

## The Children of Lawrence Towneley & Ellen Hesketh Calculation of Dates of Birth

The children of Lawrence Towneley of Barnside as listed in the *Visitation of Lancashire by Sir William Dugdale, 1664-5*, were:

Sons: Henry, Robert, Lawrence, Charles, & Richard

Daughters: Lucy, Elizabeth, Margaret, Alice, Anne & Hellen

No indications as to ages or dates of birth are given. These must be derived from other data.

### Henry

Henry married Anne, eldest daughter and co-heir of Thomas Catherall, esq. This marriage occurred at Whalley, Lancashire, 2 December, 1559.<sup>1</sup> Anne was buried at Colne, Lancashire on 25 October, 1611, and Henry was buried there on 10 May 1616. The couple had been married for 51 years. This length of marriage suggests that Henry was not of an advanced age when he married. Allowing for an age of 20 to 25 at marriage he birth date would fall in the period 1534 to 1539

### Robert

No information available

### Lawrence

Lawrence married Mary, daughter of Mr John Hartley of Stone Edge.

His children were not recorded in the Visitation of 1664-65 but include:

Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Towneley, baptised at Burnley, Lancashire, 24 Nov 1562

Lawrance, of Lawrence Towneley, baptised at Burnley, 21 April, 1563

Ambrosse, base son of Lawrence Townley, baptised at Burnley, 7 June, 1577

With no further information his date of birth could be estimated at falling in the period 1537 to 1542, but could be as late as 1544.

### Charles and Richard

No information available

### Lucy

According to the pedigree of Townley of Barnside in the Visitation Lucy married Thomas Townley, natural son of Sir John Townley of Townley. This is contradicted by the pedigree of Townley of Townley in the same Visitation which lists Thomas as the natural son of Richard Towneley, eldest son of Sir John Towneley. However in his will, dated 28 April, 1539, Sir John made reference to "Thomas Towneley my bastarde sonne."<sup>2</sup> Thomas was born before 1539.

Thomas Towneley married first, Hellen Houghton of Greenfield, from whom he was divorced, and then married Lucy Towneley. The marriage took place before 25 May 1565 when "Thomas Townley, gent., and Lucy his wife," received lands.<sup>3</sup>

None of this gives any indication of Lucy's date of birth other than it was before 1547 at the latest.

### **Elizabeth**

Elizabeth married first, Mr. John Talbot, natural son of Thomas Talbot of Bashall; second ... Standish of Standish.

In Dr Whitaker's History of Whalley, it is stated that Anne, "daughter of John Talbot, son of Sir Thomas Talbot of Bashall, relict of Edmund Assheton of Chatterton, esq.," married Raphe Ashton<sup>4</sup> Anne, daughter of John Talbot, was baptised at Whalley, 20 December 1573. She was the first born of two girls and two boys.

Assuming that Anne was the first child her parents would have married in late 1572 or early 1573. Elizabeth was probably born in the period 1552 to 1554.

### **Margaret**

Margaret married John Parker of Extwisle. The Parker pedigree records the eldest child as Jane Parker, born in 1575.<sup>5</sup> In his history of Whalley, Dr Whitaker omits an earlier child, Robert, baptised 14 November 1573 and buried 10 January 1573/74.<sup>6</sup>

This suggests that Margaret married in late 1572 or early 1573, and so was probably born in the period 1552 to 1554.

### **Alice**

Alice married Richard Lacy of Cromwellbothom, co. York, esq. Their first recorded child was Anne, "filia Magistri Ric. Lacye de South." baptised at Halifax, 3 December, 1564.<sup>7</sup> This suggests a marriage date in late 1563 or early 1564 and a date of birth for Alice in the period 1543 to 1546.

### **Anne**

Anne married Robert Rishworth of Riddlesden, co. York. Robert Rishworth was born in about 1542 and died 1602. He had no children by Anne and after her death he married Ellen Paslew and had four children. This second marriage occurred before 1571.<sup>8</sup>

All that can be concluded is that Anne was born between about 1545 and 1550.

### **Ellen**

According to the Visitation Ellen married Mr. Henry Thompson of Esholt, co. York. The Visitation of Yorkshire for 1585 states that "Henry Thomson, of Eshold, co. York, gent., ... begat by Elene, dau. to Laurence Towneley" a son named William.<sup>9</sup>

The Yorkshire Visitation also shows that in 1585 William Thomson of Eshold had a son named Christopher, aged 4 years. This means that Ellen, if still alive, had to be old enough to be a grandmother in 1585. If William had been about 25 when his son was born and Ellen had been 18 when William was born, her birth could be dated to about 1538 at the latest.

### *Summary*

Sons		Daughters	
Henry	1534-1549	Lucy	before 1547
Robert	No information	Elizabeth	1552-1554
Lawrence	1537-1542	Margaret	1552-1554
Charles	No information	Alice	1543-1546
Richard	No information	Anne	1545-1550
		Ellen	1538 or earlier

The first thing that needs to be noted is that the ordering of the daughters does not seem to reflect their order of birth. Although the ordering may suggest that Lucy was older than Elizabeth, who was older than Margaret; and that Alice was older than Ann. Hellen/Ellen, mentioned in last place, possibly because of her irregular relationship with Henry Thomson, was probably the eldest daughter.

A possible order of births could be:

Henry	about 1534 - married in 1559 at age 25
Robert	about 1536
Ellen	about 1538 – child born ca. 1558
Lawrence	about 1540 – married about 1561, aged 21
Lucy	about 1542
Alice	about 1544 – married about 1563, aged 19
Charles	about 1546
Anne	about 1548 – dead before 1571
Richard	about 1550
Elizabeth	about 1552 – married about 1572, aged 20
Margaret	about 1554 – married about 1572, aged 18

William Good

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.freereg.org.uk> All references to baptisms, marriages and burials are taken from this site unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> *The Rent Roll of Sir John Towneley, Knight Chetham Miscellanies Volume VI* (Manchester 1878), page xxxiii

<sup>3</sup> *The Court Rolls of the Honor of Clitheroe, Volume II*, (Edinburgh 1912) pages 355-356

<sup>4</sup> *An History of the Original Parish of Whalley*, by Dr. T.D. Whitaker (1818) p. 244

<sup>5</sup> *An History of the Original Parish of Whalley*, page 377-378.

<sup>6</sup> *The Registers of the Parish Church of Burnley in the County of Lancaster* edited by William Farrer, (Rochdale 1899) pages 12 & 174

<sup>7</sup> *The Parish Registers of Halifax, co. York, Volume I* (Wakefield 1910) page 153

<sup>8</sup> *Lineage of some of the Rishworths of Yorkshire* <http://www.rushworth.com/club/rish.htm>

<sup>9</sup> *Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612* edited by Joseph Foster (London 1875) page 300