

An inventory of all and singular the goods chattels and debts which lately belonged to John Thornton late of Brockhall in the County of Northampton esquire deceased. As they were taken and prized the four and 20th day of October anno domini one thousand six hundred thirty and seven and in the 13th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King George over England etc. By Benjamin Farmer gent and Henry Rushall yeoman

Inventories were usually taken by neighbours, which seems unlikely in this case, but Henry must have been trusted by the Lord of the Manor.

Despite being called a yeoman in the above document, his burial at Newnham on 7th November 1648 calls him:

Henry Rushall husbandmen

Elizabeth had died four years previously, and was buried on 6th August 1644 as:

Elizabeth wife of Henry Rushall

It is possible to trace two more generations of Rushalls. Henry was the son of John Rushall and his wife his wife Margaret Gybbins, and was baptised at Newnham on 1st June 1582. He had one older brother, John, baptised on 30th June 1578 – later married to Elizabeth Horne – and one younger brother named Manasses, baptised 9th May 1594 – later married to a Susana. There was another brother named Thomas, who is named in his grandmother's will, although I haven't found his baptism. His wife was named Mary. John Rushall seems to have died in 1630, although there is a

¹⁵ NRO, Th 3346, Inventory of John Thornton of Brockhall, 1637

¹⁶ http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=154-th_2&cid=0&kw=Thornton#0

gap in the burial register at this point. His will¹⁷, dated 15th April 1630 is a fairly brief affair, giving his three surviving sons - Henry, Thomas and Manasses - 3 shillings apiece and bequeathing the rest of his estate to his wife Margaret. It was witnessed by the rector, Raphael Heyward, and his estate was valued at £63 13/4.



St. Michael and All Angels Newnham

His wife Margaret outlived him by some years and was buried at Newnham as:

Margaret Rushall wid

on 26 October 1637. Her will¹⁸, although difficult to read in places, is much more fulsome than her husband's and gives the impression of a colourful character in more ways than one. It is dated 29th March 1634 and is quite specific as to who should have which of her household goods, describing them fully so there will be no mistakes. Her son Thomas is the first to be mentioned and is willed:

one of my best brass pots and my biggest kettle one... bigger pewter platters and one of my lesser yellow... carpet hilling [bed cover] and one yellow coverlet and one of... bolsters and one pair of sheets of the better sort and the ... with the blue... and needle and the best tablecloth

Manasses received two strikes of barley and one of another crop, a black bed cover and a blanket with red on as well as a mattress, bedstead and sheets. His son John was to receive a red coffer while his mother Susanna was to choose:

two of my best garments

¹⁷ NRO, Will of John Rushall of Newnham, 1630

¹⁸ NRO, Will of Margaret Rushall of Newnham, 1634

with the rest of her wardrobe then being shared between Susanna and Thomas' wife Mary. Thomas' and Manasses' children were to receive 2/6 each while to granddaughter:

Elizabeth Whitmell wife of Edward Whitmell

went

one sheet of the finest and the best hilling save one.

Her sisters Margaret, Mary and Ann also received a share, as did their brother Thomas, who was named executor. Strangely, there is no mention of the youngest member of the family, John, born in 1627. Ann and Elizabeth Rushall, daughters of her deceased son John, received 12 pence apiece, and a godson, Thomas Leeson, was given 6/8. His father, another Thomas Leeson, Edward Whitmell and John Robbins witnessed the will and there is a note to the effect that the inventory valued her goods at £15 3/-.

It seems likely that Thomas Rushall, who baptised a daughter Mary at Newnham in 1581 was John's brother. It also seems feasible that Manassee Rushall, citizen and carpenter of London who died there leaving a will¹⁹ in 1606 was related. The combination of unusual Christian and surname seems too much of a coincidence; however, I suspect he came from one of several Rushall families which stayed settled in Badby rather than making the short move to Newnham. These two parishes were part of the same manor in the 16th century, and Newnham church started out as a chapelry to the parent church at Badby. John was probably born in Badby, as it was here that his grandmother Margery was living when she made her will²⁰ on 13th January 1598.

She describes herself as a widow, but there is no record of who her husband was. A John Rushall was buried at Newnham on 2nd June 1593, but it is more likely that her husband would have been buried at Badby. Her burial took place there in 1603:

Margerie Rushall widdow buried xix day of Marche

but as she had written her will five years earlier, it seems likely that it was her husband's death which prompted her to put her affairs in order. There is the burial of a John Rushall at Badby on 4th August 1597 which seems feasible, and although it has been impossible to piece together the various Rushall families in Badby at the time (there seem to have been at least three Johns, two Henries and possibly two Rogers in the parish towards the end of the 16th century), unless she had been widowed for a very long time there seems to be no other probable spouse.

¹⁹ <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, London, England Wills and Probate, 1507-1858, Will of Manassee Rushall, 1606

²⁰ NRO, Will of Margery Russell, Badby, 1598



St. Mary the Virgin Badby

Margery's is a detailed will, beginning with the phrase:

I Margery Rushall of Badby in the County of Northampton widow

and after a request that her body be buried in Badby churchyard she goes on to bequeath to her son Thomas' son John corn, a cow, a sheep, wood, items of husbandry and furniture from inside the house, with the proviso that his father Thomas have use of these things for life. She outlines her daughter Mary's family – husband Edward Goodman and children John and Sarah, married daughter Dorothy, wife of Richard Robins, and their daughter Continew. This means she is a great-grandmother, and even if Continew was only a baby it pushes Margery's birth back to at least 1540, probably earlier. She also makes provision for daughter Ann, married to Thomas Smith, and their son Thomas. She then goes on to deal with her son John's family:

I give to John Rushall the eldest son of my son John Rushall of Newnham one sheep, and a copper that is in the chamber over the parlour which is my best copper. And to Henry Rushall his second son my godson a cow and a sheep. And to Thomas Rushall and Manasseh Rushall his other two sons each of them a sheep.

The will was proved on 12th April 1603.

There has been a lot of internet discussion regarding Margery's maiden name. Many record her as Margery Patching, born in Horsham in West Sussex; some even have her buried there, which would make nonsense of the opening of her will, and the fact that her burial is recorded in the Badby register. I can find no logic to ascribing this identity and no attempt to prove the assertion. No marriage has come to light to give a maiden name, but it is interesting to note that she makes reference

in her will to a sister Ann Burrowe of Braunston. Given that she refers to her own married daughters and granddaughters as: '... wife of...' (as in 'Mary the wife of Edward Goodman'), and her unmarried descendants as 'name surname' (as in 'Sarah Goodman') it seems to me highly likely that her bequest to:

Anna Burrowe of Brawnsion my sister

is to an unmarried sibling, which would make her Margery Burrowe unless she was a half-sibling. In addition, the will says:

To Robert Burrowe of Napton I forgive xxx shillings which he oweth me

and:

...to his daughter Anna Burrowe I give one sheep and one pair of sheets

quite a substantial bequest. Napton is in Warwickshire, so it is highly unlikely that Margery's sister Anna and Robert were husband and wife. It is a great pity that Margery didn't clarify the relationship to Robert; however a loan to a brother and a bequest to a niece or even a cousin and his child seem feasible.

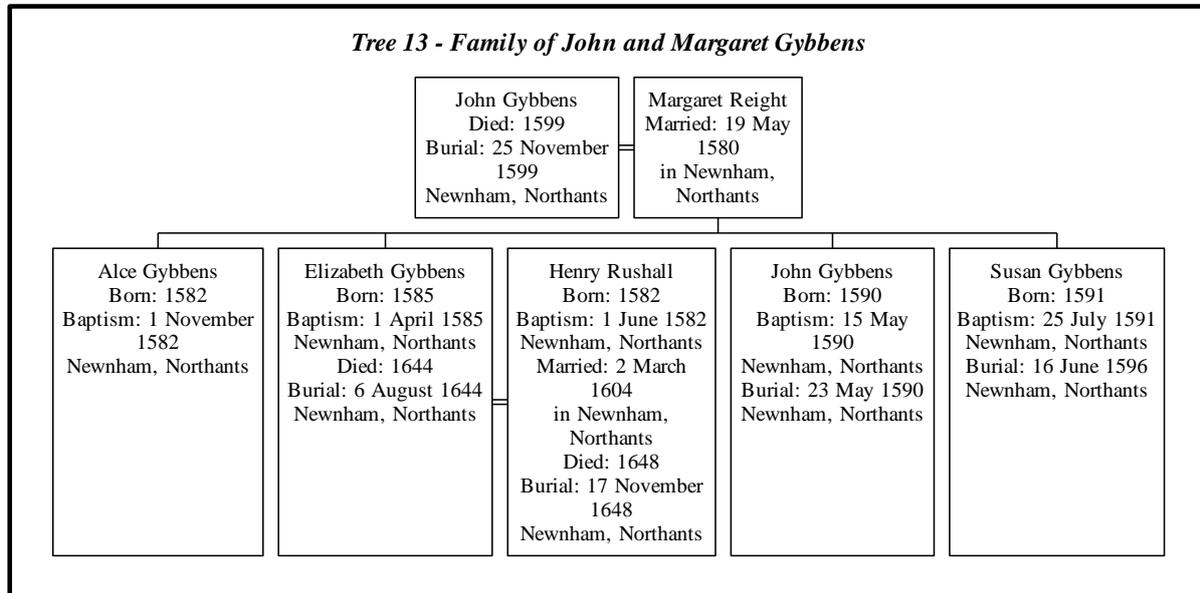
There is no baptism of a Margery Burrowe in Braunston - even though the register dates from 1538, this is probably not far enough back in time. It does record the marriage of a Robert Burrowe in 1545, an Elizabeth Burrowe in 1562 and the burial of two Johns, one the son of another John in 1572 and the other in 1545. This John wrote a will²¹ two days earlier leaving bequests to two daughters, one name is missing, due to damage, but the other was called Elizabeth, not Anna or Margery. However, in the following year another John Borow wrote a will²². Again, the document is damaged at the edges and hard to read, but it is clear that this man had two sons - Thomas and Robert, and at least two daughters. There is reference to one daughter receiving a pair of sheets, but only the first two letters of her name survive: looking like 'Em'. Further on in the will is a reference to his two daughters - unnamed - being ordered by his executors and overseers. If Em... was an adult, it is just possible, though a total speculation, that the two unnamed daughters could have been Margery and Anna. It can probably never be proved either way, but I think there is enough data to cast serious doubt on the Horsham connection.

It is interesting that both Elizabeth Rushall's mother and paternal grandmother had the surname Gibbens - albeit spelt in different ways in the register. This is no doubt the source of the confusion which led to some modern sources citing John and Margaret Gybbens as Elizabeth's parents (**See Tree 13 - page 112**). I suspect that Elizabeth and Margaret were related in some way, but the Newnham register doesn't go far enough back to prove it one way or the other.

²¹ NRO, Will of John Burrowe of Braunston 1545

²² NRO, Will of John Burrowe of Braunston 1546

Henry's wife, Elizabeth Gibbens, was baptised on 1st April 1585, daughter of John and Margaret Gybbens. Her siblings were Alce – baptised 1st November 1582, John – baptised 15th May 1590 but buried a week later, and Susan – baptised 25 July 1591 and buried five years later on 16th June 1596. John Gybbens had married Margaret Reight (sometimes spelt Roight in the register) at Newnham on 19th May 1580.



There is a burial of a John Gibbins' in the Newnham register on 25th November 1599. However, a will²³ for this man makes no reference to any children, so would seem to be another John Gibbins. Again, there are few enough Gibbins in the small village of Newnham to surmise that John might well have been brother to the Margaret who married John Rushall. There are, however, other candidates: a Richard Gybbens married Elizabeth Leder in 1561 and the will²⁴ of an earlier John Gybbens makes reference to a Nicholas Gybbens. A Thomas Gybbens married Mary Frinde in 1556, but his will²⁵ only names children Thomas and Mary.

The Rest of the Whitmells: mainly Crick

Thomas¹ Whitmell lived to be an old man, dying in 1723 aged nearly 80 (See **Tree 14 - page 119**). His wife was named Prudence. Family lore from Annie Whitmell says she was surnamed Cowley and came from Kilsby and the marriage must have taken place in the early 1670s, though no documentary proof has been found. There were Cowleys in Crick and Kilsby around this time, and apparently of similar status, so it is possible, although a trawl through surviving Cowley wills failed to turn up her name. Prudence would probably have been born during the

²³ NRO, Will of John Gybbens of Newnham, 1599

²⁴ NRO, Will of John Gybbens of Newnham, 1564

²⁵ NRO, Will of Thomas Gybbens of Newnham, (between 1590-1602)

interregnum, and her name suggests possible Puritan leanings in her family at the time of her birth, although four of her descendants became Church of England clergymen. Annie's account also describes the house that Thomas¹ built in the centre of the village, and says:

[It] was a very handsome stone structure with two gable wings and central hall, the outbuildings, also of stone, were substantial including the malt kiln, the source of their prosperity. The new owner put his mark T. P. W. 1692.



The Maltings, Crick

She later says that the house was pulled down:

... hoary with age

However, there is still a house called The Malting on Main Road next to the Wheatsheaf pub and facing the High Street. It is stone built and bears a date stone on which can be clearly read the initials TWP in a kind of cloverleaf design. The *British Listed Buildings*²⁶ website gives the following information:

House. C17. Datestone 16-/T.W.B. under attic window in left gable. Coursed squared ironstone, C19 tile roof set in diaper patterns, brick stack. L-plan. 2 storeys; one bay. Projecting gabled wing to left, 3 storeys and attic, one bay.

Entrance to right has C19 gabled stone porch and 4-panel door with side lights and overlight. 2-light stone-mullioned window with flat moulded windows with flat moulded hood to ground and first floor. Similar 2-light window to third floor and (blocked) one-light window in moulded stone surround to attic. Interior not inspected. Noted as having been dated 1692, but datestone now partly eroded.

²⁶ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-361030-the-malting-crick-northamptonshire>

Despite this account giving the final initial as a B, when looked at closely it is clearly a P.



Whitmell initials on The Maltings

The couple had five children. The first – Edward - named after his grandfather, was baptised at Crick on 1st August 1673. He was destined for the church, matriculating from Pembroke College in 1696 and gaining a B.A. from St. John's College Oxford, in 1696²⁷. He gained his M.A. in 1699, spent a brief period at Braunston and was rector first of East Haddon in Northamptonshire (1702 – 32) and then Beachampton in Buckinghamshire until his death in 1743. He was executor of his father's will. He obviously considered East Haddon his home, as this is where he chose to be buried²⁸.

Longden's book, cited above, is a mine of genealogical information. It confirms that Edward's first wife was Judith Sawyer and that she was buried on 14th August 1721. Edward's 'eight children' were mentioned in the will of Thomas¹, although they are not named. These were obviously the survivors. Longden records the following issue, all of East Haddon: Judith baptised 27th June 1703; Jane baptised 21st November 1704; Elizabeth baptised 14th January 1705/6; Thomas baptised 20th May 1707 – buried 24th July 1708; another Thomas baptised 1st February 1708/9; Alice baptised 11 June 1711; Edward baptised 27th June 1712; William baptised 2nd February 1713/14; Ann baptised 4th August 1715 – buried 15th May 1716; Sawyer baptised 9th November 1716 – buried 20th April 1718; Susanna

²⁷ *Northamptonshire and Rutland Clergy from 1550*, volume XV, H.I.Longden, Northampton, Archer and Goodman, 1943

²⁸ <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, *Alumni Oxonienses: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886* and *Alumni Oxonienses: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1500-1714*. Oxford: Parker and Co., 1888-1892.

baptised 17th November 1717 – buried 31st March 1718; Ann baptised 6th February 1718/19; another Susanna baptised 2nd September 1720 – buried 31st January 1720/1; and another Sawyer baptised 14th August 1721 – buried 12th of October 1721;. Poor Judith bore 14 children in 18 years and buried six of them. No wonder she died young.

Again according to Longden, Edward found a new mother for his many children in Mrs Catherine Baker, whom he married on 27th September 1724 at Kettering and when she died six years later (her burial was recorded at East Haddon on 19 April 1730), he married Elizabeth Stanley at Beachampton in Buckinghamshire on 30th of August 1735. Edward junior and his brother William lived to be adults and both followed their father into the church²⁹; the former became rector of Woodnorton with Swanton Newars in Norfolk where he died in 1795 and the latter became vicar at Wye in Kent where he was buried in 1753. Judith married George Worley of Moulton at Winwick in 1735.

The next to be born was Thomas², our direct ancestor, who was baptised on 16th April 1675 - at Crick, like all his siblings. The next son was named William, and baptised on 7th December 1677. He seems to have died as a young man, as a burial is recorded for William Whitmell son of Thomas on 2nd December 1699. John followed, and was baptised on 20th May 1681. He did live to adulthood and had at least one child, named Prudence, although I have found no trace of a marriage for him. He seems to have died before 1734. The last child was a girl, Elizabeth, named after her grandmother and baptised at Crick on 3rd January 1687. Elizabeth never married and was buried on 15th June 1734 as:

Mrs Elizabeth Whitmell spinster

at East Haddon. Her will, proved on 22nd June 1734, left bequests to her nephew Edward, second son of her brother Thomas (£50), her niece Prudence, second daughter of her late brother John (£10), nieces Alice and Ann Whitmell, daughters of her brother Edward vicar of East Haddon, and nieces Jane Gilbert and Elizabeth Corrie £40 each. Her household goods and wearing apparel were shared between her cousin Judith Whitmell and her servant Mary Cook who also received £4 per annum. The residue of the estate passed to her niece Judith Whitmell, daughter of her brother Edward, who was to be executrix.

Thomas¹ Whitmell paid tax on two hearths at Crick in 1674³⁰, and appears in the poll books³¹ for Crick in 1695 and 1702, showing him to have met the freehold requirement to allow him to vote. His will was also proved at the PCC³², suggesting that the Whitmells chose to do this as a matter of status. It was written on 13th August 1722, and proved at London by his eldest son Edward on 3rd September

²⁹ <http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/search/index.jsp>

³⁰ TNA, E 179/254/14, NRO ref 614 in triangle.

³¹ <http://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Poll Books And Electoral Registers

³² TNA, Prob 11/593, Will of Thomas Whitmell of Crick

1723. His wife Prudence was already dead; her burial having been recorded at Crick on 25th July 1721; so his possessions were shared out between his surviving children, and his grandchildren by his eldest son. Edward received:

a little house in Crick which I purchased of Thomas Gurle to him his heirs and assigns for ever to sell or dispose of at his pleasure.

To Thomas² went:

those goods in the kitchen fixed to the freehold and utensils for brewing and in the hall a long table joint stools and a couch and in the great sellar the t..... pitch pans and brand and in the parlour chamber a little chest wherein his ?and sons writings are. I give him likewise a warming pan

The phrasing of this section suggests that brewing made up a large portion of Thomas²'s income, and imply that he was a malster by trade. Son John received:

a bond made in his name which I have in my and a note from Mr Edmund Brunwick which he received the money of me for and I give him a gardner which standeth in the corn barn when the malt is gone out of it and I shall dispose of it immediately.

Once again, in this bequest and the next, references are made to malt. I suspect the word 'gardner' is a garner in which malt is stored:

Item I give unto my daughter Elizabeth Whitmell all the malt in the gardner to spend at her leisure or dispose of at her pleasure with all the household goods unbequeathed chests coffers boxes bedsteads and bedding of all sorts woollen and linen whatsoever and all my brass and pewter whatsoever and cupboards dripping pan and spit and all money that I shall leave in my house at my decease to her use only.

His son Edward's 'eight children' received:

all the money I have in bills and bonds to be equally divided amongst them and I make my son trustee to improve it to the benefit of each of them.

The will was signed by Thomas¹ and witnessed by William Cowley (possibly related to Prudence), William Griffin and Mary Masters.

Thomas¹ was buried at Crick on 15th August 1723, as:

Thomas Whitmell snr, yeoman,

The baptism in 1675 of Thomas² Whitmell, the next in our line of descent, was recorded as:

Thomas, son of Thomas and Prudence Whitmeale baptised

giving yet another spelling of the name.



St. Margaret of Antioch Crick

Unlike his older brother Edward, he remained in Crick all his life, buying property in 1702 from Edward and Sarah Clark. This transaction took the form of a Final Concord³³, a fictitious lawsuit in which the defendant (the buyer) takes the deforciant (the vendor) to court on the grounds that the property is his; the defendant agrees this is so, and the plaintiff pays him for this agreement. In effect, the money paid over was all or part of the value of the property in question, and from that point, the buyer was the legal owner. The property in this instance was quite considerable, consisting of:

1 messuage, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 70 acres of land, 15 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 5 acres of heath, and commons of pasture for all types of animals at Crick.

The sum paid over was a 'fine' of £200.

A few years later, Thomas² was signatory to an indenture settlement³⁴ made on 11th March 1706/7. This dealt with a property in Cold Ashby, and the principal protagonists seemed to be a blacksmith named Griffin and members of the Fludde family, but the interesting thing from the perspective of this account is that Thomas² is referred to as:

T Whitmell of Crick gent

³³ NRO, ZA 7131 Final Concord, 13 Wm III 1702

³⁴ NRO, ZA 1327 Indenture Settlement, 1706/7

showing an apparent rise in status from that of yeoman in the previous two generations.

For some reason, Thomas² Whitmell left marriage late. It is possible he married as a young man, but that no record of the marriage survives and it was without children. Maybe he spent his youth building up his business. Whatever the case, only a Bishop's Transcript survives for his marriage to Elizabeth Blackwell at nearby Lilbourne in 1717:

Thomas Whitmell of Crick and Elizabeth Blackwell of this parish married

She was 22 years younger than Thomas, and little is known of her. However, although her baptism has not been found, she evidently had a brother Thomas, as she was named administrator of his estate in a bond:

Know all ye... that we Thomas Whitmell of Crick in the co of Northants yeo,
Thomas Farn of the same yeo, Edward Whittaker of Northampton inholder
are held....

The bond³⁵, dated 20th October 1750, fits a burial entry at Lilbourne on 16th October:

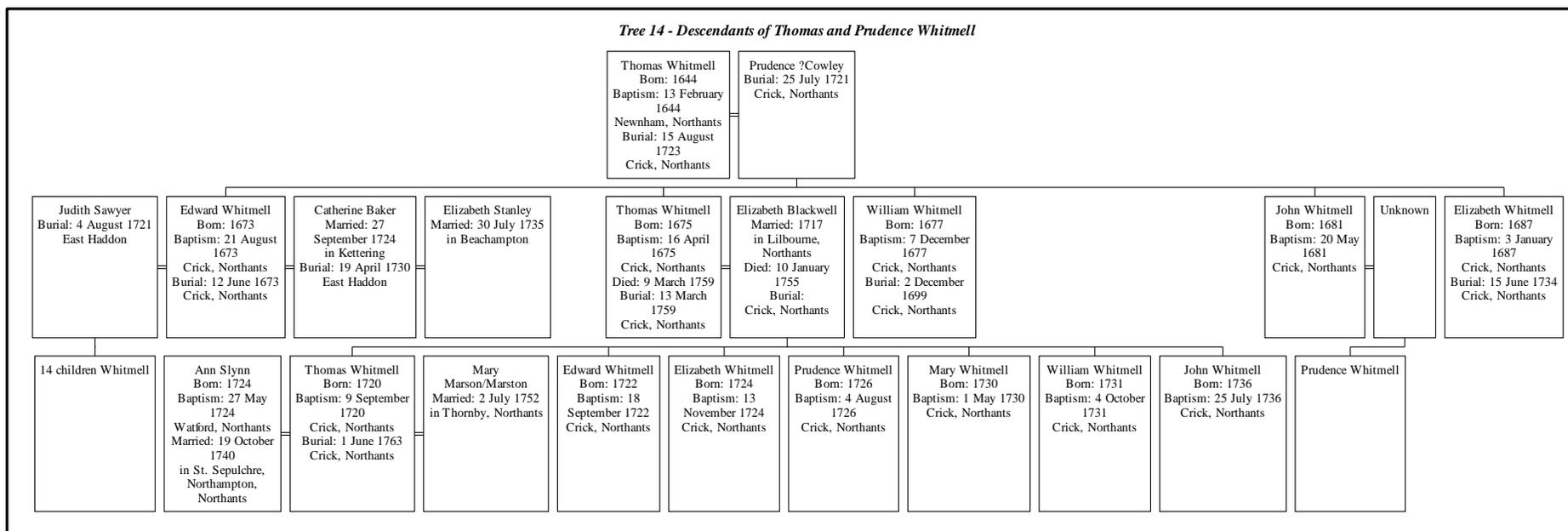
The condition of this obligation is such that if Elizabeth the wife of the above named Thomas Whitmell and sister administrator of... Thomas Blackwell late of Lilbourn intestate...



All Saints Lilbourne

³⁵ NRO, Admon, Thomas Blackwell, Lilbourne, 1750

Tree 14 - Descendants of Thomas and Prudence Whitmell



The obligation ties Elizabeth to presenting her accounts by the last day of October 1751. There is only one other reference to a Blackwell in the somewhat incomplete BTs for Lilbourne, the burial of a John Blackwell in 1717. As I have already said, marriages often seem to take place shortly after the demise of a parent, so it is just possible that this is Elizabeth and Thomas' father.

Despite the fact that Thomas² was already 42 years old, the couple had seven children. The first of these was Thomas³, our direct ancestor; he was baptised at Crick on 9th September 1720. The next son was given the other family name of Edward, and was baptised on 19th September two years later. Like his Uncle Edward and cousins Edward and William, he was destined for the church. He matriculated³⁶ from St. John's College, Oxford in 1742, gained his B.A. in 1746 and eventually became vicar of Stoke Dry³⁷ in Rutland, where he died in 1791.

The baptisms of three girls followed: Elizabeth - 13th November 1724 (possibly married a man from Chichester named Foreman³⁸), Prudence - 4th August 1726 (who married Thomas Reeve in 1748) and Mary - 1st May 1730. Thomas² and Elizabeth's last child, John, baptised 25th July 1736, only lived a few days at most, as his burial is recorded in the Crick register five days later. Between Mary and John, on 4th October 1731, another son - William - was baptised. He grew up to marry Mary Judkins in Crick on 12th November 1758, and founded a dynasty of his own.

According to Annie Whitmell, who was their great-great-granddaughter, William and Mary had five sons: John, Thomas, Stephen, William and Edward - possibly another clergyman. Annie's account has this family owning a farm at Moulton, which is corroborated by William's burial entry in the Crick register on 24th July 1768, and the Catalogue of Inventories at NRO. Both say he was from Moulton Park. William and Mary's eldest son John married another Judkins - Sarah - and raised six children: William, John, Edward, Stephen, Elizabeth and Susannah, all of whom are mentioned in his will³⁹ proved in 1838, even though William junior was dead by this time. A handsome tomb stands as memorial to this family in Crick graveyard. John's brother Thomas settled in West Haddon and is possibly the father of Mary Whitmell who married William Judkins Dunkley at Gretna Green in 1825.

Back to our own line in Crick, Thomas² presumably took his civic duty seriously. The Constables' Account Book⁴⁰ has references to his involvement in parish matters. In 1728:

An account of the layings out of Richard York, constable ...to Mr Whitmell for 2 horses 1/6

³⁶ <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, *Oxford University Alumni 1500 -1886*

³⁷ <http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/index.html>

³⁸ *Whitmell of Crick*, Annie Whitmell

³⁹ TNA, Prob 11/1/1900, Will of John Whitmell the elder of Crick, 1838

⁴⁰ NRO, 92P/119 Crick Constables' Accounts Book 1682-1761

and two years later:

The laying out of Samuel Backer constable of Crick 1730 ...to Mr Whitmell
for 4 horses 3/0

In 1745, the receipts are countersigned by Thomas Whitmell, but this may be either Thomas² or his son. He also served as Overseer of the Poor⁴¹ in 1729, along with John Herbert. It is noteworthy that in all these documents, he is referred to as Mr Whitmell, whether other members of the community, including his extended family, are given their fore and surnames only. It is possible to infer that he was seen in the parish as higher in status than the yeoman farmers who appear in the records beside him.

He also voted in at least one election⁴²:

A Copy of the Poll for a knight of the shire for the county of
Northampton, on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday, the 14th, 15th,
16th and 18th days of April 1748...

Thomas Whitmell snr Crick K

The 'K' shows that he voted for Valentine Knightly, esq., who was a Tory.

One slightly puzzling reference to Thomas² comes from the transcript of a will on-line⁴³. This comes from the will of John Garrett of Crick, and was written in 1747:

Left the cottage where he lived with Thomas Whitmell to John Pike, son
of his executor

which doesn't quite fits the profile of Thomas². Maybe the reference is to his son, or maybe there was another Thomas Whitmell in the parish at the time, a descendant of one of those whose line hasn't been followed. In the same will is another reference to Thomas, and a piece of ground in 'Hall Land' - a name mentioned later in Joseph Slynn's will:

To Mary, wife of William Pike a quarter yardland in the open fields of
Crick called Hall Land, now in the occupation of Thomas Whitmell for
the term of her natural life

⁴¹ NRO, CK 121 92P/121, Crick Overseers of the Poor Book 1739-58

⁴²

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=r_wHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA211&lpg=PA211&dq=whitmell+Crick&source=bl&ots=MYaXjNKxbv&sig=LoN94oQMIR5yRgnQfuseNA6zL7A&hl=en#v=onepage&q=whitmell%20Crick&f=false

⁴³ <http://www.the-curates-line.com/warwickshire-to-northamptonshire.php>

Thomas² was a very old man when he died, which is perhaps why he didn't leave a will. It is possible his grown-up sons and daughters had already received their portions; maybe he was no longer fit to write one. However, generations of Whitmells left memorials to their dead, and there is a detailed memorial inscription to him and his wife in the graveyard of St. Margaret of Antioch church in Crick, even though there seems to be no reference to her in the burial register. Again, it is notable that both are given an honorific and referred to as 'Mr' and 'Mrs'. If the headstone is accurate, Elizabeth, whose baptism has not been found, was probably born around 1699.



Memorial Inscription - Thomas and Elizabeth Whitmell

The headstone reads:

In memory of	
Mr	Mrs
Thomas Whitmell	Elizabeth Whitmell
Husband of	Wife of
Mrs Elizabeth Whitmell	Mr Thomas Whitmell
Who departed this life	Who departed this life
March 9 th 1759	January 10 th 1755
Aged 84 years	Aged 56 years

Thomas³ Whitmell was baptised, like his predecessors, at Crick – in his case on 9th September 1720 (See Tree 15 – page 124). Unlike his father, Thomas³ married as a very young man, only 20 years old – very unusual in a yeoman farmer, as he was. His bride, Ann Slynn, was born in Watford, just to the south, and was even younger, about 16. (Her father Joseph described himself variously as a yeoman, grazier and gentleman.) The marriage took place at St. Sepulchre in Northampton on 19th October 1740:

Thomas Whitmell and Ann Slynn, both of Crick, were married

There is no mention of a licence, but given that neither party was living in Northampton, there must have been one. It begs the question of whether this was a runaway marriage between two young people in love or a marriage agreed by the parents, but taking place at a distance as the bride was already six months pregnant.

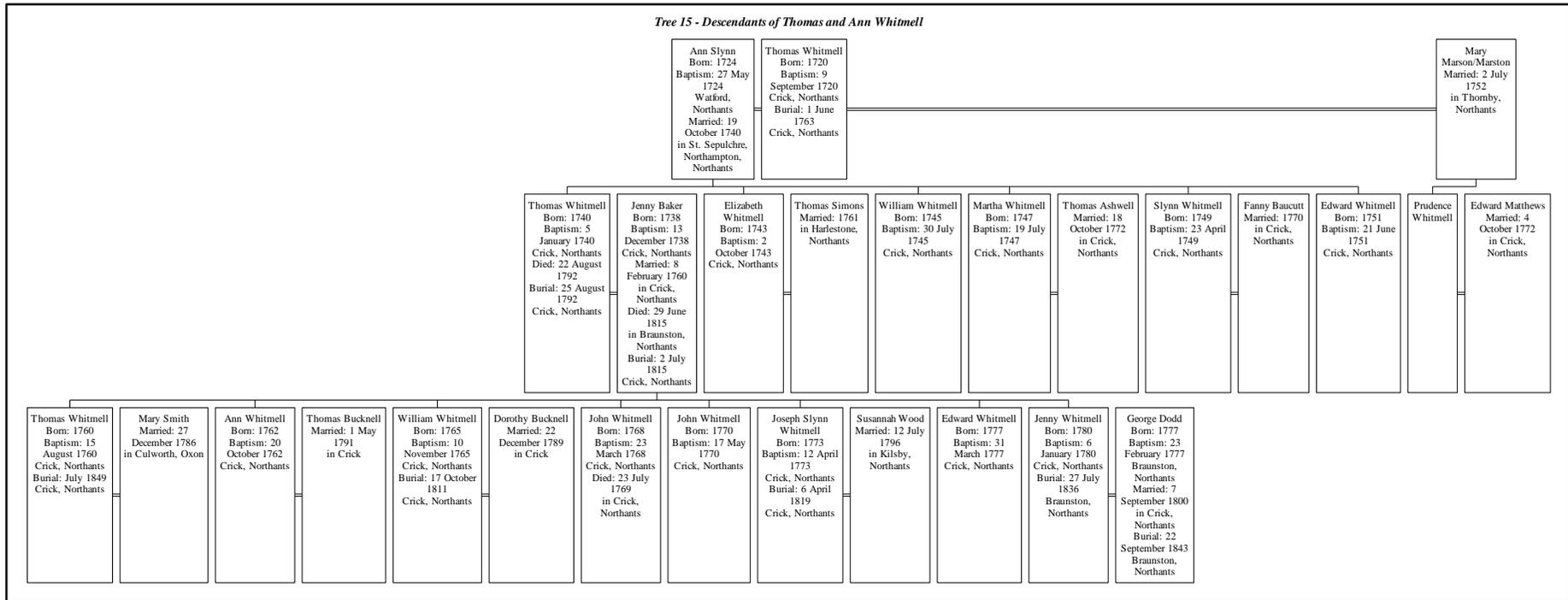


St. Sepulchre Northampton

The couple produced six children. The eldest, baptised at Crick on 5th January 1740, and our direct ancestor, was of course named Thomas. Elizabeth, baptised 2nd October 1743, was the next to be born, and grew up to marry Thomas Simons at Harlestone in 1761. William, the next son, was baptised on 20th July 1745, but there is no further record of him; certainly he is not mentioned in either his father's will in 1763 or that of his Slynn grandfather about six years later, so presumably he died young. The next girl, Martha, was christened on 19th July 1747, and married Thomas Ashwell by licence at Crick on 18th October 1772, witnessed by her older brothers. Slynn, the next son, was baptised with his mother's surname on 23rd April 1749 and grew up to marry Fanny Baucutt at Crick in 1770. The last child was named Edward, another family name; he was baptised on 21st June 1751 and seems to have married Ann Collier at Crick in 1770, moved to West Haddon, sired three children (William, Edward and Edward) married again, after his first wife's death, to Ann Skirrell in 1810, with whom he had a daughter Sarah.

Ann Whitmell née Slynn died shortly after Edward's birth, and was buried at Crick on 4th December 1751. She would have been around 27 years old. The Whitmells perpetuated her name. Her son Slynn and his wife Fanny named their only son Slynn (their other three children were girls: Ann – married John Burnham, Fanny – married her second cousin Stephen Whitmell, and Martha - married John

Tree 15 - Descendants of Thomas and Ann Whitmell



Maun). Ann's son Thomas⁴ named a son Joseph Slyn, recalling his grandfather as well as his mother. The year of Ann's death, Thomas³ completed a year's service as constable in Crick⁴⁴.

Within a year, Thomas³ had married again. His new wife was called Mary Marston, and the marriage took place on 2nd July 1752 at Thornby, about 7 miles to the east of Crick. This time the marriage licence⁴⁵ survives for:

Thomas Whitmell of Crick, yeoman, and Mary Marston, spinster of same

The bond was issued in the names of Thomas Whitmell and John Watkin of Yelvertoft, yeoman, and the marriage was to take place at Thornley, Cold Ashby or Winwick. Maybe he felt it was too close after Ann's death to marry in Crick, although the community would have sympathised with his wish to provide his young children with a step-mother. The bond calls Mary a spinster, but it is more likely that she was a widow, as the daughter she later named in her will as Elizabeth Harris was Elizabeth Marson when she married Thomas Harris at Crick in 1757 (witnessed by Thomas Whitmell, either father or son), and must have been a similar age to Thomas⁴. Thomas³ had one child by his second wife. She was named Prudence after her grandmother and was baptised at Crick on 22th June 1753. She married Edward Matthews, excise officer, at Crick by licence on 4th October 1772, with her step brother-in-law Thomas Harris witnessing the ceremony.

Once again, the documentation available at the end of Thomas³'s life and after leaves unanswered questions. Thomas³'s will, in which he calls himself a farmer, names his sons Thomas⁴, Slyn and Edward, and his daughters Elizabeth – now married – and Martha. There is no reference to William who had presumably died young. More surprisingly, there is no reference to Prudence but maybe as she was only 10 years old Thomas was expecting her mother to provide for her. Certainly he left Mary comfortably off. She also left a will, in which she named Prudence and her deceased daughter Elizabeth Harris, along with a couple of Harris grandchildren.

Thomas³ was buried on 1st June 1763, aged only 43. He had made his will⁴⁶ about eight weeks earlier on 28th March, in considerable detail. After the usual openings, the first two bequests were to daughter Elizabeth Simons - £50 - and son Slyn - £25. Daughter Martha was also given £25, but was only to receive it after his wife's death. The money for these bequests was to be chargeable on the farmhouse which:

I give and devise together with the malting office outbuildings yard garden orchard close or backsides thereunto adjoining and belonging with their and every of their appurtenances situate standing and being in Crick aforesaid and now in my own occupation unto my dear and

⁴⁴ NRO, 92P/120 Crick Constables' Accounts Book, 1765 – 1828

⁴⁵ NRO, ML Pet: 1.7.1752.

⁴⁶ NRO, Will of Thomas Whitmell the elder, Crick, 1763

loving wife Mary Whitmell and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life.

The reference to the malting office confirms again Annie Whitmell's belief that the family were involved the preparation of malt on quite a large scale. The next section of the will takes some puzzling out:

And from and immediately after her decease then I give and devise the said messuage tenement or farmhouse with the appurtenances unto my friend Robert Abby of Silsworth in the said co. of Northants grazier his executors, administrators and assigns for during and unto the full end and term of 500 years to commence from the day next after my said wife's decease, subject nevertheless to the provisos hereinafter mentioned. And after the end, expiration or other sooner determination of the said term of 500 years then I give and devise the said messuage tenement or farmhouse with appurtenances unto my son Thomas Whitmell his heirs and assigns for ever provided always and the meaning of me and this my will is that the said term of 500 years so limited to the said Robert Abby his executors administrators and assigns as aforesaid is so limited unto him and them. Upon trust that the said Robert Abby his executors etc. either by or out of the rents issues and profits of the said premises or by any lease or mortgage leases or mortgages of all or any part or parts thereof For all or any part of the said term of 500 years as to him or them shall seem meet Do and shall raise all such sum and sums of money as shall be sufficient the said three several legacies of £50, £25 and £25 hereinbefore by me given and bequeathed and charged upon the said messuage tenement or farmhouse And also the charges attending the raising of the same And from and after the payment thereof Then the said Robert Abby his execs etc shall assign over all the remainder of the said term of 500 years as shall be then to come and unexpired In trust to attend the freehold and inheritance of the said premises for him my said son Thomas Whitmell his heirs and assigns

It appears that Thomas³ was setting us some kind of trust to ensure that the monetary bequests dependent on the farm were honoured before it devolved to Thomas⁴.

Then the said Robert Abby his executors etc. shall at the request cost and charges of my said son Thomas Whitmell his heirs etc. assign over all the remainder of the said term of 500 years which shall be then to come and unexpired. In trust to attend the freehold and inheritance thereof for my son Thomas Whitmell his heirs etc. for ever.

The next section of the will lists a number of pieces of land in the area and their provenance. These are to go to his wife, Mary and his friend Robert Abby in trust for his son Thomas⁴:

All that my one yardland or the moiety of two yardland of arable lea meadow pasture and grass ground with the appurtenances lying and being dispersedly in the open and common fields of Crick aforesaid

and now also in my own occupation and which was heretofore purchased by my grandfather Thomas Whitmell deceased of one John Foster And also all that my half yardland or the moiety or one half part of one yardland of arable lea meadow pasture and grass ground commonly called or known by the name of Hayne Land with the appurtenance lying and being also dispersedly in the common and open fields of Crick aforesaid and now also in my own occupation. And also all those my three privilege commons to the said half yardland belonging heretofore purchased by my said grandfather Thomas Whitmell deceased with the said half yardland of and from one Arthur Fisher. And also all that my moiety or half part of all that messuage or tenement and the yard garden orchard homestead or backside thereto belonging with the appurtenances situated standing and being in Lilbourn in the said county of Northampton now in the tenure and occupation of Richard Allin And also all that my moiety or half part of all that close of pasture or inclosed ground with the appurtenances lying and being in the Lordship and Liberties of Lilbourn aforesaid commonly called or known by the name of the Butts containing by estimation or commonly reputed to be six acres or thereabouts (be the same more or less) now also in the tenure or occupation of the said Richard Allin And also all that my moiety or half part of all that other close of pasture or inclosed ground and meadow thereto belonging with their appurtenances lying and being also in the Lordship or Liberties of Lilbourn aforesaid commonly called or known by the name of Mead Lands containing together by estimation or commonly reputed to be four and twenty acres or thereabouts (be the same more or less) now also in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Reeves his assign or assigns And also all that my moiety or half part of all that messuage tenement or dwelling house with the appurtenances situate standing and being in Lilbourn aforesaid now or late in the tenure or occupation of one Hefford. And also all other my messuages closes lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever situate standing lying and being in Crick and Lilbourn aforesaid or within the Lordship fields or Liberties thereof.

It would be interesting to know whether the land in Lilbourn had come from his mother Elizabeth Blackwell's family, as she presumably came from that parish. Any extra profit from the sale was to go to his wife Mary. The residue of the estate also went to her, and she was nominated executrix. The will was witnessed by William Belgrave, Thomas Farn and Thomas Bucknell.

The expression 'Hayne land' occurs in this will and others I have looked at and perhaps deserves an explanation. In his book *The Open Fields of Northamptonshire*, by David Hall⁴⁷, the author describes the system in Crick as follows:

Crick had four fields from 1598 until enclosure in 1776 ... They were run on a three-year tith. There were two types of yardland, called Hall Land and Hain Land, but had lands restricted to only three of the four fields.

⁴⁷ http://www.northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk/eBooks/OpenFields/Gaz_c.pdf

The North and Mill Fields were commented both types of yardland, and the third field was either the Hall Field or Hain Field, according to type. Hall Land was, or had been the demesne.

It is possible that the word Hain comes from Middle English term meaning poor or wretched, reflecting the fact that the villeins' land would not be as good as that of the Lord.

One of the witnesses to Thomas³'s will, Thomas Farn, later helped take an inventory, along with the trustee Robert Abby and Thomas Harris, who was later named in Mary's will as her son-in-law. It is noteworthy that Thomas³ was also given the honorific 'Mr' by his neighbours:

A true and perfect inventory of all the goods and chattels of Mr Tho^s Whitmell late of Crick dec^d, taken the 3rd of June 1763

Wearing apparel and money were valued at £5, quite a reasonable sum. The furniture also shows a comfortable standard of living. Along with the usual tables chairs stools and bedsteads there are two mirrors, a clock and a chest of drawers. Significantly, in the cellar were 12 barrels and six tubs, valued at £3, and malt in the garner worth £90, a full £10 more than the value of crops growing on the farm. Other items of value included threshed corn and beans - £5, unthreshed corn - £10, wagons, carts and other implements - £20, four horses - £25, cattle - £43 10 shillings and sheep - £18. References to the best room, the blue room and two beds in the servants' garret, along with a total value of £321 5/- for the whole inventory complete the picture of a well-off citizen.

Thomas³'s wife Mary survived him by nearly 17 years. Her will⁴⁸ cited a house in Crick in the tenure of John Poole and Robert Foster and a close of land in the tenure of her stepson Thomas Whitmell, along with her household goods, chattels and money, which were left to her daughter Prudence, while her Harris grandchildren were each bequeathed £10. A further clause states that if Prudence died without issue her inheritance would pass to the Harris children. It reads like the will of someone who is comfortably off, so either Thomas³ left his widow with enough financial control to look after her daughters or a previous husband had done likewise. No reference is made to any of the lands and properties belonging to her late husband, so presumably they devolved to Thomas³'s sons under the terms of his will. The executors were her son-in-law Edward Matthews and her step-son Thomas⁴ Whitmell, described as her 'tenant'. Thomas Ashwell, husband of her step-daughter Martha, was one of the witnesses. Forty years later, in 1824, the original will was transmitted to Doctors' Commons by virtue of monition which suggests it was contested, but unfortunately no documentation survives which explains why.

Thomas⁴ Whitmell's baptism was recorded at Crick as:

⁴⁸ NRO, Will of Mary Whitmell of Crick, widow, 1780 (Attestor Copy)

Thomas son of Thomas Junr, farmer, & Ann

on 5th January 1740 (i.e.1741 in our reckoning), which would fit the age given on his gravestone. He followed his father's example in making a young marriage, aged only 20:

Thomas Whitmell of the parish of Crick and Jenny Baker of the same parish were married in this church by banns this 8th day of February 1760 by me ?Geo ?Hammon curate.
Signed *Thomas Whitmell*, the mark of Jenny Baker.

The witnesses were Thomas Beale (who was a regular witness) and John Baker, presumably her brother.



Grand Union Canal Crick

The first child, inevitably named Thomas⁵, was born some six months after the wedding and baptised at Crick on 15th August 1760. He grew up to marry Mary Smith and raise a large family of his own - 13 children - including a daughter Mary, who, through her marriage to Thomas Redgrave at Crick in 1809, became the ancestor of the Redgrave acting dynasty. Thomas ⁵ died in 1849.

Thomas⁴ and Jenny's next child, Ann, was baptised on 20th October 1762 and also married into a local family; her husband being Thomas Bucknell. A three year gap followed before the next child, with William being baptised on 10th November 1763. His wife, Dorothy, was also a member of the Bucknell clan, sister to Catherine who married William's cousin Slynn. According to George Dodd's marriage

bond⁴⁹, his future brother-in-law William was a miller, which might explain how the Dodds and the Whitmells came to know each other. A website⁵⁰ devoted to *The Shoulder of Mutton* pub in Crick gives the following information:

The earliest recorded owner of The Shoulder of Mutton was William Whitmell who is recorded as a miller. He was from a large Crick family, ... based at the Maltings, and the Homestead amongst other properties. The Whitmells stayed at *The Shoulder of Mutton* for over 47 years. When William died in 1812 [sic] his wife Dorothy took over until her death in 1827 when their son Edward became owner. It is unknown why the ownership changed in 1838 when Edward was 36 years old, but records show that Edward's later occupations included agricultural labourer, miller and road labourer.

William was buried at Crick on 14th November 1811.

Returning to Thomas⁴ and Jenny: a child named John was baptised to them on 23rd March 1768, but died young and was buried at Crick on 23rd July 1769. The next child, baptised on 17th May 1770, was also named John; he lived long enough to be named in his father's will in 1792 but there is no further reference to him. Joseph Slynn – baptised 12th April 1773, married Susanna Wood at Kilsby in 1796 and they had a son named Thomas. He married again in Southwark on 22nd March 1817, to Sarah Harding, and fathered four more children: Jenny, Elizabeth, Ann and Joseph Slynn. The next of Thomas⁴'s children was Edward – baptised 31st March 1777 but buried six years later. The final child, born when her eldest brother was nearly 20, was Jenny, baptised on 6th January 1780, and with her the circle closes, as she grew up to marry George Dodd.

The baptism registers are not the only means of tracking Thomas⁴ during this period. His maternal grandfather Joseph Slynn, whose life will be followed later, had been executor to his brother-in-law Thomas Slynn, a grazier from Winwick. There had clearly been a problem with this and the resulting case instigated by Mary Slynn, Joseph's sister-in-law, went to the Court of Chancery⁵¹. Presumably Joseph was making a case for where the money had been spent when he submitted the following evidence:

The schedule intituled the first schedule referred to by the answer above written:

A debt due to Thomas Whitmell, John Barrett and Thomas Ward for mowing the wood meadow 12/6

The schedule intituled the second schedule referred to by the answer above written:

Paid Thomas Whitmell for work and labour for some time before the

⁴⁹ NRO, ML Pet. 6.9.1800

⁵⁰ <http://theshoulderofmutton.eu/home/history/21-early-private-ownership>

⁵¹ TNA, C 12/1015/30, Slynn v Slynn

Michaelmas after the the testator's death to after the Lady Day following being at 4sh a week before Michaelmas and at 2sh a week from Michaelmas to Lady Day	£2 12/-
Paid Thomas Whitmell, John Barrett and Thomas Ward for mowing the wood meadow	12/6
Paid Thomas Whitmell, John Barrett and Thomas Ward for mowing the hog meadow	8/6
Paid Thomas Whitmell, John Barrett and Thomas Ward for mowing the grass on the bank and round the oats	13/-
Paid Thomas Whitmell and John Barrett for mowing oats	5/-

The row presumably rumbled on, with Mary gaining the upper hand, as on 13th July 1771 further documents appear, this time headed *Slynn v Whitmell*⁵². The first document is headed:

Bill of complaint by Samuel Slynn late of Crick, now of Lutterworth, Lincolnshire, shoemaker, against Thomas and Slynn Whitmell that, in the will (1763) of his late brother Thomas Slynn of Winwick, yeoman, he was bequeathed £50.

Samuel Slynn goes on to say that Thomas's wife Mary was also bequeathed £150 and that his brothers William and Jonas were to receive £50 each. The rest of the estate was to go to brother-in-law Joseph, the executor. When the will was proved at Peterborough the inventory had shown the estate to be worth £573 2/-, exclusive of a desperate debt of £29 10/-. Samuel's complaint is that Joseph had died in 1770 without paying out the bequest of £50. As Thomas and Slynn Whitmell are in turn his executors, he has appealed to them but they are refusing to pay.

On 19th November 1772, Thomas and Slynn made their reply. They accepted that there was a legacy of £50 due to Samuel; indeed all the legacies in the will added up to £300. They accepted that the will was written and proved as said and at the end of the process Joseph Slynn found himself in possession of an estate valued at £613 1/11, the value of the cattle having improved during the interim. They then went on to say that:

...after the testator's death, his wfe, Mary Slynn, set up a demand of £300 on a bond alleged to have been executed by the testator to one Francis Olde as a trustee for her benefit, and that Joseph Slynn had refused to pay having reason to doubt its validity.

Mary Slynn had taken them to court which had found in her favour and she had received principal, interest and costs to the sum of £342 2/-, which left Joseph with only £83 8/8 with which to pay £300 worth of bequests. While the brothers were

⁵² TNA, C12/1621/38, *Slynn v Whitmell*

willing to give Samuel a proportion of his bequest, they were unable to pay it in full. The document ends:

This answer taken and the above-named Thomas Whitmill and Slynn Whitmill the defendants were both duly sworn to the truth thereof upon the Holy Evangelists at the town of Northampton in the county of Northampton upon the fourteenth =''= day of November in the year of our Lord 1772 before us:

Thomas Whitmell

Slynn Whitmell

Christopher Smith

Robert Abbey jnr

No further documents appear to survive from this case.

Many years after Thomas⁴'s death a document was drawn up detailing the enclosure which took place in Crick⁵³. At the end is a section headed:

An extract from the award of the Revd Henry Homer, Robert Kingston, Josiah Flavell, Walter Watson and William Cullingworth the commissioners named and appointed by an act of parliament .. made in the 16th yr of the reign of his present majesty (1776)... for dividing and enclosing the open and common fields .. within the parish and liberties of Crick.....

The document lists roads, and whose land they cross:

Crick to Winwick ...and over the east end of the allotment to the said Thos Whitmell...

Crick to W Haddon ... Slynn Whitmell

Crick to Winwick ... the 1st allotment to the said Thos Whitmell ... the 2nd allotment to the said Thos Whitmell [near] a gate in the lordship of Winwick called Winwick gate.

Amongst the proprietors in 1776 it lists the brothers and their stepmother:

Slynn Whitmell, Mary Whitmell, Thomas Whitmell

Thomas⁴ and his brother Slynn appear on the Militia list of 1777⁵⁴ in a category headed Farmers and Farmers' sons. Given that this is a list of all men in the village between 18 and 45 years of age, it confirms the fact that there was no William Whitmell in the parish. There is no sign of their brother Edward either, but he was presumably busy raising a family in West Haddon by this time.

A curious aside involves the Culworth gang. This was a group of desperadoes who terrorised Northamptonshire in the 1780s until they were finally

⁵³ NRO, Crick Inclosure Award and Valuation List, Ck115

⁵⁴ NRO, Northamptonshire Militia Lists 1777 (Northamptonshire Record Society Volume 25)

apprehended and, in the main, executed. One of these was Elizabeth Smith, the wife of the gang leader John Smith who had been executed the previous year. She was the mother of the Mary Smith who married Thomas⁴'s son Thomas. Imprisoned and awaiting execution, on 5th August 1788 she wrote an abject letter⁵⁵ to her family, exhorting them to give up their evil ways. Presumably she felt such pious outpourings might carry some weight with those in control of her fate. Whether this was successful in influencing the powers that be or not I don't know. The reverse of the letter reads:

To Thomas Whitmill,
Crick.
To be left at the
Dolphin, Daventry,
to go by John Dalton
with speed

Four years later, on 30th June 1792, recognising he was near the end of his life, Thomas⁴ Whitmell the elder of Crick wrote his will⁵⁶, describing himself as a yeoman. He began by bequeathing to his wife Jane:

all that messuage or tenement maltkiln buildings backside premises
with the appurtenances situated at Crick aforesaid now in my occupation

Once again, the maltkiln was mentioned; the family business was obviously still going strong. Thomas⁴ set up a similar trust to deal with this after Jane's decease to the one made by Thomas³, leaving the property in the hands of his brother Slynn and brother-in-law Thomas Ashwell for his eldest son Thomas⁵ with an additional clause that it devolve after his son's death to his son, Thomas⁶ and his heirs. There was, however, a proviso that £450 be raised by lease or mortgage on the property to finance the other bequests in the will, namely:

Unto my daughter Ann Bucknill wife of Thomas Bucknill the sum of £100.
Unto my son John Whitmell the sum of £100. Unto my son Joseph Slynn
Whitmell the sum of £100. Unto my daughter Jane Whitmell the sum of
£100. And unto my son William Whitmell the sum of £50. And I do hereby
give and bequeath the same to them accordingly.

In addition, he bequeathed the moiety of a messuage and tenement in Crick (in the occupation of John Norton) to his trustees - brother Slynn and brother-in-law Thomas Ashwell, provided that the rents went to his wife Jane while she lived. After her death they were to sell the property and divide the proceeds equally between his four children, John, Joseph Slynn and Jane Whitmell, and Ann Bucknill. The same instructions are given regarding:

⁵⁵ NRO, ZB/685/1

⁵⁶ NRO, Will of Thomas Whitmell the elder of Crick, 1793

all and singular my monies securities for money and personal estate of what nature or kind soever

Presumably William's lesser bequest suggests that he had already received part of his share; maybe his father had helped him acquire *The Shoulder of Mutton*. Thomas⁴ signed the will, nominating wife Jane and son-in-law Thomas Bucknill as executors; and it was witnessed by John Erasmus Spier, George Judkin and Charles Earl.



Grave of Thomas and Jenny Whitmell, Crick

Thomas⁴ died a few months after writing his will, and was buried in Crick on 25th August 1792. The gravestone in the churchyard at St. Margaret of Antioch reads:

To the memory of
Thomas Whitmell
Husband of
Jenny Whitmell
He died August 22nd 1792
Aged 51 years
Near this place lies interred Edward the son who died 1783

The will was proved the following year:

On the 24th day of August 1793 Jane Whitmell and Thomas Bucknill the executors named in the within-will were then sworn well and faithfully to administer the goods according to law and that the deceased at the time of death was not possessed of a personal estate to the amount of £600.

Before me: J Watkin B.xD.

Baker and Norris: Crick and Marton

Jenny, or Jane, wife of Thomas⁴ Whitmell, was baptised at Crick on 13th February 1738 (See Tree 16 – page 137):

Jenny daughter of Thomas Baker and Alice his wife

Unfortunately, the father, Thomas died:

Suddenly

before the birth of his last child, and was buried on 6th March 1743.

Thomas had not had time to write a will, so his widow was granted administration⁵⁷ of his estate:

...We, Alice Baker of Crick Widow, Joseph Slynn of Crick aforesaid, yeoman and Edward Whittaker of Northampton, victualler, are held...
... the above-bounden Alice baker the widow, relict and administrator ...
of Thomas Baker, late of Crick aforesaid, yeoman.

The mark of Alice Baker

It was also signed by Joseph Slynn (of whom more later) and Edward Whittaker. The reverse is dated 17th March 1743:

Alice Baker the widow and relict of the within-named Thomas Baker late of Crick in the co. of Northampton, yeoman, deceased, was sworn well and faithfully to administer thee goods of the said deceased before me, John Clark surrogate.

Alice Baker née Norris was baptised at Marton, which lies between Crick and Coventry, on 27th March 1712. She was the eldest child of Richard Norris and his wife Alice. She had five siblings: Mary, baptised 6th September 1713, William – 13th March 1714, Thomas – 2nd September 1716, Jane - 15th January 1718, and Elizabeth – baptised at Marton on 7th May 1721.

In being widowed early and left with a young family, Alice Baker mirrored the experience of her mother, also named Alice. Richard Norris died when his youngest child was only six months old, and was buried on 12 November 1721 at Marton in Warwickshire. A note beside the burial entry reads:

paid mortuary

This was a payment made to the vicar by the family of the deceased at a rate set according to his estate. Anyone with an estate under the value of 10 marks was exempt. There was no will, so in October 1722 Alice applied for letters of

⁵⁷ NRO, Admon of Thomas Baker of Crick, yeoman 1743/4

administration⁵⁸ supported by Edward King and Jacob Johnson, yeomen from the neighbouring parish of Long Itchington, and appeared in person at the court of the Farragut in Coventry on the 24th April that year. An inventory had been taken and showed Richard to have had cash and clothing in the house to the value of £1 10 shillings, two old cows with £2 10 shillings, sour and nine pigs worth £3 2 shillings, a couple of hand-reared lambs worth eight shillings, hay and beer worth £4 each, six old beds and bedding, two old tables and 12 chairs and a few utensils and fire implements. Altogether the total came to £28 5/6. Left with several young children, Alice quickly married again, in 1722:

Thomas Glenn and Alice Norris were married April ye 13th

at Marton where she lived for another 25 years. Her burial was recorded there on 23rd May 1747.



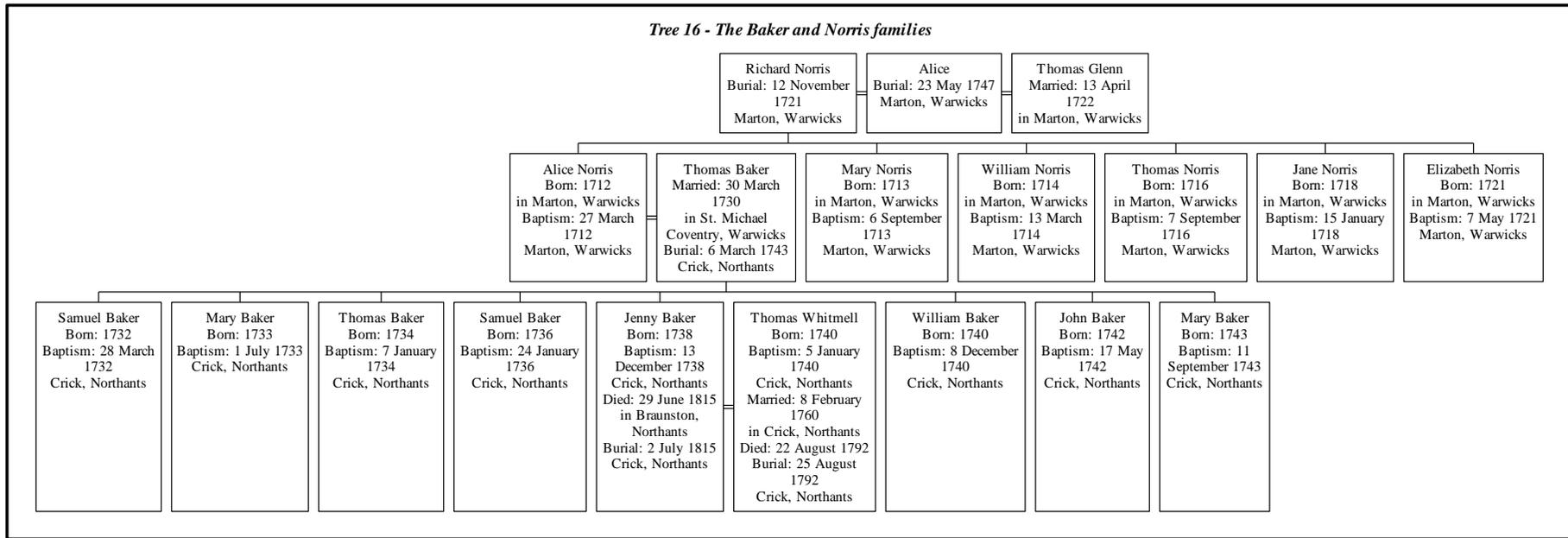
Marton Farmhouse, Marton

I have no idea where or when Thomas Baker and Alice Norris met, and at one time I wondered whether our Thomas was the same man who as Thomas Baker hogman appeared in the Crick register with a wife Elizabeth baptising a son Thomas on 15th March 1730. It seemed possible that Alice had been mis-recorded as Elizabeth or that Elizabeth was an earlier wife. However, having found the marriage, if this is our Thomas it is unlikely to be a different wife as the baptism pre-dates the marriage by only a fortnight. Maybe, although it seems unlikely, this was why his wedding to Alice took place at St. Michael's in Coventry:

Thomas Baker of Crick Alice Norris of Marton Lic

⁵⁸ LRO, B/C/11, Admon and Inventory, Richard Norris of Marton, 1722

Tree 16 - The Baker and Norris families



The marriage entry in Coventry is dated 30th March 1730, so it is equally if not more likely that another mysterious baptism of a daughter named Sarah with parents Thomas Baker, farmer, and Sarah which took place on 7th March 1731 should refer to Thomas and Alice. This would be almost exactly a year after the wedding and given the frequency with which Alice later gave birth it seems unlikely that there would be a two year gap before the first child. However, it is equally possible that Samuel, baptised on 28th of March 1732, was the eldest child. After Samuel came Mary, baptised 1st July 1733, Thomas, baptised 7th January 1734, another Samuel – 7th January 1736, Jenny – 13th December 1738, William – 8th December 1740, John – 17th May 1742 and finally Mary – 11th September 1743.

Jenny Whitmell née Baker outlived her husband by some 22 years, but presumably continued to farm his land. She appeared several times paying land tax⁵⁹ in Crick for 1799. She was charged 9/10 as the occupier of land owned by William Dicey; 4/8 on land owned by Edward Matthews; and 6/5 on something called Poors Land. There were also two parcels of land which she evidently worked with others. The first was owned by William Judkins and the other occupier was Thomas Whitmell, presumably her son: between them they paid £2 5/10. She was also one of nine occupiers of a piece of land owned by Rev. Dr Spice. The land tax records show how complex land tenure was in Crick, and how interwoven family links were. Slynn Whitmell was occupying land owned by William Brooks – a name unknown to me – but Thomas Whitmell senior [sic] was occupying land owned by Thomas Harris; Thomas Ashwell and Thomas Bucknell, Jenny's brother-in-law and son-in-law respectively were occupying their own land; Thomas Whitmell junior was sharing the occupation of John Judkins' land with John Judkins and Thomas Slynn, and also sharing a portion of George Judkins' land with Thomas Redgrave and one Susanna Coppel. If landholdings were this complicated after enclosure, it's easy to see how yeoman farmers before enclosure ended up with parcels of land in several parishes, as seems to have been the case with the Slynns and Whitmells.

Jenny died on 29th June 1815. By this time she was living in Braunston, presumably with her younger daughter Jane, married to George Dodd. It was her older daughter Ann, married to Thomas Bucknell, who administered the estate⁶⁰:

Know all men by these presents that we, Ann Bucknell of Crick in the parish of Crick in the co. of Northampton and Joseph Slynn Whitmell of Crick aforesaid yeoman are ...bound [by the] Bishop of Peterborough in the sum of forty pounds... on the fifth day of August 1818.

The condition of this obligation is that the above-bounden Ann Bucknell, daughter and next of kin and administratrix of all the Goods, Chattels and Credits of Jane Whitmell late of ~~Crick~~ [sic] Braunston, widow deceased intestate.

Signed: *Ann Bucknell*
Joseph Slynn Whitmell

⁵⁹ <http://ancestry.co.uk/Land Tax Redemption, 1798>

⁶⁰ NRO, Admon of Jane Whitmell of Braunston, 1815

In the presence of William Gates

The reverse bears the note:

On the twenty-fifth day of August 1818 the within bounden Ann Bucknell was then sworn well and faithfully to administer the Goods, Chattels, and Credits of the within-named Jane Whitmell deceased and that the said Goods, Chattels and Credits do not amount in value to the sum of £20. Before me Charles Henry Tufnell surrogate. Deceased died 29 June 1815.

Jenny was buried at Crick, presumably alongside her husband, close to the wall of the church - and with many other Whitmells - on 2nd July 1815.

I have not been able to find a baptism for Thomas Baker, Jenny's father. Baker is not a common name in Crick but there is a will made by William Baker, husbandmen⁶¹, in 1689. He was clearly very aged and had presumably outlived his children as bequests were made to grandchildren Nathaniel and Anne Paybody and to his great-grandson William Baker, son of his grandson Samuel Baker. The younger William Baker must have been born before 1689 and so is feasibly the William Baker of Crick married Grace Hayter on 15 June 1709 at Hilmorton just over the border into Warwickshire, but with strong links to Crick. Maybe our Thomas Baker belongs to this couple, and this explains why he named sons Samuel (twice), Thomas and William, although the last two are very common first names so this is just speculation on my part.

The Slynns: Crick, Watford and Winwick

Since writing my original version of the history of the Slynns, it has been pointed out to me that I had jumped to conclusions in assuming that the Martha Slynn who married her cousin Joseph in 1723 was the daughter of Jonas Slynn rather than of his brother Samuel. In order to check this out and ensure that this account is as accurate as possible, I have revisited and extended my research on this branch of my family history. The Slynns, like many families, used the same pool of first names through several generations and in each branch of these generations. This, coupled with the fact that there were several large families of Slynns in the Crick area in the 1700s, was what led me to my initial error. To avoid confusion as far as possible, I have numbered the various holders of each common name, starting at the top of the tree and working from eldest to youngest in each generation.

Thomas⁴ Whitmell, husband of Jenny Baker, was the son Ann Slynn, baptised at Watford in Northamptonshire on 25th July 1724, the daughter of two first cousins, Joseph⁶ and Martha⁴ Slynn (**See Tree 17 - page 142**). As previously stated, her

⁶¹ NRO, Will of William Baker of Crick, 1689

marriage to Thomas³ was not a long one and Ann died in 1751 - having given birth to six children, namely Thomas, Slynn, Elizabeth, William, Martha and Edward - and was buried at Crick on 4th December 1751.

Joseph⁶ and Martha⁴ Slynn married in the parish of Winwick, Martha's home parish and directly east of Crick, on 25th May 1723:

Joseph Slynn grazier of Watford and Martha Slimm [sic] of this parish,
banns



St. Michael and All Saints Winwick

This entry demonstrates two of the various spellings I have encountered for this name. These are numerous, veering from Slin, Slynn, Slim, Slyme and Slimme at least, and as the owners of these names were inconsistent in their use, it has likewise proved impossible for me to be consistent.

Ann, Joseph⁶ and Martha⁴'s first child, was born a year after the wedding and baptised at Watford on 27th May 1724, but it was six years before her sister Martha⁵'s baptism followed at the same parish church on 2nd March 1730. Martha⁵ later married John Flavell, and had five children, namely Martha, baptised at Crick in 1750, then Thomas, Ann, John and Samuel, all baptised at Harlestone between 1756 and 1767. Between the baptisms of his two daughters, Joseph must have served as either churchwarden or overseer for the poor at Watford. A Chancery pleading⁶² dated 1725 names Joseph Slim as one of the plaintiffs in a case entitled 'Attorney General v Edwards'. The plaintiffs include village officers and parishioners along with the vicar and the local gentry. Joseph may have served as either churchwarden or overseer for more than just one year, but unfortunately no churchwarden or overseers account book survives for Watford.

⁶² TNA, C 11/1137/3, Attorney General v Edwards

At some point, and it's not clear exactly when, Joseph⁶ Slynn moved with his family to live in Crick. He was certainly residing there by 1745 as he appears in two memoranda in the overseers' book⁶³. The first is in 1745 and Joseph heads the list of signatories. The second, dated 9th June 1758, allows a levy to the constable and he appears in the Crick Constables' Accounts⁶⁴ book as a constable from 1755 to 57. Having said this, it is also clear that he was still farming land in Watford. Many people in this story seem to have held land in more than one parish. Somewhere around 1750, a rent roll was drawn up showing the tenants of one Mr Brenton's estate in Watford⁶⁵. Joseph Slinn of Crick is shown paying rent of 'about' £14 for a piece of land called Thorney Close.

Joseph⁶ was already established in Crick by 1733 as he and Thomas Whitmell, along with two others leased land in Crick as outlined in an indenture dated 21st January 1733⁶⁶. Joseph and Thomas, along with James Pike, were all recorded as yeomen, but the fourth member of the group, Richard Drayson, was an innkeeper. All were described as:

Freeholders, proprietors and owners of lands in the common and open fields of Cricke

and they were leasing:

several pieces and parcels of Glebe Lands lying and being dispersedly in the open and common fields of Cricke ... accounted to be three yardlands [about 90 acres] the same more or less

along with some pieces of meadow and grass ground. In addition, they were to receive the tythes arising from this land, which would have normally gone to the church. The list of these items is extensive, including corn, grain, oats and hay and anything arising from livestock:

Cowes Wool Lamb Calf Piggs and Milk...

although the document suggests this may have been limited to the period between 3rd May and 1st August each year. They were also entitled to use the tythe barn to store their crops. For all this, they agreed to pay the Rector, John Gilman, an annual rent of £200 for the arable land and an additional £5 for each piece of meadow or grass ground.

⁶³ NRO, 92P/121, Crick Overseers of the Poor Book

⁶⁴ NRO, 92P/120, Crick Constables' Accounts Book

⁶⁵ NRO, YO/1018, Abstract of YO/992 and 'the present rent roll of Mr Brenton's estate in Watford'

⁶⁶ NRO, 92P/051, Lease, Rev. Gilman to Whitmell, Pickle [sic], Slynn and Drayman

Tree 17 - Descendants of Joseph and Martha Slinn

<p>Joseph Slinn Died: 1770 Burial: 11 July 1770 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>	<p>Martha Slinn Born: 1696 in Winwick, Northamptonshire Baptism: 26 October 1696 Winwick, Northamptonshire m: 23 May 1723 in Winwick, Northamptonshire Died: 1768 Burial: 19 October 1768 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--	--

<p>Ann Slyn Born: 1724 Baptism: 27 May 1724 Watford, Northamptonshire Died: 1751 Burial: 4 December 1751 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>Thomas Whitmell Born: 1720 Baptism: 9 September 1720 Crick, Northamptonshire m: 19 October 1740 in St. Sepulchre, Northampton, Northamptonshire Died: 1763 Burial: 1 June 1763 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Martha Slyn Born: 1730 Baptism: 2 March 1730 Watford, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>John Flavel</p>

<p>Thomas Whitmell Born: 1740 Baptism: 5 January 1740 Crick, Northamptonshire Died: 22 August 1792 Burial: 25 August 1792 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Jenny Baker Born: 1738 Baptism: 13 December 1738 Crick, Northamptonshire m: 8 February 1760 in Crick, Northamptonshire Died: 29 June 1815 in Braunston, Northamptonshire Burial: 2 July 1815 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Elizabeth Whitmell Born: 1743 Baptism: 2 November 1743 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Thomas Simons m: 24 December 1761 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>William Whitmell Born: 1745 Baptism: 30 July 1745 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>Martha Whitmell Born: 1747 Baptism: 19 July 1747 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Thomas Ashwell m: 18 October 1772 in Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Slyn Whitmell Born: 1749 Baptism: 23 April 1749 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>Fanny Bawcutt m: 27 September 1770 in Ashby St Ledger, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>Edward Whitmell Born: 1751 Baptism: 21 June 1751 Crick, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Martha Flavel Born: 1750 in Crick, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>Tubalcain York m: 1780 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Ann Flavel Born: 1756 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>

<p>John Moore m: 1775 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>John Flavel Born: 1763 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Samuel Flavel Born: 1764 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>
--

<p>Thomas Flavel Born: 1767 in Harlestone, Northamptonshire</p>
--

The document is huge and the content wordy, covering all possible eventualities, and setting out dates for rent payments as well as numerous provisos regarding the way the land is used. All four lessees signed at the bottom of the indenture.

Presumably Joseph⁶ was a respected member of his community, as, along with serving as churchwarden and overseer for the poor, he was named as executor in wills more than once. On the first occasion, he co-executed the will of a yeoman named John Saunders, along with one Joseph Saunders, presumably a relative of the testator. These two were instructed to sell the testator's land⁶⁷ in Crick, presumably to satisfy the will's bequests. This they did, selling the property to Thomas Bucknell of Crick, breeches maker. A further document⁶⁸, dated eleven days later, on 30th October 1762, shows that Thomas Bucknell had now paid the full £30 1/- owed for the land.

The second will Joseph⁶ executed was that of his brother-in-law and cousin Thomas⁶ Slynn of Winwick, just a year later. As has been outlined earlier in this account⁶⁹, there was not enough money to satisfy the bequests to Thomas' brothers as his widow Mary had used £300 of her husband's estate to pay a bond supposedly taken out by her husband; this despite the fact that, while Joseph was in charge, the value of Thomas' cattle had allegedly improved.

Joseph⁶'s wife and cousin Martha⁴ died in 1768; she was buried at Crick on 19th October. On 16th November 1769, Joseph Slynn made his will, describing himself as a gentleman of Crick. Whether this was because he had retired from being a grazier or because he had done well for himself over the years and increased his status is uncertain. He willed three quarterns of land in the common fields of Crick (leased to John Towers) to his daughter Martha with the proviso that they be passed on after her death to her son Thomas Flavell. Martha also received £100 which was to devolve to Thomas when he reached the age of 21. Martha's daughter Ann received £50. Granddaughter Martha Whitmell, daughter Ann's daughter, received a larger bequest of £250, and the right to live in:

that room in my dwelling house in Crick aforesaid called the new chamber with free liberty of ingress egress and and regress into from and out of the same and all the furniture that shall be in the same at the time of my decease

either for life or until she married.

Her brother Thomas⁴ Whitmell was given:

all that half a yard land and half a quartern of Hall land and half a quartern of Hayne land lying and being in the open and common fields

⁶⁷ NRO, WB(N) Box 40, T10, Indenture, Lease for a year of one quartern of a yardland

⁶⁸ NRO, WB(N) Box 40, T11, Indenture, Lease for a year of one quartern of a yardland

⁶⁹ TNA, C 12/1015/30, Slynn v Slynn, & C12/1621/38, Slynn v Whitmell

of Crick aforesaid and now in my own occupation

again with the proviso that it pass in time to his great-grandson Thomas⁵. He bequeathed another quarter of Hayne land in Crick common fields, farmed by himself, to Thomas⁴ Whitmell to hold until his son - Joseph's great-grandson William - reached the age of 21 years. Grandson Slynn's first bequest was of another half quartern of Hayne land that Joseph was farming in Crick. He and his brother Thomas⁴ were also bequeathed Joseph's farmhouse:

with the homestead and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate standing lying or being in Crick

for 10 years, after which time the house:

and the household goods in the kitchen, the cellar and the room called the house

were to pass solely to Slynn. Finally:

all bills book debts bonds notes and mortgages in fee or for ... moneys securities for money and all my crops of corn grain grass hay wagons carts ploughs and implements of husbandry and all my horses mares cows calves sheep and all kinds of cattle whatsoever And all my household goods except as aforesaid effects and personal estate whatsoever or wheresoever or of what nature kind or sort soever I give devise and bequeath unto my said two grandsons Thomas and Slynn Whitmell for their own use and benefit.

Thomas⁵ and Slynn Whitmell were also appointed executors. There is no mention of Ann's last child, Edward, which is strange. Maybe he had already received his share or blotted his copybook in some way. The banns for his marriage were read when he was still a minor, and the fact that the wedding did not take place until a year later may suggest a degree of family disapproval. However, this is just speculation.

Joseph⁶ was buried at Crick on 11th July 1770, and Thomas and Slynn proved the will on 12th September of that year. One of the witnesses to Joseph's will was named John Redgrave, suggesting earlier ties between the Whitmell and Redgrave families.

As has been stated already, Joseph⁶ and his wife Martha⁴ Slynn were first cousins. Their fathers were William¹ and Samuel¹ Slynn or Slim respectively, both sons of Thomas² and Elizabeth Slim. William was the fourth child of this couple, born in 1659. He married a woman named Anne and the couple had five children, including Ann - baptised at Watford on 8th December 1694, Elizabeth - baptised 21st December 1696, and Alice who was baptised on 23rd April 1699. Martha was baptised on 28th December 1703, but maybe the parish clerk had indulged in too much Christmas cheer, as she is recorded as the daughter of John and Ann Slynn.

However, her burial at Watford on 4th January 1721 clearly states her to be the daughter of William Slynn of Sylsworth (**See Tree 18 – page 146**).

Joseph⁶ was probably the eldest child in this family. No baptism has been found but it probably took place in the early 1690s at his mother's home parish. Wherever that was probably also saw the marriage of Joseph's parents. It would be easy to jump to the conclusion that Joseph⁶ was actually Joseph³, son of Joseph¹ (William's uncle) baptised at Winwick in 1691, but that would be to ignore the unequivocal evidence of William¹'s will, which names his son Joseph, and Joseph⁶'s two daughters, Ann and Martha.



St Peter and Paul Watford

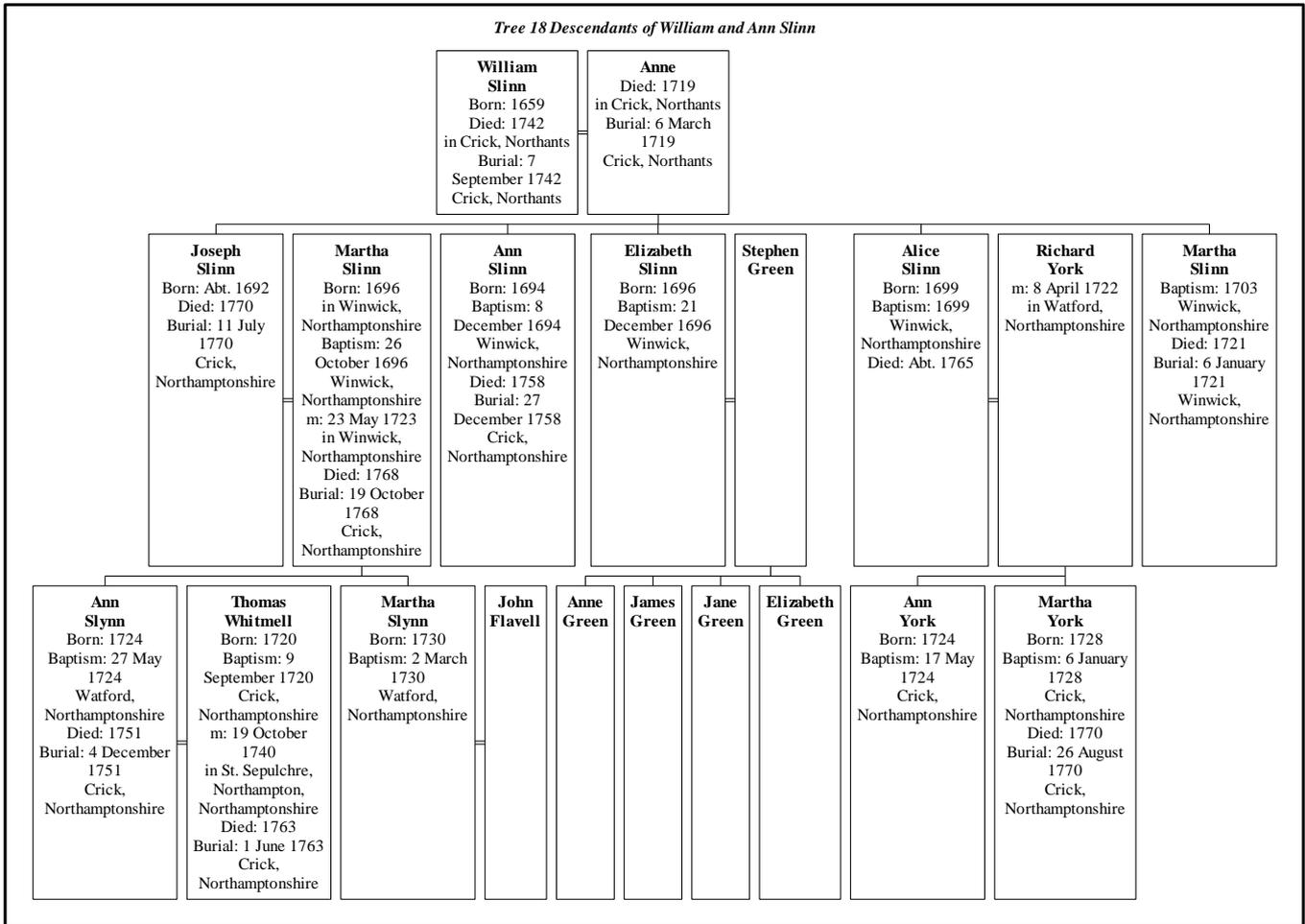
The other baptisms all give Sillesworth, one of three townships in Watford, as William¹'s residence. The register generally records the surname as Slynne, but Ann's is written as Slimme. From William's will it is clear that Elizabeth later married Stephen Green and Alice married Richard York – later to serve as churchwarden at Crick. (Their wedding took place at Watford on 8th April 1722.) Like his son Joseph, William seems to have had one foot in Watford and one in Crick. His wife Ann was buried at Crick on 6th March 1719 as:

Ann wife of William Slinn Daryman

which gives us the only clue as to how William made his living. However, in 1728, he must have served as churchwarden at Watford as his signature:

Will Slinn
Churchwarden

Tree 18 Descendants of William and Ann Slinn



appears on the BTs for 1728 beneath the signature of the vicar. As with his son, it is not possible to tell whether he served more than once, as not every set of BTs has a churchwarden's signature on it. Sometimes, the vicar signed alone.

On 5th September 1733, William¹ Slin wrote a detailed will⁷⁰, the spur for which seems to have been the recent deaths of his brothers Samuel¹ and Jonas¹ as the will was not proved until 1743. He described himself as a yeoman and in good health before going on to bequeath all the household goods and furniture in his chamber to his daughter Anne, along with £60. His daughter Elizabeth Green was given £40 but another £10 went to each of his grandchildren, James and Anne Green, while their presumably younger siblings, Elizabeth and Jane Green, received five pounds apiece. In contrast William's daughter Alice York was only given five pounds although granddaughters Ann and Martha York received £10 each. He then went on to appoint his son-in-law Richard York and his nephew Thomas⁶ Slin of Winwick, grazier (his brother Samuel's son) as trustees for:

all those several pieces and parcels of arable land ley meadow pasture and grass ground with their and every of appurtenances lying and being in the open and common fields of Crick estimated to be and containing

⁷⁰ NRO, Will of William Slin of Crick, 1733

one half yard land and commonly called and known by the name of Hayne land and now in my own possession and heretofore by me bought and purchased of and from Mary Wright and John Wright

which were to be held for the benefit of:

my granddaughters Ann and Martha Slin daughters of my son Joseph Slin of Crick aforesaid yeoman

once they reached the age of 21 or married. The will ended with a final bequest to his son:

all the rest and residue of my goods chattels and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever I give devise and bequeath the same unto my son Joseph Slin whom I make full and sole executor of this my last will and testament

The document was signed Will Slin. Apart from the fact that he spelled his surname here with just one 'n', it is clearly the same hand as the signature in the 1728 BTs. William's burial took place at Crick on 26th June 1742.

For a long time, led astray by the Slynn family's penchant for giving very large families the same first names, I believed that the Martha⁴ who married her first cousin Joseph⁶ Slim or Slynn was the daughter of William's brother Jonas, even though I couldn't find a baptism. Recently I was alerted by another Slynn researcher to the fact that I had the wrong brother. Martha was, in fact, the eldest daughter of Samuel¹ Slim - sixth child of Thomas² and Elizabeth Slim - and his wife Sarah Reeves (**See Tree 19 - page 148**). Samuel¹ had been baptised at Crick on 2nd April 1665 as:

Samuel son of Thomas and Elizabeth Slim

He and Sarah, who was baptised at Yelvertoft as:

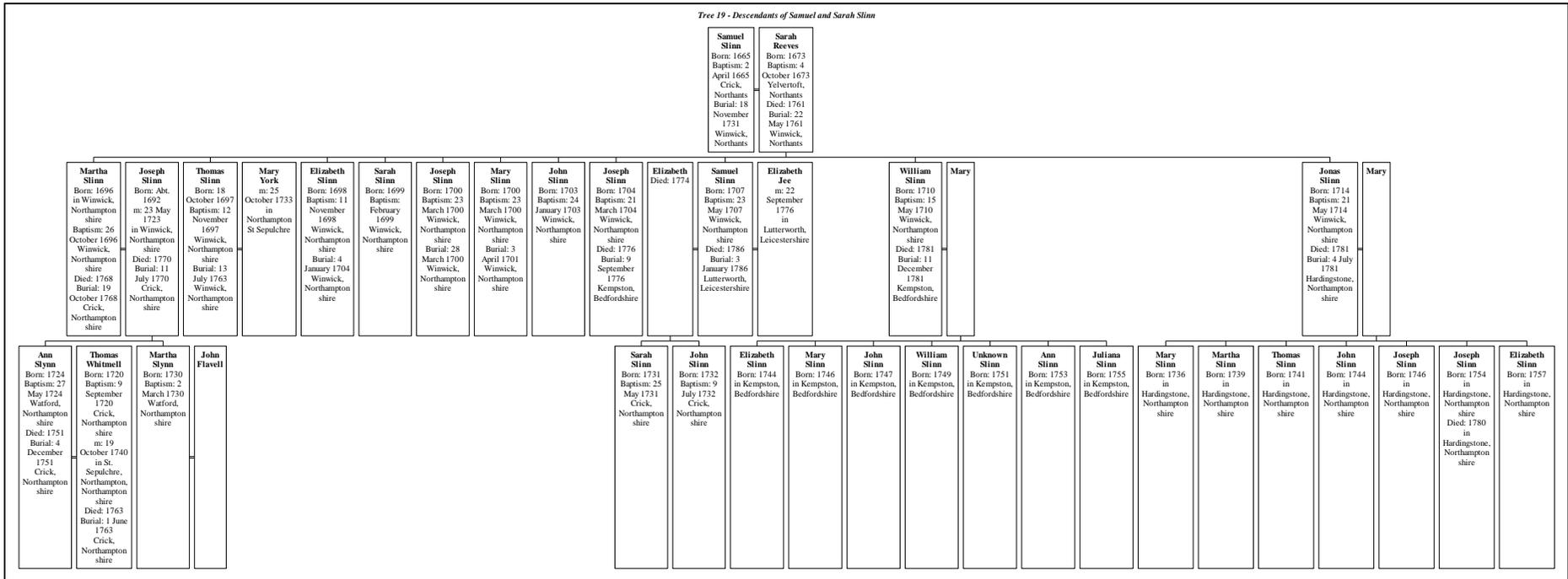
Sarah D^r of Thomas & Martha Reeve

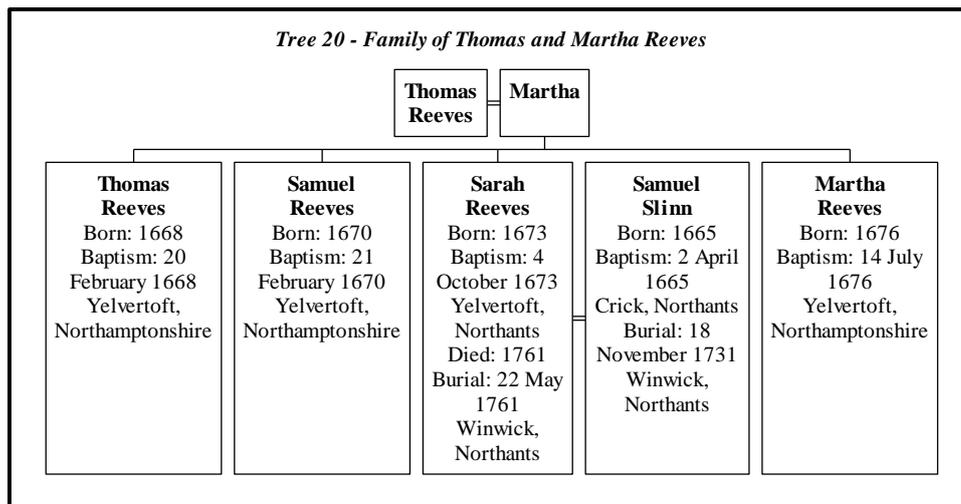
on 4th October 1673, had married at Winwick in 1695:

Samuel Slim and Sarah Reeves were Married by Banns in the Parish Church of Winwick Dec: 2nd

Sarah had three siblings - Thomas born 1668, Samuel born 1670 and Martha born 1676, but she bore 11 children with Samuel, though not all of them survived infancy (**See Tree 20 - page 149**).

Tree 19 - Descendants of Samuel and Sarah Slinn





Given that Samuel¹ Slim is recorded as a voter in the county elections in 1705⁷¹ with property in Yelvertoft, it seems feasible that he may have inherited Reeve freehold there through his wife, although this is speculation and he may have held land there on his own account. As has already been stated, members of this family frequently held land in more than one parish.

Martha⁴ was Samuel¹ and Sarah's first child, baptised on 26th October 1696 at Winwick. The next child was Thomas⁶, born on 12th July 1697. As Samuel's eldest son, he grew up to be a grazier like his father and was also a freeholder, enabling him to vote in the 1748 election⁷² by virtue of land in Yelvertoft, although he was resident in Winwick. By that time he had been married to Mary York, whom he married at St Sepulchre in Northampton, since 1733, but there seem to have been no children from the marriage. Presumably this is why, when he made his will in 1763, he named his wife, brother-in-law Joseph and younger brothers Samuel², William² and Jonas² as beneficiaries. Presumably these were the only ones still alive. Thomas was buried at Winwick on 13th July 1763.

Thomas⁶'s will⁷³ begins by bequeathing his wife Mary £150. Bequests to his brothers follow, and allow us to see some of the diaspora of Samuel¹'s family:

Also I give and bequeath unto my Brother Samuel Slyn of Crick in the said County Shoemaker the sum of £50 Also I give and bequeath to my Brother William Slyn of Kempston in the County of Bedford the sum of £50 Also I give and bequeath to my Brother Jonas Slyn at Hardingstone in the said County of Northampton the sum of £50

A further bequest of a:

⁷¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1558-1893, *A list of the Persons, together with the places of their freehold who voted for the Knights of the Shire for the County of Northampton at the last two elections; July 1702; May the 17th 1705*

⁷² <https://ancestry.co.uk/> UK Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1558-1893

⁷³ NRO, Will of Thomas Slyn, yeoman, Winwick, 1763

message Cottage or Tenement with every of the Appurtenances
belonging thereunto standing and being in Yelvertoft in the said County
of Northampton

along with a quarter of a yardland of land there was made to his cousin William
Elkinton. He then leaves the:

rest and residue to my brother-in-law Joseph Slynn

who is also to be executor. The will, dated 11th June 1763, was witnessed by,
amongst others, Thomas Whitmell. The inventory⁷⁴, showing clothes, household
goods, animal and farming stuff worth £349.12.6 and about £230 in debts owed to
him, totalled £571 1/11 ¼. Joseph⁶ Slynn was also the appraiser.



Yelvertoft

As has been seen, this will later proved contentious. Papers survive in the
records of the Court of Chancery⁷⁵, albeit incompletely, for a case between Mary
Slynn, widow, and her brother-in-law Joseph⁶ Slynn. They are dated 1765 and imply
that Joseph was of Yelvertoft and Clay Cotton (both close to Crick) at this time.
Presumably the surviving papers are part of the case cited by the defendants when
Samuel² Slynn of Lutterworth took Thomas and Slynn Whitmell to court five years
later. Part of what appears in these documents is a list of payments made by Joseph
Slyn (this is how he signs his own name at the foot of the page) for work done on the
estate as executor including those made to Thomas Whitmell and already cited (see

⁷⁴ NRO, Inventory of Thomas Slynn of Winwick, 17.7.1764

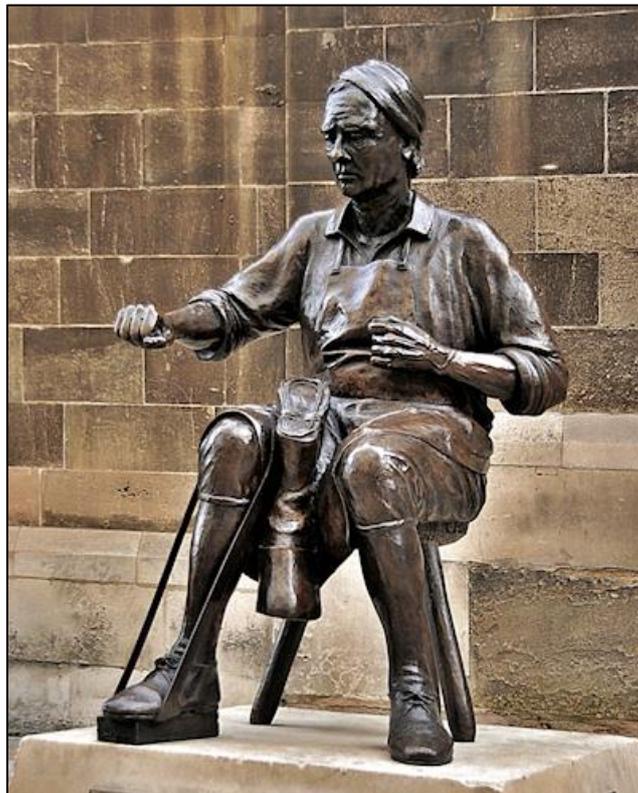
⁷⁵ TNA, C12/1015/30, Slynn v Slynn

page 130). Other payments were for a coffin, the apothecary's bill, coal, window tax, church levy, constable's levy, highway levy and food for the family.

After Martha⁴ and Thomas⁵ came a rapid string of babies, most of whom died young. Elizabeth was baptised on 11th November 1698 and buried on 11th January 1704. Sarah was baptised in February 1699 but there is no further mention of her. Twins Joseph⁷ and Mary were baptised on 2nd March 1700, but Joseph only lived a few days and Mary not much longer. Their respective burials were recorded on 28th March 1701 and 3rd April 1701. A son John⁵ was baptised on 24th January 1703 and followed by another Joseph⁸ on 21st March 1704, but again, this is the only reference to them at Winwick.

Samuel¹ and Sarah seem to have been luckier with their final three children, who were all living when Thomas⁶ wrote his will in 1763. Samuel² was baptised at Winwick on 23rd May 1707. On 21st May 1720, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker⁷⁶. The entry in the Register for Duties Paid reads:

Samuel son of Samuel Slim of Winwick to William Hooke of Lutterworth,
Cordwainer



Cordwainer sculpture - Watling Street

It was this entry which convinced me that Samuel not Jonas was the father of Martha⁴ Slynn. Shortly after completing his apprenticeship, Samuel married a woman named Elizabeth, and daughter Sarah and a son John were baptised at Crick

⁷⁶<https://ancestry.co.uk/> Register for Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811

in 1731 and 2. Elizabeth died in Lutterworth, where the couple had settled, in 1774, and Samuel remarried as a widower to Elizabeth Gee in 1776. He was buried at Lutterworth on 3rd January 1786. Fifteen years previously, he had been the instigator of the case against the Whitmells regarding the legacy from his brother Thomas.

On 13th July 1771, Samuel² Slynn, late of Crick, now of Lutterworth, Lincolnshire, shoemaker, submitted a bill of complaint to the Court of Chancery⁷⁷ against Thomas and Slynn Whitmell. He cited the will of his late brother Thomas⁶ Slynn of Winwick, yeoman, in which he was bequeathed £50 and Thomas' wife Mary £150. He reiterates the bequests to his brothers William and Jonas of £50 each and says that his brother-in-law Joseph Slynn of Crick inherited the rest of the estate and was executor. Joseph Slynn had proved the will in diocese of Peterborough but had died in 1770 without having paid his bequest of £50. Joseph's will had appointed Thomas and Slynn Whitmell of Crick as his own executors, and Samuel was now complaining that they were refusing to pay.

The next document in the bundle, dated 29th October 1771, gives instruction to Christopher Smith, John Russell, Robert Abbey the younger, John Smith, ?Hollid Smith, Henry Churchill, gent - requiring them to take the answers from the defendants without delay. Their answer, dated 19th November 1772, is headed:

The joint and several answer of Thomas Whitmell and Slynn Whitmell defendants to the bill of complaint of Samuel Slynn complainant

Their defence accepts that Samuel² is owed a legacy of £50 and grants that the total legacies bequeathed added up to £300. They also agree that the will was written and proved as said and that Thomas⁶ Slynn's estate was worth £613 1/11 - more than originally thought because the value of the cattle had improved. However, they also say that after Thomas' death his wife Mary had demanded a payment of £300 on a bond set up by her husband and executed to Francis Olde as a trustee to her benefit. Joseph Slynn had refused to pay it because he doubted its validity; Mary took him to court and received principal, interest and costs amounting to £342 2/-. Consequently, there was not enough money left in the estate to pay all the bequests, and what with this and the funeral expenses:

there remained in the hands of Joseph Slynn on account of the said testator's personal estate possessed by him a balance of £83 8/3 or thereabouts which was not sufficient to answer or satisfy the several pecuniary legacies given by the said testator's will

They went on to say that they had always been willing to pay Thomas Slynn's legacies proportionately. Underneath this statement it says:

This answer was taken and the above-named defendants were both duly sworn to the truth thereof upon the Holy Evangelists at the town

⁷⁷ TNA, C12/1621/38, Slinn v Whitmell

of Northampton in the County of Northampton upon the 14th day of
November 1772

There is no further record of what happened, so presumably the matter ended there, at least as far as the courts are concerned.

Samuel¹ and Sarah's two final children, William² and Jonah or Jonas², were baptised at Winwick on 15th May 1710 and 21st May 1714 respectively. Like their brother Samuel, they left their hometown and began lives elsewhere, William moved to Kempston in Bedfordshire where he married a lady named Mary and fathered seven children between 1744 and 1755. He was buried at Kempston on 11th December 1781. Jonas stayed in county, moving to Hardingstone. He also had a wife named Mary and they baptised seven children there between 1726 and 1757. He died a few months earlier than his elder brother and was buried at Hardingstone on 4th July 1781.

Their father, Samuel¹, died in 1731 and was buried in Winwick:

Samuel Slym Grazier was buried Nov^r 18

His will, dated 24th October 1731 begins with a long bequest to his wife Sarah and eldest son Thomas:

Imp^s all that my Cottage House or Tenement with all y^e appurtenances and privileges thereunto belonging standing and being in Yelvertoft in the County of Northton aforesaid I do give devise and bequeath unto my loving wife Sarah Slynn and unto my eldest son Thomas Slynn during y^e term of their natural lives and the life of y^e longer liver of them and from and after y^e decease of the longer liver of them I give devise and bequeath y^e s^d Cottage House or Tenement unto y^e right heirs of my s^d son Thomas Slynn said ever.

He then divides his land in Yelvertoft between these two:

Itm All that my half quartern of a yard land being and lying dispersedly in y^e open and common fields of Yelvertoft afores^d which I purchased together with y^e afores^d cottage of and from one Joseph Howkins together with all privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging I do give devise and bequeath unto my eldest son Thomas Slynn afores^d and to his heirs and assigns for ever. Itm All that my other half quartern of a yard land being and lying dispersedly in the open and common fields of Yelvertoft afores^d which is settled on my loving wife Sarah Slynn and on my heirs for ever and I do hereby confirm y^e s^d settlement, and it is my will that the said last mentioned half quartern of a yard land be held and enjoyed accordingly by my s^d loving wife and by my right heirs for ever.

The next four surviving children had presumably already been provided for – Samuel through his apprenticeship and Martha through marriage – so they receive nominal sums:

Itm I do give unto my sons Joseph Slynn and Samuel Slynn and unto my daughters Martha Slynn and Sarah Slynn one shilling apiece.

William and Jonas, however, are willed £15 apiece. Thomas and wife Sarah were made joint executors and proved the will on 27th November 1731.

It seems likely that his wife outlived him by some considerable time. There is a burial entry at Winwick on 22nd May 1761, which, while it may refer to the Sarah who was born in 1678 to Joseph¹ Slim and Mary Marchall, could equally be for Sarah the wife of Samuel. It refers to her as:

a very ancient woman

which would be an accurate description of someone born in 1673.

The father of the two brothers provides yet another version of the surname as his arrival in the world was recorded on 8th April 1627 at Winwick as:

Thomas Slyme, son of John Slyme and Mary his wife was baptised

An abbreviation mark over the M in the original entry would suggest that the name was possibly spelt with two Ms. When he married on 10 December 1648 at Winwick, the name was spelt differently again:

Thomas Slin and Elizabeth Howit were married



St. Michael and All Saints Winwick

The first child born to Thomas² and Elizabeth was baptised at Winwick on 18th September 1652 and was named Martha¹, but I have found no further trace of her. Sons named Thomas³ and John⁴ were baptised at Winwick on 23rd March 1654 and 30th August 1657 respectively.

Thomas³ married a woman named Elizabeth, whose name is only known through the baptisms of their children at Crick. The first, named Thomas⁴ inevitably, was born in 1713 but only lived a few months. He was replaced by Thomas⁵ who was born in 1714. Mary was born in 1716 and John⁵ in 1718, so Thomas had clearly left it late to marry and start a family. There was another child, Elizabeth, whose baptism has not been found. Maybe she was the eldest and was taken back to her mother's home parish to be christened.

Unsurprisingly, Thomas³ did not live long enough to see his surviving children to adulthood. He was buried at Crick on 14th November 1722 as a 'farmer'. His will⁷⁸, dated 10th April 1722, omits to name his:

loving wife

although she is designated an executor along with his brother William and Moses Clarke of West Haddon. These three are enjoined to sell:

all that house and half quartern of land and commonly called or known by the name of Vernams Land and all the flock and crop and to pay any debts. The rest of the estate goes to his son Thomas provided:

he doth pay or cause to be paid unto my daughter Elizabeth Slinn and my daughter Mary Slinn the whole sum of 80 pounds apiece

when they reach the age of 21 years or when they marry. Should Thomas fail to pay his sisters, they are given the right to:

enter or re-enter of one quartern of land which is in the possession of my brother William Slinn

His wife is to have the one third of the estate which is her due as his widow, out of son Thomas' share. Both the size of the monetary bequests and the total on his inventory – which amounted to £104 7/-, suggest that Thomas³ was comfortably off. Items on the inventory include his apparel, worth £7, peas and hay in store worth £10, crops in the field worth £30, and cattle and horses worth £19:

in the wood close at Winwick

Presumably this is the same Wood Close which either he or his father had rented from the Earl of Craven over 20 years before.

John, born in 1657, also married, although no record survives. His wife was named Grace and they had five children. Elizabeth was probably the eldest, although no baptism has been found – another instance of a first child being baptised at the mother's parish, presumably. She married Samuel Edmonds in Crick

⁷⁸ NRO Will of Thomas Slinn, yeoman, 1722

in 1711 and they baptised a family of six between then and 1727, although their eldest son was buried at Crick in 1732. Elizabeth died in 1750. Another daughter, Frances, also lacks a baptism record, but she married John Maggott or Maggitt on 12th September 1727 at Lilbourne; their four children were baptised at Crick. She died in 1758.

John and Grace's first son Joseph⁵ was baptised in Crick on 29th December 1691, only a few months after his great-uncle Joseph¹'s youngest son of the same name was baptised at Winwick. Ann was baptised on 27th September 1695. Nothing more is known of these two. However, their brother Thomas⁶, baptised on 6th June 1696, was buried as a 'farmer' on 3rd February 1726 with an obscure reference to his mother beside the entry. It looks as if it reads:

Thomas Slynn Farmer his mother Grace Slyn expected

This makes no apparent sense, unless the implication was that his mother was expected to swear the affidavit that he had been buried in wool. However, it does clarify which of the many Thomases was being buried in this instance. A final child, inevitably named Martha², was baptised on 23rd May 1699. She never married and was buried as a spinster on 19th April 1740. Samuel Edmonds, yeoman, John Maggott, baker and Thomas Butlin, weaver of Illingdon took out the administration bond in June that year, but it was Martha's sister Elizabeth Edmonds who was tasked with taking and submitting the inventory.

The paterfamilias John⁴ was buried on 22nd November 1712 at Crick. His will⁷⁹, dated 21st September 1712, begins with a bequest to his wife:

I give devise and bequeath unto my Loving wife Grace Slynn all my Dwelling house with y^e appurtenances profits and Commodities thereunto belonging now in y^e tenure of John Watts: Item One quartern of a yard land with all the profits commodities and appurtenances thereunto belonging during the term of her natural life

It carries the normal proviso that if she re-marry, her inheritance is to go straight to son Thomas. Elizabeth Edmonds receives the customary shilling to ensure she doesn't contest the will, having no doubt received her share upon marriage. Unmarried daughters Frances, Ann and Mary are willed £40 apiece to be paid when they reach the age of 24, but an extra £10 was reserved for Martha, to be paid by Thomas once his mother has died. John⁴ made his mark, and his brother Thomas³ was one of the witnesses. An inventory⁸⁰ lodged for him prior to probate showed an estate worth £470 2/6., which included wearing apparel and money in purse worth £10, money owed - £40, crops worth over £130 and livestock including cows, pigs and horses with their gear worth nearly £160. John was clearly doing well for himself.

⁷⁹ NRO, Will of John Slynn, yeoman of Crick, 1712

⁸⁰ NRO, Inventory of John Slynn of Crick, 1712/136A

Grace outlived her husband by nearly 20 years, also outliving her son Thomas⁶. She was buried as a widow at Crick on 27th October 1731. She didn't make a will, but her son-in-law Samuel Edmonds, along with one William Gurnall of Northampton, took out a bond⁸¹ so that her daughter Francis could apply for probate:

The condition of this obligation is such that if Frances Maggott (wife of John Maggott) the daughter and admin of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of Grace Slynn late of Crick aforesaid widow deceased do make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased...

The inventory, which had to be submitted by the end of March 1733, shows a purse and apparel worth £5, and hay in the barn and field worth £10, but given that the total came to only £18 13/6, it is clear that the rest of her goods didn't amount to a great deal.

William¹, whose story has been told above, was the next child, baptised at Crick in 1659, suggesting a move to that parish, perhaps:

Willm. Slinne the sonne of Tho. Slinne was bapt. November 19th

He was the father of the Joseph⁶ who married his cousin Martha.

Thomas² and Elizabeth's next child, yet another Joseph⁴ to muddy the waters, was baptised at Crick on the 23rd October 1662 but then disappears from the records. He is not named in his father's will so presumably died before 1700.

Samuel¹ son of Thomas² and Elizabeth arrived three years later and was baptised - also at Crick - on 2nd April 1665. His story has been outlined above as he also is a direct ancestor, father of Martha⁴. The next child - a girl who grew up to marry William Watts - was named Esther and baptised on 7th April 1667 at Crick. She and her husband baptised six children at Crick between 1691 and 1706 and Esther was buried there on 20th June 1740.

The story of Jonas¹, the last child of Thomas² and Elizabeth Slim begins with his baptism at Crick on 29th August 1669 (**See Tree 21- page 158**). He also married a woman named Ann, but as with William¹ the surname of his bride is unknown. An eldest son named Thomas⁶ was baptised at Cold Ashby on 11th April 1701. He probably died before 1733 as he is not mentioned in his father's will. A brother - named Jonas³ after his father - came next and was baptised at Cold Ashby on 6th February 1702. He seems to have made a late marriage to Ann Bosworth at Newbold-on-Avon on 26th January 1759. No children have been found and Jonas was buried at Crick on 21st January 1779.

⁸¹ NRO, Admon and Inventory of Grace Slynn of Crick, 1732

Tree Tree 21 - Family of Jonas and Ann Slinn

<p>Jonas Slinn Born: 1669 Baptism: 29 August 1669 Crick, Northants Died: 1733 Burial: 15 June 1733 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Ann Died: 1737 in Crick, Northants Burial: 25 December 1737 Crick, Northants</p>
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<p>Thomas Slinn Born: 1701 Baptism: 11 April 1701 Cold Ashby, Northants Died: Bef. 1733</p>	<p>Jonas Slinn Born: 1702 Baptism: 6 February 1702 Cold Ashby, Northants Died: 1779 Burial: 26 January 1779 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Ann Bosworth m: 17 January 1759 in Newbold-on-Avon, Warwickshire</p>	<p>Elizabeth Slinn Born: 1705 Baptism: 2 September 1705 Crick, Northants Died: Aft. 1733</p>	<p>Ann Ashby m: 1732 in Crick, Northants</p>	<p>John Slinn Born: 1707 Baptism: 7 November 1707 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Sarah Kinee m: 1742 in Watford, Herts</p>	<p>William Slinn Born: 1710 Baptism: 31 March 1710 Crick, Northants Died: 1771 Burial: 26 July 1771 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Catherine Hunter m: 5 March 1738 in Crick, Northamptonshire</p>	<p>Francis Slinn Born: 1712 Baptism: 6 January 1712 Crick, Northants Died: 1714 Burial: 18 April 1714 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Ann Slinn Born: 1714 Baptism: 1 January 1714 Crick, Northants Burial: 1 November 1716 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Francis Slinn Born: 1716 Baptism: March 1716 Crick, Northants Died: 1785 Burial: 2 March 1785 Crick, Northants</p>	<p>Samuel Slinn Born: 1718 Baptism: 4 September 1718 Crick, Northants Died: 1795 Burial: 1 April 1795 Watford, Northants</p>
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After Jonas³ all baptisms took place at Crick. Elizabeth, baptised 2nd September 1705, probably died young. The next son, John⁶, was baptised on 7th November 1707; and later married Ann Ashby there in 1732. After Ann died in 1740 a second marriage followed at Watford in 1742 to Sarah Kinee. John became a weaver. He was apprenticed in Crick to one John Parker on 30th May 1720 as:

John Slim son of Jonas Slim of Crick

He was, I think, buried at Crick as a pauper on 18th June 1790.

His brother William³ was baptised at Crick on 31st March 1710. He married Catherine Hunt at Crick on 5th March 1738 and the couple baptised 11 children at Crick, not all of whom survived infancy. William was buried on 26th July 1771. A son named Francis was baptised on 6th January 1712 but was buried on 18th November 1714. A daughter Ann followed but also died young, being baptised on 1st January 1714 and buried on 1st November 1716. Another Francis was baptised in March 1716 and a final son, Samuel³, was christened on 4th September 1718. Jonas' status is given as yeoman on all the above baptisms.



St. Margaret of Antioch Crick

Jonas¹ appears three times in Crick Parish records. In 1727 he was nominated Overseer the Poor⁸² along with Thomas Farn. Two years later he appears in the Constables' account book⁸³:

⁸² NRO, 92P/121, Crick Overseers of the Poor Book 1739 - 58

An account of the laying out of Richard York, Constable, 1729:
... To Jonas Slin for three horses 2/3

The following year, Samuel Backer was Constable and paid Jonas 1/6 for two horses.

Jonas¹ Slinn wrote his will on 12th June 1733. Sons Jonas³ and John⁷ were willed one shilling each, as was daughter Elizabeth. His sons Francis and Samuel³ were each bequeathed £5 and the rest of his estate was bequeathed:

unto my son William and loving wife Ann Slinn whom I make my full and sole executors

The will is signed by Jonas and witnessed by his nephew Joseph⁶ Slin, his niece Alice York and Thomas Wills. Apart from the formulaic opening and closing the will is brief in the extreme. Given that his brother wrote his own will a few months later but lived a further 10 years, and that Jonas was buried a mere three days after writing this testament, it seems likely that he was close to a perhaps unexpected death at the time and not able to make more considered bequests. His burial, at Crick on 15th June 1733 was recorded in the transcript as follows:

Jonas Slim farmer buried

Ann lived on for another four years; her burial being recorded in the Crick register on 25th December 1737:

Widow Ann Slim relict of Jonas Slim

The earliest Slynns - mainly Winwick

There is little concrete documentary evidence for William¹ and Samuel^{1'}s father Thomas² Slynns' life (**See Tree 22 - page 162**). He was baptised at Winwick on 8th April 1628 and married Elizabeth Howett there on 10th December 1648. There are two deeds which may refer to either him or his son. The first is an indenture⁸⁴ dated 4th March 1688, which lists several parcels of land in Watford and Sillsworth, belonging to Sir George and Dame Barbara Clark, Samuel Theed, gent. and his servant William Rowland, including:

all that close of pasture or enclosed land with appurtenances in Watford...
now or late in the tenure of Thomas Slinn

and the second is a counterpart lease⁸⁵ dated 30th July 1690 between the Right Honourable William Earl of Craven and Thomas Slynns:

⁸³ NRO, 92P/119, Crick Constables' Account Book 1682-1761

⁸⁴ NRO, ZA 0795, Copy of Lease: George Clerke, Watford to Samuel Theede

⁸⁵ NRO, ZA 3656, William Earl of Craven - Thomas Slynns of Crecke, Lease of closes.

of Crecke, yeoman

which leases:

at £13 p a and £5 p a per acre to put to tillage of the upper part of the Wood Close, 1 little close called Slynn's Creek Mere Close containing in all 27 acres, in Winwick

to Thomas. Specifically, the lease covers:

all that part and parcel of the Wood Close and also one other little close called by the name of the Slynn's Creek Mere Close containing in the whole by estimation 27 acres or thereabouts all which premises are situate lying and being in the manor of Winwick in the said County of Northampton and now in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Slynn or his assigns together with all ways and waters easements and appurtenances whatsoever

On balance, I suspect these refer to Thomas², as a run of deeds in the 1690s make specific reference to Thomas³ Slynn 'the younger'. What is interesting is the juxtaposition of Crick and Winwick in the same document, showing how these yeoman farmers often lived in one parish but occupied land in others.

Fortunately, Thomas² Slynn left a detailed will⁸⁶, written in 1700. He bequeathed the house he lived in with its hereditaments to his eldest son Thomas³ with the proviso that:

he find his mother Elizabeth wife of the said Thomas Slynn senior diet raiment washing lodging and all other necessaries for a woman of her degree during the term of her natural life... And in case she shall be minded and desirous to go and dwell from my said son Thomas that he shall allow and pay her five pounds yearly for her maintenance

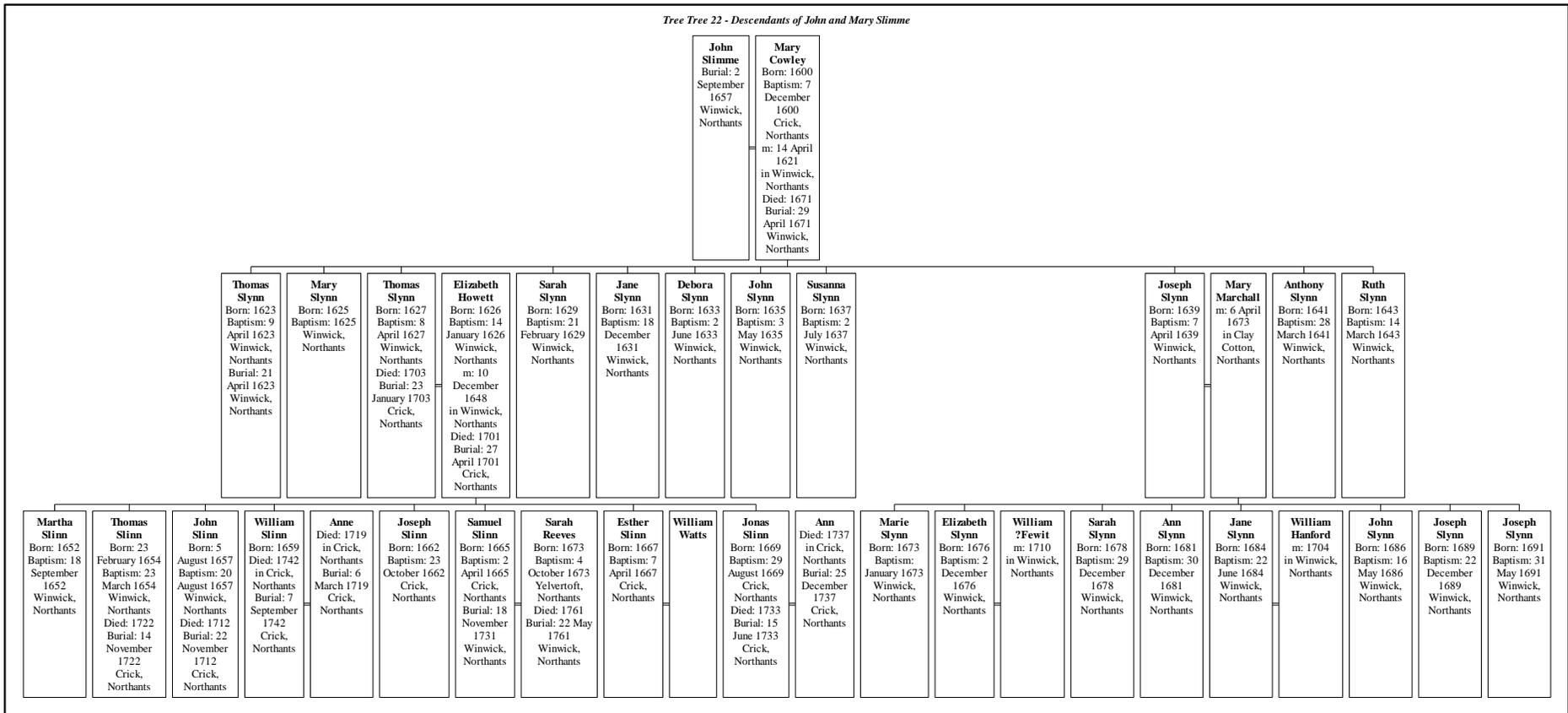
Again the wording may be indicative in that Thomas refers to his wife's degree or status.

To his daughter Martha¹ he leaves £60 and a third of his household goods. His sons John⁴, William¹, Jonas¹ and Samuel¹ are left £5 apiece. Given the size of Martha's bequest, it seems likely that they had been at least partially provided for already. In the same way, I suspect that his married daughter Hester Watts had received a marriage portion as she too was bequeathed £5. The residue of his estate went to his son Thomas who was also executor.

Thomas² presumably died early in 1703 as his burial took place at Crick on 23rd January that year; the will was proved in 1704.

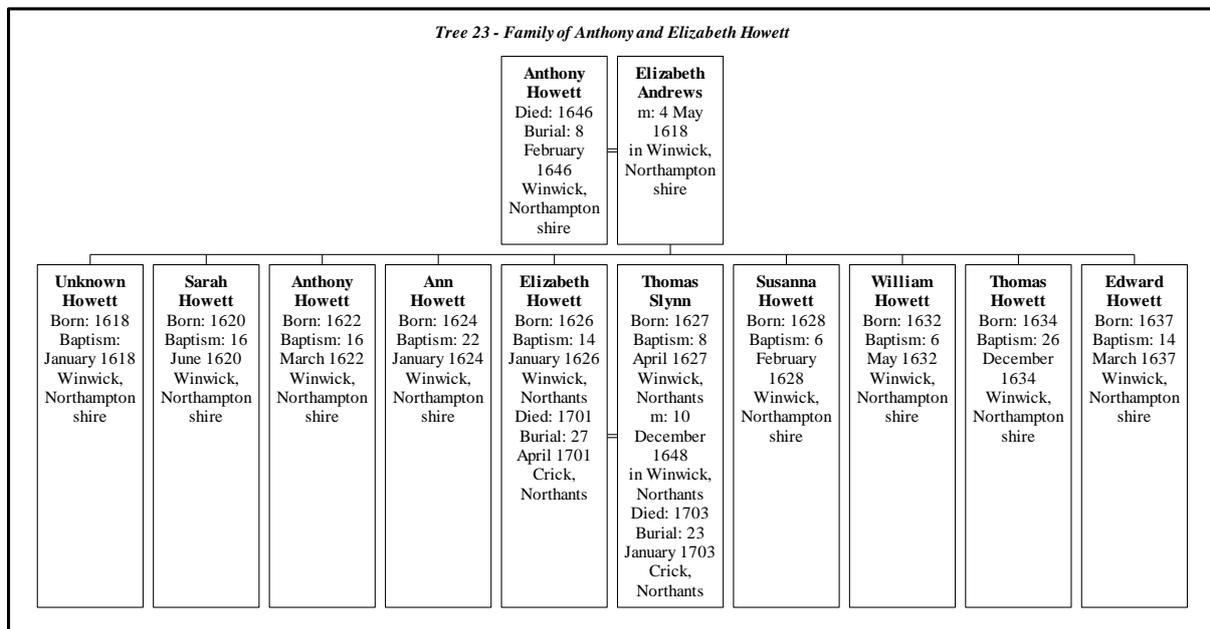
⁸⁶ NRO, Will of Thomas Slynn of Crick, 1700

Tree Tree 22 - Descendants of John and Mary Slimme



Thomas² Slynn's wife Elizabeth Howett (See Tree 23 - page 163) was baptised at Winwick on 14th January 1626, the daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth Howett. She was a year older than her husband and 22 when she married, but the marriage endured for over 50 years until her death in 1701. She was buried at Crick on 27th April that year, after her husband had written his will but before his death, so her son was not required to carry out his father's instruction to find food and clothing for her.

Anthony Howet and Elizabeth Andrew's marriage was recorded on 4th May 1618 at Winwick. A son, unnamed, was baptised eight months later in January 1618. Eight other children followed, all baptised at Winwick: Sarah - 16th June 1620 (married Robert Scot in 1643), Anthony - 16th March 1622, Ann - 22nd January 1624, Elizabeth in 1626, Susanna - 6th February 1628, William 6th May 1632, Thomas 26th December 1634 and Edward 11th March 1637.



The Slynn line can be traced back with some certainty one generation further to Thomas²'s parents, John¹ Slymme and Mary Cowley (See Tree 22 - page 162), who married at Winwick on 13th April 1620. They had a large family, all baptised at Winwick, starting with Thomas¹ - baptised 9th April 1623, then Mary in 1625, Thomas² - 8th April 1627, Sarah - 21st February 1629, Jane - 18th December 1631, Deborah 2nd June 1633 (married Francis Parberry in 1653), John² - 3rd May 1635, Susanna - 2nd July 1637, Joseph¹ - 7th April 1639, Anthony - 28th March 1641 and finally Ruth - 14th March 1643.

There are two possible burial dates at Winwick for John¹'s son John². The first is on 12th April 1674 and the second on 17th November 1680. The same page in the register records the burial of Mary Cowley as:

Marie Slinne widow of John Slinne

on 29th April 1671, which proves that John¹ was already dead. The second, on 12th April 1674 says:

John Slinne buried

While the 1680 entry reads:

John Slinne Nov. 17 Certified by Elizabeth More

In other words, Elizabeth More had testified that he was buried in wool as required by law at the time. I can see no other candidate to be a second John Slinne and wonder if someone mis-transcribed the burial of his sister Jane.

For some time I assumed Joseph¹ had died young, and that only Thomas² married and continued the Slyn line but recent research suggests that Joseph married Mary Marchall on 6th April 1673 at Clay Coton. There is then a run of baptisms back in his home parish of Winwick with parents named as Joseph and Marie, starting with Mary or Marie in January 1673. Then came Elizabeth – 3rd December 1676 – she probably married William ?Frewit in 1709; Sarah – 29th December 1678 – possibly the ‘ancient woman’ buried in 1761; Ann – 30th December 1781; Jane – 22nd June 1684 – married William Hanford in 1704; John – 16th May 1685; Joseph² – 22nd December 1689 and finally another Joseph³, just to add to the confusion, baptised at Winwick on 31st May 1691. It would be very easy to assume that it was this last Joseph³ son of Joseph¹ who married Martha⁴ Slim in 1723, were it not for the fact that the marriage entry specifically calls him:

of Watford

and that, happily, his father’s will clearly shows him to have been the son of William¹. Apart from the two daughters who married, Joseph¹ of Winwick’s whole family seems to disappear from the records. There are no burials in the Winwick register for any of them, except perhaps for Mary Marchall, who seems to have been buried on 4th June 1720 as:

Mary Slyn widow

John¹ Slymme or Slynn died in 1657. An entry in the Winwick register reads:

John Slimne was buried the second of September 1657

However, a copy enclosure agreement made at Crick in 1651 has a statement which may give a fragment of information about John Slynn:

We the inhabitants freeholders and land owners of the fields and territories of Creeke in the co. of Northampton doe for ourselves our heirs and successors give and acknowledge our free consents and willingness to inclose all our fields by laying them out into several closes according to every mans proporcion:

And we doe further consent and desire that there bee good provision made for the poore of our parish: In wittness hereof we have hereunto sett our hands this nine and twentieth day of December in the yeare of our lord gode according to the computacien of the Church of Englande one thousand six hundred fifty and one 1651.

Beneath this is a list of signatories. At a presumably later date someone has noted which of these has since died. Unfortunately, it is not possible to tell when this was done, but I am assuming it was after 1657. Embedded in the list is the following:

John Slimme dead

Clearly, this could refer to another John Slynne resident in Crick but it seems unlikely especially as the two parishes were so close and many of John's descendants seem to have been involved in both. According to David Hall⁸⁷, Winwick probably began enclosure in 1607, and a lease of that year refers to closes totalling 63 acres, one next to Yelvertoft Meer and one next to Crick Meer.

One other extant document⁸⁸ possibly refers to his son John². It is an obligation dated 24th October 1665 and begins, in Latin, as follows:

Know all men by these presents that I John Slinne of Winwick in the County of Northampton labourer am bound and firmly obligated to Lord William Earl of Craven, Viscount Craven of Uffington and Baron of Hamstead Marshall in the County of Berkshire in £6 10^s good and lawful money of England to be paid to Lord William Count of Craven...

The document makes reference to a pair of indentures which apparently give more detail, but these have not come to light. The obligation bears the mark of John Slinne (or Slime).

There are earlier generations of Slimmes in Winwick but no proof links them to John. A John and Avis Slimme baptised two children there: Elizabeth in 1605 and Frances in 1616. Maybe these were John¹'s siblings. Avis was buried in 1618. There was also a Euseby Slime, buried in 1622, who may have been the husband of Francis[sic] Slimme, widow, buried in 1624, but this far back it is really pure speculation.

The Slynne line ends here; however there is still a little to tell about John's wife Mary Cowley. She was baptised at Crick on 7th December 1600, the daughter of Thomas Cowley (**See Tree 24 – page 166**). He and Margaret Shatswell married at Crick on 10th March 1599.

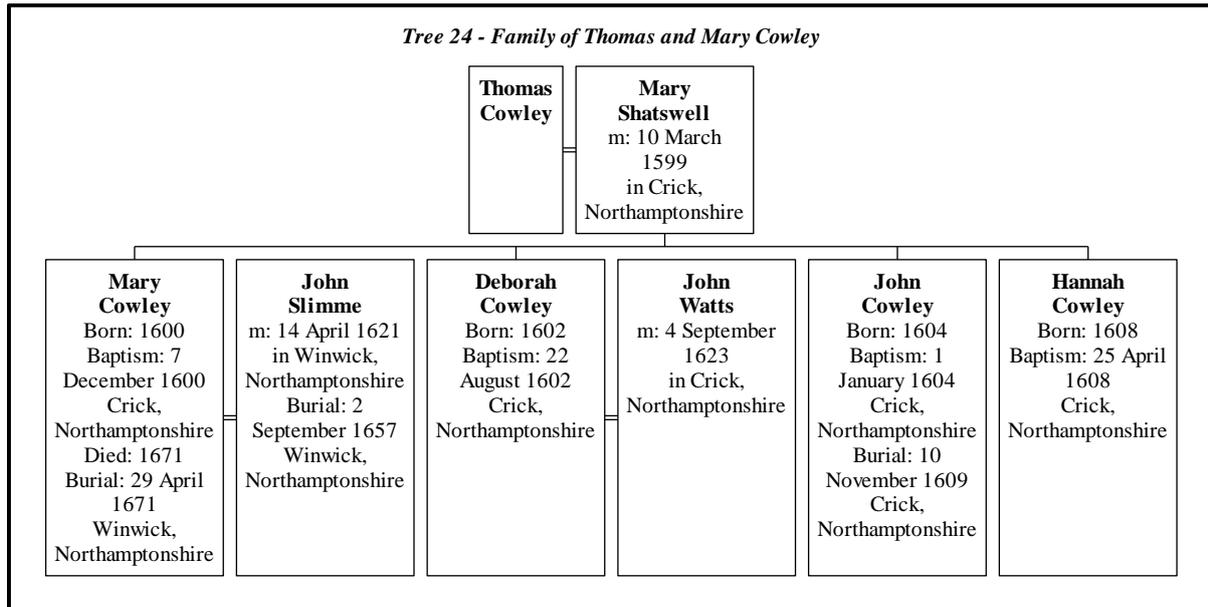
⁸⁷ *The Open Fields of Northants*, David Hall, 1995, Northamptonshire Record Society

⁸⁸ NRO, BH(K) 1214, Obligation, John Slimme

Ancestry's index lists her as Mary Shatswell, but a close look at the register shows that she is recorded as:

Marg: Shatswell

The colon suggests an abbreviation, and the 'g' is fully closed, whereas the 'y's on the page are always open. The couple baptised three other children – Deborah on 22nd August 1602 (married John Watts in 1623), John, baptised 1604, buried 1609 and Hannah, baptised on 25th April 1608.



And here, the trail which began in Camberwell and has led through the City and East End of London, to Warwickshire and Northamptonshire finally goes cold.

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