

## **Richard Thompson Vicar of Ashleworth**

In 1638 The Parish Register of Ashleworth in Gloucestershire records:

*The third daye of November was Richard Tomson inducted Vicar into the Church of Ashelworth and to all the rights thereunto belonging  
By me Edm: Atwood Rurall Deane of the Denry Glouc<sup>r</sup>.<sup>1</sup>*

On 7 December 1671 “Richard Tompson clerke, vicar of the parish” was buried.<sup>2</sup> For thirty three years he had served as vicar, surviving the fall and execution of Charles I, the Commonwealth, and the restoration of Charles II.

Where did he come from?

The Clergy Database records his appointment<sup>3</sup> on 13 October 1638 and notes that his qualification was B.A. This means that prior to October 1638 Richard Thompson had been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

The only Universities in England in 1638 were Oxford and Cambridge. The records of students at both Universities have been published.

*Alumni Oxonienses*, a listing of the members of the University of Oxford, records the following members named Richard Thompson in the first half of the seventeenth century.<sup>4</sup>

1. T(h)ompson, Richard, subscribed 9 Dec., 1614; B.A. from CORPUS CHRISTI COLL. 30 Oct., 1616, M.A. 28 May, 1620; incorporated at Cambridge 1621.
2. T(h)omson, Richard, of Northants., pleb. LINCOLN COLL., matric 5 May 1615, aged 16.
3. T(h)ompson, “Ryecard,” s. William, of Holton-juxta-Beckering, co. Lincoln, pleb. LINCOLN COLL., matric. 7 Dec., 1632, aged 18.
4. T(h)omson, Richard, s. Lawrence, of Drayton, Salop, pleb., LINCOLN COLL., matric. 24 Oct., 1634, aged 17, B.A. 20 June, 1637, M.A. 19 June, 1640.

*Alumni Cantabrigienses*, a similar listing for Cambridge University, records:<sup>5</sup>

5. Thompson, Richard. Matric. sizar from ST JOHN’S, Michs. 1613; B.A. 1617-8; M.A. 1621. Perhaps ord. deacon (Durham) Sept. 23, 1621; priest, Sept. 22, 1622. (But this may refer to the next, also M.A.)
6. Thompson, Richard. M.A. 1621 (Incorp. From Oxford). Matric. (Oxford) 1614; B.A. (Corpus Christi College, Oxford) 1616; M.A. 1620.
7. Thompson, Richard. Adm. pens. at ST CATHARINE’S, 1628. Of London. Probably s. of Robert, of London, clothworker. Matric. 1628; B.A. 1631; M.A. 1635. Adm. Fell.-Com. at Peterhouse, May 2 1636. One of these names R. at Letheringsett, Norfolk, 1645, M.A.

Of these six people (the first and sixth are the same person) the second and third were not awarded degrees and, in 1638, the first, fifth and last held the degree of Master of Arts.

This leaves only one University graduate who held the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1638, Richard Thompson of Drayton in Shropshire.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/ashleworth/ashleworthvol1pt5.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/ashleworth/ashleworthvol1pt7.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayAppointment.jsp?CDBAppRedID=148828>

<sup>4</sup> *Alumni Oxonienses*, Part 1, Volume 4, page 1477

<sup>5</sup> *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, Part 1, Volume 4, page 226

Lawrence Thompson the elder, of Drayton in Hales, yeoman, wrote his will on 8 September, 1657<sup>6</sup>. In this will he bequeathed to his son Richard, all his printed books and “Twenty shillings to buy him a ring.” He made considerable bequests to his other children and his grandchildren but made no further mention of Richard. This indicates that, while Richard was still alive, his family was established and well provided for.

Therefore Richard Thompson, Vicar of Ashleworth 1638-1671, came from Drayton in Hales, now known as Market Drayton, in Shropshire.

William Good  
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<sup>6</sup> National Archives Reference PROB/11/274.