

CHAPTER 8 - THE LESSER FAMILIES

The other, or Lesser, Jackson family

Relationship to the manor Jacksons

A few words must be written about the other Jackson family if only to place on record, and to acquaint readers with, its relationship to the manor Jacksons. These two families co-existed for about the same period of time, this second family being more prolific in its members; a fact proved by reference to the Parish Registers and their various wills, although both families disappear from the scene during the first six decades of the 19th century.

The common ancestor-John Jackson

Whereas proof positive is lacking for us to state unequivocally that Gervase Jackson who married Mary Broadbent was the son of John Jackson who died in 1609, it is not so with John's son John and his descendants. John the son married Susannah Meare and died early in 1670. He kept one of the two inns in Stapleford and more about him, and the inn, is recorded in a later chapter.

Thomas Jackson

John and Susannah were the parents of at least ten children, (gaps in the records prevent the possible addition of any more), some of whom died in infancy; it was Thomas, the eldest surviving son, who was the progenitor of the other Jackson family in Stapleford. It is he who provides the link (a second one if we accept that his grandfather John is also the grandfather of Gervase) with the Jacksons of the manor house.

Thomas Jackson-Constable of Stapleford 1662-1666

During the years 1662-1666 inclusive he acted as Constable of Stapleford and we know that it was customary to pay certain sums of money to Chief, or High Constable of the Hundred via the parish constable; we also know that George Jackson was, at the same time, Chief, or High, Constable. In the Accounts which Thomas kept whilst in office, references to his "Brother Jackson" are fairly numerous, as are those to his father and other members of his family, but unfortunately "Brother Jackson" is never given a Christian name in these records, and even Thomas's successors continuously and politely refer to him as plain "Mr. Jackson". As references to "Mr. Jackson" cease during the year 1684 (the year in which George Jackson died) there can be no doubt that both "Brother Jackson" and "Mr. Jackson" are meant for him. By study of the records, it becomes quite evident that Thomas was not an actual brother of George, but all is well, and the relationship becomes clear, when it is realised that George was his brother-in-law and that Grace,

Thomas's wife, must have sister to George and daughter of Gervase Jackson and Mary Broadbent (and of course possibly first cousin to her husband). Acceptance of these facts satisfactorily answers several unposed questions and could also account for the not inconsiderable amount of land mentioned by Thomas in his will, and also for the popularity of the name "Gervase" in each generation of this branch of the Jackson family. It is strange how the manor Jacksons, so conscious of their descent from the Broadbents, should have studiously refrained from using this Christian name.

Thomas took over his father's inn, (George Jackson was a guarantee in 1674 for both Thomas Jackson and Matthew Langford, the other holder in Stapleford) but after his death there is no evidence to suggest that any member of his family continued in that occupation. Thomas's son Gervase was a blacksmith, as were Gervase's sons Henry and Robert. Thomas's daughter, Elizabeth, married Moses Atkin in 1686.

18th century Jacksons

These early 18th century Jacksons each appear to have enjoyed property and land, albeit to a lesser extent than their predecessors, and succeeding generations received even less by way of any inheritance. However, despite the decrease in land extent, (due to it being shared amongst the children of each generation) later Jacksons did very well as framework knitters. Even Thomas's widow, Grace, who died in 1708 was possessed at early time, of a silk stocking frame which she bequeathed to her son Thomas Jackson of Nether Broughton, Leicestershire.¹

Enclosure Award

Several members of these Jacksons figure in the Enclosure Award of 1771-2, by which time the individual amounts were not very extensive and could not therefore support a family without some other means of employment. As the families grew in size circumstances dictated that many of their members seek fresh pastures and this, combined with the eventual deaths of those remaining in Stapleford, is perhaps the main cause of their disappearance from the parish during the early part of the 19th century.

Marriage alliances

Set out below are some of the local families to which these Jacksons had become allied by marriage.

Atkin of Stapleford
Fox of Bramcote
Greasley of Stapleford
Hallam of Stapleford

¹ Will at York.

Hooley of Stapleford
Hurt of Long Eaton
Thompson of Sawley
Upton of Stapleford.

The Hollingworth Family

William Hollingworth 1556

This family must be included as a separate entity for several reasons, least of all being the many deeds and documents which can be consulted wherein its members are mentioned. Described as Hollingworth of Hollingworth (in the parish of Mottram in Longdendale), Cheshire, it is not evident what circumstances brought about their connexion with Stapleford. One of the earliest members of this family to crop up in the records is William Hollingworth, a witness in March 1556-1 to the will of Margery Chambers and in February 1561-2 to the will of Robert Sidbotham, both of Stapleford.²

Reginald Hollingsworth d.1587

Scant though any corroborative information is, it is fairly safe to assume that the Reginald Hollingsworth who, in 1586, paid 12 pence for suit of court to the Court of the Honour of Peverel at Nottingham Castle at the Easter holding, was the son of this William. No suit of court had been paid by a Hollingworth as far back as 1572 or 3 so it is more than likely that the family had not acquired these particular lands for which suit of court was obligatory. Reginald paid again in 1587 but died during the following year for at the Easter court of 1588 his widow, Katherine, foots the bill.

Francis Hollingsworth d.1614

There is no indication at this time of the extent of the Hollingworth lands but we do know that by a final concord dated 28th January 1588 made between Katherine and her son Francis, the latter became possessed of certain properties and lands to the tune of 4 messuages, 4 cottages, 1 dovecote, land (in nice round but misleading figures), 40 shillings in rents, and most important of all these, a moiety of the water-mill; all for the sum of £150.³ An Indenture made the same day as the Fine gives more realistic details. From this it appears that Francis is not the only son of Reginald and Katherine, and although the properties are his and not particularized, the essence of the deed was to ensure that Francis paid a yearly sum of £7-3-0 to his mother

² Reg at York Vol.17 Fol.42 & Fol 122

³ DP51/1

upon whose death, however, this rent charge did not devolve upon Francis but went to his brother Reginald, and then to Reginald's son William, after whose death it passed to a brother, George, who in 1618 sold the rents to John Jacques alias Gamble, of Toton, for £100.⁴

Buys land from Lord Sheffield

This was not Francis's only acquisition; in January 1591 he made a small but important purchase from Edmund, Lord Sheffield of 2 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 5 acres of pasture and the other moiety of the water mill, at a price of £70.⁵

Marries Elizabeth Jacques

It was on 21st October 1600 at Attenborough that Francis Hollingworth married Elizabeth Jacques, alias Gambold, of Toton, daughter of Francis Jacques and sister to the John who had bought the rents from George Hollingworth. Their known children were John, born 30th August 1606 and a daughter, Anne.

Francis died 1614

Francis died 6th December 1614 at which time the Hollingworth possessions consisted of the house in which he had dwelt (and his mother before him) together with 8 bovates of land, meadow and pasture, common of pasture for 14 beasts in the common pasture of Stapleford, as well as four closes, called "The Great Flatt Croft", "The Roode Hades", "The Marsh Close", "The Brinscroft" and a close of meadow called the "Little Flatt Croft"; with his house went one of the moieties of the water mill.

1600 enfeoffment

On October 1st 1600 just prior to his marriage, Francis enfeoffed John Rowe and Miles Farrand of these pastures to the use of himself and Elizabeth, and the longer liver of the two.

Demise of "Miles Farm" 1603

There was also another house, with 3 bovates of land etc. and known as "Miles Farm". This was in the occupation of Miles Farrand (hence the name) and by an Indenture dated 10th February 1603 Francis demised these premises to Margaret Farrand (wife of Miles), Christopher Farrand (son of Miles), and Dorothy his wife, for the terms of their lives and that of the longest liver; the premises then reverting to the heirs of Francis. A speculative point is that as the Indenture was made with

⁴ QDS/1/5

⁵ DP 51/3

Margaret and not Miles, perhaps a relationship existed between she and Francis; in all probability there were sister and brother.

Storer's Farm

There was also another house, with 6 bovates of land etc. known as Storer's Farm and in the occupation of George Storer; (it had also been in the occupation of George's father, Roger.)

Other property

In addition to these three farms there were 7 cottages, the other moiety of the water mill, half of a close called "Meadow Close", half of a close called Garholme" which in Elizabeth I's day covered 4 acres and had been demised to William Harlow, and a whole close called "Long Close".

With the exception of "Long Close" all the premises were held of the King as of the Honour of Peverel by fealty for all services and not in chief. They were declared to be worth 40 shillings a year besides reprises. "Long Close" was held of the King as of the Honour of Peverel, but in chief, by knight service for the one two hundredth part of a knight's fee and was worth 10 shillings a year.⁶

John Hollingsworth b.1606

As a tenant in chief (however small) of the King, Francis's son John, aged a little over 8 years when his father died, became a ward of the King but the wardship was granted to his mother, Elizabeth. This arrangement was no mere legal fiction, Elizabeth did not survive her husband for many months and one learns from her will (made in July 1615) that she had in hand £26-13-4 from the wardship, of which 50 shillings was to go to the King.⁷

These Hollingsworth farms and livings remained intact for many years with very little, if any, alteration. Of all the many holdings, both large and small, the Hollingsworth's is unique in so much that it gives names to farms and closes, and although it is not possible to say with certainty where all the premises lay, perhaps information will come to light at a late date to provide the missing data. The close known as "Rood Hades", however, can be located; it was an old close on the north side of Nottingham Road approximately where the house known as "The Gables" stood: now demolished and the site occupied by part of the "Sandcliffe" "garage premises.

The reader will remember that it was the tithes from these farms and livings which provided the money to pay the dues to the curate, archdeacon etc.

⁶ IPM Ward 7/52/133

⁷ Will at York Vol 33 f690.

John married Elizabeth Fawkener 1627

John Hollingworth's marriage took place on July 16th 1627 at St. Mary's, Nottingham. The bride was Elizabeth, daughter of Luke Fawkener of Stapleford, and an only son, Gervase, was born to them on 23rd. October 1628 and baptised the following day at Stapleford.

John Hollingworth death 1629 and details of estate

Unfortunately, the marriage was of short duration for John Hollingworth died in January 1629 and was buried on the 21st of that month.

At the time of his death the estate embraced the same lands, properties, etc. as in his father's time-no additions or diminutions; Storer's Farm continues to be known by that name but was now in the occupation of Luke Fawkener; Margery Farrands was dead (and probably Miles, too) for Christopher and Dorothy Farrands held the lease of Miles Farm. Two of the eight oxgangs which went with the Hollingworth Farm had been let to William Greasley (d.1620) and at the time of John's death were let to William's son John at a rent of 3 shillings a year.⁸

By an Indenture dated 4th October 1628 John had enfeoffed George Jacques (his uncle) and Luke Fawkener (his father-in-law) with all the premises excepting "Long Close", reserving his own farm etc. for himself and wife Elizabeth and afterwards to their eldest son and his heirs.⁹

Elizabeth remarries

Elizabeth Hollingworth did not remain a widow for very long; she married Henry Wilde of East Leake at Radford in September 1630 at which time she herself is described as "of Radford."¹⁰ However, before this union took place she had become the mother of an illegitimate daughter, Mary, who was baptised 13th July 1630; a George Allin was the putative father. Henry evidently did not hold this against her and went on to add seven more children to the family although by all accounts Gervase was brought up by his grandfather Luke and afterwards by step-grandmother Katherine and uncle Gervase Fawkener.

Gervase Hollingsworth b.1628

By the terms of his grandfather's will Gervase was to be granted his marriage portion on marriage with any woman of his own choice, and as soon as he attained the age of 21 he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Blisse, a cleric, of Colemworth, Bedfordshire. The marriage settlement is dated 6th November 1649 and speaks of

⁸ IPM C 142/707

⁹ IPM Ward 7/78/69.

¹⁰ MLB 1630

“a marriage lately had and solemnised”. Gervase is also referred to as “of Colemworth” at this time. The properties were invested in feoffes for the use of Gervase and Elizabeth during their lives and to their heirs. If no heirs, then to Elizabeth for life and afterwards to the children of Gervase Fawkener (his uncle) and the children of Elizabeth Wilde (his mother).

Details of the estate

At this time the farms were still known by their original names: Miles Farm, still in the tenure of a Miles Farrand-grandson of the first Miles-but now only an oxgang in extent. Storer’s Farm, now in the tenure of Gervase Fawkener and consisting of 8 oxgangs (the original 6 plus 2 that once belonged to Miles Farm). There were several closes, “Long Close”, “Marsh Close”, Rood Hades” and “Holme Close” and “Bessils Close”; these last two names were, in all probability, the contemporary ones for the earlier “Garholme” and “Meadow Close”. There was also a moiety of the water mill with this farm; Gervase Fawkener’s father, Luke, mentions a Robert Masset his “miller” in his will.¹¹

The seven cottages are still part of the estate but now we have the interesting information of the names of their respective tenants: - Richard Willows; William Lockee (one time servant to Luke Fawkner); Mary Butler, widow; Francis Hughson; Richard Rogers; William Cliffe and John Collishaw.

The Hollingworth house was now occupied by Gervase’s mother, her husband Henry Wilde, and their family; with this went “Great Flatte croft”, the “Little Flatt croft”, the “Brinscoft”, the other moiety of the water-moll and the 14 beast pastures. The settlement covered the reversion of this property to which Elizabeth Wilde had become entitled as the widow of John Hollingworth.¹²

Gervase Hollingsworth died 1653

Gervase Hollingworth died c. June 1653: he had made no will and a man by the name of William Thompson, one of the principal creditors, took out letters of administration. His widow married Edward Mabbet of Nottingham on 29th December 1653 in St Mary’s.¹³

John Hollingsworth

Gervase and Elizabeth had a son named John who succeeded to the family estates when he came of age c 1672, and for the ensuing years, until his death in 1686, the premises were continuously being mortgaged. With the marriage of Elizabeth Hollingworth, the family appears to have severed its residential connexions with

¹¹ WILL Yk Reg 1640.

¹² DP 51/6.

¹³ PCC Fol. 179 July 1653

Stapleford; at the time when John attained his majority he is described as “of Cotgrave”.

Miles Farm, Storers Farm and other property sold to William Chambers 1684

With the property continuously mortgaged it was inevitable that it should eventually be sold. In 1684, Miles Farm-which had been leased in 1672 to Gevase Farrand, great-grandson of the original Miles-was sold to William Chambers along with Storer's Farm-then in the occupation of Edward Straw-, six of the seven cottages, the whole of the water- mill and 50(?) acres of land etc.¹⁴ In 1689 this same William came into possession of Henry Wilde's (the son of Henry and Elizabeth) house and the “Rood Hades.”¹⁵

Cottage sold to George Butler

The initial and most interesting sale took place in 1682 when George Butler, cordwainer, bought for £20 the cottage in which he was living. With it went one cowgate and four sheepgates in the “common pasture, fields and commonable places for Beasts and Sheep”.¹⁶ This was to remain in the Butler family for more than 175 years and was eventually sold by another George Butler to provide the plot on which was built the first Wesleyan Chapel in Church Street

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In the portion of his “History of Nottinghamshire” devoted to Stapleford Robert Thoroton refers to the water-mill “which my cousin Hollingworth hath”. These two contemporaries were not cousins german but more distant ones. Thoroton's mother was Ann Chambers of Stapleford, (she had married Robert Thoroton senior in St Mary's on 30th November 1622), daughter of Peter Chambers and his wife (Christian name unknown), who was a sister of Elizabeth Storer, first wife of Luke Fawkener the great-grandfather of John Hollingworth.

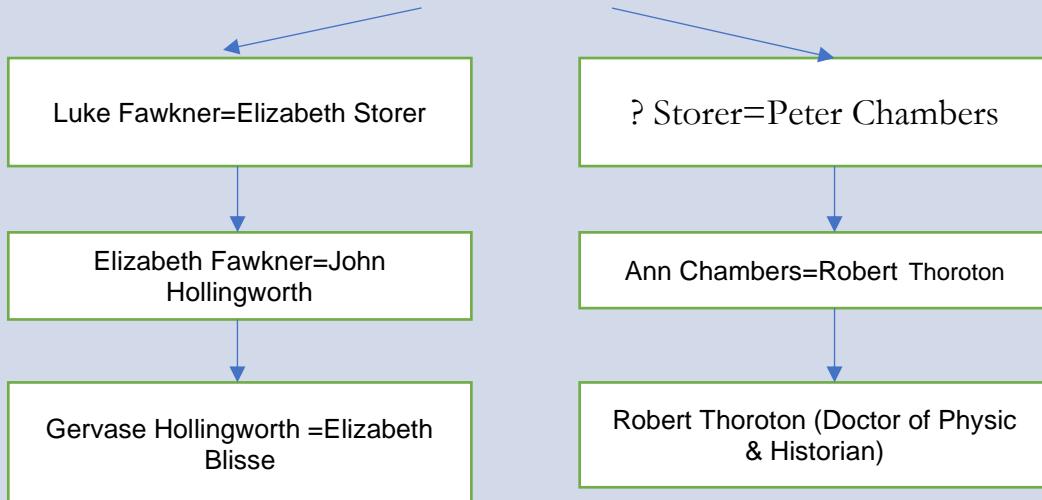
Relationship between Dr. Thoroton and the Hollingsworths

Roger Storer=Agnes 2 daughters Elizabeth & ?
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¹⁴ F of F CP.25)2) N 706

¹⁵ DP 51/22

¹⁶ M684 (Nottingham City Library.)



The Fawkner (Faulkener et varia) Family

Established by 1556

Another family of some note during the middle Tudor and early Stuart periods was that of the Fawkener, (variously spelled as one may well expect), but whence it came there is no indication. It was well established here by February 1556 when Robert Fakynner was one of the witnesses to the will of Cecilie Towle; in May of the year following the same Robert was appointed by the will of Avery Burton to be one of the supervisors.

Robert Fawkner

Robert and his descendants may be described as prosperous husbandmen; there is nothing to suggest that they owned the land they worked- quite the contrary in fact. When this Robert died between 28th March and 10th October 1566 his will refers to “the remainder of the lease of the house”, (and of course the land with it); this was to be shared jointly by his sons Richard and John who, as has been seen in the chapter on the Tithes, were jointly answerable in the Archdeacon’s Court for the non-payment of those dues.

Luke Fawkener

Nothing spectacular is recorded about these early Fawkeners, and it is left to Richard's son, Luke, to increase the family fortunes and his own well-being. He seems always to have been on intimate terms with the Tevereys; in any disputes he was always on their side, and, as has already been stated, was one of the feoffees mentioned in Gevase Teverey's will. His only son Gervase was quite obviously named after Gervase Teverey and although not specifically mentioned in that gentleman's will as a "godson, was certainly held in high esteem by him for he bequeathed to young Gervase "20 shillings in gold as a memorial of my love". In his turn Luke bequeathed £5 each to Gervase Teverey's widow, Anne, and grandson Teverey Palmes.

Luke marries Elizabeth Storer

Luke Fawkener's name recurs many times elsewhere in this history so only the few necessary facts need be stated here. He married twice; his first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Roger and Agnes Storer; she was the mother of his children, Gervase; Elizabeth who married John Hollingsworth and the Henry Wilde; Margaret who married Thomas Hebb at Rempstone; and Anne who died unmarried in 1629. Elizabeth Fawkener died in September 1615¹⁷ and Luke lost no time in remarrying—such unseemly haste.

Luke remarries Katherine-widow of George Storer

This time he took to wife, Katherine, the widow of George Storer (who also had died earlier that same year), the ceremony taking place on 20th November 1615¹⁸ Katherine, with no children of her own and as the widow of George Storer, brought him the lease of Storer's Farm which, together with his own lands, put Luke in a very comfortable position indeed. It also brought him into the Subsidy (Tax) bracket so to speak, for whereas for many years the name of Storer was the only one entered in the Subsidy Rolls for Stapleford as possessing goods (as opposed to land) over a certain value this name now disappears and is replaced by that of Luke Fawkener.

Luke dies 1640

Luke died about the end of August 1640 and left a large and sorrowing family as well as substantially staffed household—5 servants at least. His widow survived him by some 6 years and after her death the name of Fawkener seldom occurs in connexion with Stapleford.

¹⁷ BT

¹⁸ BT

Luke Fawkener

After his father's and step-mother's deaths, Gervase, Luke's only son, inherited the leases etc of the farm. At the time when Gervase Teverey made his will (1636) Gervase Fawkener was at Trinity College, Cambridge where he had matriculated as Sizar in 1628, was a scholar in 1631, took his BA degree in 1631-2 and his MA in 1635. He was chaplain of Trinity in 1637 and whilst still in that office married Lettice Starkey of Stapleford in April 1639. He became Vicar of Keysoe in Bedfordshire c. 1640.

As well as her husband, Lettice was also a beneficiary under the terms of Gervase Teverey's will. In it she is referred to as "Mistress" and was bequeathed £10 "if she shall dwell in my house at the time of my death; or if she be gone, £5". Her title raises her above the status of a menial and suggests that she held a superior post in the Teverey household, possibly governess or companion to one of the ladies.

The Clarke Family

Established by 1570

Another yeoman family of Stapleford, and one contemporaneous with that of Fawkener, was Clarke. Like the Fawkener family, whence it came is not apparent but was flourishing here in 1570 and continued to reside in the parish for more than a hundred years. A family of fair substance its head figures prominently in the Subsidy Rolls of the period being third only to the Tevereys and second to the Broadbent Jacksons.

John Clarke dies 1589

John Clarke died in 1589 and his widow, Isabella, in 1599. They were the parents of a family of 5 sons and 2 daughters; William, the eldest son, died unmarried in 1594 and it was, therefore, George the second son, who inherited the property after his mother's death. Roger, another son, also lived in the village but both Richard and Thomas moved away. Of the two daughters, Katherine married John Flamstead, of Little Hallam, whose cousin, John, was the great-grand-father of John Flamstead the first Astronomer Royal. The elder daughter Elizabeth married Richard Levis of Beeston and died during her mother's lifetime. She left a son Richard, and a daughter Alice who later married Thomas Cox of Sutton Bonington and who are direct ancestors of the author of this work.

George Clarke dies 1657

George Clarke, grandson of the first George, died unmarried in 1657 and having provided for his sister, Katherine, in the shape of "a cottage with an acre of land in the tenure of Robert Crampton. A close called "Sick Close" on the west side of Mr. Hollingworth's "Roode Hades"; a close called "Crab Tree Close" (now covered by

Victoria Street and its houses), and “Stonehill Gap” Close, the residue went to his brother John, who married Ann, daughter of Gervase Meyre, in 1662.

John and Ann Clarke’s children were born in Stapleford but after the death of Ann in 1677 no further mention is made of any Clarkes, who with certainty can be said to belong to this particular family, and it would seem that John and his family moved away.

Some other old Stapleford families.

A parish is not completely peopled by the wealthy, the landed, and the powerful; alongside these are those of lesser degree, plying their trades and performing their appointed tasks. In the very early times next to nothing is known about them-they just did not get themselves mentioned in many records of the day. However, as time went on, more and more of the lesser people “get their names in print” and thus it is possible to learn something about them, and because of this it is well that something should be written concerning the older families of Stapleford.

In these days of population mobility-call it the gypsy in them-many people, for one reason or another, stray away from the place in which they were born, more so than perhaps a hundred or so years ago, and to some extent this has gone on for centuries. In spite of all temptations to go seek a fortune Stapleford can boast, and justifiably too, of many present-day inhabitants who are descended from families which have been resident in the parish over several centuries, and with more than 150 years head start over their nearest rivals are the families of Towle and Greasley.

Towle (Tull, Tulle, Tow, Toule)

Early mentions

In the Domesday Book the entry for Sandiacre tells us that “Toli, Cnut, Gladwin (who also held land in Stapleford) had 4 carucates of land assessed to the Geld. Now Toli holds them of the King”. Apart from the distinction of a Saxon retaining his lands, and in this instance in added measure, after the Conquest, Toli’s descendant continued to hold Sandiacre for many years. In the Pipe Rolls of 2 Hen II (1156) the name is Peter Toli but two years later Peter calls himself Peter de Sandiacre.

Now, although the earliest mention of Towle in Stapleford is in 1454 with Hugh Tulle, it is not without the bounds of probability that Hugh was a descendant of the Tolises of Sandiacre. It is an Inquisition Post Mortem which lists Hugh as one of the jurors and wherein he is described as yeoman. Contemporaneous with our Hugh was William, Rector of one of the medietyes of Trowell circa 1440, and some 50 years later another William Tull is also a priest with a living, and this William is a witness to the will of Robert Tull of Stapleford who died in 1514.

Allied by marriage to the Martylls

It was during the first half of the 16th century that the Towles allied themselves by marriage to the Martyll family when John, son of Thomas and Cecilie, married Agnes the daughter of Peter Martyll. And so the family continued to produce successive generations and to reside in the parish but, unlike several of its contemporaries, not once were any of its male members given the baptismal name of Gervase. At a time when this name was becoming so popular with those who favoured the Tevereys, the Towles very clearly not in that camp and inclined in their allegiance towards the Broadbents, demonstrating the fact by naming one of their sons Valentine.

Samuel Towle

In the 18th century a Samuel Towle was one of the freeholders who voted at the County Roll in 1722. He was a tailor by trade and four of his sons followed suit, although one of them, Jonathan, later moved to Nottingham and became a stay-maker. Joseph remained in Stapleford as did John who eventually entered the service of Borlace Warren. Another brother, William, moved to Toton to ply his trade. Their sister, Hannah, a spinster but mother of several children, was perhaps the most colourful contemporary member of the family for she was none other than the mistress of Borlace Warren, (see chapter on The Warren Family), a fact which must have been well known both in Stapleford and Toton where she resided.

19th century

Towards the last quarter of the 18th century and during the whole of the 19th the number of branches of this family increased extensively as most Victoria families were wont-and although many of its members found domicile and employment elsewhere a goodly number remained to become lace-makers, bakers, victuallers, shop-keepers etc., and in their spare time produced on or two lay-preachers in the Methodist Circuit.

Thomas Towle

Nearer to the present day is the figure of Thomas Towle, son of Thomas Towle and France Bull-who hailed from Huntingdon. He died November 18th, 1918 aged 85 years and had been the second chairman (1899-1901) of the newly instituted Stapleford Parish Council. He was also one of the founder-members of the Stapleford and Sandiacre Co-operative Society in 1872 along with his brother William, Gideon Atkin, Edward Johnson and others when its first premises were situate at the bottom of Toton Lane on the south side near to the Roach. Thomas Towle's aunt Millicent married Thomas Whitely the lace manufacturer in 1808.

At one time he was in possession of Stapleford Hall and it was his idea that this building should be the cultural and administrative centre for an expanding Stapleford with the Park maintained as a pleasant place for recreation; a place far superior to anything we have or can have, today or in the future. Unfortunately for the parish his intentions were set to nought-outside monied interests made their aggressive demands and Thomas was very nearly ruined.

Warren Avenue v Towle's Avenue

What is now Warren Avenue was, originally, Towle's Avenue. The change came about, not by popular request as one can be led to believe, but by a busy-body who was not a Staplefordian, was ignorant of the associations the Towle family had with Stapleford and who thought that as the avenue of limes to the Hall, it would be more fitting if the name Warren was associated with it, and canvassed accordingly.

Probably many of the occupants knew of the Towle family, I am very sure that many knew even less about the Warren family and so had no real interest in the proposition. However, the busy gentleman got very little change from Number 10, then occupied by Mrs. Millicent Taylor; she left him in no doubt whatsoever that the name should not be changed-you see, he didn't know that her maiden name was Towle!

Greasley

Established by 1454

Although the name of Greasley is to be found in connexion with many places in Derbyshire from very early times the first knowledge of this family in Stapleford is contained in the same document which mentions the Towles in 1454 and is with William Gresley senior and William Gresley junior, both of whom were yeomen. Like the Towles, their names are to be found as witnesses to Wills, as jurors in inquests and inquisitions, and in many other types of documents down the centuries.

One of the most prolific families in the parish

One of the most prolific families in the parish, its ramifications make it practically impossible to compile a thoroughly comprehensive and accurate pedigree. In Tudor days they were connected by marriage to the Chambers, Cockens, (Cockayne?) and a branch of the Jacksons. In later times to more Jacksons; Farrand, Attenborough and Atkin are only some of the Stapleford families with which they intermarried. Here, also, was one of the families which really went to town with the name Gervase; every generation well into the 19th century had a son so called.

William Greasley

Inevitably, many Greasleys are mentioned throughout this book but an item, which cannot conveniently be included elsewhere, concerns the family in the early part of the 17th century at which time it could be described as a fairly substantial yeoman one. Thoroton recites that in 1612 William Greasley was the owner of 4 oxgangs of land in Stapleford. His nuncupative will gives no indication of this but an Inquisition post Mortem (if it be the same William) held in 1629 (nine years after his death) reveals that the 4 oxgangs were not owned but held of Gervase Teverey at 4 shillings a year, and of John Hollingsworth at 3 shillings a year-2 oxgangs from each. There were other lands etc. in Bramcote and Chilwell.¹⁹

Throughout their long association with Stapleford the Greasleys have plied many trades, as nailers, framework knitters, bakers (their bakery was what is now Kerr's

¹⁹ C.142/707

paper shop at the junction of Pinfold Lane with Nottingham Road and was the one later to be owned and used as such by William Towle) victuallers, as well as husbandmen. They have also served as Church wardens and as Constables of the parish.

Attenborough

First appears in 1633

Here is another old Stapleford family with descendants still in the parish. Its first connexion comes with the marriage in 1633 of Richard Attenborough of Chilwell in the parish of Attenborough to Dorothy Weane of Stapleford ²⁰ thereafter the members of the family come thick and fast as the registers testify; husbandmen, yeomen and framework knitters etc.; all in varying degrees of substantiability have all, in their ages, added something to that, which was Stapleford and, like the Greasleys, their names can be found amongst the Churchwardens and Constables.

Two very notable present-day descendants of the Stapleford Attenboroughs are film actor Richard and his brother, David, of the BBC.

Smedley

First appears in 1650

This is another old and most prolific family. How or why they came to Stapleford cannot be determined, but perhaps the earliest member of this family to get his name into the records was Robert Smedley who had to find 4 shillings for the quarterly assessment in 1650.²¹

The parish registers simply teem with Smedley entries but unfortunately any collateral documentary information which would give a better insight into the family during the 17th and 18th centuries is sadly lacking. Like their contemporaries their occupations must have been various but amongst them is the inevitable framework knitting which, together with lace and cloth manufacturing, gave this family such prominence in the 19th century.

As did the Greasleys and Attenboroughs the Smedleys too clung to that good old Stapleford Christian name of Gervase. It was a Gervase Smedley, (son of Gervase), who in 1794 married Ann, the sister of William Copestake. Gervase and Ann had thirteen children but only five of them survived their father. When he died in January 1836 his Berlin and lace machines went to his sons Joseph and Thomas. Joseph later became a cloth manufacturer as did Thomas and both of them resided in Church Street where Joseph owned considerable property. Their brother Michael, who perhaps didn't do quite so well, lived in Cloud Villa, Nottingham Road and died in 1869. Thomas had died in March 1862 and amongst the property which he owned was the "Old Careless" public house-now known as the "Horse and Jockey". Joseph

²⁰ MLB

²¹ CA

Smedley died in 1863. Smedley, too, gave their services, willingly or grudgingly, as Churchwardens and Constables.

Hooley

First appears in 1677

The Hooleys took up residence in Stapleford when Henry Hooley of Trowell married Mary Wilkinson of Stapleford in 1677. With a name such as Hooley one immediately thinks there should be an Irish connexion somewhere; however, Henry's forbears came from no further away than Wollaton and the only reference to Ireland comes much later than the Wollaton days and is a casual entry in the parish registers for 1696 which informs the reader- "Baptised (no date) Francis, son of Henry Hooley and Mary his wife, born 1th September 1695 in Kylltornum in ye County of Dublin". It would be interesting to know for what purpose Henry and his family had travelled to Ireland.

Some of Henry's sons spread themselves around; as far afield as Mansfield, Tollerton and Normanton-on-the Wolds they went but two remained in Stapleford; Henry who died a bachelor in 1736 and John who died in 1757. John was a substantial yeoman and had a large family to support. They are John's descendants who crowd many pages in the parish registers. Churchwardens, framework knitters, shoemakers, shopkeepers, carriers, millers, soldiers, husbandmen and yeoman are all to be found in the ranks of the Hooleys.

Atkin

Established in 1686

This family established itself here in 1686 when Moses Atkin married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Grace Jackson. Although at the time of his marriage Moses is referred to as "of Stapleford" there is nothing to indicate that he was no more than a recent resident. Atkin is not a very local name and we have to travel as far afield as Norton, (then) in Derbyshire, to find any number in the early 1600's and where Moses is a popular forename amongst them.

Moses Atkins d.1709

This first of the Atkins did very well for himself and pursued a policy of acquiring land whenever the right opportunity presented itself. When he died in 1709, he was a yeoman of some standing and his farmhouse must have been one of the most comfortably appointed in the town. This was situated away from the village proper and occupied a site on the north corner of what is now the junction of Halls Road with Derby Road.

Moses and Elizabeth were the parents of ten children, some of whom died young; their most prolific descendants stem from Thomas, Marmaduke (a favourite Atkin name), Henry and John who, however, were all younger sons.

Moses Atkin II d.1768

Moses Atkin II was the eldest son and married Elizabeth Ellis of Little Chester in 1722. Of their five children only a daughter survived into adult life; she was Elizabeth who married, firstly, William Antill of Spondon (1745) and, secondly, Humphrey Hudson of Little Chester (1770).

Elizabeth Antill (nee Atkin)

The law of primogeniture prevailing Moses II had come in for the lion's share of his father's lands etc.; daughter Elizabeth, therefore, as his sole heiress was well placed to make a favourable marriage. When her father died in 1768 his not inconsiderable estate devolved upon her for life and then went to her second son, George, who married Mary Berridge in 1775 but died, without issue, in 1788 leaving his tanyard to his brother Thomas, as well as the rest of his estate after his wife's decease.

Thomas Antill

From a Tax Assessment of 1812 we are able to get a glimpse of Thomas Antill's household. He possessed two greyhounds (taxed at 11 shillings), 2 other dogs (at 7 shillings), 1 manservant, 1 carriage horse, 4 other horses or mules; and was the only person in Stapleford other than Sir John Borlace Warren to be taxed on hair powder: £1:3:6 as against £2:7:0 paid by the Admiral.²²

When Thomas died in 1823 his estate, with certain exceptions, went to his niece, Mary Toplis Antill, daughter of his elder brother Charles, who had married Laurence Hall of Bramcote; Penelope, Thomas's widow and sister to William Allsop, onetime steward to Sir John Borlase Warren, retaining a life interest in certain properties,²³ The Halls moved away from this locality and ended up in Uxbridge, Middlesex where Mary died in 1872. It was a few years after her death that the family's Stapleford lands were sold to divers persons for building speculation: hence Lawrence Street, Antill Street, Halls Road; not to mention Brookhill Street (originally intended to be known by the more correct designation of Brockhill Road) all of which cornered a great part of the Bridge Field. Other families descended from these Atkins as well as the Antills were the Lambs, Palmers and Thurmans.

The brothers of Moses II

To regress to the brothers of Moses II and their descendants who carried the name of Atkin through many generations we find yeomen, (on a much smaller scale than Moses), framework knitters, lace makers and shop-keepers.

One of these brothers, Thomas, 1689-1770, lived in a house, together with its croft etc., situated at the Roach on a triangular area of land two sides of which were formed by Toton Lane and Eaton's Road. His son Moses, 1724-1894, lived there also as did Moses's son William, 1760-1819, although by this time another cottage had been built on the land and the originally single plot was now divided into three.²⁴

²² M.199.

²³ Will. York. Aug. 1824.

²⁴ DDRL. 30

Isaac Atkin b.1774

An Atkin who must be mentioned is Isaac, born 3rd October 1774; the son of Marmaduke Atkin and Sarah Woodhouse he was a great-great-grandson of Moses I. As a youth he was a member of the parish church choir but through a service conducted by a Revd. Grundell he attached himself to the Methodist cause in 1798 and quickly became a force within that community. He became a local preacher and in the course of his career held the offices of Steward to chapel and trust, teacher and class leader.²⁵ He was married three times, established himself as a lacemaker, and died March 22nd 1846.

Arthur Atkin

Within living memory there is Arthur Atkin, one of the many Atkins of his generation in Stapleford but one who was keenly interested in its history. Amongst his reminiscences was the occasion in 1885 or 6 when the Kaiser visited Stapleford and attended a service at the New Connexion Chapel in Nottingham Road. (Truly “Top Hat” chapel on that occasion. His great-grandfather John (b1785) was the toll-gate keeper as well as post master and lived in a cottage which used to stand next to the present Telephone Exchange on its south side. As a boy this John had helped to plant trees in Stapleford Park. Arthur Atkin was a great-great-great-great-grandson of Moses I.

Some Stapleford families whose members married an Atkin were Jackson, Oldershaw, Greasley, Smedley, Wallis, Daykin, Sills and Butler.

Daykin

IT is not quite clear just when or from where this family came to reside in Stapleford. A John Dakyn of Derby acted as agent in 1685, on behalf of William Chambers of Derby, for the purchase of land in Stapleford then being sold by John Hollingworth.²⁶ Maybe it was he who gained a foothold for himself here about the same time.

Earliest mention 1708

The earliest mention of a Daykin in the parish registers is Mary Daykin’s marriage to William Revell of Sandiacre in 1708. The family certainly seems to have been well established here by 1746 when William Daykin married Hannah Moseley and George and Eleanor Daykin’s son George was baptised in the year following.

Parish clerk 1784

Some of the early Daykins were tailors by trade but perhaps the family’s prominence in the village is due to the fact that no less than three successive generations gave Stapleford a parish clerk. John Daykin (b 1747), son of William and Hannah was appointed parish clerk in 1784: an entry recording the fact was made in the parish registers and runs:-

²⁵ Heralds of the Cross p.38

²⁶ DP 51/18

March 13th 1784.

"With the Approbation of Sir John Warren & at the Request of the greatest part of the Principal Inhabitants, John Daykin is appointed Parish Clerk of the Parish of Stapleford in the County of Nottingham.

J.Smith. Minister of
Stapleford".

Fifteen years later there is another stray entry about John:

"1799 July 8th. John Daykin Bought of Joseph Smedley 1 Seat in the Front Seat of the loft" (of the church)

After 27 years in the same office John came in for a pay rise:-

"At a Vestry meeting held 22nd August 1811. Agreed that John Daykin the present Clerk shall in future Receive yearly the Sum of three Guineas for his Duty in the Church. 1811

Jno. B. Warren Bart.

Jno. Taft

G. Wheeldon

Thos. Antill

Geo Bowden) Church

Jno. Greasley) Wardens

Succeeded by son and grandson

John Daykin held office as parish clerk until his death in 1824 when he was succeeded by his son, John who, when he died in 1842, was followed in that office by his son William. During William's term of office the salary of the Parish Clerk was increased to £5 a year (1868-9). He died in 1879 and for well-nigh a century a Daykin had been general factotum to the vicar and church-wardens of Stapleford.

The parish clerk Daykins lived in a cottage (now demolished) which stood at the church gate on the north corner of Church Lane's junction with Church Street. In this century it was still occupied by a Daykin, old Martha. One year, during the incumbency of Crawford Hillis, when there was a good crop of apples on Martha's few trees, Hillis cast a longing eye on them and thinking that his position, together with his air of authority, would carry the day, sold those apples whilst they were still on the trees. His argument was that they belonged to him as the trees were on, what he called, Church ground). However, Martha had friends and told Arthur Atkin of what Hillis intended and so Arthur, together with a colleague, promptly got a hamper and gathered all the apples for the old lady. When the irate Hillis stormed up to Martha's champions he was left in no doubt as to whom they did of right belong and had to concede defeat, no doubt with considerable loss of face and ill grace.

Dalley

John Dalley married 1765

The Dalleys came from Trowell when John Dalley married Sarah Bamford, daughter of William Bamford and Elizabeth Oldershaw, in 1765. Very little is known about the early generations of this family until they allied themselves by marriage with the Whiteleys in 1826 when John Dalley, a grandson of the first John, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Whitley and Millicent Towle.

Thomas Dalley b.1827

John and Mary Dalley's only son, Thomas, who is the principal character in this short chapter, was born June 8th 1827 and grew up to become Stapleford's eminent Local Preacher, in the Methodist denomination, in the 19th century. As a boy he attended the New Connexion Sunday School which was situated in a building in Church Walk (near to the Parish Pump) and which is now (1972) used as printing premises. He began his day school life at the National School-St. John's-but his father, a staunch Methodist, disapproved of the Established Church's influence over the pupils and took Thomas from there and sent him to a high-class school at Trowell Moor.

At the age of 17 he became a member of the Methodist Church and was received publicly into Christian Fellowship by the Revd William Mills on November 10th, 1844. His contemporaries in the Methodist movement, some of whom also became local preachers, included John Harrison, Elijah Hollingworth (no known connexion with the Hollingworths of a previous chapter), Henry Fletcher, Peter Butler, Frederick Piggin, Samuel Sisson, John Towle, William Towle, and Francis Bailey.

As a preacher Thomas Dalley soon became popular and well respected. After he had delivered his first sermon, and as the congregation was dispersing, he heard an old man say - "There was one good quality about his preaching-he gave over when he had done."

By the time that he was 59 he had preached up to 1400 times and had travelled some 6570 miles to do so-mostly on foot. Hucknall, Stanton, Hill Top, Nottingham, as well as Stapleford were amongst the many places where he preached. The journey from Nottingham to Stapleford at night was both a long and lonely undertaking in Thomas Dalley's days and it is recorded that one Sunday night as he was returning home after preaching in Nottingham, he met a young man who warned him that there were two suspicious characters on the road ahead of him. Sure enough, he had not gone very far when two men rushed out upon him, one from each side of the road. He managed to dodge them and, although they gave chase, soon outdistanced them.

He had spent more than 50 years of public service in the Methodist cause, and died on Easter Monday, April 1st 1907, in his 80th year. His wife was Sarah, daughter of George and Sarah Attenborough.²⁷

Dalley & Whiteleys

Both the Dalleys and the Whiteleys were involved-to a lesser or greater extent-in the lace trade. Thomas Dalley was manager of Whiteley, Stevens and Co. where the Whiteleys were a main part of the concern. Thomas Whiteley, grandfather of Thomas Dalley, died in 1860, three weeks after his wife Millicent, and had been much respected by the employees of his firm both for his character and for his efforts to extend the lace trade in Stapleford. His original factory building now forms part of the premises occupied by the Connector Division of Carr Fastener Co.

John Whiteley, uncle of Thomas Dalley, followed in his father's footsteps in the family business and it is due to his, and his wife's, generosity that Stapleford church possesses such a magnificent East Window.

Other old Stapleford Families.

There are, of course, other old and equally virtuous families whose members are mentioned intermittently throughout this book. As will be seen, all have been here a very long time; all survived into the 19th century, and many of the names are still familiar in the town today.

Farrands, c1600 or before; Hallam, 1636 (not as consistently domiciled as theirs, but cropping up quite regularly); Butler, 1650; Henfrey, 1650; Oldershaw, 1655; Wallis, 1664; Brown, 1688; Barrowcliffe, 1720; Mills, 1749; and Girling, 1759.

Compared with these, the previously mentioned families, and any who were here before 1790, (about which time Stapleford really began to increase in population), all others must be regarded as comparative newcomers.

Arthur Mee

During the time Thomas Dalley was making his visits to local villages delivering his sermons, there was born in Stapleford a boy who in later years was to become well known in literary circles. Arthur Henry Mee was born 21st July 1875 in a cottage, (now demolished as one might well expect) which stood at the west end of the church: he was the son of Henry Mee, a railway fireman by trade and a Baptist by religion, and Mary Fletcher. As a boy Arthur was very friendly with Henry Mellows,

²⁷ The Life of Thos. Dalley by F H Robinson (1909)

a baker in Church Street; in the evenings, it is said, he would read aloud to him the Parliamentary and other news of the day whilst Mellows kneaded his dough.

Arthur Mee's association with the village lasted but a few years-formative years-when he attended the, then new, Church Street Boys School. He left Stapleford in 1889 for Nottingham where he was employed on one of that city's daily newspapers. From there he went on to London, the city of fame and fortune, and the place where he found both.

He is best remembered, perhaps, as the editor of the "Children's Encyclopaedia", the "King's England" series of topographical books, and the "Children's Newspaper", as well as many other literary works. Always interested in furthering education, he did not forget the school which he had attended as a boy. He died in 1943 and by his will he left £200 to be deposited with the Education Committee to invest and pay the interest to the boy who left school with the best record as "an expression of my goodwill on is journey through the World."