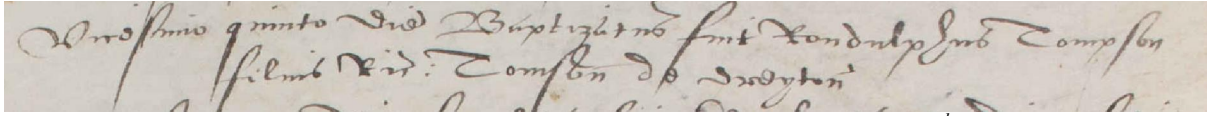


## The Origins of Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales

The Thompson family of Drayton-in-Hales, Shropshire, first appears in the Registers of that parish on 25 December, 1587, with the baptism of “Rondolphus Tompson filius Ric: Tomson de Dreyton”

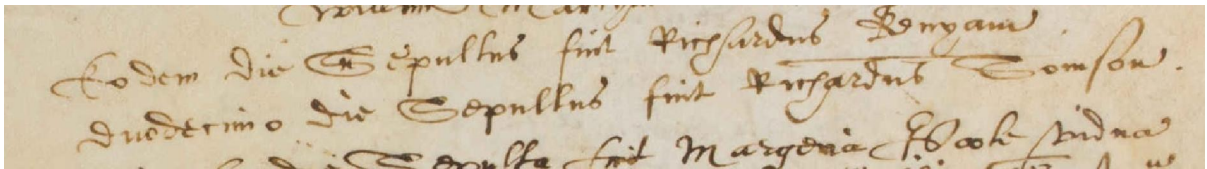


*Baptismal Record of Rondolphus Tompson at Drayton-in-Hales<sup>1</sup>*

Over the next decade another five children were baptised, and one buried, at Drayton:

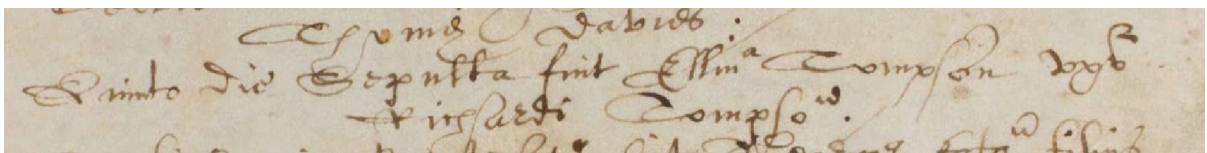
10 December, 1589	Baptizatus fuit Ricus Tompson filius Rici: Thomson de Dreyton
20 December, 1590	Baptizata fuit Elizabetha Tomson filia Rici Tomson
19 April, 1592	Baptizatus fuit Johes Tomson filius Rici Tomson de Dreyton
30 June, 1592	Sepultus fuit Johes Tomson filius Rici Tomson
31 May, 1595	Baptizatus fuit Thomas Tomson filius Rici Tomson
9 July, 1597	Baptizatus fuit Robtus Tomson filius Rici Tomson

Richard Thompson died in 1608 and was buried at Drayton on 12 May, 1608.



*Burial Record of Richardus Tomson at Drayton-in-Hales<sup>2</sup>*

Seven months later, on 1 December, 1608, Richard’s widow, Elizabeth Thompson, married John Ubanck.<sup>3</sup> John Ewbanck’s will mentions relatives living in Westmoreland, a county in the north of England. From 1610 on appear the baptisms of the children of Lawrence Thompson. In among these entries is the burial on 5 July, 1616, of “Ellin<sup>a</sup> uxor Richardi Tomso<sup>n</sup>.”



*Burial of Ellina wife of Richard Tompson at Drayton-in-Hales<sup>4</sup>*

In his will, dated 29 April, 1608, Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales, mercer, left his lands and “Two hundred pounds of Currant Englishe money” to his wife Elizabeth; “Twentie pounds, yf they doe demand and aske the same” to his mother and to his sister, Anne; and the remainder of his estate to be divided among his children, Lawrence, Randall, Richard, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Robert, all of whom were aged under twenty six.<sup>5</sup>

Richard’s eldest son, Lawrence Thompson, yeoman of Drayton-in-Hales, died in 1657, also leaving an estate worth several hundred pounds.<sup>6</sup> Lawrence’s son, Richard, was sent to Lincoln College, Oxford University, in 1634. After graduating he became Vicar of Ashleworth in Gloucestershire.<sup>7</sup> Lawrence’s son of the same name remained in Drayton-in-Hales and his grandson, a third Lawrence, moved to St Neot’s in Huntingdonshire, where he died in 1724.<sup>8</sup>

The eldest of Richard Thompson's children, Lawrence, was probably born in early 1586, but where? Assuming that he was the firstborn child then his parents, Richard and Elizabeth, were married in about 1585.

This presents the Thompsons as a successful family, with their origins in trade, who settled at Drayton-in-Hales in about 1587. But from where did Richard Thompson come?

The only facts that can be established about Richard Thompson are:

- he was probably born between 1560 and 1568, assuming him to have been aged between 17 and 25 at his marriage in about 1585;
- as he was a mercer he came from a family which was in trade; and
- the name Lawrence was significant in his family as he named his eldest son Lawrence, and had one grandson and two great-grandsons named Lawrence.

### Lawrence Thompson of St Neot's

Lawrence Thompson III, son of Lawrence Thompson II (1613-1688), and grandson of Lawrence Thompson I (ca.1586-1657), was baptised at Drayton-in-Hales on 2 March, 1660.<sup>9</sup> In the mid 1680s he married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Doman or Dorman, of St Neot's in Huntingdonshire, draper, and after her death at St Neot's, in 1705, he married a widow, Elizabeth Hyde. Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence III, married Dr George Reynolds, Chancellor of Peterborough, son of Dr Richard Reynolds, Bishop of Lincoln.<sup>10</sup>

Lawrence Thompson III died at St Neot's and he is commemorated on a black-marble slab on the floor of the middle aisle, near the west door.

**M. S.**  
**LAURENTIJ THOMPSON, GEN.**  
**Apud Drayton in Com. Salopiæ nati,**  
**Pietate spectabilis ;**  
**Affectione conjugali,**  
**Benignitate paterna,**  
**Benevolentia universali,**  
**Amandi, venerandi, laudandi.**  
**Uxorum prima**  
**ELIZABETHA, ROB. DORMAN Gen. filia,**  
**De hoc oppido oriunda**  
**Obijt 1 Julij 1705 :**  
**Altera ELIZ., filia JOSEPHI CRAMPORNE,**  
**Vidua THO. HYDE Com. Hartfordiæ Gen.,**  
**Hujus jam RELICTA mortem deflet.**  
**Tribus e novem liberis,**  
**E priori conjuge adhuc superstitibus**  
**Duobus filiis, filiæ unicæ,**  
**Mæstissimis,**  
**Sui desiderium reliquit**  
**8 Apr. Anno Salutis 1724 Ætatis suæ 63.**

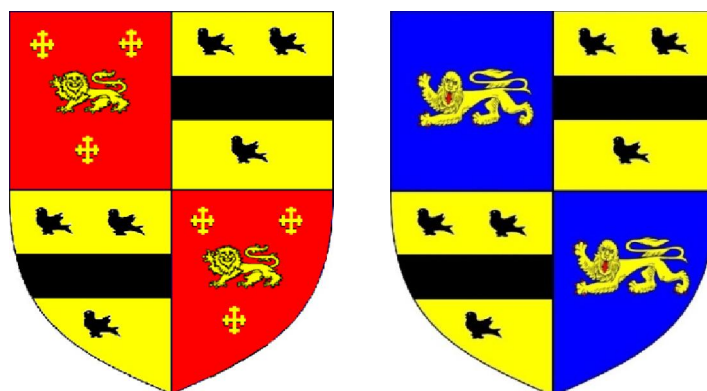
*The monument to Lawrence Thompson at St Neot's in Huntingdonshire*

In the published history of St Neot's church it is recorded that:

*The following Arms appear. Quarterly: first and fourth, Gules, a Lion passant guardant between three Cross-crosslets Or; second and fourth, Or, a Fess between three Martlets Sable. Crest: A Lion rampant Or, ducally gorged Azure. For THOMPSON.<sup>11</sup>*

In the appendix to the book it is noted:

*The arms on the slab being nearly obliterated, the author has evidently taken his account of them from Edmondson's Heraldry. The correct blazon is: Quarterly: first and fourth, [Az.] a Lion passant guardant [Or], for THOMPSON; second and third, [Or] a Fess between three martlets [Sa.] for CHAWORTH. Crest: a lion statant [Or] gorged [Vert]. Richard Thompson of Laxton, co. Ebor., was gentleman-usher to King Henry IV. Sixth in descent from him was Richard Thompson, of Drayton, co. Salop, great-grandfather to Lawrence Thompson of St. Neot's.<sup>12</sup>*



*The blazon from the tomb of Lawrence Thompson of St Neot's.*

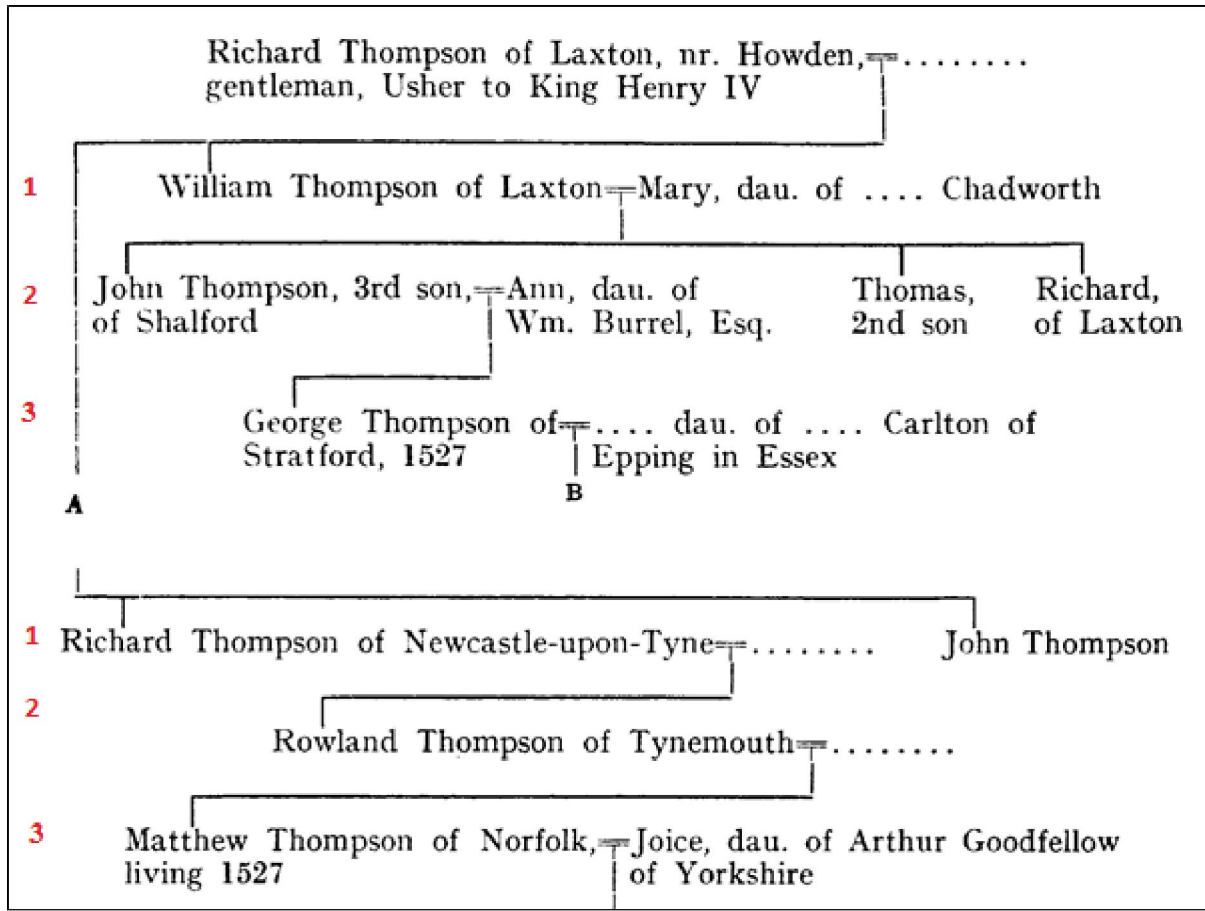
*Left: The arms as described by Edmondson<sup>13</sup> and in "The History and Antiquities of Eynesbury and St. Neot's";  
Right: The arms as corrected in the appendix to "The History and Antiquities of Eynesbury and St. Neot's"*

The comment "The arms on the slab being nearly obliterated, the author has evidently taken his account of them from Edmondson's Heraldry" was made by the author of the book about himself. It was an admission that he had copied the description of the arms from Edmondson's book and then, when comparing them to known arms, realised that the description appeared to be inaccurate. As the tinctures in the blazon as described in the appendix are placed in brackets the arms on the tomb were not coloured.

The statement in the appendix on the ancestry of Lawrence Thompson appears to establish the ancestry of the Thompsens. As the family was armigerous and had its origins in Yorkshire the family's ancestry should appear in the Herald's Visitations of that County. An examination of the Herald's Visitations of Yorkshire from 1575, 1612 and 1665,<sup>14</sup> does not find any reference to the family of Thompson of Laxton.

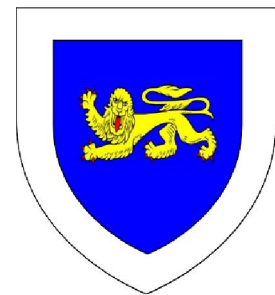
The family does, however, appear in a work entitled *Yorkshire Pedigrees*, published by the Harleian Society in three volumes between 1942 and 1944. The pedigree of Thompson of Laxton is taken from the notes of John Hopkinson of Lofthouse and John Burton M.D., and dated 1672.<sup>15</sup> Richard Thompson of Laxton lived during the reign of Henry IV, 1399-1413, over 250 years before the pedigrees were compiled.

## Richard Thompson of Laxton



*Table A: The first generations of descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton.<sup>16</sup>  
The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton*

According to the pedigrees in the *Yorkshire Pedigrees*, Richard Thompson of Laxton, Usher to Henry IV, had two sons who left descendants, William and Richard. [Table A.] The descendants of the second son, Richard of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, used the arms: *azure a lion passant guardant, or, a bordure argent*.<sup>17</sup> These arms are different to the Thompson arms used on Lawrence Thompson's tomb at St Neot's and so Richard Thompson of Drayton is unlikely to have been a member of this branch of the family.<sup>18</sup>



*Arms of Thompson of Norfolk*

Nevertheless, it is possible that, when Lawrence Thompson died in 1724, the incorrect arms were carved on his memorial. This branch of the family had a Richard Thompson in the fifth generation descended from Richard Thompson of Laxton, and another in the seventh generation. [Table B.]

On 1 May, 1624, Jasper Clayton of the parish of St Edmund in Lombard Street, London, aged 26, was issued a license to marry Mary Thompson, aged 17, of St Katherine Creechurch, at the church of St Faith, London.<sup>19</sup> This places Mary Thompson's birth in about 1607. However as Richard Thompson of Drayton was born in the 1560s it is impossible for him to be Mary's brother, Richard, in the seventh generation of descent.

Based on Mary's age, her great-uncle, Richard, son of Rowland Thompson of Thorp Market, Norfolk, in the fifth generation, could have been born in the 1560s.

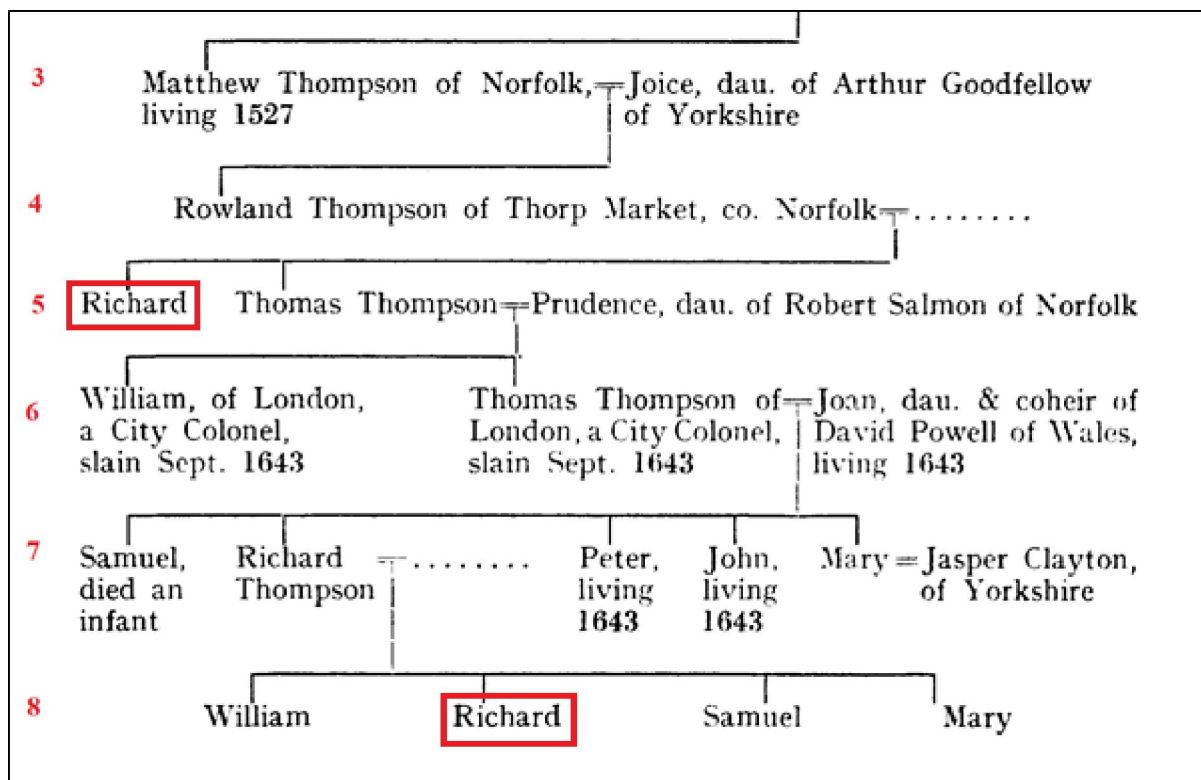


Table B Thompson of Thorp Market, Norfolk<sup>20</sup>  
 The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton

The pedigree of Thompson of Thorp Market must be treated with caution. Other sources give Mary Thompson's father's name as William, not Thomas,<sup>21</sup> and records at the Norfolk Record Office refer to Rowland Thompson, fourth in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton, as a yeoman who, in 1593, transferred property to his son, Bartram Thompson,<sup>22</sup> who does not appear in this pedigree. Records at the Norfolk Record Office also include the wills of Bartram Thompson, 1612/13,<sup>23</sup> and of Richard Thompson, 1617.<sup>24</sup> The latter must be presumed to be Richard Thompson of Thorp Market, fifth in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton. If so he cannot be Richard Thompson of Drayton who died in 1608.

The arms which appear on Lawrence Thompson's tomb, as corrected, are those borne by the Thompson family of Lincolnshire. They are described in *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* as "Quarterly: 1 and 4 Azure, a lion passant-guardant, or; 2 and 3, Or, a bend between three martlets gules."<sup>25</sup> These arms were in use in 1562 and confirmed to John Thomson, "one of the Queen's Majesties Auditors," on 12 February 1572/73.<sup>26</sup> The second and third quarterings are the arms of the family of Chaworth or Chadworth and so the quartered arms could only be borne by descendants of William Thompson, second son of Richard of Laxton, and his wife Mary Chaworth or Chadworth.

The person to whom the arms were granted, John Thomson (1521-1597) of Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire, and Aldersgate, London, was Auditor of the Exchequer from about 1553 and a Member of Parliament in 1571 and 1572. His arms, by right, should only have been used by his descendants. By his wife, Dorothy Gilbert, he had four sons, John, Henry, Francis and Robert. [Table C.] Robert, the only surviving son and eventual heir, was aged 30 in 1597 when his father died, so was born in 1567.<sup>27</sup>

If Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales had inherited the right to use these arms from John Thomson he would have had to be one of John's sons. As John had no son named Richard,

Richard Thompson of Drayton could not have been his son and had no right by descent to bear John's arms.

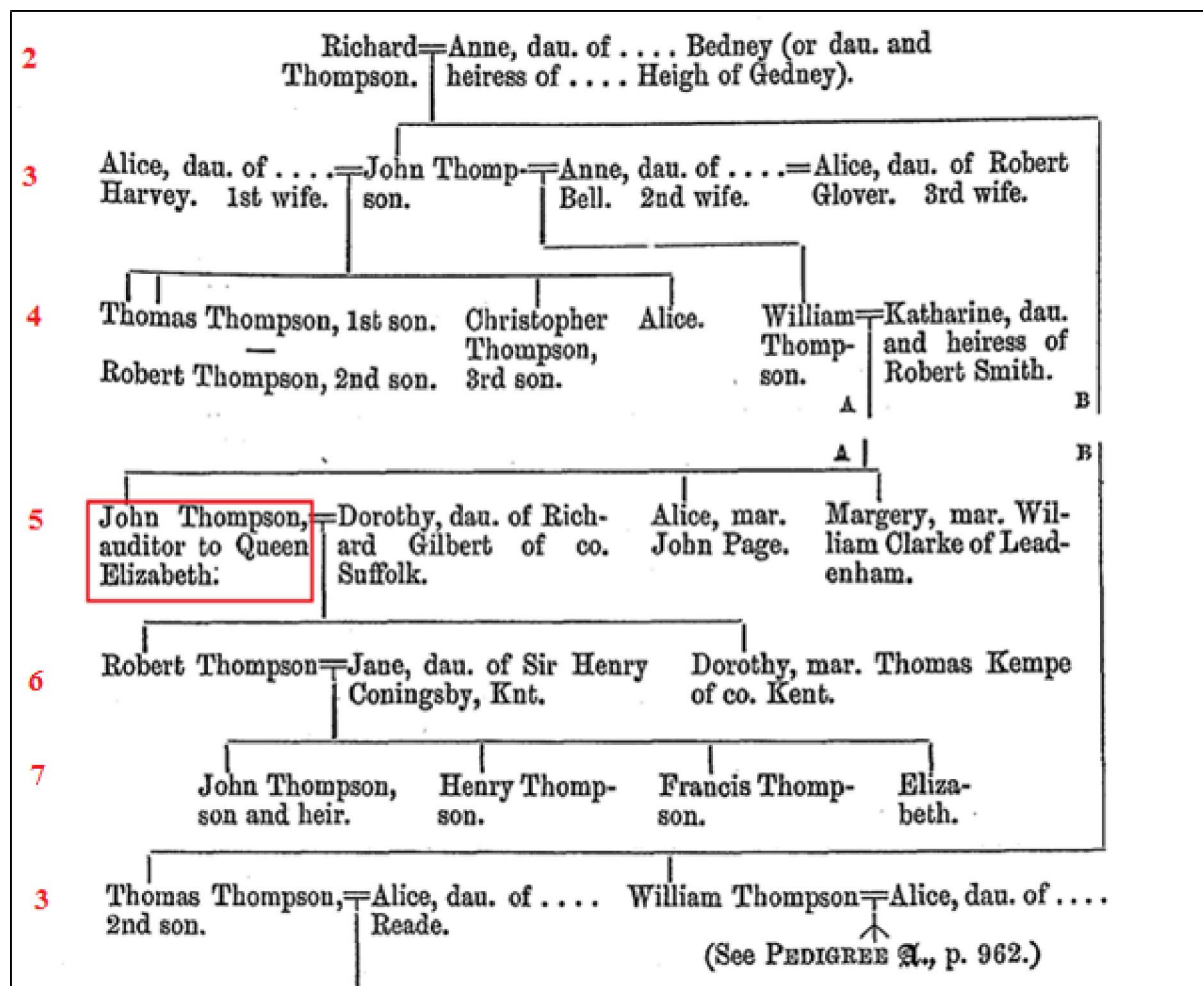
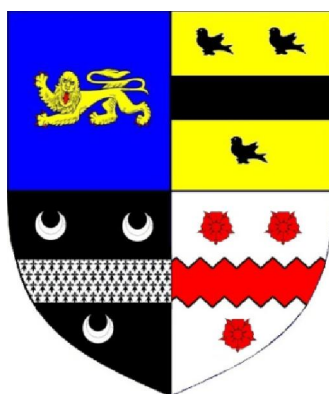


Table C: Family of John Thomson or Thompson, Auditor of the Exchequer<sup>28</sup>  
 The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton



The arms borne by later generations of the Thomsons of Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire  
 Quarterly: 1, Azure, a lion passant-guardant or, THOMPSON; 2, Or, a fesse between three martlets sable, CHADWORTH; 3, Sable, a fesse ermine between three crescents argent, GLOVER; 4, Argent, a fesse dancetée between three roses gules, SMYTH.<sup>29</sup>

John Thomson had other relatives through his great uncles, Thomas and William, who claimed the right to bear the Thompson arms.

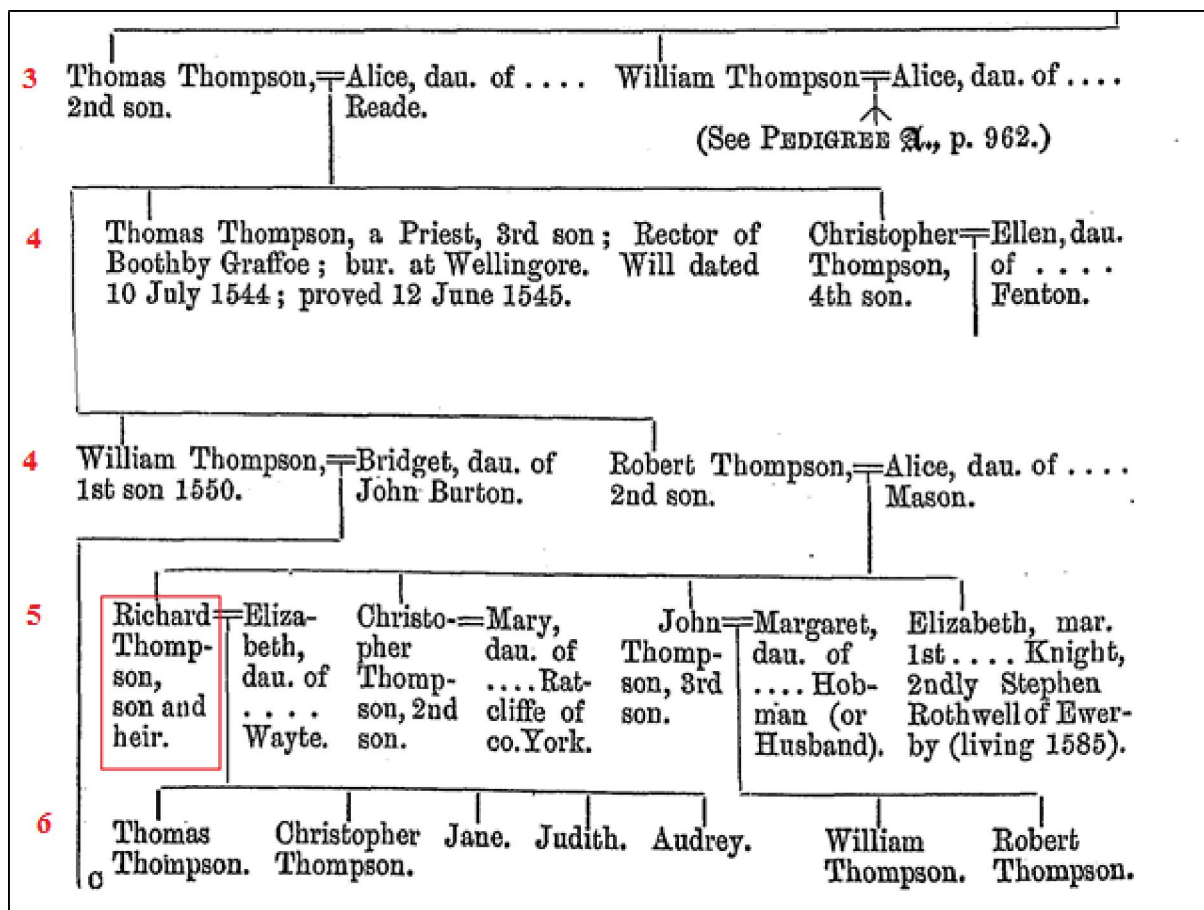
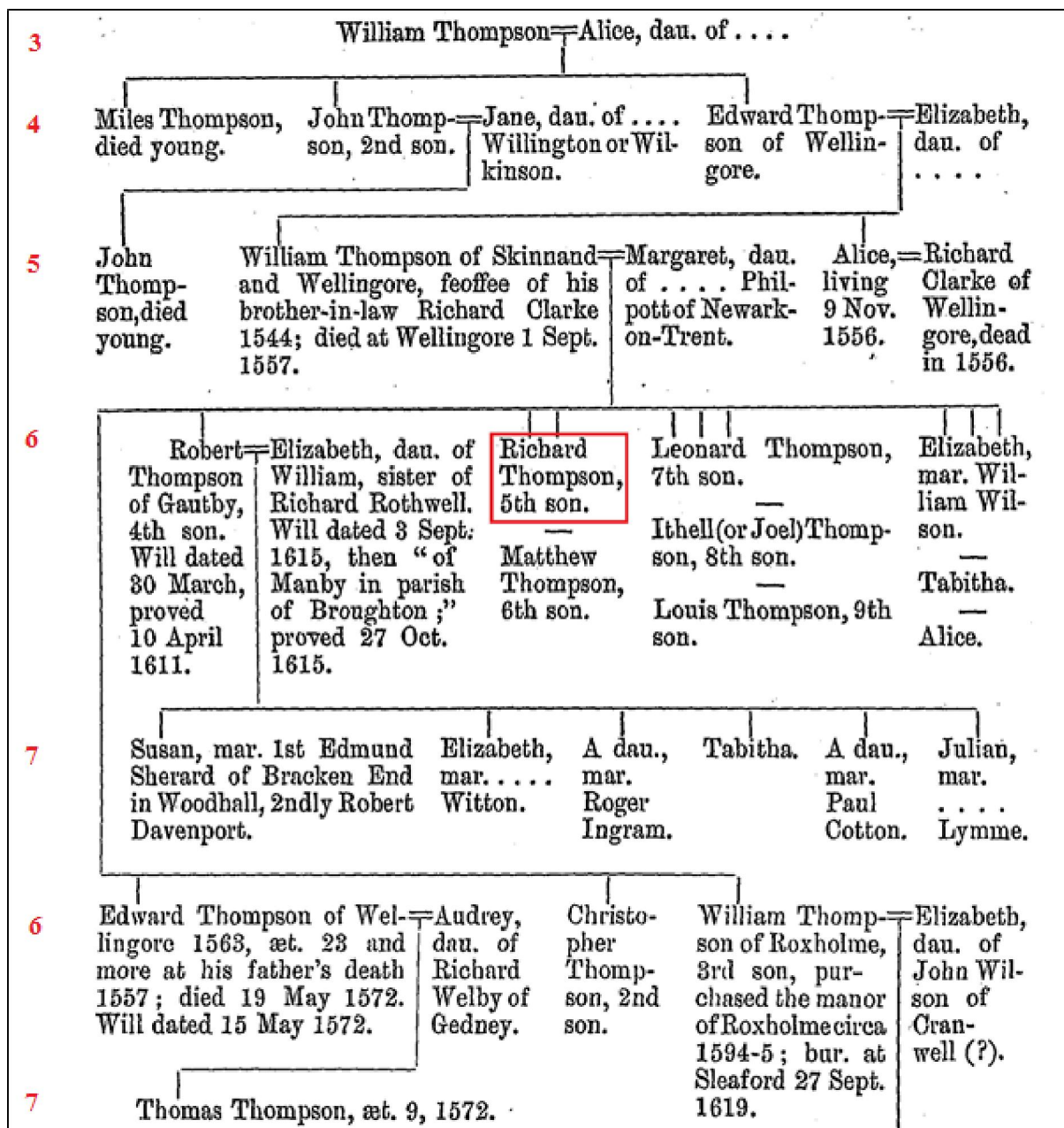


Table D: Descendants of Thomas Thompson of Laxton  
The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton

Thomas Thompson had a grandson named Richard who was fifth in descent from Richard of Laxton. [Table D.] This Richard married Elizabeth Whyte and had five children, Thomas, Christopher, Jane, Judith and Audrey.<sup>30</sup> This dissimilarity in the children's names to those of the children of Richard Thompson of Drayton means that they could not have been the same person.

William Thompson, John Thomson's other great-uncle, had a great grandson named Richard, who was sixth in descent from Richard of Laxton, the same generation to which Richard Thompson of Drayton was said to have belonged. [Table E.] While no details of this Richard's life appear in the pedigrees, his date of birth can be placed in the early 1550s. His eldest brother, Edward, was aged about 23 in 1557, when their father, William Thompson of Wellingore, died, and Richard was the fifth of nine sons. This age is compatible with the likely date of birth of Richard of Drayton.

However, in his will, written in 1608, Richard of Drayton made specific reference to his mother and sister Anne. By 1557 Richard of Wellingore's mother, Margaret Philpott, had borne twelve children, with an eldest son born in about 1534. If Edward had been her first born child and Margaret had been 16 at his birth, then she would have been born in about 1518. In 1608 she would have been aged ninety years or more. While not impossible, it is highly unlikely that she could have lived to such a vast age. This extreme age, together with the fact that Richard of Wellingore did not have a sister named Anne<sup>31</sup> indicates that he could not be the same person as Richard of Drayton.



*Table E: Descendants of William Thompson of Laxton*  
The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton

Richard Thompson of Laxton had other descendants through his son William, husband of Mary Chadworth, who claimed the right to use these arms. William and Mary's third son, John Thompson of Shalford in Essex, had a great-great-grandson, Richard Thompson of Shalford, also sixth in descent from Richard of Laxton. [Table F.] This Richard married Anne Boorne of Blakesmore, Essex. He had four children, Thomas, Anne, Elizabeth and Mary.<sup>32</sup> This family did use the arms as appear on the corrected tomb of Lawrence Thompson of St Neot's, although differenced with a mullet. The 1664 Visitation of Essex records this man's name as Thomas, not Richard, and had him still living at Shalford with his son named Robert, not Thomas.<sup>33</sup> [Table G.]

Richard Thompson of Shalford was not the same man as Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales.



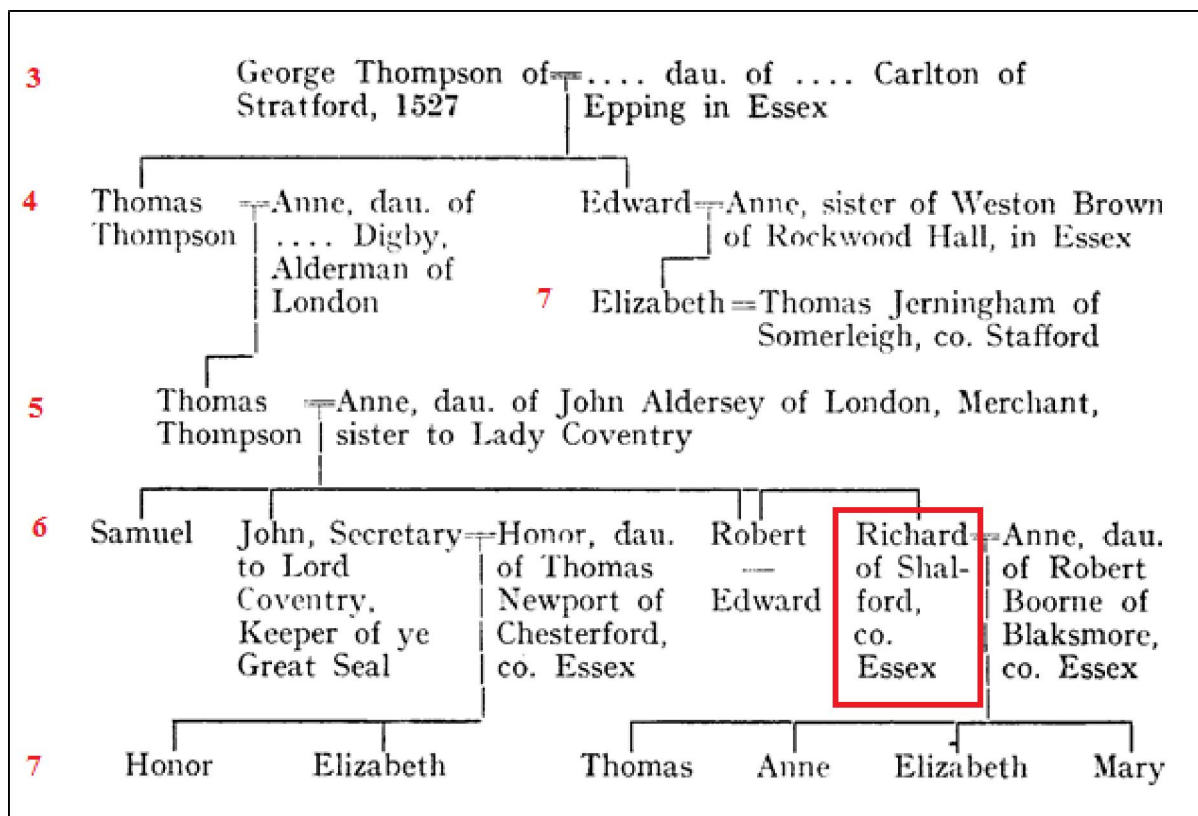


Table F: Thompson of Shalford in Essex (continued from Table A)  
The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton

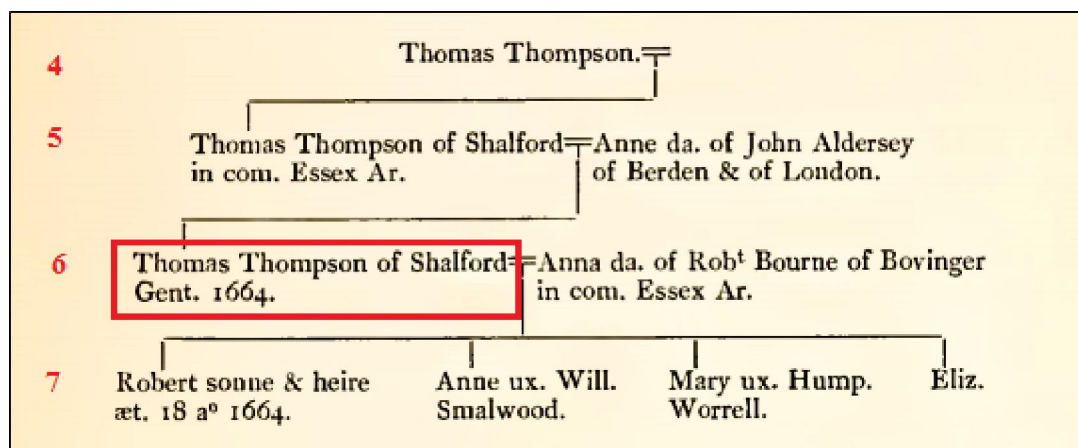


Table G: Thompson of Shalford in Essex, taken from the 1664 Visitation.  
In this tree Richard Thompson of Shalford is called Thomas Thompson.  
The numbers in red represented generation in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton

From a close examination of the descendants of Richard Thompson of Laxton it can be seen that, although Lawrence Thompson of St Neot's grandfather, Richard Thompson, was said to be sixth in descent from Richard Thompson of Laxton, he does not appear on any of the pedigrees in Heralds' Visitations. This combined with the confusion over the arms on Lawrence's tombstone casts great doubt on the claimed descent.

The claim, however, does suggest that the family did have Yorkshire origins.

## The Goldstone Evidence

In 1827 Edward Hayward, of Goldstone, Shropshire, bequeathed his estates to his kinsman, William Vardon. In 1870 a pedigree was drawn up showing Vardon's ancestry. At the beginning of the chart there is a link to the Thompson family.<sup>34</sup>

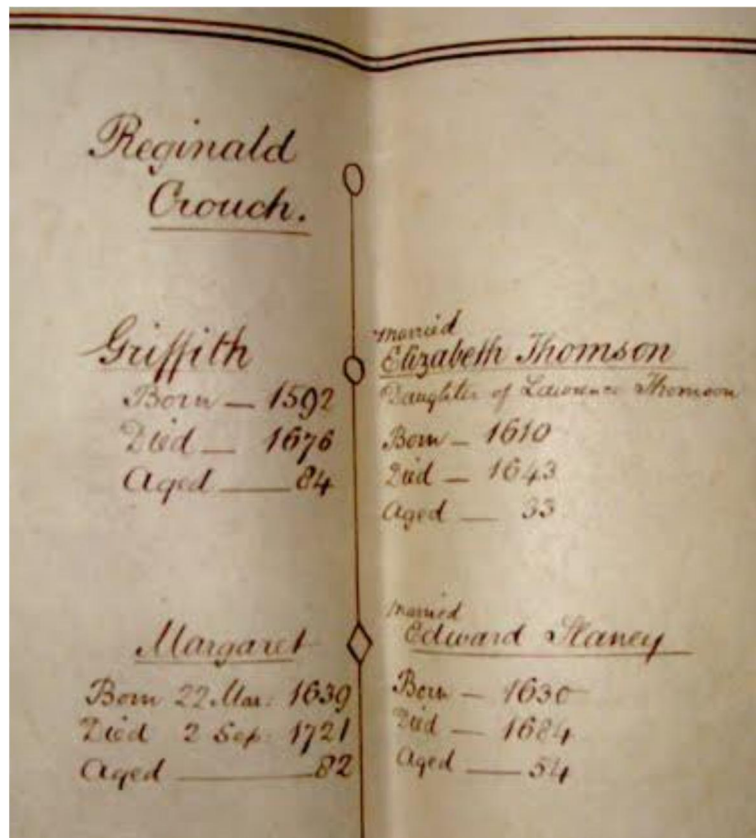


Photo taken from <http://www.goldstoneshropshire.com/>  
Published with permission of Philip Beddows; © Philip Beddows

On acquiring Goldstone Hall William Vardon also commissioned a carved bench recording his inheritance of his estates.<sup>35</sup> This part of his inheritance is displayed as:



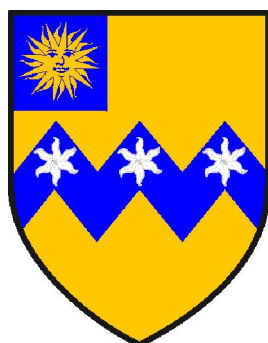
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These arms shown are those of Crouch: *argent between two palets engrailed, three crosses pattée sable, all within a bordure of the last; impaling Thompson: per fess sable and argent, a fess counter-embattled between three falcons close, all counterchanged, belled and jessed or, a bend sinister gules.*

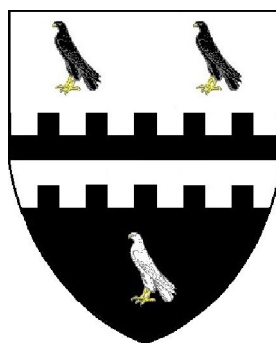
There are several different blazons for people with the surname Thompson. Excluding later grants to individuals, there were four main Thompson arms. One was granted to the descendants of Richard Thompson of Laxton; another to a family found in Hertfordshire, London, Somerset and Northumberland, and which was ennobled in 1696 as Baron Haversham, of Haversham in the County of Buckingham; a third to the Thompson family of Esholt in Yorkshire; and a fourth to the Thompsons of Surrey, later ennobled in 1840 as Baron Sydenham, of Sydenham in the County of Kent and of Toronto in Canada.<sup>36</sup>



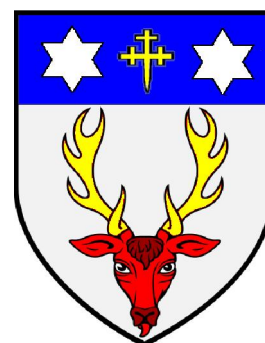
**Thompson of Laxton**  
*Azure a lion Passant, guardant, or*



**Thompson of Haversham**  
*Or, on a fess dancettée azure, three estoiles argent, on a canton of the second the sun in his glory proper*



**Thompson of Esholt**  
*Per fess argent and sable, a fess counter-embattled between three falcons close, all counterchanged, belled and jessed or*



**Thompson of Sydenham**  
*Argent a buck's head cabossed gules attired or, on a chief azure, a cross crosslet fitchée of the third between two mullets of six points of the first*

The arms of Thompson of Esholt are closest in design to the arms attributed to Elizabeth Thompson, although the tinctures are reversed. However, this depiction of the arms of Crouch impaling Thompson is the only source for the use of these arms by the Thompson family. This fact raises two possibilities:

1. In 1870, when the arms were carved, the artist, or his client, selected a coat of arms for the Thompson family from an existing published work on heraldry.

Heraldic works available in 1870 included Edmondson's *Heraldry*, published in 1780, Glover's *Ordinary of Arms*, also published in 1780, William Berry's *Encyclopædia Heraldica* published in 1828 and Burke's *General Armory* published in 1842. All of these works included arms such as those of Thompson of Esholt, which in 1870 were in use by such notables as Beilby, 2nd Baron Wenlock, and Harry Meysey-Thompson, former M.P. and soon to be created a baronet. The adoption of these particular arms would have lent a noble background to the Thompson family.

However, none of these works include the Thompson arms with the colours reversed and only one family, extinct in the male line, was recorded as using the arms with a bend sinister, denoting illegitimacy.

Against the background of Victorian morality, the use of a coat of arms marked with the sign of bastardy, without the right to those arms, is incomprehensible.

Therefore it is likely that the Thompsons of Drayton-in-Hales had a valid claim to the use of the arms carved at Goldstone.

*2. The person who carved the arms of Crouch impaling those of Thompson made a mistake and reversed the colours.*

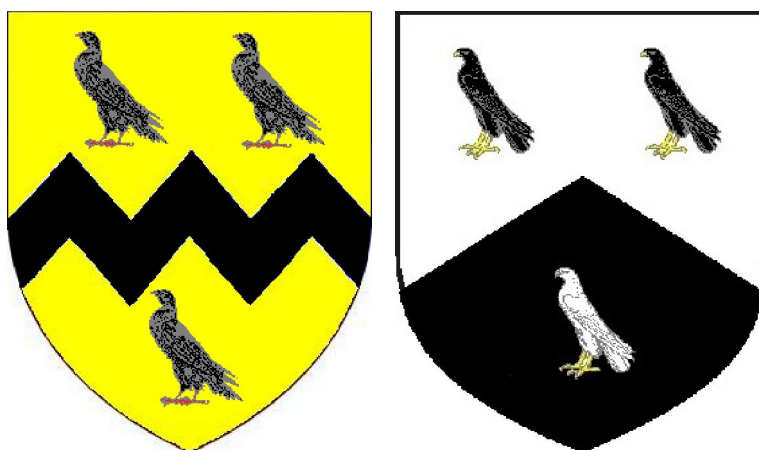
Nine families have their arms on the carved seat: Chowne, Crouch, Goldstone, Hayward, Keene, Pegg, Slaney, Thompson and Vardon. Of these, six appear in Burke's General Armory: Chowne, Crouch, Goldstone, Pegg, Slaney, and Vardon; two do not: Hayward and Keene; and one does in a different form: Thompson. There is contemporary evidence linking the arms of Goldstone, Hayward, Slaney and Vardon to the Vardon line of descent.

The presence on the seat of historically verifiable arms that do not appear in Heraldic works suggest that the carver had original documents or depictions to work from, and that the coats of arms should be treated as historically valid.

Consequently the reversal of the tinctures in the Thompson arms must be considered as accurate. While many people, perhaps with dubious right, used these particular Thompson arms, these variations to the blazon means that the arms used by Elisabeth's family were not simply the use of an established coat of arms, but the use of unique arms that the family claimed by right.

Reversal of colours could be used to distinguish between two branches of the same family.<sup>37</sup> The bend sinister is the sign of illegitimacy. This unique coat of arms means that Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales was the illegitimate son of a member of the family of Thompson of Esholt. If he had not been, he could not have used the altered Thompson arms.

Other Thompson families used similar arms. In 1609 Thompson of London and later of Plymouth, Devon, was granted a coat of arms featuring three hawks, and in 1612 Thomas, son of Thomas Thompson of Warmfield in Yorkshire, was granted arms including three falcons..<sup>38</sup>



*Left: Arms of Thompson of London and later of Plymouth: Or, a fess indented between three hawks sable, beaked and legged gules; Right Arms of Thompson of Warmfield: Per chevron argent and sable, between 3 falcons sable and argent counterchanged, beaked and membered or.*

The general similarity of these arms to those Henry Thompson of Esholt indicates that the grantees were related to him, but sufficiently distantly that they received arms that were easily distinguishable from his. This reinforces the likelihood that Richard Thompson of Drayton in Hales was closely related to Henry Thompson of Esholt.

## Henry Thompson of Esholt

Henry Thompson of Esholt “one of the Kinges Majesties gent. at armes at Boleigne,” was granted a coat of arms by Lawrence Dalton, Norroy King of Arms, on 15 April, 1559.<sup>39</sup> Henry Thompson had served under Henry VIII at the siege of Boulogne between July and September 1544. In 1545 Henry VIII granted to Henry the Manor, Rectory and Church of Bromefield, Cumberland, and the Priory of Esholt in Yorkshire. This grant was completed on 25 August, 1547, and the patent recounts that the grant was in exchange for the Maison Dieu at Dover.<sup>40</sup>

These arms were used in later years by many families, most notably from 1839 to 1932 by the Barons Wenlock, who quartered the arms of Thompson with those of Lawley.<sup>41</sup> By what right these arms were used has never been established.<sup>42</sup>

According to Chartburn, writing in 1854, Henry Thompson

*was a merchant in London; but owing to the disputes between France and England, he, like many other young men of spirit, took up arms, and joined the troops of Henry VIII., who afterwards besieged and took Boulogne, and there so much distinguished himself as to attract the notice of the king.*<sup>43</sup>

In 1857 “Genealogicus” wrote:

*Henry VIII. captured the town of Boulogne in the year 1544. On that occasion several men distinguished themselves. One of these ... valiant Englishmen was one of the king’s own gentlemen-at-arms, Henry Thompson, Esq., to whom was given the Maison Dieu at Dover, as a reward for his services on the same occasion.*

*For some reason, this gentleman subsequently exchanged the property at Dover for the manor of Bromfield, co. Cumberland ... The manor of Esholt, Yorkshire, was also granted to Henry Thompson ... in the reign of Edward VI.*<sup>44</sup>

In 1871 James Thompson expanded on this:

*Early in the sixteenth century an engineer of some distinction was living in this country, named Henry Thompson. A grant had been made to him by Henry VIII. of the Maison Dieu at Dover, at which place he constructed the pier, showing great skill in the undertaking. He served at the siege of Boulogne as a gentleman-at-arms under Henry, and he evidently obtained the favour of that monarch; as it is recorded that he was recommended to the authorities of Yarmouth by the Duke of Norfolk and others of the Privy Council as a man properly qualified to direct in the formation of a new haven adjoining that borough. ... In the reign of Edward VI. a grant was made to him of the buildings and land of the dissolved nunnery at Esholt, Yorkshire. Here he settled and probably remained till his decease. It appears that a grant of arms was made to him on his retirement from public life ...*

*The soldier-engineer did not long survive this grant, so pointedly illustrative of the part he had played at the siege of Boulogne. The motto he selected, “Je veux de bonne guerre” also evidences the character of the man who had so*

*much distinguished himself as to secure the favour of his sovereign and the approval of the leading statesmen of the country.*<sup>45</sup>

*On his settlement in Yorkshire, Henry Thompson formed an alliance with Ellen or Eleanor Townley, daughter of Lawrence Townley, esq., of Barnside, in the neighbourhood of Colne, Lancashire, and by her had a son William. He did not long survive his acquisition of his Yorkshire property, as he did not live to complete the new haven at Yarmouth. He must, therefore, have died early in the reign of Elizabeth, his wife having deceased in the reign of Edward the Sixth, a few years before. An incised slab of that date, in fact, once visible in the church at Colne, but some years since covered over during the progress of church restoration, records her memory.*<sup>46</sup>

Each of these stories has different elements which need to be examined separately.

### *1. Henry Thompson was one of the king's own gentlemen-at-arms.*

This statement is supported by the details of the grant of arms in 1559 where Henry was described as “one of the Kinges Majesties Gent: att Armes at Bolleyne”<sup>47</sup> and by the Visitation of York in 1584/85, which describes Henry as “one of the king's gentlemen-at-arms at Boulogne.”<sup>48</sup> The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms was formed in 1509 by Henry VIII to act as a mounted escort for the king, and was to be composed of “cadets of noble families and the highest order of gentry.” The Battle Honours of the Troop included the Siege of Boulogne.<sup>49</sup>

The Visitation records no details at all of Henry's ancestry and, as already been noted, he was the first member of his family to be awarded a coat of arms. This suggests that, by 1584, Henry's family background had been either forgotten, or tactfully ignored. There was no suggestion that he was a cadet of a noble family or of the highest order of gentry.

### *2. Henry Thompson, was granted the Maison Dieu at Dover as a reward for his services*

The Maison Dieu, also known as the Domus Dei, was “founded in 1203 by Hubert de Burgh as a religious house providing a hostel for pilgrims en-route to Thomas Becket's Shrine at Canterbury. Following the Dissolution from 1544, it was a naval victualling depot.”<sup>50</sup>

The Maison Dieu was surrendered to the crown on 11 December, 1544, by “John Thomson, clk., master, and the brethren of the house or hospital of St. Mary of Dover *alias* the Masendieu in Dover.”<sup>51</sup> The building was then used by the crown and was not granted to a private individual. Henry Thomson had no rights to the Maison Dieu that he could have renounced.

### *3 Henry Thompson exchanged the Maison Dieu for lands in Cumberland and Yorkshire.*

This statement is based on the grant of land at Bromfield in Cumberland. In the letters patent dated 25 August 1547, it is stated that Edward VI., “in consideration that Henry Thompson had surrendered into the hands of Henry VIII. all the right and interest which he had in the late hospital, commonly called Maison Dieu of Dover, in the county of Kent, grants to the said Henry Thompson, *inter alia*, the whole manor of Bromfield, and the rectory and church of Bromfield, with the appurtenances in the county of Cumberland ...”

The grant to Henry Thompson of the land in Cumberland had been discussed several years earlier. On 12 March, 1544/45, particulars of the grant of “the manor and rectory of Brumfeld or Bromfeld, Cumb., parcel of the late mon. of St. Mary’s, York, for Henry Thomson,” were prepared.<sup>52</sup>

The Maison Dieu had been surrendered to the crown by its master, John Thompson, not by Henry Thompson, and exchange for this, Henry Thompson, not John Thompson, received the lands in Cumberland. Calling the land transfer from the crown to Henry a grant is misleading. The 1547 letters patent of Edward VI show this to have been a purchase:

*... in consideration that Henry Thompson had delivered to his father (Hen. VIII.) the Maison Dieu at Dover, and had paid him (Hen. VIII.) £555. 6s. 8d., and for £286. 4s. 2d. to be paid by the said Henry Thompson ...*<sup>53</sup>

#### *4. Henry Thompson constructed a pier at Dover.*

The pier at Dover was constructed in the years after 1533 by John Thompson, Rector of Edburton in Sussex, of Saint James the Apostle, Dover, and Master of the Maison Dieu, Dover, 1535-1544.<sup>54</sup> It was not built by Henry Thompson.

#### *5 Henry Thompson was called upon to help with harbour works at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, but died before it could be completed.*

This work was performed by John Thompson of the Maison Dieu. The work began in 1549 and was incomplete when John Thompson died in 1551.<sup>55</sup>

From these last few points it is clear that Henry Thompson of Esholt and John Thompson of the Maison Dieu have become confused. In some way their lives must connect.

Sir John Thompson of the diocese of Yorkshire was collated to the parish of Edburton in 1521. By 1533 he was Rector of St James, Dover, and in 1535 was appointed Master of the Maison Dieu. In 1535 he was serving as Chaplain to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and later Lord Great Chamberlain.<sup>56</sup> Thompson survived Cromwell’s fall and execution in 1540 and in March 1543 was appointed one of the King’s Chaplains.<sup>57</sup> On the surrender of the Maison Dieu in 1544 Thompson was granted an annual pension of £53 6s 8d.<sup>58</sup>

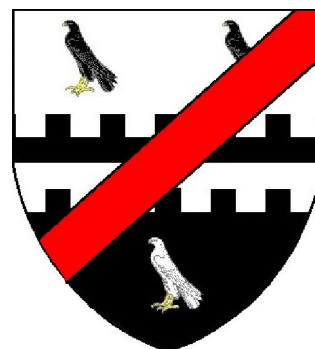
By the time of his death John Thompson should have been a wealthy man. His will, however, signed at Edburton on 4 July 1551, is that of a man of modest means, leaving bequests: to the poor of the church of Saint Dunstan in the East, London, where he was to be buried, 40s; to his servant, double wages; to Margery Ball, widow, 6s 8d; to Elizabeth Rice, daughter of Elizabeth Rice, 20s and a brass pot; to the poor of Edburton, 20s; some personal effects to the wife of John Cooke; and, after forgiving some debts and allowing for funeral and testamentary expenses, he left the balance of his estate to Peter Warreson, clerk, Richard Hutton, tallow chandler, and Cutbert Tomson, brewer, all three of whom he appointed as his executors.<sup>59</sup>

It seems likely that any financial benefit that John Thompson had gained from his benefices, his pension, and the surrender of the Maison Dieu to the Crown, had passed to Henry Thompson of Esholt. As John was one of the King’s Chaplains he would have been in a position to have Henry Thompson of Esholt admitted to the Troop of Gentlemen, no matter what Henry’s social origins were. This strongly suggests that Henry was very closely related

to John and may have been his son. Being the bastard son of a priest would be a fact that might well be glossed over in 1584.<sup>60</sup>

Henry Thompson died in 1567 without legitimate issue, leaving his estates to his own illegitimate son, William Thompson, son of Ellen Towneley.<sup>61</sup> William was a minor at his father's death and as his guardians, his father appointed his cousins, Richard Thompson, of the Inner Temple, and John Heyfourth. In his will Henry Thompson also mentioned an illegitimate daughter, Jennet, who was similarly placed in the care of Richard Thompson.

From his approximate date of birth Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales could have been Henry's posthumous son and so would not appear in Henry's will. However, Henry's will made no mention of Richard's sister Anne and so Richard could not have been his son.



*The Arms borne by William Thompson of Esholt in 1585.*

By 1585 William Thomson of Esholt had come of age and had two sons, the eldest aged 4. [Table H.] His arms were those of his father, charged with a bendlet sinister.<sup>62</sup> With an elder son born in 1580, William was probably born in about 1558.<sup>63</sup>

SKYRACK.		THOMSON, OF ESHOLD.	
ARMS :—Per fesse argent and sable, a fesse counter embattled between 3 falcons, close, belled or, all counterchanged, over all a bendlet sinister gules.			
Henry Thomson, of Eshold, co. York, gent., one of the king's gentlemen-at-arms at Boulogne, begat by Elene, dau. to Laurence Towneley.			
William Thomson, now of Eshold, natural son, living 1585.		Dorothy, dau. to Christopher Anderton, of Lostock, co. Lanc., prothonatary.	
Christopher Thomson, æt. 4, an. 1585, now living, 1612.		Frances, dau. of James Thwaites, of Marston, Esq. 2. Henry.	
2. Edward. 3. Charles.	Henry Thomson, son and heir, æt. 10, 1612.	4. Richard.	Isabell. Dorothy.
WILLIAM THOMSON. <sup>1</sup>		CHRISTOPHER THOMSON. <sup>2</sup>	
1 Signed Pedigree, 1585.		2 Signed Pedigree, 1612.	

*Table H: Thomson of Eshold from the Visitations of Yorkshire 1584/85 and 1612*

### Ellen Towneley

Ellen Towneley, mother of William Thompson of Esholt, was the daughter of Lawrence Towneley of Barnside, Lancashire.<sup>64</sup> In the pedigree recorded in the Visitation of Lancashire for 1664/65 "Hellen" was recorded as the last of six daughters, and her liasion with Henry Thompson was described as a marriage. [Table I.] Her eldest brother, Henry, married Anne Catherall at Whalley, Lancashire, 2 December, 1559,<sup>65</sup> so was probably born in the mid-1530s. Ellen's third brother, Lawrence, was a married man by 1563.<sup>66</sup> Margaret, the third Towneley daughter listed, married John Parker of Extwisle, Lancashire, and her firstborn child was baptised in 1573.<sup>67</sup> Her sister Alice married Richard Lacy, of Cromwellbothom,



Yorkshire, and had children baptised in 1565 and 1567.<sup>68</sup> Another sister, Elizabeth, married John Talbot and had a daughter born in 1573.<sup>69</sup>

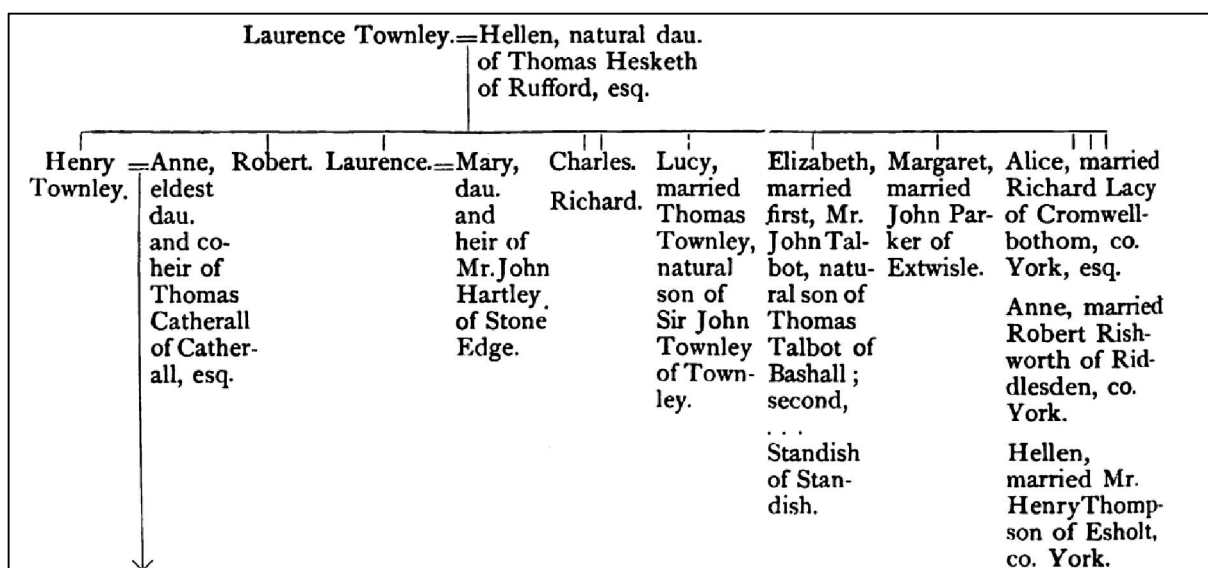


Table I: An extract from the pedigree of Towneley of Barnside from the Visitation of Lancashire 1664/65.<sup>70</sup>

From this it is clear that the ordering of the daughters in the Visitation does not represent the correct order of their births. If Ellen had been one of the elder daughters, then she could have been born in the 1530s. If she were, as the pedigree suggests, the youngest daughter then her birth would date to the later 1540s, or even the early 1550s. As Ellen was old enough to be a grandmother in about 1580, her birth probably dates to the late 1530s.

Ellen Towneley's date of death is unknown, but hitherto it has been assumed that she lies buried among her Towneley relatives at Colne in Lancashire, buried as Ellen, wife of William Thompson of Esholt.<sup>71</sup> The source of this theory is a tomb at Colne in Lancashire:

*In a flat stone within this choir is a cross fleury, and round the verge an inscription in the character of Edward the Sixth's time, or thereabouts, now become very obscure, but the words Thompson and Esholt are plainly legible. Now I find that in 1547, the site of the nunnery of Esholt was granted to Henry Thompson, Gens d'Arms, at Boleyn, who, by Hellen, daughter of Laurence Townley, of Barnside, had a son William.<sup>72</sup>*

*The principal object of interest is nearly concealed from view by a pew floor. It is a cross-fleury, about six feet long, on a flat stone, with an obscure inscription round its verge, but the words "Thompson" and "Esholt" are still legible.*

*It appears, according to Dr. Whitaker, that Helen, daughter of Lawrence Townley, of Barnside, married Henry Thompson, to whom the site of the nunnery of Esholt was granted in the 1st year of the reign of Edward VI.<sup>73</sup>*

Based on what survives of the inscription this could not be the tomb of Ellen Towneley, as Ellen never married Henry Thompson of Esholt and so his name would not appear on her tomb. As will be noted below, Henry Thompson's wife, Bridget, remarried and died at Langton in Yorkshire. Henry's son, William, died at Esholt and was buried at Otley in Yorkshire in 1612.<sup>74</sup> William's widow, Dorothy, died at Coppul in Lancashire.<sup>75</sup> This leaves as the only possible occupants of this tomb either Henry Thompson himself or his daughter

Jennet. The date of the tomb, “Edward the Sixth’s time, or thereabouts,” could fit the early reign of Elizabeth, in whose ninth year Henry Thompson wrote his will and died.

Richard Thompson of Drayton was not the son of Henry Thompson of Esholt as neither he nor his sister were mentioned in Henry’s will, and he was not the son of William Thompson of Esholt as William and Richard were born at about the same time. Any right Richard had to use the Thompson arms came from another member of Henry’s family.

### Richard Thompson of the Inner Temple

“My cosyn Richard Tompson of the Inner Temple in the cite of London” was the only Thompson relative mentioned in Henry Thompson’s will of 1567. In the sixteenth century the word cousin meant “a collateral relative more distant than a brother or sister” and was “very frequently applied to a nephew or niece.”<sup>76</sup>

Richard Thompson was admitted to the Inner Temple on 18 April 1553, was called to the Bench on 4 July, 1568, and discharged on 12 April, 1573.<sup>77</sup> While there was no fixed age at which men were admitted to the Inns of Court, a survey of Cambridge University graduates admitted to the Inner Temple in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century suggests an average age of about 18.<sup>78</sup> Therefore it is probable that Richard was born in about 1535.

After being appointed William Thompson’s guardian, Richard settled at Esholt and was recorded there in 1570 and in 1577.<sup>79</sup> In about 1585 “Richard Thomson of Eshold” was accorded the arms granted to Henry Thompson<sup>80</sup> and in 1592 he was referred to as “Richard Tompson late of Eshould, esq.”<sup>81</sup> He had remained at Esholt long after his ward had come of age and married.

On 2 Mar 1573 “le Bulmer Hall” at Langton, Yorkshire, was transferred from Thomas Bulmer of Leavenyng, gent., to Richard Thomson of Esholte, gentleman, and his wife, Brigitte.<sup>82</sup> In 1584 Richard Thomson of Langton, co. York, Esq., J.P., was recorded in the Heralds’ Visitation.<sup>83</sup> His parents’ names were given as “James Thomson, of Thornton, in Pickering Lythe”, and “Elinor, daughter to .... Phillippe, of Brignall, in Richmondshire.” [Table J.]

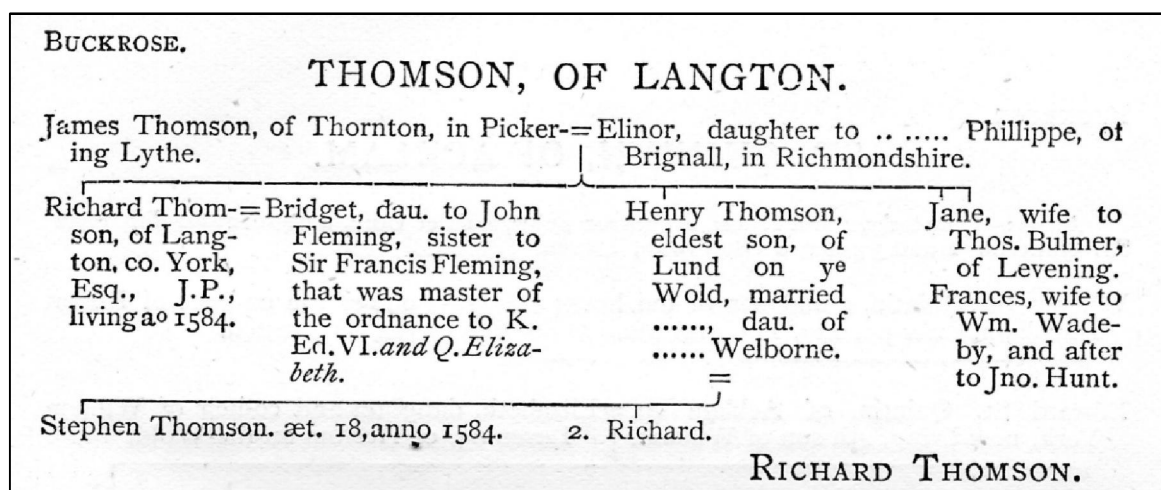


Table J: Thomson of Langton from the Visitations of Yorkshire 1584/85 and 1612

James Thompson, of Thornton, in the wapentake of Pickering Lythe in Yorkshire, father of Richard of Langton, signed his will on 30 September, 1542.<sup>84</sup> In it he made bequests to his seven children, Richard, Anthony, Roger, Henry, Katherine, Jane and Frances. He also made

bequests to his wife, Elinor, and “my brother in Darbie shier.” Of the seven children only four, Richard, Henry, Jane and Frances, appear in the 1584 pedigree. The identity of James’s brother in Derbyshire cannot be ascertained from James’s will.

Although the pedigree identifies James’s eldest son as Henry, the ordering of the children in his will suggests that Henry was the youngest son. The pedigree also records Henry’s eldest son’s age as 18 in 1584, and the Bulmer pedigree<sup>85</sup> gives the age of the eldest son of Henry’s sister, Jane, as 7 in the same year. These ages suggests that their parents were born in the 1530s or 1540s and supports a date of birth for Richard of Langton in about 1535. As the eldest son in a family of seven, born to a man who died in 1542, Richard was probably born a few years earlier, in about 1533.<sup>86</sup>

If Richard Thompson of Drayton belonged to this family, then he was probably the illegitimate son of Richard, of his brothers Henry, Anthony and Roger, or of another member of the same generation.

The pedigree of Thomson of Langton records the name of Richard of Langton’s wife as “Bridget, dau. to John Fleming, sister to Sir Francis Fleming, that was master of the ordnance to K. Ed. VI. *and Q. Elizabeth.*” The pedigree of the Fleming family from the Visitation of Hampshire for 1530 does not include Bridget among the children of John Fleming.<sup>87</sup> She is, however, mentioned in her father’s will. John Fleming, who was Mayor of Southampton in 1503 and 1504 and Sheriff in 1499, died in 1528.<sup>88</sup> Bridget’s brother, Sir Francis Fleming, was born before 1502<sup>89</sup> and was one of ten children, so if Bridget had been the youngest child in the family, her birth would date to the early 1520s at the latest.

Henry Thompson of Esholt left a widow named Bridget who probably passed into the household of cousin, Richard, along with her husband’s illegitimate children and his mistress, their mother, Ellen Towneley. Henry had married Bridget in about 1535 as on 11 January 1535/36, Henry Thompson and Brigett Flemmyng, of London, were granted a dispensation for marriage without banns.<sup>90</sup> Henry and Richard were both married the same woman.

Richard Thompson of the Inner Temple not only took over the running of the Esholt estates but also married his cousin’s widow. This explains why Richard Thompson was still living at Esholt in 1591. He was there, not as the guardian of its Lord, William Thompson, but as his stepfather.

If Richard had married Henry’s widow then he could not have been Henry’s nephew. Under Canon Law, marriage to an uncle’s widow was forbidden without dispensation.<sup>91</sup> Henry and Richard were cousins in the broader sense.

Bridget Thompson died soon after 1591 when Richard Thompson and Brigitt his wife appeared in the Yorkshire Fines.<sup>92</sup> On 2 September, 1594, a marriage settlement was arranged between Richard Thompson of Langton and Jane Hathropp, widow.<sup>93</sup> Richard died in 1600 and the Inquisition Post Mortem, dated 4 October 1600, refers to only one blood relative, Ann, wife of John Remington (daughter and heir of Roger Thompson, deceased, brother of Richard Thompson) aged over 30.<sup>94</sup>

Richard’s will, signed on 8 April, 1600, included bequests to his sister Bulmer and her children, his sister Hunt and her children and grandchildren and his nephew Richard Thompson, as well as his servant, Richard Thompson. The majority of his estate was bequeathed to his wife, Jane, and, in the absence of any children from their marriage, to her son John Hagthroppe.<sup>95</sup>

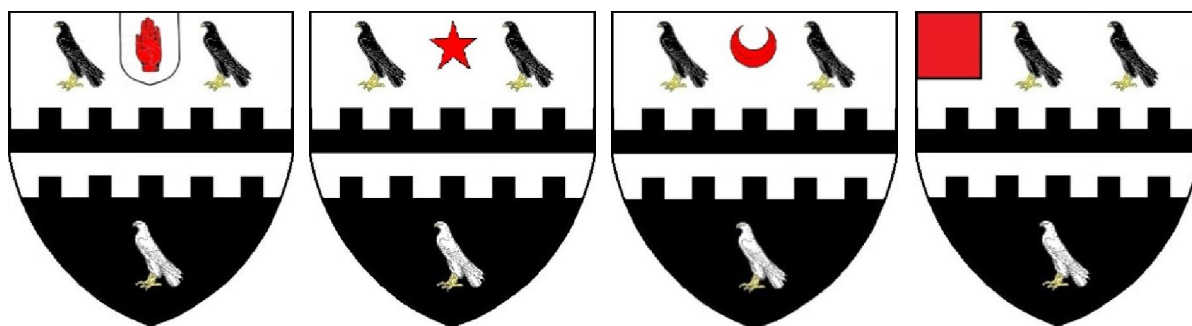
In 1603 a land transfer relating to Richard's estates was made between Richard Thomson (son of Henrye Thomson of Ebberstone yeoman, deceased), his wife Eleanor, and Henry Thomson of Langton, gentleman.<sup>96</sup> A deed of gift, dated in 1605, identifies Henry Thomson of Langton as the third husband of Jane Hagthropp/Thompson.<sup>97</sup>

These documents identify four brothers, all cousins of Henry Thompson of Esholt, who used, or who may have claimed the right to use, his coat of arms, and one of whom could have been the father of Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales.

1. Richard Thompson of Langton.
2. Anthony Thompson.
3. Roger Thompson.
4. Henry Thompson of Lund on the Wold or of Ebberston.

### William Thompson of Scarborough

A fifth relative can be identified from other pedigrees. In the Visitation of Yorkshire for 1665/1666 two brothers, Christopher Thompson of Scarborough and William Thompson of Humbelton were listed as the ancestors of families using a variant of the Thompson arms.<sup>98</sup> William was the younger as his descendants bore their arms differenced.



*Arms used by the Descendants of William and Christopher Thompson  
L. to R. Thompson of Kirby Hall, Baronets; Thompson of London;  
Thompson of Humbleton; and Thompson of Kilham<sup>99</sup>*

William Thompson was active in Scarborough as Junior Bailiff and later as Senior Bailiff on various occasions between 1597 and 1630 and was a Member of Parliament in 1625. He died in 1637. William's eldest son, Francis, married in 1599, so he may have been born in the late 1570s.<sup>100</sup> William was probably born in the mid 1550s and his brother, Christopher in about 1550. They were, therefore, of a similar generation as Richard Thompson of Drayton.<sup>101</sup>

Most pedigrees name the parents of Christopher and William as Richard Thompson and his wife Ann, daughter of William Langley or Langland of Scarborough. Some further identify the father, Richard, as the son of Henry Thompson of Lund on the Wold.<sup>102</sup> This latter identification is fallacious as Richard, son of Henry Thompson of Lund on the Wold, was born after 1566<sup>103</sup> and Christopher and his brother, William, Richard's supposed sons, were born before that date.

The name of Christopher and William's father, Richard, is also mistaken. The brothers were the sons of William Thompson of Scarborough, who died in 1574, and his wife Anne, who died in 1588.<sup>104</sup> Their mother's name was not Langley or Langland, but Langdale. She was the daughter of William Langdale or Langdall by his wife Izabell, daughter of George Hall of Snaynton. Anne had previously been married to Guy Fyshe, who died in 1549.<sup>105</sup> While

Henry Thompson of Lund on the Wold did have a son named William, he was not William of Scarborough, as Henry's son was living in 1579, five years after William of Scarborough had died.

It is difficult to estimate the date of birth of William of Scarborough. His wife, whom he married in about 1549, was a widow with two children. She was probably born about 1525, but as a widow her second marriage could well have been to someone considerable older than her. William's date of birth could lie in the period 1500 to 1520, making him between 55 and 75 when he died.

William Thompson of Scarborough was not the brother of Richard, Anthony, Roger and Henry as he was not mentioned in the will of their father, James Thompson.<sup>106</sup> Scarborough is a port 15 miles east of Thornton, where James Thompson lived, and as William of Scarborough's descendants were using the family arms as early as 1634<sup>107</sup> it is probable that he was closely related to James Thompson and his family. William may have been a younger brother of James, and may have been the "brother in Darbie shier" mentioned in James Thompson's will.

### **The Possible Fathers of Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales**

This extends the list of people who could be the father of Richard Thompson of Drayton to:

1. Richard Thompson of Langton,
2. Anthony Thompson,
3. Roger Thompson,
4. Henry Thompson of Lund on the Wold or of Ebberstone, and
5. William Thompson of Scarborough

#### *1. Richard Thompson of Langton.*

Richard Thompson died in 1600 without known issue. In his will he left the bulk of his estate to his second wife and, in the absence of any children from the marriage, to her son.<sup>108</sup> He did not mention a bastard son named Richard.

The omission from Richard's will of a bastard son would be understandable. In 1600 Richard of Drayton was aged in his 30s and already established in Shropshire with a wife and children. Any settlement made on him by his father could have been made at the time of his marriage in about 1585.

It is also possible that under any marriage settlement made on his second marriage Richard's estate was to be left to his stepchild, not his bastard son.

#### *2. Anthony Thompson*

The only reference to Anthony is in his father's will in 1542. He does not appear in the 1584 Pedigree and so probably died as a child. He had no legitimate issue as it was his next brother, Roger's, daughter who was Richard's next of kin in 1600.

#### *3. Roger Thompson<sup>109</sup>*

Roger Thompson of Lounde on le Wolde, yeoman, made his will on 1 January, 22 Eliz. (1579/80). In his will he named his unmarried daughter, Anne, aged under 21, and, in the

event of her death, made provision for the inheritance of property by his son, presumably stepson, Thomas Francys.<sup>110</sup>

At the time Roger wrote his will Richard of Drayton would have been a teenager. As Roger made no provision for an under-aged, illegitimate child, it is unlikely that Richard of Drayton was his son.

#### *4. Henry Thompson of Lund on the Wold or of Ebberston*

Henry Thompson's second son was named Richard and was born in about 1568. While this puts him at the right age to be Richard Thompson of Drayton, Richard of Ebberstone was legitimate and in 1603 was married to a woman named Elianor.<sup>111</sup> While it seems unlikely that Henry would have had an illegitimate son named Richard, born at about the same time as his legitimate son of the same name, there are instances of men with brothers and half-brothers of the same name.<sup>112</sup>

The name Henry was not given to any of the children of Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales so it is improbable that Richard was Henry's son.

#### *5. William Thompson of Scarborough*

William died in 1574 leaving two sons and two daughters. While it is possible that he could have been the father of Richard of Drayton, William made no provision in his will for a bastard son, aged about 10, so it seems unlikely that Richard was his son.

This leaves Richard Thompson of Langton as the most likely candidate to be Richard of Drayton's father.

### **Other Possibilities**

As has been noted, Henry Thompson of Esholt may have been the illegitimate son of John Thompson, Master of the Maison Dieu, who died in 1551. It is possible that other relatives of John Thompson may also have claimed the use of the Thompson arms and one of them could have been the father of Richard Thompson of Drayton.

In his will John Thompson nominated three individuals to inherit the residue of his estate: Peter Warreson, clerk; Richard Hutton, tallow chandler; and Cutbert Tomson, brewer. Cutbert was the only Thompson mentioned in the will.

Peter Warreson, clerk, was Prebendary of Middleton and was appointed Rector of Brown Candover, Hampshire, on 2 March, 1557/58.<sup>113</sup> "Syr Peter Waryson, pryste & physysyon, & some tyme parson of browne Candover in hamshere, in the Countye of Southamton," was buried at St Dionis Backchurch, London, on 18 October, 1565, leaving a will which was proved at London on 15 November, 1565.<sup>114</sup> His legacies included a bequest of forty shillings to "Margerie Manninge servant to Henrie Thomson" and a further forty shillings to "the sonne of the saide Henrie Thomson called Henrie Thomson." The younger Henry was baptised on 6 September, 1553, at St Dionis Backchurch.<sup>115</sup> This was the parish where Peter Warreson had been living since before 1563.<sup>116</sup> In his will Warreson made no mention of the other children of Henry Thomson, so they were not his relatives.<sup>117</sup> Consequently there is no reason to suppose a connection between these Thompsons and the Master of the Maison Dieu.

No information can be located regarding Richard Hutton. There is no record of a will at London, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury or in Sussex.

Cuthbert Thomson, Citizen and Brewer of London, was buried at St Lawrence Pountney, London, on 23 April 1558.<sup>118</sup> His will was proved at London on 17 May 1558.<sup>119</sup> The bequests in his will included many to his family members. Other than his widow, Mary, and his married sisters and their children, these relatives were: his son, Robert Thomson; “my brother Robert Thomson;” “my Sister Thomson widowe and to John Thomson her sonne;” and “my Cowsen Michell Thomson srvante to M<sup>r</sup> Care,” also called “Michaell Thomson of my brother Richard Thomson,” and “my Nephew Michaell Thomson.” Cuthbert also referred to his sister “Thomson nowe or Late of Middleham in the County of Yorke” and left 3s 4d to the poor of the parish of Thornton Steward in Yorkshire and for the “mending of the highe ways” in the parish. Thornton Steward and Middleham are adjoining parishes.

The bequest to the parish of Thornton Steward suggests that that was the parish where Cuthbert had been born and that he, like the Master of the Maison Dieu, had Yorkshire origins. While his death in 1558 does not preclude Cuthbert from being the father of Richard Thompson of Drayton, the absence of Richard from his will does.<sup>120</sup>

Cuthbert left only one surviving child, Robert, baptised at St Lawrence Pountney on 15 February, 1546/47. Robert, who followed his father’s profession as a brewer, married Katherine Robinson at St Lawrence in 1575 and was buried there on 3 February, 1596/97. They had five children baptised between 1575 and 1584, only one of whom appears to have survived.<sup>121</sup> There is no record of the birth of a child named Richard Thompson at St Lawrence in the 1560s and, as Robert was born in 1547 it is unlikely he was old enough to be the father of Richard Thompson of Drayton.

Cuthbert’s will also identified three brothers, one of whom had predeceased him. It is possible that either of Cuthbert’s brothers or his nephew, Michael, could have had a son born in the 1560s.

However, there is no record of any member of Cuthbert’s family claiming the right to bear any arms, and none are mentioned in any of the Herald’s Visitations of London or any other county. Cuthbert was one of three men who were to receive the residue of John Thompson’s estate in equal shares and to serve as joint Executors. While the connection between John Thompson and Richard Hutton is unclear, Peter Warreson was a professional colleague. So, while Cuthbert may have been related to John Thompson, his relationship cannot have been close or he would have been singled out rather than grouped with others in the will.

This makes it unlikely that Richard Thompson of Drayton was descended from Cuthbert or his brothers.

### **Lawrence**

Richard Thompson of Drayton in Hales named his eldest son Lawrence. Traditional English naming patterns would suggest that Richard’s father would be named Lawrence or that the name Lawrence was particularly important to the family.<sup>122</sup>

Accepting that the use of the modified arms of Thompson of Esholt proves that the family came originally from Yorkshire then the presence of the name Lawrence in Yorkshire Thompson families might suggest a connection.

A search of Yorkshire Parish Registers available online<sup>123</sup> produced the following references to men named Lawrence Thompson in the period 1538 to 1615:

**Aldbrough, Yorkshire** (18 miles from Esholt, 29 miles from Thornton Dale)

9 Jun 1594 John son of Laurence Thomson was baptised  
9 May 1596 William & Ann son & daughter of Laurence Thomson were baptised  
5 May 1599 Laurence son of Roger Thomson baptised  
24 Jun 1600 Anthony son of Laurence Thomson was baptised

**Danby in Cleveland, York** (50 miles from Esholt; 17 miles from Thornton Dale)

18 Feb 1611 Lawrentius Thomson et Elizabetha Prudome nupti fuere

**Halifax, Yorkshire** (15 miles from Esholt; 58 miles from Thornton Dale)

11 May 1561 Laurencius Tomson et Johanna Waddesworth nupti fuere  
29 Apr 1585 Lawrance Tomsonne & Margery Hay were married

**Pocklington, York** (37 miles from Esholt; 21 miles from Thornton Dale)

9 Jul 1564 Lawrence Thomson & Jayne Fetherston were married

**Settrington, Yorkshire** (42 miles from Esholt; 8 miles from Thornton Dale)

29 Jun 1578 Lawrence Tompson filius Rici: Tompson baptiz. fuit  
10 Jun 1603 Laurentius Tomson sepult. fuit

**Whixley, York** (17 miles from Esholt; 29 miles from Thornton Dale)

16 Jan 1602 Lawr. Tompson & Joha. Lovelesse were married

**Marriage License** (Newton Garth is 9 miles from Esholt; 45 miles from Thornton Dale)

1590 Lawrence Thompson of Newton Garth & Ellen Prestwood of Hull, to marry at Paul.

Among these Lawrences there are only two who could have had a child born in the 1560s, legitimate or otherwise, being Laurencius Thomson, married at Halifax in 1561, and Lawrence Thomson, married at Pocklington in 1564. Several others were alive at the time Richard Thompson of Drayton in Hales named his son Lawrence, but the search did not reveal the baptism of a child named Richard, son of Lawrence Thompson, in the 1560s in any of these parishes, nor did it identify the baptism of any illegitimate child named Richard Thompson.

There is no record of any of these families using the Thompson arms.

Settrington is close to Thornton Dale, which appears to have be the ancestral home of the Thompsons of Esholt. The families use similar given names, James, Roger, Richard and Henry, but these are common names. There are no wills on record at York for anyone named Thompson from Settrington, suggesting that these Thompsons were not of the same social status as those of Thornton Dale.

As has been noted, Ellen Towneley, mistress of Henry Thompson of Esholt, was the daughter of Lawrence Towneley. She also had a great-grandfather, brother and nephew named Lawrence. As Lawrence was such an important name in her family the possibility should be considered that she could have been the mistress of both Henry Thompson of Esholt and of Henry's cousin Richard Thompson of the Inner Temple.



## Tentative Conclusion

The facts that were established above regarding Richard Thompson were:

- Richard Thompson was probably born between 1560 and 1568, assuming him to have been aged between 17 and 25 at his marriage in about 1585;
- as he was a mercer he came from a family which was in trade; and
- the name Lawrence was significant as he named his eldest son Lawrence, and had one grandson and two great grandsons named Lawrence.

To which can be added:

- his family had its origins in Yorkshire
- he was the illegitimate son of a man who had, or who claimed to have, the right to the arms awarded to Henry Thompson of Esholt in 1559.

Of Henry Thompson's family, Roger Thompson of Lounde on the Wolde was a yeoman, as, from his will, was his father James. The Thompsons of Scarborough, who used the original Thompson arms, "married into Scarborough's merchant class" and "by the early seventeenth century the family were the town's most prominent merchants."<sup>124</sup> Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales was a mercer and his son was a yeoman.<sup>125</sup> The families in Yorkshire and Shropshire were at the same level of society.

Richard Thompson of Langton and his family, as close relatives of Henry Thompson of Esholt, claimed the right to bear the arms that had been granted to Henry in 1559. Five members of the family can be identified who could have been the father of Richard Thompson. All but one can be considered as unlikely fathers. The family of Cuthbert Thomson of Saint Lawrence Pountney can also be excluded.

Ellen Towneley, whose father, great-grandfather, brother and nephew were named Lawrence, was the mistress of Henry Thompson of Esholt who died in 1567. After his death her children became the wards of Richard Thompson of the Inner Temple and as they were quite young it is likely that she remained at Esholt with them in the household of Richard Thompson who had married Henry's widow, Bridget Fleming. The use of the name Lawrence among the descendants of Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales suggests a connection. It is possible that the burial at Drayton-in-Hales in 1616 of "Ellin<sup>a</sup> uxor Richardi Tomso<sup>n</sup>" could be Ellen's. The words "uxor Richardi Tomso<sup>n</sup>" suggest her husband was alive, and in 1616, Richard, son of Richard Thompson of Drayton-in-Hales, would have been aged 27, old enough to have married, and so Ellen may have been his wife. However, there is no record of the younger Richard's marriage, of the births of any children or of his death. It is possible that "uxor Richardi Tomso<sup>n</sup>" was a final assertion at Ellen's burial that she had been the wife, not the mistress, of Richard Thompson of Langton. It is also possible that the families had fallen out of touch after Richard of Langton's remarriage and the Drayton Thompsons were unaware of his death.

Therefore it is possible that Richard Thompson of Drayton in Hales was the illegitimate son of Richard Thompson of Langton, possibly by Ellen Towneley.

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- <sup>1</sup> Parish Registers of Drayton-in-Hales, Shropshire Archives, Reference P97/A/1/1, folio 99, viewed at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) The Registers commence in 1558 and the name Thompson does not appear before 1587.
- <sup>2</sup> Parish Registers of Drayton-in-Hales, Shropshire Archives, Reference P97/A/1/1, folio 181
- <sup>3</sup> One of the witnesses to Richard Thompson's will was John Eubanck.  
The National Archives; Kew, England; Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 112  
In his will, written in April 1621, John Ewanck refers to his stepson Robert Thompson and to the children of his "predecessor" Richard Thompson.
- <sup>4</sup> Parish Registers of Drayton-in-Hales, Shropshire Archives, Reference P97/A/1/1, folio 217
- <sup>5</sup> The National Archives; Kew, England; Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 112
- <sup>6</sup> The National Archives; Kew, England; Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 274
- <sup>7</sup> *Richard Thompson, Vicar of Ashleworth*, by William Good (2013)  
[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/Opinion\\_Pieces/Richard\\_Thompson\\_of\\_Ashleworth.pdf](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/Opinion_Pieces/Richard_Thompson_of_Ashleworth.pdf)
- <sup>8</sup> G.C. Gorham, *The History and Antiquities of Eynesbury and St. Neot's, in Huntingdonshire and of St Neot's in the County of Cornwall* (London 1824) Pages 167-168
- <sup>9</sup> Parish Registers of Drayton-in-Hales, Shropshire Archives, Reference P97/A/1/2, folio 6  
The Drayton Registers use the modern method of recording years. In other Parishes this date would have been recorded as 2 March, 1659/60.
- <sup>10</sup> Gorham, pages 167-168 & clxxiv<sup>s</sup>
- <sup>11</sup> Gorham, pages 167-168
- <sup>12</sup> Gorham, page clxxiv<sup>s</sup>
- <sup>13</sup> *Complete Body of Heraldry, Volume II* by Joseph Edmondson (London 1780) – this work is not paginated. see also *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales* by Sir Bernard Burke (London 1884) p. 1008
- <sup>14</sup> *Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612* edited by Joseph Foster (London 1875)  
*The Visitation of the County of Yorke 1665-1666* (1859)
- <sup>15</sup> *Yorkshire Pedigrees, Volume III T-Y* transcribed and edited by J.W. Walker (London 1944) 362
- <sup>16</sup> *Yorkshire Pedigrees, Volume III T-Y* 362-363
- <sup>17</sup> *The General Armory* p. 1007. These arms were confirmed by Camden, Clarenceux, 12 Jan. 1602, to Rowland Thompson, of Thorpmarket, co. Norfolk
- <sup>18</sup> For the purposes of this discussion it is assumed that the arms on Lawrence Thompson's tomb are the arms as corrected in the notes to *The History and Antiquities of Eynesbury and St. Neot's, in Huntingdonshire and of St Neot's in the County of Cornwall*
- <sup>19</sup> London and Surrey, England, Marriage Bonds and Allegations, 1597-1921 [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  
*Allegations for Marriage Licences issued by the Bishop of London 1611 to 1828.* (London 1887) page 138
- <sup>20</sup> *Yorkshire Pedigrees, Volume III T-Y* transcribed and edited by J.W. Walker (London 1944) 363
- <sup>21</sup> Boyd's Inhabitants Of London & Family Units 1200-1946 Entry 17102 [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)
- <sup>22</sup> Norfolk Record Office NRS 21877, Z19
- <sup>23</sup> Norfolk Record Office ANF will register Roe fo. 150
- <sup>24</sup> Norfolk Record Office NRS 22105, Z32
- <sup>25</sup> *Lincolnshire Pedigree, Volume III* edited by Rev. Canon A.R. Maddison (London 1904) page 959. The Chaworth arms are misstated. The correct description is: or, a fess between three martlets gules
- <sup>26</sup> *Grantees of Arms Named in Docquets and Patents to the End of the Seventeenth Century* (Harleian Society, London 1915) Page 251  
<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/thomson-john-1521-97>
- <sup>27</sup> *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* page 960
- <sup>28</sup> *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* pages 959-960. Richard Thompson who stands at the beginning of the tree is identified as Richard, son of William Thompson and Mary Chaworth in the *Visitation of London 1568*, page 145
- <sup>29</sup> *The Visitations of Bedfordshire Annis Domini 1566, 1582 and 1634* edited by F.A. Blaydes (London 1884) page 146
- <sup>30</sup> *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* page 960
- <sup>31</sup> His sisters were named Elizabeth, Tabitha and Alice. *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* page 962
- <sup>32</sup> *Yorkshire Pedigrees* page 363
- <sup>33</sup> *A Visitation of the County of Essex 1664-1668*, edited by J.J. Howard (London 1888) page 93.

- <sup>34</sup> Goldstone, *The Story of a Shropshire Manor and its people over more than 800 years.*  
<http://www.goldstoneshropshire.com/>
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>36</sup> *The General Armory*, pages 1006-1008
- <sup>37</sup> *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry* by T. Woodcock & J.M. Robinson (Oxford 1988) page 66
- <sup>38</sup> *The General Armory*, page 1007 & *Grantees of Arms* page 251-252  
 The 1609 grant referred to in *The General Armory* is probably the grant to Allen Thompson of London in 1599 referred to in *Grantees of Arms* page 251
- <sup>39</sup> *Grantees of Arms* page 251  
*Grant of Arms by Lawrence Dalton, Norroy King of Arms, to Henry Thompson, of Esholt, Gentleman, 1569* (sic), *The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, Volume XVIII* (Leeds 1905) pages 115-117
- <sup>40</sup> *Some Account of the Rectory of Bromfield, in the County of Cumberland*, by W. C. Trevelyan, Esq., of Wallington, *Archæologia Æliana: or, Miscellaneous Tracts, Relating to Antiquity*. Published by the Society of Antiquaries, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Volume II (Newcastle upon Tyne 1832) page 172-173
- <sup>41</sup> *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, by Sir Bernard Burke, (London 1864), page 1164
- <sup>42</sup> *Notes and Queries, Volume V* (London 1852) page 468, 521  
*Notes and Queries, Volume X* (London 1854) page 113  
*The Gentleman's Magazine, New Series Volume XLV* (London 1856) page 554  
*The Family of Thompson of Esholt, The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Review, New Series Volume I* (London 1857), pages 453-454  
*Thompson of Yorkshire; and of Lancashire The Herald and Genealogist Volume III* (London 1866) page 189-190
- <sup>43</sup> *Notes and Queries, Volume X*, page 395
- <sup>44</sup> *The Family of Thompson of Esholt*, page 454
- <sup>45</sup> The motto translates into English as "I want a good war." It is more accurately rendered as "I want a fair fight," or "I will fight fairly."
- <sup>46</sup> *Thompson of Esholt*, by James Thompson, *The Herald and Genealogist*, ed. by J.G. Nichols, (London 1871) page 650
- <sup>47</sup> *Grant of Arms by Lawrence Dalton, Norroy King of Arms, to Henry Thompson, of Esholt* page 116
- <sup>48</sup> *Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612* edited by Joseph Foster (London 1875) page 300
- <sup>49</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honourable\\_Corps\\_of\\_Gentlemen\\_at\\_Arms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honourable_Corps_of_Gentlemen_at_Arms)  
<http://www.royal.gov.uk/RoyalEventsandCeremonics/Ceremonialbodies/GentlemenatArms.aspx>
- <sup>50</sup> *Dover Town Hall (Maison Dieu)* <http://www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/dover-town-hall-maison-dieu-/8436>
- <sup>51</sup> *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 19 Part 2, August-December 1544.*  
 Originally published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1905, page 439
- <sup>52</sup> *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 20 Part 1, January-July 1545.* Originally published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1905, page 158
- <sup>53</sup> *Some Account of the Rectory of Bromfield, in the County of Cumberland*, by W. C. Trevelyan, Esq., of Wallington, *Archæologia Æliana: or, Miscellaneous Tracts, Relating to Antiquity*. Published by the Society of Antiquaries, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Volume II (Newcastle upon Tyne 1832) page 172-173
- <sup>54</sup> *Hospitals: St Mary, Dover, A History of the County of Kent: Volume 2.* Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1926, pages 217-219 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/kent/vol2/pp217-219>  
*A Short Historical Sketch of the Town of Dover and its Neighbourhood* (Dover 1828) pages 51-53  
*Lives of Smeaton and Rennie.* [http://gerald-massey.org.uk/smiles/c\\_smeaton\\_1.htm](http://gerald-massey.org.uk/smiles/c_smeaton_1.htm)
- <sup>55</sup> *The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Burgh of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk*, by Henry Swinden (Norwich 1772) pages 397-401  
 Will of John Thompson: The National Archives; Kew, England; *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers*; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 34
- <sup>56</sup> <http://db.theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayVacancy.jsp?CDBAppRedID=288891>  
<http://db.theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayVacancy.jsp?CDBAppRedID=289182>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Cromwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Cromwell)  
 It was common in Medieval times to refer to the incumbent of a parish as "Sir."  
*Faculty Office Registers 1534-1549* by D.S. Chambers (Oxford 1966) p.27
- <sup>57</sup> *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 18 Part 1, January-July 1543.* Originally published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1901. Page 195
- <sup>58</sup> *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 20 Part 1, January-July 1545.* Originally published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1905., page 678
- <sup>59</sup> The National Archives; Kew, England; *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers*; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 34

- <sup>60</sup> In 1584 it was permissible for priests to marry, but at the time of Henry's birth England was a Roman Catholic country and priests were forbidden to marry.
- <sup>61</sup> *Grant of Arms by Lawrence Dalton* page 115
- <sup>62</sup> *Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612* page 300
- <sup>63</sup> The Visitation of Yorkshire commenced in 1584 and continued in 1585. *Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612* page 1. This suggests that it happened in the first few months of what would now be called 1585. Consequently a child of 4 in 1585 was probably born in 1580.
- <sup>64</sup> *Visitation of Lancashire by Sir William Dugdale, 1664-1665, Part III* edited by Rev. F.R. Raines (Manchester 1873) page 308  
Lawrence Towneley was the grandson of another Lawrence who was living in 1474/75
- <sup>65</sup> <http://www.freereg.org.uk>
- <sup>66</sup> *The Court Rolls of the Honor of Clitheroe in the County of Lancaster, Volume II (1912)* translated and transcribed by William Farrer, page 324
- <sup>67</sup> *The Registers of the Parish Church of Burnley in the County of Lancaster, Christenings, Weddings and Burials 1562 to 1653* transcribed and edited by William Farrer (Rochdale 1899) page 12
- <sup>68</sup> *The Parish Registers of Halifax, co, York., Vol. I. Baptisms 1538-1593*, transcribed and indexed by E. W. Crossley (Wakefield 1910) pages 160 & 172
- <sup>69</sup> <http://www.freereg.org.uk>
- <sup>70</sup> *Visitation of Lancashire, 1664-1665, Part III* page 308
- <sup>71</sup> *Thompson of Esholt* page 651
- <sup>72</sup> *An History of the Original Parish of Whalley, and Honor of Clitheroe, in the Counties of Lancaster and York*, by T.D. Whitaker (London 1818), page 387
- <sup>73</sup> *Annals and Stories of Colne and Neighbourhood* by James Carr (Colne 1878) page 133
- <sup>74</sup> *The Parish Registers of Otley, Co. York. Part 1 1562-1672* (Yorkshire Parish Register Society 1908) Page 200
- <sup>75</sup> *Thompson of Esholt* page 651
- <sup>76</sup> *Oxford English Dictionary Online*
- <sup>77</sup> *The Inner Temple Admissions Database* <http://www.innertemplearchives.org.uk/index.asp>  
*A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, edited by F. A. Inderwick, Q.C., Volume 1 (London 1896) page 249 & 269
- <sup>78</sup> *Alumni Cantabrigienses* compiled by John Venn & J.A. Venn, Part I, Volume I (Cambridge 1922)  
Students with surnames beginning with A were examined. Twenty one individuals had identifiable ages. Twenty individuals were aged 16 to 20 and one individual was aged 27. The average age was 18.10 years. If the single individual with the age of 27 were excluded the average age falls to 17.65.
- <sup>79</sup> *The Pulleyns of Yorkshire by Catherine Pullein* (Leeds 1915), page 302  
West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford, Reference SpSt/4/11/45/1
- <sup>80</sup> *Sir William Fairfax's Booke of Armes of Yorkshire*, published in *The Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612*, page 648. The *Booke of Armes* records the arms painted on a frieze in the Great Chamber at Gilding Castle. The Chamber was completed in 1585. *The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, Volume XIX* (Leeds 1907) pages 145 & 175.
- <sup>81</sup> *Wills, Registers and Monumental Inscriptions of the Parish of Barwick-in-Elmet, co. York.* By G.D. Lumb (Leeds 1908) page 30
- <sup>82</sup> East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Finding No. DDEL/37/30  
Thomas Bulmer was married to Richard's sister, Jane.
- <sup>83</sup> *The Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612*, page 175
- <sup>84</sup> Yorkshire Will 1542, V 11, F 637. Thornton is now the parish of Thornton Dale.
- <sup>85</sup> *The Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612*, page 175
- <sup>86</sup> From his father's will it appears that Richard was the eldest son. His second sister, Jane, had children born in the mid and late 1570s, his third sister, Frances had three children by a husband who died in 1567. From these dates Jane and Frances were probably born in the 1540s. This suggests Richard may have been the eldest child, or the second, with an elder sister. If the last child was born in 1542, shortly before their father's death, then Richard was born in about 1531 or 1533.  
The Parish Registers of Thornton Dale survive from 1538. The baptisms of the three youngest children appear in family trees on [www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com) as: Jane, 19 May 1539; Henry, 2 Aug 1541; and Frances, 30 Jul 1542. I have been unable to verify these dates.
- <sup>87</sup> *Visitation of Hampshire 1530, 1575, 1622 and 1634* (London 1913) page 146
- <sup>88</sup> <http://www.willisfleming.org.uk/tudor/le-fleming-one-family-descended-from.html>  
[http://www.southampton.gov.uk/Images/Southampton%20Mayors%201217%20to%202013\\_tcm63-363508.pdf](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/Images/Southampton%20Mayors%201217%20to%202013_tcm63-363508.pdf)
- <sup>89</sup> [http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fleming-sir-francis-1502-58#footnote2\\_j1zbp8](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fleming-sir-francis-1502-58#footnote2_j1zbp8)
- <sup>90</sup> *Faculty Office Registers 1534-1549* p.42

- <sup>91</sup> *Incest, Drama and Nature's Law, 1550-1700*, by Richard A. McCabe (Cambridge 2008), page 48  
*The Constitutional History of England, in Its Origin and Development*, by William Stubbs (Cambridge 2011) page 66
- <sup>92</sup> 'Yorkshire Fines: 1591, in Feet of Fines of the Tudor Period [Yorks]: Part 3, 1583-94, ed. Francis Collins (Leeds, 1889), pp. 143-166 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/feet-of-fines-yorks/vol3/pp143-166> [accessed 6 January 2015].
- <sup>93</sup> East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Finding No. DDEL/37/31
- <sup>94</sup> East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Finding No. DDEL/37/33  
 Roger Thompson was Richard's next brother to leave issue. His daughter was her uncle's heir in preference to Richard, son of Roger's next brother, Henry.
- <sup>95</sup> Yorkshire Will 1600, V 28 F 173
- <sup>96</sup> East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Finding No. DDEL/37/34
- <sup>97</sup> East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Finding No. DDEL/37/35
- <sup>98</sup> *The Visitation of the County of Yorke 1665-1666* (1859) pages 122, 143, 219  
*Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire*, Volume II page 488-489, Volume III pages 41 & 148-153  
 The 1859 edition does not mention the names of the parents of the brothers. The second version, published in 1907 & 1917 includes parents' names. The names were not mentioned in the original text.
- <sup>99</sup> *Visitation of London 1633-1635* page 283;  
*Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire* Volume II page 488; Volume III page 41 & page 148  
*Pedigrees of the County Families of Yorkshire, Volume II North & East Riding* by Joseph Foster (London 1874) Pedigree of Thompson of Kirby Hall, Sheriff Hutton etc.
- <sup>100</sup> *The Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Journal, Volume X* (London 1889) page 169
- <sup>101</sup> In their father's will he nominated his wife and all four children as executors and there was no indication that any of the children were underage. Administration was granted to his widow in November 1574 with power reserved for the four children.
- <sup>102</sup> *Familia Minorum Gentium Diligentia Josephi Hunter, Sheffieldiensis. S.A.S. Volume II* edited by John W Clay (London 1895) page 531  
*Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire*, Volume II page 488-489, Volume III pages 41 & 148-153  
*The History and Antiquities Seigniory of Holderness, in the East-Riding of the County of York* by G. Poulson, Volume II (Hull 1841) page 63
- <sup>103</sup> His elder brother, Stephen, was aged 18 in 1584. *The Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612*, page 175
- <sup>104</sup> *The History and Antiquities of Scarborough*, by Thomas Hinderwell (Scarborough 1832) page 268.  
<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/thompson-william-1574-1637>  
 Yorkshire Wills 1574, V19, F697 & 1588, V23 F921
- <sup>105</sup> *The Visitation of Yorkshire 1563-64* page 183-184  
*The Visitation of Yorkshire in 1584/85 and 1612*, page 190.  
*Index of Wills in the York Registry 1514-1553* (York 1891) page 62
- <sup>106</sup> Yorkshire Wills 1542 V 11 F637
- <sup>107</sup> *The Visitation of London 1633, 1634 and 1635, Volume II*, edited by J.J. Howard (London 1883) page 283
- <sup>108</sup> Yorkshire Will 1600, V28, F173
- <sup>109</sup> It has been stated that "in the "Herald's Visitation" of Yorkshire, 1563-4, [can be found] "Roger Thompson, seated at Scarborough, who had two sons, John and William (who died without issue), and a daughter, Anne, who became his heiress." She married her cousin Richard Thompson, of Kilham, thus merging the Roger Thompson line, into another branch." None of this information appears anywhere in the Visitation referred to and appears to be a garbled version of the pedigree published in Burke's Landed Gentry.  
*Americans of Gentle Birth and Their Ancestors, A Genealogical Encyclopedia, Volume I* (Saint Louis 1903) page 283
- <sup>110</sup> Yorkshire Will 1580, V 21, F402
- <sup>111</sup> East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service, Finding No. DDEL/37/34
- <sup>112</sup> In his will dated 8 April, 1539, Sir John Towneley of Barnside. Lancashire, referred to his brother John Towneley  
*Tracing the Towneleys 2004*, page 22 [http://www.towneley.org.uk/downloads/TTv4\\_web.pdf](http://www.towneley.org.uk/downloads/TTv4_web.pdf)  
 see also: *Living same-name siblings and British historical Demography* by Chris Galley, Eilidh Garrett, Ros Davies and Alice Reid [www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net)
- <sup>113</sup> *Registrum Johannis Whyte, Episcopi Wintoniensis A.D. MDLVI-MDLIX* (London 1914) pages 20, 22-23
- <sup>114</sup> The National Archives; Kew, England; *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers*; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 48
- <sup>115</sup> London Metropolitan Archives, St Dionis Backchurch, Composite register: baptisms 1538 - 1666 and 1668 - 1736/7, marriages 1538 - 1666 and 1674 - 1736, burials 1538 - 1736/7, P69/DIO/A/001/MS017602

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- <sup>116</sup> “Willm Waryson, kyn to syr Peter Warison” was buried at St Dionis Backchurch 14 August, 1563, followed by “Peter Warison, a boye owtt of Syr Peters howse” on 26 August, 1563 - St Dionis Backchurch, Composite register
- <sup>117</sup> Other children of Henry Thomson living in 1563 were Ellen, Fortune and Margaret. - St Dionis Backchurch, Composite register
- <sup>118</sup> London Metropolitan Archives, St Lawrence Pountney, Composite register: baptisms 1538 - 1739, marriages 1538 - 1666, burials 1538 - 1739, P69/LAW2/A/001/MS07670
- <sup>119</sup> The National Archives; Kew, England; *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers*; Class: *PROB 11*; Piece: *40*
- <sup>120</sup> Cuthbert Thompson also owned property in Bidford, Barton and Abbot’s Salford in Warwickshire. [<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol3/pp49-57>] These were the subject of a dispute in 1560 between Cuthbert’s nephew, Michael Thompson, and Cuthbert’s widow, Mary, wife of William Beswicke. [<http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no15.pdf>]
- <sup>121</sup> St Lawrence Pountney, Composite register  
London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section, Clerkenwell, London, England; Reference Number: *MS 9172/18A*; Will Number: *34*
- <sup>122</sup> [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/British\\_Naming\\_Conventions](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/British_Naming_Conventions)
- <sup>123</sup> <https://familysearch.org/> <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/> <http://www.freereg.org.uk/>
- <sup>124</sup> <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/thompson-william-1574-1637>
- <sup>125</sup> The National Archives; Kew, England; *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers*; Class: *PROB 11*; Piece: *112*