

The Rawnsleys

**Bradford and Bourne
1650-1826**

1. Bradford and the Rawnsleys

1.1 My 3x great grandparents, Elizabeth Rawnsley and William Hardwicke married in Bourne in 1810. She was born there but her father Thomas Rawnsley was born in Bradford. He was perhaps my wealthiest ancestor and surprisingly enough became rich in the wool trade by leaving the city that was to become the largest centre of that industry in the world. He moved up the supply chain to a wool-producing area but maintained and developed his business links with Bradford and the West Riding.

1.2 Willingham Rawnsley, great grandson of Thomas, did a lot of research tracing the family's history. His resultant family tree was repeated in Lincolnshire Pedigrees.¹ Initially I drew on the published version and have since been lucky enough to have been given a copy of his "Rawnsley Records".

1.3 Willingham's research was extensive. He drew initially on what his mother told him about his ancestry and consulted others to extract information on the Rawnsleys from parish records and elsewhere. Much of it is confirmed by other sources. However without the resources available to us now he was a little too ready to believe stories that had passed down through the family so there are a few errors. In the annex I have set out where I think he went adrift and expanded on some aspects he was unsure about.

Origins of the name

1.4 We now know from nationwide indices that the Rawnsley name was very localised in West Yorkshire, though by the 17th century it had spread to a few other areas. There are occasional early examples in other counties.

1.5 Willingham suggested that there were as many as 16 different spellings, including Rangeley, Raundsley and Ransley and that originally it was Ravenslaw - there is a Ravenslawe Cliff near Halifax and he took this to be the origins of the family, dating back to 1370.

2. Thomas Rawnsley of Bradford and Bourne

2.1 Right from the time of his unusual baptism, (privately by Mr Grimshaw of Haworth) my 4x great grandfather Thomas Rawnsley led a most interesting life.

2.2 He was born in Bradford in 1755, the son of a woolstapler William Rawnsley. In the 1770s Thomas moved from Bradford to Bourne where his brother William had moved some years earlier. The first reference to him there was when he was a witness at the marriage of Jeremiah Kirby and Sarah Capps in Bourne on 27/4 1780. By then his brother had moved back to West Yorkshire.

2.3 Thomas married Deborah Hardwicke in Peterborough on 18/5 1784,² which completed a little circle of sibling marriages – Thomas's brother had married Ann Coles in 1770, and her sister Katherine married Deborah's brother William in 1774.

2.4 According to Willingham Rawnsley's mother Deborah had "a good fortune left her by a man to whom she was engaged and who died unexpectedly". She was living with her guardian at the Cathedral Precincts – though she was aged nearly 30 at the time.

2.5 This may have allowed Thomas to invest in his business. By 1791 he appears in the Universal British Directory as a wool stapler and fellmonger (i.e. a dealer in skins).³

2.6 By 1800, at the age of 45, Thomas had become a successful businessman. He formed a partnership with his brother in law William Hardwicke and together they leased land from Thurlby Grange⁴, just south of Bourne in 1804, though their partnership was dissolved in 1815.⁵

2.7 Around 1810 he was supplying a Bradford wool merchant from addresses in Bourne, Boston and Wisbech.⁶ He had premises in South Street where Wherry's warehouse later stood.⁷

2.8 Thomas made several influential friends. In a letter to his son he talks of his "life of service and zealous attachment to two of his best and most powerful friends".⁸

2.9 One was Sir Gilbert Heathcote (1773-1851)⁹ who owned the large estate of Normanton Park in Rutland and other properties, and was Whig MP for Lincolnshire from 1796-1807 and Rutland 1812-41. The other was Peter Burrell, Lord Gwydyr. His wife was Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby, whose estate was at Grimsthorpe Castle.¹⁰ Thomas's son became a great friend of their son Peter whilst at Oxford. The latter was MP for Boston from 1812 before succeeding to his father's title in 1820.

2.10 The first connection I know of was in 1794 Lord Lieutenants of counties were given the task of setting up voluntary cavalry units made up of gentlemen and yeomen because of the threat of invasion by Napoleonic France and the risk of insurrection at home. The Loyal Lincolnshire Yeomanry Cavalry included the Bourne and Folkingham Squadron set up by Sir Gilbert Heathcote. He was appointed as major, his son Robert was captain of the Bourne troop and son John was captain of the Folkingham troop. According to Willingham Rawnsley it was Thomas who set up the Bourne troop at his own expense and this has been much repeated since Willingham published the claim. However it seems to have been based on a misinterpretation and the evidence would suggest he neither set it up nor funded it.¹¹ There is no reason to doubt that Thomas made a substantial contribution though, and he was made a cornet initially and then a lieutenant in 1799.

2.11 In 1803 they were reorganised on full pay by the government - Thomas became a captain, adjutant and paymaster.¹² He received a salary of £146 per annum (£6400 in today's money) and Lady Sophia Heathcote later presented him with a silver cup in recognition of his contribution. The troop was disbanded in 1816 after the end of the war.

2.12 I do not know whether this was the start of or a result of Thomas's friendship with Sir Gilbert.

2.13 There were rewards for Thomas and his family from his friendships. Both the Heathcotes and Willoughbys were able to offer church livings worth several hundred pounds a year to Thomas's son Thomas Hardwicke Rawnsley. From Heathcote he got Folkingham in 1813, and from Lady Willoughby, Spilsby and Bellau in 1813, her domestic chaplaincy in 1814, Partney in 1819 and finally Halton Holgate in 1825. Thomas's son in law William Hardwicke also benefited, getting Levington (Lenton) from Gilbert Heathcote in 1824 and Lord Gwydyr's domestic chaplaincy in 1822.

2.14 Beyond the Yeomanry and Church there was perhaps politics. For Lord Gwydyr, his son Peter, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, his son Gilbert John, and another great friend Major General Thomas Grosvenor (who was Sir Gilbert's son in law)¹³ were all at some time Whig MPs and/or peers. It is quite possible that one of the services Thomas rendered his friends was connected with their political activity.

2.15 Indeed, it is intriguing to note that Thomas and his son Thomas Hardwicke were registered as freeholders in Perthshire from 1815 on and later lists clarify that this was in the parish of Cargill.¹⁴

2.16 Much of Cargill was part of the Stobhall estate owned by none other than Peter Robert Drummond Burrell through his marriage to Sarah Clementina Drummond in 1807. In addition to Thomas and his son, there were but four freeholders at Cargill including the two brothers of Drummond Burrell, and Gilbert John Heathcote, son of Sir Gilbert, who married the Drummond Burrell's daughter in 1828.

2.17 Freeholders in Scotland were not the owners of the land in the usual sense, as would be the case in England, but were instead the feudal superiors, who had certain rights and privileges and usually collected an annual feu duty. But it was freeholders who had the vote rather than the de facto owners.

2.18 As the History of Parliament online says, in Scotland the system of freeholders' votes was shamelessly corrupt due to the creation of fictitious or parchment votes whereby landowners granted notional freeholds to friends who could then vote in elections, and with only about 230 voters in the whole county of Perthshire this could be decisive. In 1812 the election of James Drummond as MP for Perthshire had been bitterly opposed by Whig interests including Peter Drummond Burrell.

2.19 The 1832 Reform Act in Scotland actually preserved these old entitlements of feudal superiors, but only for their lives. So this explains why Thomas and his son still appear on a list of "old freeholders to vote at Dunkeld" in 1837 - the published lists were presumably never updated.

2.20 Whether Thomas and his son were given these freeholds as another reward or whether these too were "fictitious votes" I do not know, but the latter seems quite likely. Indeed there is no mention of any property in Scotland in his will.

2.21 Whatever favours and services were involved, it is clear that these relationships were primarily friendships. Thomas Grosvenor wrote to Thomas's son "but we as a companion and friend, have a gap made in the little circle of Normanton and Stocken. Indeed your poor excellent father was a most extraordinary gifted man. So intelligent, with so vivacious and playful a mind; and a memory, the storehouse of the wit and wisdom of others".¹⁵

2.22 Thomas was a very active man. He acted as gamekeeper for Sir Gilbert Heathcote at Thurlby and Miss Mary Pochin at Toft, Witham on the Hill and Manthorpe Grange. In this role he was responsible for preventing poaching though no doubt he employed someone to carry out the requisite duties. His business may well have benefited too.¹⁶ He was on a range of local committees including the curiously named Bourne New Association for Prosecuting Felons, and Middle District Trust of the Lincoln to Peterborough Turnpike Road.¹⁷ When he offered his resignation as treasurer of the latter, the trustees unanimously asked him to stay and thanked him for his "zeal, fidelity and indefatigable exertions". He remained in the position until his death.

2.23 Thomas also wrote poetry.

2.24 At a dinner given by Sir Gilbert Heathcote for freeholders and his tenants at the Greyhound Inn in Falkingham for in October 1794 "amongst the many excellent songs which heightened the festivity of the meeting Mr Raunsley's most admirable address to the "Brave Yeomanry" sung in the true spirit of a British Officer was felt in every heart, whilst his humorous description of John Bull's resentment of French villainy convulsed the company with laughter."¹⁸

2.25 J M Heathcote¹⁹ reproduced his rhyming version of "The Legend of Holbeach" written about 1800. John James in his History of Bradford refers to a Septennial Festival of Bishop Blaize in that town in 1825, where "Hail to the Day, &c" written by Thomas was recited. It is fitting that Thomas should be involved in celebrating the patron saint of the occupation in which his father had started out in life.

2.26 He even wrote of himself

"Here's Tommy Rawnsley noisy loon
Who dirt's my carpet with his shoon
Sometimes I laud sometimes dislike
He's such a headstrong stubborn tike"

Family life

2.27 Thomas and Deborah had 6 sons and 6 daughters in the space of just 15 years. Edmund, their first, was born in 1785 but died in 1788. Charles (1786), Richard Burne (1787), Elizabeth (1788) and Thomas Hardwicke (1789) all survived till adulthood. The next two, Jane and Ruth died in February and December 1791. During the 1790s they had two more sons - Joseph Hefford (1793) and Henry, and three daughters Harriett, Jane Peak and Mary Ann. But only Joseph and Harriet survived - the others died in a three year spell between 1798 and 1800.

2.28 Whilst the loss of so many children in infancy must have been a hard blow further tragedy struck the family in May 1808. Whilst alighting from her horse after a ride Deborah fell and broke her leg, the leg turned gangrenous and within the month she was dead. She was aged 54.²⁰

2.29 In 1810 Thomas's daughter Elizabeth married her first cousin William Hardwicke in Bourne who was vicar of Outwell in Norfolk, near Wisbech. A further loss occurred in 1811, for Thomas' eldest surviving son, Charles, a lieutenant in the Army, died in India. Then the next year Thomas's first granddaughter, the infant Mary Hardwicke died.

2.30 Thomas lived at what is known as Cavalry House²¹ after his endeavours. It was in South Street not far from his business premises in an area once known as Holme End.²²



Cavalry House, Bourne - my photograph May 2017



An early postcard view of Cavalry House. It can be seen that the harling has been removed since then and the doorway refashioned.

2.31 Thomas was wealthy enough to have his sons well educated. The eldest son Charles went to Cambridge in 1804 whilst another son Thomas gained a King's Scholarship to Eton and then went to Oxford in 1807 where he too made numerous influential friends including the Reverend George Clayton Tennyson, father of the poet.

2.32 Thomas was keen to secure his children's financial wellbeing. He had a major dispute with his son Thomas Hardwicke over the living of Folkingham which Sir Gilbert Heathcote had intended, somewhat inappropriately, should benefit Thomas senior financially as well as his son. Thomas wanted his share to go to his other sons and daughters who had "had no chance of being so fortunate" and his sons in particular were in "a state of comparative beggary" (at this time one was a junior clerk in the

Navy Office and one's career in the Army had stalled after he was made a lieutenant in 1806).

2.33 By 1821, Thomas was aged 66. His family had left home with the exception of Harriet. In 1822 he was made Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, a great honour for him. He moved to a part of Abbey House which he rented from the trustees of George and Eleanor Pochin.²³

2.34 Thomas died there on 8/8 1826 at the age of 71 – two months after his daughter Elizabeth Hardwicke.²⁴

2.35 In the original draft of his will²⁵ dated 7th November 1825 he left his lands at Bourne, Thurlby, Leverington and Terrington St John's to two of his sons, Richard Burne Rawnsley and Joseph Hefford Rawnsley.²⁶

2.36 A sizeable sum of £6000 (equivalent to about half a million pounds now) was placed in trust to provide an annual income for his two daughters Elizabeth and Harriet or their heirs. Harriet received a further £5000, all the linen and a silver waiter presented by Lady Heathcote. The middle son Thomas Hardwicke Rawnsley, received nothing – no doubt the effects of the earlier row.

2.37 But Thomas had another secret that is revealed to us only in his will.

2.38 Eleven days after the first version he added a codicil, bequeathing an annuity of £25 in trust for each of Elizabeth and Lucy Ellis, the daughters of a "single woman" Sarah Ellis of Thurlby near Bourne, to pay for their bringing up and to have them placed as apprentices to milliners or dressmakers "or other such situations as they (the trustees) may deem proper". They had been born in 1819 and 1823 respectively. The parish register records that the father of Elizabeth Ellis was "reputed to be Thomas Raunsley" (sic). We can only conclude that these girls were illegitimate daughters Thomas had in his mid to late sixties. In fact Sarah Ellis had a third daughter, Isabella Raunsley Ellis baptised in May 1827, nine months after Thomas's death.²⁷

2.39 A second codicil in March 1826 bequeathed the silver cup presented by Lady Heathcote to the missing son Thomas Hardwicke Rawnsley and bonds of £1000 to each of his three children Edward, Drummond Burrell and Sophia.

2.40 A final codicil in June 1826 less than two months before his death, transferred his original bequest to daughter Elizabeth Hardwicke to her three children, following her unfortunate demise earlier that month.

2.41 There are memorial tablets to Thomas and his family in the north arcade of the Abbey Church, Bourne²⁸.

| Family of Thomas Rawnsley | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Thomas Rawnsley | 7/1 1755 privately; registered at Bradford St Peter | William Rawnsley & Elizabeth Heartley | 18/5 1784 Peterborough Cathedral | 8/8 1826 Bourne |
| Deborah Hardwicke | 27/12 1754 Bourne | William Hardwicke & Elizabeth Thorpe | | 18/4 1808 Bourne age 54 |

Source Bradford St Peter Parish Registers {Ancestry} and Bourne Parish Registers {Freereg}

Children of Thomas Rawnsley and Deborah Hardwicke

| | Baptised* | Married | Died* |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Edmund Rawnsley | 31/3 1785 | | 29/11 1788 Bourn age 4 |
| Charles Rawnsley | 30/5 1786 | | Jul 1811 Futtergugh India |
| Richard Burne Rawnsley | 5/5 1787 born 2/4 | Ann Newman | 17/12 1871 Portsea Island. Hampshire |
| Elizabeth Rawnsley | 1/10 1788 | William Hardwicke, 25/9 1810 Bourne. | 7/6 1826 Outwell |
| Thomas Hardwicke Rawnsley | 8/11 1789 | Sophia Walls 16/11 1815 Spilsby | 2/7 1861 Spilsby |
| Jane Rawnsley | 1790? | | 12/2 1791 |
| Ruth Rawnsley | 1791? | | 15/12 1791 |
| Joseph Hefford Rawnsley | 4/8 1793 | | 28/4 1859 London George St Portman Sq |
| Harriett Rawnsley | 16/5 1795 | Edward Day 28/12 1826 Leamington Priors | |
| Jane Peak Rawnsley | 26/6 1797 | | 2/4 1798 |
| Mary Anne Rawnsley | 8/4 1799 | | 10/4 1799 |
| Henry Rawnsley | 1800? | | 26/9 1800 |

* all at Bourne unless noted

Thomas Rawnsley's illegitimate children with Sarah Ellis

| | Baptised at Thurlby | Married | Buried |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Elizabeth Ellis | 30/12 1819 * | | |
| Lucy Ellis | 12 1823 | Thomas Gray 4/2 1850 | q2 1901 Stamford |
| Isabella "Raundy" Ellis | 29/5 1827 | James Haynes Cave 27/10 1856 | |

Source – Parish Registers {Freereg}

* Thos Raunsley is the reputed father

3. The parents of Thomas Rawnsley

William Rawnsley & Elizabeth Heartley - my 5x Great Grand parents

3.1 Thomas Rawnsley's connections with Bradford and records of his brother make it fairly easy to identify his father – William Rawnsley. In any cases Willingham Rawnsley's grandfather was well aware that his own grandfather came from Bradford.

3.2 So first let us look at his story.

William Rawnsley and the Bradford worsted industry

3.3 William Rawnsley, born in 1715 worked in the Bradford woollen industry – or to be more specific woollen worsted. His fortunes waxed and waned.

3.4 In the late 19th century Bradford was known as the wool capital of the world. It was certainly a major producer, of worsted in particular. Whilst the woollen industry had long been important in the town, in the early years of industrial revolution, mills were water powered and here Bradford was at a disadvantage relative to other parts of West Yorkshire which had faster flowing streams and rivers. It was only with the coming of steam power that it really developed into a major centre. Before mechanisation the industry was cottage based.

3.5 It has been estimated that in the early 1700s about a quarter of men in Bradford and its adjoining townships worked in the woollen industry, at the time mainly in making traditional woollen cloth. This was a craft industry - most of the producers were described as clothiers and they carried out virtually all the work themselves in their own cottages, with help from their families and perhaps an apprentice.²⁹

3.6 But the worsted industry was growing and did so spectacularly after 1750 – by the late 1770s nearly half of Bradford males and three quarters of those in the townships were working in the woollen industry, the vast majority in worsted. By then West Yorkshire had overtaken Norwich as the primary worsted manufacturing area.

3.7 Worsted is a fine smooth cloth woven from long strand wool. This involved different processes from ordinary wool and the industry had a different structure. At the centre of the process were wool staplers. They bought wool from farms or merchants and employed sorters to clean and sort it into bundles (staples) of wool graded by length. They then distributed the bundles to wool combers who straightened the fibres and removed the short strands. The wool then went to spinners, mostly women and girls, who turned into yarn. The spun yarn then went to hand loom weavers who created the woven worsted. The buying of wool and selling of cloth to merchants and the management and payment of all these cottage workers was all in the hands of the wool staplers.³⁰

3.8 William was a wool comber when he married and remained so until at least 1741. This was particularly unpleasant and unhealthy job involving using combs that had to be constantly heated over a charcoal stove, all at home.

3.9 He then became an innkeeper – inns were traditionally where much business was done. In 1748 there is a notice of a sale in the house of William Rawnsley,

"known by the sign of Bishop Blaze" which was an inn in the Kirkgate. Bishop Blaise was the patron saint of wool combers, so perhaps William gave the inn its name.³¹

3.10 Next he became a wool stapler. Wool staplers were also involved in other trades as dealers and chapmen (travelling salesman) – the very nature of their business was such that they had networks of contacts over quite a wide area. Over time William was certainly one of those who expanded his interests. But despite the growth in the worsted industry William was not successful. Newspapers report that in spring 1761 William Rawnsley, wool stapler, dealer and chapman (travelling salesman) of Bradford was bankrupt.³²

3.11 Then we find an agreement dated 23/6 1764³³ whereby William Rawnsley of Bradford, wool stapler, agreed to serve Jeremiah Marshall of Parkgate, Guiseley, gentleman, as his servant in the business of wool sorting for seven years and his son John Rawnsley, wool stapler, agreed to serve for the same period in sorting, packing, loading and unloading of wool. So the family had gone down in the world from being wool staplers to wool sorters.

3.12 It would appear that this agreement did not last long, for William cleared his debts by March 1765 and a discharge certificate was granted.³⁴ But in March 1773 he was again bankrupt, recorded now just as a wool stapler and "late of Bradford".³⁵ After that his business affairs seem to have got better – he is still recorded as a wool stapler much later and if the stories of Willingham Rawnsley's grandfather are to be believed became much more successful.

William Rawnsley's family life

3.13 William Rawnsley and Betty Heartley of Manningham married in 1736. Their family life was fairly typical. Betty was pregnant when they married, as indeed were many brides (although more so after the Marriage Act of 1753) and they had ten children, again not atypical.

3.14 The early years of his marriage were not trouble free. In 1739 along with James Hartley (perhaps his brother in law) and others he was indicted for assault on a bailliff. We might guess that he and James were trying to defend George England, a clogger, and his wife Grace, from the attentions of the bailiff, which were not always wholly justified. Grace (nee Rhodes) was the aunt of William's wife Betty.³⁶ Then their first two children died in within a month of each other in 1740.

3.15 William was associated with the Methodist movement at an early stage of its development. In 1755 his second youngest son, my ancestor Thomas, was baptised privately (i.e. at home) by William Grimshaw, who is regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Methodist faith and worked closely with John Wesley. He was curate of the chapel at Haworth from 1742-63 and whilst as a History of Haworth described, he sometimes exercised more zeal than judgement, was immensely popular. He drew crowds from all around and preached in neighbouring parishes. He was known to round up people absent from his church services in ale houses and break up groups of young people hanging about in fields on a Sunday. This was all supposedly done in a friendly and persuasive way but it was also suggested that at times he was not averse to at least the threat of a horse whip – he was known by some as the "flogging preacher". William and Betty's youngest son Polycarpus, named after a Christian martyr, was baptised at Grimshaw's own chapel in Haworth. A later minister of Haworth was Patrick Bronte the father of the Bronte sisters.³⁷

3.16 Willingham Rawnsley was aware of this link with the Methodist movement but also thought, based on his grandfather's recollection, that William was a friend of another founding father of methodism, Mr Whitefield. But the basis for this story cannot be true since Mr Whitefield was long dead when he was supposedly with William. (see annex)

3.17 We can see that William was ambitious and despite several failures kept trying. One striking point is that all his sons and at least two of his daughters could sign their names in the marriage register, as could he, which was far from the case for many people of his time and place. Indeed this is an important clue in disentangling the web of Rawnsley relationships in Bradford – for few of the other Rawnsleys were able to read and write.

3.18 William's first wife Betty died in Bradford in 1776. He re-married in 1779 – to a widow Mary Waterhouse.³⁸ He was still described as a wool stapler though he was by then in his mid 60s. He outlived his second wife Mary – she died in 1793.³⁹ The record of William's death does not seem to have survived.

William and Betty's sons and daughters

3.19 Of William's sons it was Thomas who was by far the most successful. The oldest son **John** was a wool stapler to begin with, perhaps working with his father. He then joined his father in the wool sorting agreement in 1764 noted above. In 1773 he was granted an alehouse licence⁴⁰ However by June 1774 he was recorded in the Gazette as an innkeeper and wool stapler in the Kings Bench prison in Surrey for debt. He must have cleared this, for in the Gazette of September 1777 he is recorded as the landlord of the Kings Head in Bradford. He is recorded at the Old Kings Head in 1786/91 and again in 1802 when he was in the process of selling up.

3.20 The business affairs of the next son **William** were also far from straightforward. By 1770 when he married Ann Coles in Osbournby (pronounced *Ossenby*) in Lincolnshire he was living in Bourne, in the same county.

3.21 He had obviously been there for some time and retained his connection with Bradford, for in 1772 we find him appearing as a witness for Samuel Bruckshaw (both were wool staplers) to help establish that the latter had been wrongly incarcerated as mad. William attested that they had both been in Bradford (and Stamford), presumably on business in the year 1770.⁴¹ So we see that it was in fact William who first of the family to move to Bourne. But we don't know whether it was William or his father who first took the initiative to form business connections with Lincolnshire, which had long been a source of wool supply to the West Riding and other areas that made woollen cloth.

3.22 In 1774 Catherine Coles, Ann's sister, married John Hardwicke also in Osbournby. Witnesses were William Hardwicke and William Rawnsley. So it is clear that there was a connection by then between the two parts of my family – the Rawnsleys, wool staplers, and the Hardwickses, farmers.

3.23 However, William did not stay in Lincolnshire long after the birth of his two daughters, Sarah (1771) and Ann (1774). In May 1776 he advertised that he had taken over the Woolpacks Inn in Wellgate, Wakefield, but less than a year later he was declared bankrupt – he was described as a dealer and chapman (travelling salesman).⁴² He does not appear to have cleared his debts till 1786.

3.24 William then moved to London and took over the George Inn at 16 West Smithfield although he was again declared bankrupt in 1792.⁴³ He married in London twice though seems to have moved back to Yorkshire – to Leeds – in later life.

3.25 I think that his sister Elizabeth also moved to London – she too is recorded at West Smithfield.⁴⁴ In addition his nephew John (son of older brother John) moved there and indeed took over the George Inn in 1802.⁴⁵

3.26 As we have seen, by contrast with his brothers, the youngest surviving son of William & Betty Rawnsley, my ancestor Thomas, was remarkably successful.

| Family of William Rawnsley & Elizabeth Heartley | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| William Rawnsley | 3/4 1715 of Manningham | Edward Rawnsley & Sarah Milnes | | >1793 |
| Elizabeth (Betty) Heartley | | | 19/8 1736 (of Manningham) | 22/10 1776 Betty Rawnsley wife of William Rawnsley Bradford |
| Second marriage | | | | |
| Mary Waterhouse (widow) | | | 22/2 1779 (of Bradford) | 7/8 1793 Mary wife of William Rawnsley of Bradford |
| All at Bradford St Peter | | | | |
| Children | | | | |
| | Born | Baptised* | Married | Buried |
| John | Bradford | 6/3 1736-37 | | 6/7 1740 Bradford St Peter |
| James | Bradford | 26/12 1739 | | 2/8 1740 Bradford St Peter |
| John (Jno) | Bradford | 21/2 1741 | Jane Hudson 4/4 1766 Bradford St Peter (of Bradford) | |
| Sarah | Manningham | 26/2 1743 | ?? Michael Pieghles 11/10 1762 (of Manningham) | |
| William | Allerton | 28/3 1746 | Ann Coles 6/1 1770 Osbournby. (William of Bourn parish) | |
| Matty | Bradford | 5/6 1748 | James Briggs of Brotherton 18/11 1771 Bradford St Peter | |
| Nancy | Bradford | 14/2 1749 | | 22/2 1751 Bradford St Peter |
| Betty | Bradford | 27/12 1751 | John Caldecott 23/8 1787 London St Sepulchre | |

| | | | | |
|--|----------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Thomas ⁴⁶ | | 7/1 1755 "privately by Mr Grimshaw of Haworth" | Deborah Hardwicke 18/5 1784 Peterborough Cathedral | 8/8 1826 Bourne |
| Polycarpus | Bradford | 28/3 1758 Haworth St Michael | | 16/8 1758 Bradford St Peter |
| <p>* all at Bradford St Peter except where noted Source Bradford St Peter Parish Records {Ancestry} and Osbournby Parish Records {Freereg}.</p> | | | | |

4. The parents of William Rawnsley

Edward Rawnsley & Sarah Milnes - my 6x Great Grand parents

4.1 Willingham Rawnsley suggested that William was born in 1715, the son of Edward Rawnsley who married Sarah Milnes in 1705. This is a pretty safe assumption for there is no other William Rawnsley who fits what we know about him, nor was there any other adult William Rawnsley who could be confused with our one.

4.2 However, I have found no records of Edward and Sarah and their family other than births, deaths and marriages, and none of these tell us even Edward's occupation. We simply know that the family lived in Manningham for their entire lives.

| Family of Edward Rawnsley and Sarah Milnes | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Edward Rawnsley | 31/12 1682 (Edward Rangeley) | Robert Rawnsley & Mary Fearnley | Bradford St Peter 20/6 1705 (of Manningham) | |
| Sarah Milnes | | | | |
| Marriage record shows Edward Rownsley | | | | |
| Children | | | | |
| | Born | Baptised* | Married * | Buried * |
| John | Manningham | 27/9 1706 | (1) Mary Mitchel 11/6 1730 (of Manningham) (2) Mary Brook of Calverley 4/10 1743 | |
| Mary | Manningham | 14/4 1709 | | |
| Joshua | Manningham | 20/4 1712 | Grace Broadley 29/8 1736 (of Great Horton) | 9/4 1770 (of Great Horton) |
| William | Manningham | 3/4 1715 | Elizabeth Heartley 19/8 1736 (of Manningham) | |
| Thomas? | | | Mary Wilson 15/5 1743 Hannah Wade 27/12 1759 Barbara Wood 2/9 1764 | |
| Henry | Manningham | 30/4 1721 | Mary Rushforth 25/3 1744 (of Manningham) | 6/1 1762 (of Manningham) |
| Sarah | Manningham | 9/10 1724 | Jonas Hainworth 5/4 1752 (of Manningham) | |
| * all at Bradford St Peter | | | | |

4.3 There is no record of Thomas's baptism but there was no other Rawnsley family in Manningham at the time and there is a big gap in the recorded baptisms of Edward and Sarah's children so I suspect he was theirs.

4.4 I'm not sure when Sarah died. Edward may have been buried on 7/11 1766 (abode was Manningham) but that could be his grandson. It is possible Edward and Sarah were both buried in a non-conformist graveyard where no records survive.

4.5 Of the sons, Joshua became a weaver and moved to Great Horton where he married in 1736. John was a cordwainer (shoemaker) and married in 1730 – his children were left half of the estate of Sarah Booth in 1736 but I have not found out how they were related. William and Thomas became woolcombers and Henry was a weaver.

4.6 All the sons had many children. Joshua was the forebear of a large number of Rawsleys in the hamlet of Lidget Green. Cudworth's Rambles Round Horton (1886) reports "Lidget Green has given birth to a thrifty race of people, many families such as the Rawsleys, Bentleys, Cockcrofts, Leaches, Dewhirsts, Holdsworths, and others having clung to the neighbourhood with loving pride."⁴⁷ Most of these Rawsley cousins were involved in the woollen industry.

5. The parents of Edward Rawnsley

Robert Rawnsley & Mary Fearnley - 7x Great grandparents

5.1 The following parents of Edward Rawnsley are again as suggested by Willingham Rawnsley. There are no obvious alternatives – there was no other Edward baptised and no other Edward married around the same time.

| Family of Robert Rawnsley & Mary Fearnley | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|--|--|
| | Born | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Robert Rawnsley | cc1650 | | Bradford St Peter 13/6 1671 | 28/3 1729 (Robert Rawnsley Senr. of Manningham) |
| Mary Fearnley | 1645 | | | 23/3 1721 (Mary, wife of Robert Rawnsley Senr. of Manm.) |
| All at Bradford St Peter | | | | |
| Children | | | | |
| | Born | Baptised | Married | Buried* |
| Elizabeth Rawnsley | Wibsey | 9/11 1673 | | 5/4 1747 (of Manningham) |
| Thomas Raunsley | Manningham | 16/2 1675 | | 4/9 1703 (of Manningham) |
| Sarah Rangeley? | | c1679 | Josiah Wainwright 24/1 1701 | 9/12 1702 (of Manningham) |
| Edward Rangeley (baptism) ⁴⁸ | Manningham | 31/12 1682 | Sarah Milnes 20/6 1705 (of Manningham) | 7/11 1766 (of Manningham) |
| a stillborn child (Rangeley) | Manningham | 1685 | | 27/11 1685 |
| Mary Rangeley | Manningham | 2/9 1688 | John Walker 26/12 1706 (of Manningham) | 15/12 1736 (of Manningham) |
| Robert Rangeley | Manningham | | | 15/4 1699 |
| * all at Bradford St Peter | | | | |

Robert Rawnsley – “a notorious ill-liver”

5.2 Robert Rawnsley was born in the middle of the 17th century. England was in the midst of the civil war and about to fall under the rule of Oliver Cromwell. West Yorkshire had seen much fighting – the people of the area and Bradford in particular were strongly in support of the Parliamentary cause. By the time Robert reached adulthood the monarchy had been restored.

5.3 Unfortunately Robert was a most unpleasant character, if as seems likely (for there was no other) he is the Robert Rawnsley who appears regularly in the West Yorkshire Quarter Session records.⁴⁹ In those days, justice, such as it was, was largely meted out by Justices of the Peace who met in different towns once a quarter. With no police force victims of crime or their relatives usually had to make claims to

the session and seek retribution. More serious cases could find their way to the Assizes at York.

5.4 We first come across him, or at least I assume it was him, when he was still a young man: Robert Rawnsley of Liversedge beat and threatened James Hargreave of Wyke. One of Rawnsley's accomplices threatened to "draw Hargreaves nose through the ribs of the range in Richard Bollans' house in Wyke". [Mar 1668]

5.5 It would seem that violent thefts from people in their homes was his favoured mode of operation. In March 1672 it was alleged that Daniel Fearnley, Robert Rawnsley and John Binns of Manningham had broken open the barn doors of Thomas Wilkinson of Manningham, stolen a cow and mare and threatened to kill him.

5.6 By then Rawnsley was a married man – his wife was Mary, I think the sister of his sometime partner in crime Daniel Fearnley. But this did not change him and the next charge was even more serious – York Assizes considered an allegation against him in March 1673-74:⁵⁰

- Robert Rawnsley and Nathan Holdsworth on about the previous Mayday pretended to be bailiffs and "*made a distresse upon an attachment*" and attacked and killed Sara, wife of John Drake at her house in Horton. Rawnsley allegedly "*tooke her in his armes, and threw her downe and kneeled upon her, and stopt her winde by grasping her by the throat with his hands, till she was black in the face, and he trod upon her, and struck her with his feete, and bett the skinn of her knees and legges in several places; and the said Rawnsley struck this informant down twice, and threw one of his children on the fyer.*" The unfortunate Sara, "*languished for some time*" before dying.

5.7 It is not clear when or if he was apprehended and tried. There is a record of a trial of Robert Rawnsley and Daniel Fearnley in the North East Circuit court in 1675 though I have no details.⁵¹

5.8 His crimes continue to be recorded at the Quarter Sessions:

- Warrant to arrest James Hobson, Daniel Fearnley and Robert Ranusley and ensure appearance the next sessions, upon complaint of Abigail Clark of Idle, poor widow -Abigail Clark said that Fearnley and Ranusley had disturbed her and taken a coffer and most of her linen and woollen clothes 17/1 1674
- Order for the apprehension of Robert Rawnsley, indicted for forgery and other crimes [Date uncertain perhaps Jan 1675]
- Information of Richard Holdsworth of Liversedge against Daniel Fearnley and Robert Rawnsley of Manningham. Whilst at William Blakeley's house he was severely attacked and beaten; Fearnley also threatened to shoot him with a pistol. [Feb 1675]
- Petition of William Hudson, Robert Watterhouse and others for reimbursement of their charges in apprehending Robert Rawnsley. Rawnsley was arrested in Sconce, Bingley, but the township has refused to allow them their expenses [Jul 1676]
- Petition of the inhabitants of the constabulary of Manningham against their 'two unquiet neighbours'. The petitioners have been to great expense and trouble in conveying Robert Rawnsley and Daniel Fearnley to gaol; with signatures of 15 supporters, and note of order for a warrant to apprehend the men [Oct 1676]

- Petition of Joseph Flather of Manningham for reimbursement of costs of prosecution brought against Daniel Fearnley, Robert Rawnsley and Robert Whytaker [Jan 1677]
- Order for the expenses of apprehending Robert Rawnsley and Daniel Fearnley of Manningham and Robert Whiteakers of Bingley, 'all very notorious ill livers' to be estreated on Skyrack wapentake.⁵² The townships of Bradford and Eccleshill had been put to great charge in apprehending them [Apr 1677]
- Order for the apprehension of Robert Rawnsley of Manningham. Rawnsley had asked forgiveness for breaking open the door of John Preston's house in Bradford [Aug 1678]
- Petition of John Bayliffe, Chief Bailiff of Skyrack wapentake who asks for remission of charges conveyance of Robert Rawnsley to York Castle. [Apr 1680]

5.9 There is no subsequent record of any wrong-doing by Rawnsley. Fearnley again appears posing as a bailiff and charged with theft in 1687. Perhaps Rawnsley settled down to work and family life. Certainly before that his married life had been far from trouble free. After the wedding in Bradford in June 1671, the "bastard child of Robert Rawnsley" was buried at Hartshead in April 1672. After that no doubt Rawnsley was on the run or in prison for significant spells and there are big gaps between the recorded births of his children (Nov 1673, Feb 1676 and Dec 1682).

5.10 Despite his early criminal career he had a long life. His wife Mary was buried in 1721. She must have been aged 70 or more. Robert was buried in 1729 by which time he was known as Robert senior to distinguish him from grandson. He must have been aged about 80.

5.11 Records are sparse and name variations occur but I think that Robert and Mary had the children shown above. Parish records between 1685 and 1703 all give the surname as Rangeley. There are no more such spellings in the parish records thereafter.

5.12 When the first daughter Elizabeth was born in 1673 the family lived in Wibsey but by 1675 they had moved a few miles to the township of Manningham, just north of Bradford.

5.13 Of their children

- **Elizabeth's** burial could be of a Rawnsley spouse though there are none that fit. The birthplace is hard to read but close examination suggests strongly that it is Wibsey.
- It is pretty safe to assume Robert's son **Thomas** is the one whose children were baptised in 1698, 1701 and 1702 (as Rangeley) but I can find no marriage record.
- I assume **Sarah** is Robert's daughter though again there is no record I've found.
- **Edward's** baptism is shown but not indexed in Ancestry. The surname is Rangeley, on marriage it is Rowsley and for children's baptisms Rawnsley.

6. Ancestors of Robert Rawnsley

6.1 The earliest record of Rawnsleys in Bradford is the 1657 administration of the estate of Ester Rawnsley (Easter Rawnesley) of North Bierley, a township in the south west of Bradford parish.⁵³ The administration mentions two sons Thomas and Edward but there may have been other children.

6.2 There is no sign of Ester in the Bradford parish burials and indeed there is little evidence of Rawnsleys in Bradford before this time.⁵⁴

6.3 Willingham Rawnsley suggests that Robert Rawnsley was the son of Ester Rawnsley but it is not clear what evidence if any there is for this. Given that Robert married in 1671 and Ester died in 1657 it seems more likely that he was her grandson. We do know that his first child was born in Wibsey, which was in North Bierley parish.

6.4 It is clear from the absence of earlier records that the Rawnsleys must have moved to Bradford from elsewhere. Willingham went to considerable lengths to look at records of earlier Rawnsleys particularly in the Halifax area – he seemed fairly convinced that the family originated there “or perhaps Dewsbury”. But he was unable to link the various records he did find to our family.

6.5 However he did not access all the parishes around. I think one possibility is that Robert was the Robert Rawnsley who was baptised at Hartshead on 1/2 1646 the son of Thomas. Hartshead was not one of the parishes he looked at and was next to Liversedge where Robert seems to have been living when he first appears in the Quarter Session records. His “bastard child” was buried at Hartshead on 21/4 1672 although he was married by then.

6.6 Thomas had several children baptised at Hartshead from 1644 onwards as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thomas 1/1 1643-44 | Robert 1/2 1645-46 | James 8/10 1648 |
| Sarah 25/9 1653 | Henry 10/10 1655 | Judith 24/11 1658 |
| Jane 4/60 | Joshua 4/2 1663 | Mary 2/7 1665 brd 10/6 1666 |
| Joseph 5/4 1667 brd 19/7 1667 | | |

6.7 It is possible that the last two were children of the eldest son Thomas born in 1644. There are burial records for Sarah wife of Thomas on 7/11 1671 and of Thomas in 12/73.

6.8 Whilst James remained in Hartshead and had children there in 1674-87, and Sarah married there in 1676, there is no sign of any others, lending weight to the suggestion that most of the family moved.

6.9 We know more of this Thomas Rawnsley, for Willingham had a copy of the will of Thomas Rawnsley, yeoman of Clifton (in Brighouse parish) dated 4/9 1667 and proved in 1673 which mentions wife Sarah, and surviving children exactly as shown above and in the correct age order (except for an additional son John). Clifton was adjacent to Hartshead.

6.10 We could then consider the possibility that Thomas was the son of Henry Rawnsley baptised at Mirfield St Mary on 11/9 1615, especially as we find that a

Henry Rawnsley married Hester Brook, at Huddersfield on 29/11 1613, and Edward Brooke of Liversedge, yeoman owed £130 to the children of Thomas Rawnsley.⁵⁵ So this could be the Ester Rawnsley who died in Bradford in 1657.

6.11 There a number of Henry Rawnsleys at the time who must be different families as they had children in different places at the same time (Halifax, Elland etc). The following children of Henry were baptised in Hartshead:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Alice 6/4 1617 Hartshead | Edward 19/2 1626 Hartshead | Ann 31/3 1622 Hartshead brd 6/6 1622 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|

6.12 The co-incidence of names is striking - here we have an Ester Rawnsley with sons Thomas and Edward, which fits with the 1657 administration, and with a grandson Robert. Whilst this is far from conclusive, it is certainly possible that this is our family.

6.13 One final point - Rawnsley Records contains a bookplate which was supposedly based on the coat of arms on William Rawnsley's fireplace. It bears the name Henry Rawnsley.

7. Parents of Mary Fearnley

Possible 8x great grandparents – Daniel Fearnley and Elizabeth Midgely

7.1 Mary Fearnley married Robert Rawnsley in Bradford in 1671. So she was probably born no later than 1653. There were quite a few Mary Fearnleys born around the right time but given she had a daughter in 1688 and possibly a son after that she is unlikely to have been born much before 1644.

7.2 The only one baptised in Bradford was in 1641 which is too early. There were three baptised at Birstall

12/1 1644-45 the daughter of Daniell Fearnley of Spen

21/12 1645 the daughter of James Fearnley of Drighlington – died 1655

18/5 1651 Maria the daughter of William Fearnley of Wiskett Hill Moorside

and one at Tong

18/2 1653 the daughter of William

7.3 There were two marriages – to Robert Rawnsley in Bradford in 1671 and to Joseph Hepworth of Gomersall in the same year.

7.4 It is clearly possible that Mary was related to Robert Rawnsley's partner in crime Daniel Fearnley, like Rawnsley "a notorious ill-liver". We also note that at the time he married Mary, Robert Rawnsley may have been in Liversedge and that they lived in Wibsey when their first child was born in 1673.

7.5 Only one Mary Fearnley who had a brother Daniel and that was the one born in 1644-45 the daughter of Daniel at which time the family lived at Spen. Spen was on the western edge of Birstall parish near Cleckheaton, adjoining Gomersall and close to Liversedge, North Bierley and Wibsey.

7.6 So whilst it is not certain I think this may well be the family of Robert Rawnsley's wife Mary Fearnley.

| Family of Daniel Fearnley and Elizabeth Midgely | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Daniel Fearnley | 17/2 1611-12 Birstall | Randall | 3/7 1637 Bradford St Peter | |
| Elizabeth Midgely | 7/11 1602 Bradford St Peter | Thomas | | |
| Source Parish Records {Ancestry} | | | | |

| Children | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| | Born | Baptised | Married | Buried |
| Thomas Fearnley | Gomersall | 9/5 1638 Birstall St Peter | | |
| Daniel Ferneley | Gomersall | 20/12 1639 Birstall St Peter | | |
| John Fearnley | Spen | 6/6 1641 Birstall St Peter | | |
| Richard Fearnley | Spen | 30/10 1642 Birstall St Peter | | 8/7 1645 Birstall St Peter |

| Children | | | | |
|---------------|------|--|---|---|
| | Born | Baptised | Married | Buried |
| Mary Fearnley | Spen | 12/1 1644-45 Birstall St Peter (Cleckheaton Chapel) | Robert Rawnsley 13/6 1671 Bradford St Peter | 23/3 1721 Bradford St Peter (Manningham) |

7.7 In 1637 Daniel leased properties called Swincliffe, Langley Close and Langley Moore from his father.⁵⁶ At that time he was a yeoman. Beyond that I know very little of Daniel and his wife. Indeed it is not clear what happened to them

7.8 We have already looked at his son Daniel's misdemeanours with Robert Rawnsley. Daniel's name first crops up at the Quarter Sessions in 1666/67 at which time he was a labourer in Tong. In 1671 he appeared with Nathan Holdsworth who appears with Robert Rawnsley in 1673, and the following year with Rawnsley by which time he was living in Manningham. Other records include

- Petition of Sarah, wife of Richard Pighells of North Bierley, that her husband's abusers be dealt with. The petitioner's husband had been set upon by John Gregson alias Sowden and Daniel Fearnley, who took his horse and so mistreated it that it died; as a result Richard Pighells had become so disturbed in his mind that he had to be tied in his bed. Signed by the clerk and constable and over 20 others. [Apr 1669]

7.9 Daniel last appears in 1681 in prison for debt and seems to have disappeared without trace thereafter.

7.10 There is also a record of Randall Fearnley

- Information of Joseph Owen the younger of Mirfield about his assault by gang of men from Clifton. John Liversedge, tanner; Randall Fearnley, Jasper Pillin, John Ramsden son of Richard Ramsden, John Jenkinson, Thomas Blackburne and Edward Fairburne of Clifton, and William Armytage of Birstall and others had assaulted him, pulling out his hair and endangering one of his eyes. [8 Jul 1674]

7.11 It is not clear who this can be. Perhaps Daniel and Elizabeth had a son Randall whose baptism is not recorded.

7.12 Somewhat oddly there was a Randolph Fearnley who married Prudence Smyth in Bourne Lincolnshire on 4/2 1682. There is no trace of that name before or after in that area (although Daniel and Ann Fernly had two children at Barrow upon Humber in 1699-1701). Was this an early connection between my family in the Bradford area and Bourne – it was nearly 100 years and several generations before the connection recurs?

7.13 I have not tracked down Mary's other siblings. It is possible that Thomas was constable of Gomersall recorded in 1672-74 although it could be his cousin or uncle Thomas.

8. Parents of Daniel Fearnley

Possible 9x great grandparents – Randall Fearnley and Isabel Pollard

8.1 The lease noted in the previous section confirms that Daniel Fearnley was the son of Randall Fearnley, a yeoman.

| Family of Randall Fearnley and Helen Grane | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Randall Fearnley | | | 4/9 1598 Birstall St Peter | |
| Hellen Grace | | | | 15/9 1602 wife of Randall |
| 2 nd marriage | | | | |
| Isabel Pollarde | | | 3/5 1603 Tong St James and 13/2 1605 Birstall St Peter | |
| Source Parish Records {Ancestry} | | | | |
| Children with Helen Grace | | | | |
| | Born | Baptised all at Birstall St Peter | Married | Buried |
| Alice | | 13/2 1599 | | |
| infant (could be Alice) | | | | 2/6 1599 |
| Ellin | | | | 1/10 1602 |
| Child with ? | | | | |
| Randall | | 25/2 1603-04 | Jane Northrop 20/3 1635-36 Birstall | Birstall 7/2 1639-40 the younger; of Gomersall - Birstall |
| Children with Isabel Pollarde | | | | |
| Margarete | | 6/10 1605 | Richard Brooke 5/12 1630 Birstall * | |
| John | | 4/10 1607 | Mary Balle 4/2 1637 | |
| Martha | | 4/2 1609-10 | | |
| Daniel | | 17/2 1611-12 | Elizabeth Midgely 3/7 1637 Bradford St Peter | |
| Joseph | | 20/3 1613-14 | Anne Hopkinson 17/2 1639-40 Birstall Martha Bentley 6/9 1647 Birstall | |
| Sara | | 1/4 1615 | | |
| Thomas | | 25/7 1622 | see below | |
| All at Birstall St Peter – abode Gomersall *wrongly indexed as Margaret Holdsworth in Ancestry | | | | |

8.2 It would seem that Randall's first wife died during or after childbirth. He then had a son – probably illegitimately and next married Isabel Pollarde in 1605.

8.3 There are numerous property transactions recorded in West Yorkshire Archives

Receipt -1. John Northend the elder of Weston late of North Bierley, yeoman; 2. Randall Fearnley of Gomersal, yeoman 24 Jun 1598

Mortgage in fee 1. Randall Fearnley the elder of Gomersal, yeoman; 2. Thomas Brooke of Eddercliffe in Liversedge, yeoman: three closes of land called Long Royde, Broad Royde and Little Royde in Gomersal 29 Dec 1634

Also in Yorkshire Feet of Fines (British History Online)
Richard Batt and Nicholas Nayler Ranulph Fearnley 2 messuages with lands in Birkenshawe and Gomersall. 1603

8.4 As can be seen Randall was a yeoman. His death is not indexed but it was clearly after 1640 when Randall the younger died.

8.5 The marriages of Margaret, Daniel and Joseph are fairly certain, there being no alternative baptisms. The marriage of John Fearnley and Mary Balle could be a second marriage of an older John.

And before that

8.6 The name Fearnley is a locational one derived from fern and wood clearing. There is a High Fearnley a little to the north west of Wyke and a Fearnley Farm between Wyke and Oakenshaw, both originally in Birstall parish. It is not clear whether they were named after someone named Fearnley or vice-versa.

8.7 There were a large number of Fearnley families in Birstall in the 16th century but no sign of a Randall Fearnley baptism. It would be reasonable to assume he was born in around 1575.

8.8 There was a Randall Fearnley who died on 11/8 1576 at Gomersall in Birstall aged only 23. His widow Margaret leased property in Gomersall from or to his father Thomas on 6/9 1577.⁵⁷ There is a marriage settlement of Thomas Fearnley yeoman, father of Randall, and Margaret Northend daughter of John dated 1/2 1577.⁵⁸ It is possible Thomas then had a second son Randall who married Helen Grace in 1598 though he would be quite young. Alternatively Randall might have had a son of the same name before he died. The absence of baptism and marriages for this family in the parish register suggests they may have been non-conformists.

8.9 Thomas Fearnley of Great Gomersall was buried on 27/11 1587 and his estate administration is recorded on 24/5 1588.

8.10 The fact that Randall Fearnley and John Northend exchanged a receipt in 1598 would tend to suggest that he was indeed the son or grandson of Thomas⁵⁹ as would the fact that Randall called his first daughter Margaret – his mother's name in both cases.

8.11 The only other Fearnleys I can find in Gomersall in the early 17th century is John Fearnley who had several children there in 1615-32 and Thomas Fearnley yeoman recorded in a bond for £240 in 1622. Then Randall's sons start to appear as parents. Fearnley Farm in Great Gomersall and Tong is noted in a property exchange in 1657 though not involving anyone of that name.

9. Parents of Isabel Pollard

Possible 10x great grandparents – William Pollard

9.1 Given Randall Fearnley married Isabel Pollard in Tong (as well as in his own parish) it is reasonable to assume she was the one baptised in Tong in 1581 the daughter of William.⁶⁰

| Family of William Pollard | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| William Pollard | <1550 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Source Parish Records {Ancestry} | | | | |

| | Baptised all at Tong St James | Married | Buried |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| William? | cc1562 | | 5/4 1636 Birstall 0 of Gomersall |
| Helen | 26/3 1571-72 | Luke Illingworth 23/9 1594 Tong | |
| Mary | 6/2 1574-75 | | 24/1 1575-76 |
| Alice | 28/6 1578 | Walter Laycock 5/7 1600 Tong | |
| Isabel | 22/4 1581 | Randall Fearnley 3/5 1603 Tong St James and 13/2 1605 Birstall St Peter | |
| Susanna | 3/2 1583 | | |
| Richard | /9 1590 but born earlier* | Elizabeth Gascoigne 9/6 1598 | |

* the entry (in Latin) is partially illegible but suggests he was not born in that year. He is recorded as son and heir

9.2 There were numerous property transactions involving William Pollard

- Conveyance - 1. Henry Tempest of Tong, esq, Helen his wife, and Richard their son 2. William Pollard of Tong, yeoman Property: a messuage and 2 closes of land containing about 9 acres in Tong [14 Aug 1576]
- Final Concord between William Pollard, Richard Stede, George Pereson, Richard Fowler and Robert Rycrofte, plaintiffs; and Henry Tempest, Esq. and Ellen his wife, Richard Tempest, son and heir apparent of the same, William Rayner and George Rayner, and Janet his wife, deforciant; concerning 7 messuages, 7 tofts, 7 gardens, 4 orchards, 40 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 4 acres of wood etc. in Tong. [Easter Term 1577]
- Grant - 1. Richard Pollard of Horton, tanner, and Margaret his wife; 2. William Pollard of Tong, yeoman - a close of land called Green Cliffe, containing 5 acres, in performance of agreements in indentures between them 11 Jul 1589
- Marriage Settlement between William Pollard of Tong, yeoman, and Luke Illingworth of Bolton, and Nicholas Goodale of Pudsey, yeoman; of a messuage and all houses etc. at Wiscard Hill, Tong, in consideration of the marriage between Richard Pollard, younger son of William and Elizabeth Gascoigne, daughter of John Gascoigne, late of Thorpe on the Hill, Gent, deceased [9 Jun 1598]
- Marriage Settlement between William Pollard of Tong, yeoman, and Richard Pollard, younger son of the said William, of the one part, and Richard Tempest of Tong, Esq. and Richard Thornton of Trewfall, Gent, of the other part; of a moiety of all that

message or tenement and all houses, edifices, barns, buildings, orchards, gardens, etc. in Tong, and also a moiety of one other message or tenement and all houses etc. at Wiscard Hill in Tong, and also of one cottage with appurts. in Tong, in consideration of the marriage of Elizabeth Gascoigne and Richard Pollard. [9 Jun 1598]

- Final agreement 1. Richard Pollard and William Grave, pltfs 2. William Pollard and John Croft; Thomas Stringer and Agnes his wife, defs Property: a message, a cottage, a barn, a garden, 6 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 7 acres of pasture in Tong and Wyke 1598/1599
- Feoffment between William Pollard of Tong, yeoman, of the one part, and Richard Pollard, younger son of the above, of the other part; of a message called Wisketthill, with the appurts. in Tong, and all houses etc. [1 Nov 1600]

9.3 I suspect but can't be sure that there was an earlier son William. There were some other baptisms of children of William Pollard in Tong (Dorothie 1593, Tempest 1597, William (son of William the younger) 1601 and Grace 1603). However the will of William Pollard of Birstall, yeoman, who would be the younger William, dated 17/10 1635 suggests that the first Dorothie was his daughter. It shows he had property in Tong as well as in Birstall. But as well as his wife, he bequeathed property and money to his "three daughters now living" and four sons in law – John Dawson (probably the husband of the daughter who had died) Abraham Naylor, Edward Brooke and Joseph Brigge. Joseph Brigge(s) married Elizabeth Pollard at Birstall on 20/8 1635 – she would be the daughter of William of Gomersall baptised on 10/12 1609 at Birstall. There was also a Mary Pollard baptised on 11/8 1605 at Birstall (Gomersall) and who probably married Richard Dawson on 1/12 1631. But this William Pollard could be the son of Thomas Pollard baptised at Birstall on 5/12 1565.

And before that

9.4 William the elder was probably born before parish records begin so there is little chance of getting back any further. There are no burial records of what could be older relatives in Tong in the 16th century.

9.5 There were two other Pollard families appeared in Tong soon after William - John who married Isabel Sharpe in 1580 and had children there in 1582-84 and Anne who married William Rawson in 1590. They could be relatives.

9.6 However there were a lot of other Pollards in Birstall from the start of the parish register in the 1550s and wills or administrations recorded in that parish in the 1540s at Wike and Oakenshaw.

10. Parents of Elizabeth Midgley

10.1 It is reasonable to assume Elizabeth Midgley came from the Bradford area. She married Daniel Fearnley at Bradford in 1637 but they lived in his home parish of Birstall thereafter.

10.2 The only baptism of an Elizabeth Midgley in Bradford itself was on 7/11 1602 the daughter of Thomas Midgley of Clayton. However the Bradford parish register does not usually name children who died and there was a child of Thomas Midgley of Clayton buried on 17/1 1602-03. That is not necessarily Elizabeth but it could well be. Furthermore if she lived she would be quite old to marry in 1637 though it might explain why she had no more children after 1645.⁶¹

10.3 There were a few other Elizabeth Midgley baptisms in other parishes – in Bingley 1603 daughter of Lawrence, 1609 Guiseley (parents not named) 1616 Calverley daughter of Richard and possibly 1619 in Guiseley. Perhaps the most likely is the Calverley one – her father was a tanner in Wrose at the west end of Calverley parish.

10.4 Another possibility might be that Elizabeth was a widow – for Bradford marriage records only give the names of the bride and groom. However the only Elizabeth who married a Midgley at the right time was Elizabeth Rawson who married William Midgley in Keighley on 20/4 1626. There is no sign of them in that parish thereafter.

And before that

10.5 The name Midgeley no doubt came from the village of Midgley west of Halifax. The name was already common in Bradford when parish records begin in 1596 - in Clayton, Thornton, Heaton and Manningham. There are also numerous wills and property transactions in the parish. Whilst one wealthy family who lived at Headley in Thornton can be identified further, others cannot.⁶²

11. Ancestors of Sarah Milnes

11.1 The marriage record of Sarah and Edward Rawnsley in 1705 is unclear – it could have been corrected to Milner or Milners.

11.2 There are a few baptisms of Sarah Milnes or Sarah Milner but it is not clear which if any could be the one who married Edward Rawnsley. The only two in Bradford itself were in 1670 (too old to have children in 1724) and one in 1789 too young to marry in 1705 and most likely the other one who married in Bradford in 1709.

12. Parents of Elizabeth Heartley

Possible 8x great grandparents – Joshua Heartley and Martha Rhodes

12.1 Elizabeth (Betty) Heartley married William Rawnsley in 1736. It is likely that the following was her family:

12.2 The abode is given as Bradford in all cases and Joshua is noted as a carpenter in the baptisms from 1713 on and in his burial record.

| Family of Joshua Heartley and Martha Rhoades | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Joshua Heartley | 25/7 1681 | James | 25/3 1706 Bradford St | 20/6 1736 Bradford St Peter |
| Martha Rhoades | | | Peter | 23/2 1753 Bradford St Peter widow |

| Children | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| | Baptised | Married | Buried |
| John | 5/1 1706-7 | | 15/11 1729 |
| Mary | 13/6 1708 | Winington Hodgson 13/10 1735 Bradford Samuel Sawley 26/6 1740 Bradford | |
| Martha | 28/4 1710 | | |
| James | 30/3 1712 | | |
| Abraham | | | 31/3 1713 |
| Elizabeth | 31/1 1713-14 | William Rawnsley 19/8 1736 Bradford St Peter | 22/10 1776 Betty Rawnsley |
| Ann | 9/10 1715 | | |
| James | 19/1 1717 | | |
| Ellen | 8/3 1719 | | |
| Sarah | 25/3 1724 | William Midgley 26/9 1759 Bradford | |

All at Bradford St Peter

12.3 The abode is given as Bradford in all cases and Joshua is noted as a carpenter in the baptisms from 1713 on and in his burial record.

12.4 I can be reasonably certain about the marriage of Joshua's children. Mary married a carpenter and her first son was called Joshua. Sarah married a woolcomber but he died just after the birth of their six child. Sarah and her three surviving children were the subject of removal order from Bradford to Manningham the following year.

13. Parents of Joshua Heartley

Possible 9x great grandparents – James Heartley and Elizabeth Hepworth

13.1 With Joshua's uncommon name it is quite likely that the following is his family – there are no other baptisms that fit.

| Family of James Heartley | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|--------------|--------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| James Heartley | | | 26/1 1676-77 | |
| Elizabeth Hepworth | | | | |

| Children | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | Baptised | Married | Buried |
| Elenor | 4/11 1677 | | |
| Joshua | 25/7 1681 | Martha Rhoades 25/3 1706 | 20/6 1736 |
| James | 28/1 1682 | Sarah Hardy 27/10 1707 | 4/4 1745 |
| Abraham | | | 24/8 1684 |
| John | 24/8 1684 | | 15/7 1692 |
| Thomas | 6/3 1687 | | |
| Abraham | 16/9 1689 | | 17/9 1689 |
| Robert | | | 24/1 1691 |

All at Bradford St Peter – abode Bradford

And before that

13.2 With baptism records more and more sparse it is impossible to be certain. However James could be the one baptised on 24/6 1655 at Bradford, the son of Tempest Hartley of Bowling.

| Family of Tempest Hartley | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Tempest Hartley | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Children | | | | |
| | Baptised* | Married | Buried | |
| Ann | 19/6 1653 | | | |
| James | 24/6 1655 | Elizabeth Hepworth 26/1 1676-77 | | |
| Susanna | 20/12 1657 | | | |

* at Bradford St Peter – abode Bowling

13.3 Tempest is likely to be the one baptised on 15/2 1623 at Bradford the son of James Hartley a carpenter in Bowling. James Hartley married Alice Greenwood

| Family of Tempest Hartley | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| James Hartley | | | 12/11 1623 Bradford St Peter | |
| Anne Greenwood | | | | |
| Children | | | | |
| | Baptised* | Married | | Buried* |
| Tempest | 15/2 1624 | | | |
| child of | | | | 6/11 1625 |
| Elizabeth | 23/3 1627 | | | |
| child of (perhaps Elizabeth) | | | | 27/3 1627 |
| child of | | | | 12/5 1629 |
| Sarah | 15/6 1630 | | | |

* at Bradford St Peter – abode Bowling

13.4 James was perhaps born before Bradford records begin in 1596 although the name was not common in Bradford till a bit later. There are no others born nearby at around the right time.

13.5 Anne Greenwood could be the one baptised on 13/5 1604 at Bradford the daughter of Samuel Greenwood of Bradford though she would be quite young to marry in 1623 and there was another Ann Greenwood who married James Robinson on 3/12 1626 at Bradford.

Elizabeth Hepworth

13.6 Hepworth is not a name that occurs in Bradford in any of the decades around 1670. The name was more common around Dewsbury – presumably stemming from the village of Hepworth south of Huddersfield. There were however several families of that name in Birstall including Elizabeth Hepworth baptised on 14/12 1647 the daughter of William Hepworth of Gomersall. This is quite possibly the right one though she would be 42 when she had her last child. It is quite feasible that she was in service in Bradford before her marriage and indeed whichever one married James Heartley must have moved to Bradford from elsewhere.

13.7 William had other children at the same place – Joseph 22/8 1641 John 12/11 1643 (buried 14/11 1643) and William 18/5 1651 (Great Gomersall). Alice wife of William of Gomersall was buried on 12/11 1643 so he presumably re-married.

13.8 There is no baptism of William at Birstall at the right time. He may have come from Mirfield. John Hepworth of Gomersall had children in 1627-42 and may be a relative.

14. Parents of Martha Rhodes

Possible 9x great grandparents – Abraham Rhodes

14.1 Whilst there are several Martha Rhodes baptisms only one fits her age given that she married in 1707 and had her last child in 1724. There is some circumstantial evidence to support this suggestion (see below) - so whilst we cannot be sure this is the right Martha but it is nevertheless a good possibility.⁶³

| Family of Abraham Rhodes | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|----------|--------|
| | Baptised | Parents | Married | Buried |
| Abraham Rhodes | | | | |
| 2 nd marriage | | | | |
| Mary Swaine | | | 9/6 1696 | |

| Children | | | |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| | Baptised | Married | Buried |
| John | 26/5 1680 | | |
| Martha | 7/5 1682 | Joshua Heartley 25/3 1706 Bradford St Peter | 23/2 1753 Bradford St Peter widow |
| Hannah | 26/7 1684 | | 30/11 1688 |
| Sarah | 22/5 1688 | | |
| Mary | 9/12 1694 | | |
| Grace | 30/5 1697 | Jonas Aspden 22/10 1718 Bradford George England 29/7 1730 Bradford | |
| Later children | | | |
| | Baptised | Married | Buried |
| Abraham child of Abraham Rhodes yeoman Bradford | | | 19/3 1719 |
| Nathaniel a child of Mr Abraham Rhodes of Bradford | | | 17/8 1727 |

All at Bradford St Peter – abode Bradford

14.2 It is not certain that the Abraham who had children in 1680-94 is the same one who married Mary Swaine in 1696 or that he is the same one who had the two later children noted above. There is a record of Anne, wife of Abraham Rhodes, yeoman Bradford buried on 1/9 1714 (there is also Mary wife of Abraham in Clayton buried 5/6 1703 but we can probably discount that)

14.3 I think it is likely that Abraham is the one recorded as a yeoman in Bradford in 1719-32

Conveyance (lease and release) of a parcel of land taken out of Murgatroyd Croft, Great Horton, adjacent Back Lane on the north with the meeting place for protestant dissenters erected on it, for the consideration of 5s;

1. Robert Stansfield of Bradford, gent, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thomas Sharp of Little Horton, deceased

2. Abraham Sharp of Little Horton, Samuel Stansfield of Bradford, salter, Thomas Farrand of Bradford, grocer and mercer, Abram Rhodes of Bradford, yeoman, Jeremy Dixon of Heaton Rhodes in Shipley, yeoman, Abram Swaine of Bradford, yeoman, John Atkinson of Bradford, William Hodgson of Bolling, John Lister of Bolton, Isaac Wilkinson of Little Horton, yeoman, and James Alred of Bradford, yeoman
1-2 Sep 1719

Deed to make a tenant to the precipe for suffering a recovery

1. Joseph Holmes, son and heir of Joseph Holmes, late of Bradford, linen draper, deceased Tempest Cordingley of Tong, yeoman
2. William Rawson of Bradford, gentleman
3. William Curtiss and Abraham Rhodes, both of Bradford, yeoman
Property: a messuage, a barn, a fold and a garden near a place called the Oaks in Bowling and seven closes called Upper Ing, Lower Ing, Wood End, Horse Close, Upper Throstle Close, Lower Throstle Close and the Smithies in Bowling
9 Jun 1721

Command to appear in Chancery to Abraham Rhodes of Bradford and his wife Mary Rhodes 1 May 1732

Command to appear before the Justices at York at the Assizes Court

1. Richard Wainman, gentleman and attorney of the Court of Common Bench, plaintiff
2. Abraham Rhodes and Mary Rhodes his wife, defendants (executors of the will of John Bradford, deceased)

Regarding an action of plea of trespass upon the case 7 Jul 1742

14.4 However we also have the burial of Mr Abraham Rhodes on 20/4 1734 so it is possible that the last two records above are a different Abraham.

14.5 Daughter Grace married twice – her second marriage was to George England who we have noted earlier see para [3.14](#) – and this provides a link between Abraham Rhodes and Betty Heartley’s mother Martha.

And before that

14.6 There was an Abraham Rhodes born in 1664 the son of Timothy in Heaton and he is recorded as son of Timothy Rhodes of Heaton Royds, yeoman in the latter’s will 1672. He would be the one who married Anne Atkinson in 1689, had children in 1690-96 and died in 1696, all at Heaton.

14.7 Abraham Rhodes of Allerton had children there in 1657-68 including Isaac 1657 and Timothy 1668. He is likely to be the same one recorded as son and heir of Isaac Rhodes, clothier, Allerton in a 1666 lease and as the husband of Sarah in Allerton in the will of Thomas Hollings in 1666.

14.8 Abraham Rhodes of Bierley had a son in 1670 and died in 1676.

14.9 So these are all clearly different from the one who had children at Bradford in 1680-97. And it leaves us with no baptism record for our Abraham – he may have come from elsewhere or his record is missing or illegible.

Annex

Five Centuries of Rawnsley Records

Notes and annotations

Page references are to the "2nd Raithby Hall copy" 1905 and in brackets to the PDF version

P4 [pdf4] Willingham's mother suggested the family originally came from North Prussia, bringing their coat of arms and crest with them in the late 17th or very early 18th century. They were supposedly wool staplers and settled in Bradford at a time when it was a great centre of the wool trade. Willingham concludes that the Prussian connection is incorrect but he "could not in any way account for it". There is certainly not a shred of evidence to support it.

In any case the theory, at least as related to Willingham, has several flaws. Bradford was not a great centre for the wool industry until the later 19th century, although the trade was important locally. At the time the Rawnsleys supposedly moved the industry was centred around cottage based clothiers, and wool staplers did not become more common until the development of the worsted industry in the mid-18th century.

It is also interesting to note that there was indeed an influx of German wool merchants to Bradford (many of them from around Hamburg) and this was a significant factor in the development of Bradford's prominence in the wool trade, but that did not occur until the mid-19th century.

It is not impossible that the story had developed as a family myth to hide the criminal past of William Rawnsley's grandfather.

P5-6 [pdf 7-9] – the story of the fireplace with a coat of arms on the cornice puzzled Willingham. However it is based on his grandfather's recollection of a visit to his own grandfather in about 1796 when he was aged 8. That such memories are unreliable is amply demonstrated by the fact that the old man was supposedly sitting by Mr Whitefield, one of the founding fathers of Methodism. Mr Whitefield actually died (childless) in 1771. Nor can Thomas have confused him with the other Methodist William Grimshaw – he died in 1763.

P6 [pdf 9] and P29 [pdf35] on p6 Willingham's mother refers to William Rawnsley's two sons and possibly a daughter who Maria Briggs was "no doubt descended from". Willingham notes that he "really had 5 sons and 4 daughters". One of William Rawnsley's daughters did indeed marry someone named Briggs.

William actually had another son after Thomas – Polycarpus (named after a Christian martyr) baptised at Haworth (Mr Grimshaw's chapel) in 1758. The father is recorded as William Rawnsley of Bradford. Willingham's correspondent Mr Gibbons who had extracted parish records for him presumably did not check the Haworth register. Polycarpus died an infant.

I do not think son John died unmarried as Willingham's mother suggested. He is noted as son of William and a wool stapler in the agreement of 1764. Whilst there were five John Rawnsleys born in Bradford around this time (say 1730-50) two died as infants and three married in the 1760s and had children. One was a woolcomber in Great Horton, one was

a woolstapler in Bradford and one was a weaver in Manningham. So John certainly married and had children and it seems most likely he was the one who was a woolstapler in Bradford, later recorded as an innkeeper when his wife Jane died. He was also the only one of the three who could sign his name at his marriage. His own son John is noted in London Freedom of the City records (son of John Rawnsley of Bradford, innkeeper) and was at the same address as his uncle William.

He was widowed in 1795 and may well have become an invalid so Willingham's mother's story may well be partly true.

P30 [pdf36] The Jonathan Rawnsley referred to in a letter would be the one born in 1817 and who died 1906. He was the great grandson of William Rawnsley's brother Henry - so Willingham's 3rd cousin once removed. The John Rawnsley referred to was probably an even more distant cousin.

Willingham says that Maria Briggs was a "sort of companion" to his grandmother and had been engaged to his great uncle. In an annotation on the next page he says she was a companion to Lady Fellowes and died at Folkestone.

This must surely be the Maria Briggs, living in Spilsby in 1851 with Mary Walls sister of Willingham's grandmother Sophia Walls, though she was recorded as born in Enderby c1787 and sister of Mary Wells, which would seem to be an obvious error.

The Maria Briggs who died at Folkestone as indicated by Willingham, was buried on 24/11 1871 and was living there in the 1871 Census at 89 Sandgate Rd as a boarder, aged 86, born Bradford and blind through age.

Lady Fellowes is presumably Emma Fellowes 1786-62 of Felthorpe Hall but there is no sign of Maria living with her in any other years.

P31/32 [pdf 38/39] Willingham repeated his early error, taking the reference to Mr Whitefield as confirmation of the accuracy of his grandfather's recollection and his mother's account of it. Instead it is quite the opposite and shows how childhood memories can become confused.

P33 [pdf40] Willingham appears to be searching in vain for Thomas Rawnsley's house in Bourne. It is not clear why he mentions the house which belonged to the Digby family which was then the station master's house (it was called Red Hall and has survived).

Furthermore since his visit was in 1892 he could have seen the house named Cavalry Hall on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map and presumably his contacts in the town would have known of it.

So perhaps at that time he had not discovered his great grandfather's role in the Bourne Cavalry. There is no mention of it in the Rawnsley Records and it is not until his *Highways and Byways in Lincolnshire* was published in 1914 that he mentions it in publication. See also note [21](#) below

P39 [pdf47] Fanny Hardwicke's husband William Andrews was her second cousin twice over - her paternal grandfather was Robert Hardwicke and her paternal grandmother was Deborah Hardwicke. William's maternal grandfather was Deborah and Robert's brother William.

Captain Wishart last worked for G Marshall & Sons of London not Green's, though it was for India. He may have contracted "jungle fever" (by which was probably meant a form

of malaria) but according to his death registration he died of phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) like Eliza's first husband.

P45 [pdf55] Thomas was not the first to move to Lincolnshire – that was his brother William.

Additional notes and references

Sources

Ancestry UK has copies of vital events (including images) in Bradford parish going back to 1596 and many other West Yorkshire parishes. Some are also on Freereg and Family Search. The early Bradford records are problematical – many pages appear to be out of order and indexed incorrectly

National Archives has only a few wills (also on Ancestry)

Ancestry also has many other records held by West Yorkshire Archive Service such as Quarter Session records, criminal records, apprenticeships etc. some of which are more accessible on the Archive service website

Parts of Bourne Archive are now on Wayback Machine

References

¹ Maddison, Canon A. R (ed) - *Lincolnshire Pedigrees Vol 4* (Harleian Society 1906) {Internet Archive}. Canon Maddison is mentioned in Rawnsley Records as having helped Willingham and his mother greatly.

² Willingham Rawnsley says that this is in the Cathedral parish records, which are not online and indeed may have been lost.

³ Universal British Directory 1791

⁴ Lease of land from Thurlby Grange 1804 – 1816 to Thomas Rawnsley of Bourne, gent, and William Hardwick of Market Deeping, gent.

Thurlby Village website <http://thurlbyvillage.wordpress.com/thurlby-grange/>

⁵ The Tradesman 1815 {Google Books}

Dissolution of partnerships Rawnsley T. Bourn and Hardwick, W. Barton, farmers

⁶ Hudson, Pat - *The West Riding wool textile industry: a catalogue of business records from the sixteenth to the twentieth century* (1975) {snippet view only in Google books}

WILVERBORPE, item 2.
8 (1). Letters. 1809-11.
Mainly from wool suppliers for whom Jackson was selling wool on commission. Many from Thomas Rawnsley writing from Bourne, Boston, and Wisbech, giving commission sales instructions and referring to the settlement of accounts, wool prices, the state of

⁷ Birkbeck J D – A History of Bourne p66 1970 2nd edition 1976

According to the Bourne Archive (which is unfortunately no longer available online) this was on the corner of Church Lane and South Street, to the south of the former.

⁸ Rawnsley Records letter dated 1820.

⁹ Sir Gilbert Heathcote (1773-51) MP for Lincolnshire 1796-1807 and Rutland 1812-41. Married Katherine Sophia Manners.

Son Gilbert John Heathcote (1795-1867) MP for Boston 1820-32 and Lincolnshire South 1832-41. Married in 1827 Clementina Drummond Willoughby (1809-84) daughter of 1st Baron Gwydyr.

¹⁰ Peter Burrell (1754- 1828) MP for Haslemere 1776-80 and Boston 1782-96. Created 1st Baron Gwydyr in 1796. In 1779 married Priscilla Barbara Elizabeth Bertie (1761-1828) daughter of Peregrine Bertie the 3rd Duke of Ancaster, succeeded as 21st Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby from her father in 1780.

Eldest son Peter Robert Burrell (1782-1865). Succeeded as 2nd Lord Gwydyr in 1820, and 22nd Lord Willoughby d'Eresby in 1828. Married 1807 Sarah Clementina Drummond (1786-1865), daughter of the James Drummond 11th Earl of Perth and became Peter Robert Drummond Burrell.

¹¹ Rawnsley, Willingham Franklin - *Highways and Byways in Lincolnshire* (1914). It is repeated in Needle, Rex *A Portrait of Bourne* (2008) and other modern sources.

The yeomanry is not mentioned in Rawnsley Records and indeed I suspect Willingham was not aware of it at that time.

The reality emerges from the Stamford Mercury which published notices about the yeomanry in 1794/95. It was funded partly by subscription – each of the members had to contribute £20 and the Heathcotes all contributed larger sums. Within a few months several thousand pounds had been raised. Thomas was not on the first list of subscribers (Stamford Mercury 13/6 1794 and 25/7 1794). The County Committee of Expenditure also contributed a substantial sum.

So Thomas's own involvement was no doubt at his expense but he neither set up the troop nor funded it more generally.

See also

Gilks Andrew - Aristocratic participation in the volunteer cavalry - *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* Vol. 86, No. 347 (Autumn 2008), pp. 204-215

Needle says that Rawnsley was promoted to captain and appointed both adjutant and paymaster of the Folkingham and Bourne Cavalry and was being paid £146 a year. He also says that in 1808, Rawnsley's service in the cause of national security was recognised when Lady Heathcote presented him with a handsome silver goblet.

¹² Stamford Mercury 5/8 1803 lists Sir Gilbert as major commandant, and his son Robert and Peter Burrell son of Lord Gwydyr as captains.

¹³ Thomas Grosvenor (1764-1851) was a soldier and enthusiast of horse-racing. He was also MP for Chester 1795-1825 and then Stockbridge. In 1797 he married Elizabeth Heathcote (d1830) daughter of Sir Gilbert Heathcote.

¹⁴ Edinburgh Almanack 1820/28 Oliver & Boyd's register 1876 and Voters Rolls (Ancestry). Thomas and T H were still listed as "old freeholders" in 1837.

¹⁵ Rawnsley Records letter from Thomas Grosvenor at his home at Warren Lodge in Epping Forest to T H Rawnsley about his father who was then on his death bed.

¹⁶ Stamford Mercury – various dates 1803-06.

Mary Pochin (d1804) inherited the Bourne Abbots manor from her brother in 1798. It passed to her sister in law. The Pochin's estate included Abbey House where Thomas ended his days.

¹⁷ Stamford Mercury – various dates

¹⁸ Stamford Mercury - Friday 17 October 1794

¹⁹ Reminiscences of fen and mere by Heathcote, J. M. (John Moyer) 1876

²⁰ Gentleman's Magazine May 1808 p464 {Google Books} Obituary "Mrs Rawnsley, wife of Mr. R of Bourn, Co Lincoln. Her death was occasioned by a mortification which ensued from breaking her leg when alighting from her horse, after a ride, on the 9th inst"

²¹ Rawnsley, Willingham Franklin - *Highways and Byways In Lincolnshire* (1914) {Internet Archive}

The 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1886) names the house Cavalry Hall.

The earliest reference to Cavalry House as such I can find is in 1895 when Joseph Eldret, a retired farmer lived there (Stamford Mercury 12/4 1895). He died there the following year.

It is possible to identify the occupiers of the house from Census records as it is next door to the almshouses. House names were only occasionally given in the Bourne Census, although larger houses were usually named.

1841 to 1861 George John Nicholls, a physician and surgeon with his wife and family. He was born in Toft in 1793 and lived in Bourne when he married in 1829. In the 1832 electoral roll he identified as a copyholder in Bourne "southern entrance" which presumably means South Street and he is listed in Pigot's Directory of 1835 at South St. Died 1869

He held the property as copyhold – this would be consistent with Thomas not being a freeholder in the 1818 Lincolnshire Poll Book.

1871-81 Edward Eldret born 1804 in Hacconby, a farmer. Died 1882

1891 Joseph Eldret born 1815 Hacconby – brother of Edward, also a farmer. Died 1895 at Cavalry House

1901 -11 Albert and Margaret Louise Dainty, born 1844 and 1859. Albert died in 1902 but Margaret remained there. The 1911 Census is the first time it is named as Cavalry House

So this leaves it uncertain when the name was given though it was before the 1886 – if it wasn't by Thomas himself it was probably by Dr Nicholls, although when the house was advertised for sale in the Stamford Mercury after the latter's death in 1869 no house name was mentioned.

²² History of Bourne p85

²³ A footnote in Archive says the following

Thomas, born 1755, was a wool stapler in Bourne, with premises on the corner of Church Lane and South Street, to the south of the former. The property later came to be known as Wherry's. He appears to have moved to the grander, Abbey House after its best-known occupants, George and Eleanor Pochin had both died, he in 1798 and she in 1823. By 1826, it appears to have been owned by the trustees of her young heir, so Rawsley will have been renting it. Part if it was leased to Robert Steevens Harrison who died in 1831

It was advertised for sale or to let in October 1823 and again to let in May 1824.

In fact most of it was leased to Robert Steevens Harrison, a farmer and grazier, who moved in with his wife Anna. He died in 1831

²⁴ Gentleman's Magazine Aug 1826 (and Times 10/8 1826)

Lincolnshire At Bourne, Tho Rawsley Esq a Deputy Lieut for that county

²⁵ Will of Thomas Rawsley {National Archives} copy saved and transcribed by me

²⁶ Trustees for the will were Thomas's son Joseph plus Benjamin Smith of Horbling, a solicitor and William Peckover of Wisbech, a banker. Benjamin Smith had been involved in the Yeomanry troop with Thomas.

²⁷ All three were living together in Langtoft in 1841 {Census}

²⁸ Memorial Inscriptions in Bourne Church

(1) Near the west entrance, on a blue slab:

Edmund son of T. & D. Rawsley, died Nov. 22, 1788; in the fourth year of his age.
Also Jane Ruth and Jane their Daughters died, Infants. Also Mary Anne, Died an Infant, 1799

(2) A white marble tablet above the western pillar of the nave

In memory of Thomas Rawsley, Esq., a deputy lieutenant of this county who departed this life August 8 1826 in the 71st year of his life

(3) Another under the arch looking west

In loving memory of Deborah wife of Thomas Rawnsley who died April 16th 1808 and six of their children who died infants

Source for (1) From the Bourn Archive

Source given is John Moore's Notes on Bourne Abbey (1809) from "Collections for a Topographical, Historical and Descriptive Account of the Hundred of Aveland." (Lincoln 1809)

Different version and (2) and (3) in Lincoln Church Notes by William John Monson 1828-40 (Lincoln Record Society Vol 31 {Internet Archive})

²⁹ Willmott, Elvira – Occupations in eighteenth century Bradford -Bradford Antiquary 1989

³⁰ Hudson, Pat – Proto-industrialisation – the case of the West Riding Wool Textile Industry in the 18th and early 19th Century – History Workshop no. 12 (Autumn 1981) {Jstor}

Soderlund Richard J. "Intended as a Terror to the Idle and Profligate": Embezzlement and the Origins of Policing in the Yorkshire Worsted Industry, c. 1750-1777 -Journal of Social History Vol. 31, No. 3 (Spring, 1998) Oxford University Press {Jstor}

Clapham J. H. - Industrial Organisation in the Woollen and Worsted Industries of Yorkshire -The Economic Journal Vol. 16, No. 64 (Dec., 1906), Oxford University Press {Jstor}

³¹ London Gazette 13/12 1748

³² London Evening Post 28/2 1761, Public Advertiser 2/3 1761 etc

³³ West Yorkshire archives

This is listed as an apprenticeship but it seems more like an indenture – apprentices were usually young men learning a trade. William and John were aged 51 and 27 respectively.

³⁴ London Gazette 19/2 1765 – there was also a notice of payment of a dividend to creditors on 25/5 1765.

³⁵. He is referred to as William Rawnsley, wool stapler, late of the parish of Bradford whereas his son William was referred to as late of Bourn.

³⁶ 1/9 1739 West Yorkshire Quarter Sessions (Ancestry)

³⁷ See <http://www.grimshaworigin.org/WilliamGwOfHaworth.htm>

Non-conformism was popular in Bradford – in 1743 the vicar of Bradford estimated that about a sixth of the parish were Quakers, Presbyterians or Baptists. There was a

Presbyterian Chapel at Chapel Lane in Bradford by 1717, a Quaker Meeting House at Goodman's End and Baptist chapels at Heaton, Rawdon and Bradford (originally at Manningham but from 1753 at Cockpit). Methodism in Manningham dates from Wesley himself, the stimulus coming from Isaac Duckworth of Daisy Hill who "received the truth" from Dr. Grimshaw, and there was Methodist Group at Daisy Hill by c 1750. There was no Church of England in Manningham until the 1830s.

³⁸ I do not know for sure that the William Rawnsley who married Mary Waterhouse was our one, but it seems very likely. The marriage record shows that William could write, which few other Rawnsley's outwith his family could, and he was a wool stapler and widower, which again does not fit any other William Rawnsley.

³⁹ She is described as Mary wife of William Rawnsley rather than widow.

⁴⁰ West Yorkshire archives – alehouse licences {Ancestry}

⁴¹ One more proof of the iniquitous abuse of private madhouses By Samuel Bruckshaw (1774) {Eighteenth Century collections online - NLS}

Samuel Bruckshaw, was formerly a *wool stapler* at *Bourn*, and after several years' experience at that place, he moved his business to Stamford where he expected to do better. But he was wrongfully incarcerated in a madhouse. William Rawnsley appeared as a witness in his successful attempts to secure a release:

⁴² Leeds Intelligencer Tue 28 May 1776 (British Newspaper Archive)

"WILLIAM RAWNSLEY, (From Bourn in Lincolnshire) begs Leave to acquaint his Friends, and the Public, That he has taken and entered upon that elegant, new-built INN, known by the Name of the WOOL PACKS, in Westgate, Wakefield, lately occupied by Mr James ... ?

Leeds Intelligencer Tue 11 Mar 1777 refers to William Rawnsley, the younger, late of Wakefield as bankrupt. Also London Gazette 4 Feb 1777 William Rawnsley younger dealer and chapman required to surrender himself to the Commission of Bankrupt at the sign of the Woolpacks, Westgate St., Wakefield. Leeds Intelligencer 18/2 1777 refers to William and Edward Millwood running the Wooll-packs lately occupied by Mr Rawnsley

William is also referred to as a bankrupt 10 years later - William Rawnsley, younger, late of Bourn now of Wakefield dealer and chapman granted a debtor's discharge certificate licence Stamford Mercury 19/5 1786 etc

There is no record of any subsequent births in Lincolnshire to any William Rawnsley. However there are several in Bradford though perhaps these were a different family. There was an Ann Rawnsley wife of William buried in Bradford in 1781 and no other fits.

⁴³ William Rawnsley son of William Rawnsley of Bradford, wool stapler, was granted the Freedom of the City of London by redemption (purchase) as a member of the Company of Innholders on 3/2 1787. He is listed in Directories as an agent at 16 West Smithfield in 1789-91 and as a wine and brandy merchant in 1791 at the George Inn, West Smithfield in 1791. He is also in land tax records at Smithfield/ Broad Pavement in 1787-91.

William Rawnsley late of the George Inn at 16 West Smithfield was bankrupt in 1792 and his estate was cleared in 1796 {London Gazette}. The inn was run by William Griffiths from 1792.

William is then recorded in land tax records at Cripplegate/St Mary Aldermanbury in 1796-98.

Since his wife Ann had died in 1781 it is possible that William re-married.

⁴⁴ Miss Elizabeth (Betty) Rawnsley of West Smithfield married John Caldecott, a linen draper of the same place, at the local church of St Sepulchre on 23/8 1787. He seems to have died soon after – John Caldecott aged 38 of Smithfield was buried at St Sepulchre on 3/11 1787. It was witnessed by E Caldicott (his aunt).

⁴⁵ John Rawnsley, son of John Rawnsley of Bradford, innholder was granted the Freedom of the City of London by redemption on 29/1 1788. John Rawnsley of St Sepulchre parish, a bachelor, married Susanna Beale at St Augustine, Watling St on 7/9 1787. She may be the Susanna Ransley who died at St Giles Cripplegate on 30/11 1794 – given John's uncle William had moved to that area. And John seems to have married Isabella Harradine at St Andrew Holborn on 20/6 1797 for they had a son Thomas Hudson Rawnsley baptised at St Sepulchre on 27/4 1806, Hudson being his mother's maiden name. By this John was back at the George Inn in Smithfield.

It seems that John returned to Yorkshire – to Leeds, and married a third time, for Thomas Hudson Rawnsley of Hunslet Lane was buried at Leeds St Peter in 1731 (Hudson was John's mother's name), and John Rawnsley of Hunslet Lane aged 72, a married man was buried at the same place in 1839. Christiana Rawnsley aged 50 lived at Blayds Court in Hunslet Lane in the 1841 Census, and John Rawnsley, an agent, married Christiana Ratcliffe at Leeds St Peter in 1816. He is recorded as a book-keeper at the Union Company's office at the time of his marriage in 1816 and as an agent for the well-known carriers Pickfords in 1821. {Leeds Mercury}.

⁴⁶ Lincolnshire Pedigrees lists only Thomas as a son of William and Betty. Thomas's birth is not indexed in Ancestry and is listed out of sequence as an addendum in the parish register.

⁴⁷ Cudworth, Wm - *Rambles Round Horton* 1886{Internet Archive} p191

⁴⁸ Indexed as Edward with no surname and Jan 1682 in Ancestry. Marriage record (and transcript) says Rowsley

⁴⁹ I suppose it is possible that the villainous Robert Rawnsley and my ancestor were different people. But I rather think that since they both appear to have moved to Manningham about the same time and the fact that Rawnsley's accomplice and wife were both named Fearnley suggests that they were indeed the same person.

⁵⁰ Raine, James - *Depositions from the Castle of York* (Surtees Society Vol 49 1861) {Internet Archive} repeated in James, John - *Continuation and additions to the History of Bradford, and its parish* (1866)

James says they pretended they were bailiffs of the Manor Court of Bradford and that they went to levy an attachment upon the goods of John Drake to make him plead in a case in the Court.

⁵¹ National Archives Item reference ASSI 45/11/2/288 Records of Justices of Assize, Northern and North-Eastern Circuits Criminal Depositions and Case Papers.

In addition the Quarter session records include a petition of James Ackroyd of Horton in Bradford Dale for payment of his charges when at the York Assizes Ackroyd had been required to give evidence against Robert Rawnsley of Manningham for the murder of Sarah Drake of Horton and had incurred charges of over 20 shillings, most of which he had had to borrow. [Oct 1675]

⁵² The wapentake was an administrative division of the county and Skyrack included Bingley.

⁵³ The original administration document is at the National Archives Kew but not online. It is indexed in Ancestry UK, but a bit more detail is in Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Association Record Series Vol 1 1885. {Internet Archive}. This lists "Easter Rawnesley" of North Bierley with sons Thomas and Edward as administrators. There is no mention of Robert in these indices.

⁵⁴ Elizabeth daughter of Stephen Ransley was baptised at Bradford on 11/3 1610 but he was from Shipley.

⁵⁵ Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series Vol 18 Royalist Composition Papers

⁵⁶ West Yorkshire Archives - Lease 1. Daniel Fearnley a younger son of Randal Fearnley of Gomersal, yeoman 2. Randal Fearnley; Property: land in Gomersal being a moiety of three closes called Swincliffe, and also two closes called Langley Close and Langley Moore Date 22 May 1637

Swincliffe House was north of Great Gomersall and was later in Birkenshaw parish created in 1834.

⁵⁷ Lease -1. Margaret Fearnley, widow (late wife of Randall Fearnley late of Gomersall, deceased) 2. Thomas Fearnley of Gomersall, yeoman (father of Randall Fearnley) Property: 2/3 parts pf a messuage in Gomersall for 26 years, at a rent of £6 13s 4d p.a. 6 Sept 1577

⁵⁸ Marriage settlement 1 Thomas Fernley of Gomersal, yeoman 2 John Northend of North Bierley, clothier; Randall Fernley son of Thomas Fearnley; Property: Thomas Fernley is to marry Margaret Northend, daughter of John Northend, and relating to a messuage in Gomersal 1 Feb 1577

⁵⁹ There was a Thomas Fearnley married Katherine Smithson at Birstall on 22/8 1574. Children of Thomas are recorded – George baptised 11/5 1583; John baptised 23/5 1586; John buried 14/5 1595 abode Drighlington. I am inclined to think that this was a different Thomas – the last record is in a different village and the first Randall was born in 1553.

⁶⁰ There was another one who married William Pearson at Birstall in 1600 and one born in 1568 the daughter of Henry Pollard – they may be the same person.

⁶¹ Thomas Midgley of Clayton had the following children baptised: James 13/7 1600, Elizabeth 7/11 1602 Mary 15/2 1603-04 and Anne 14/7 1605. Children of Thomas of Clayton were buried on 17/1 1602-03 and 30/4 1604

⁶² There is a lot of information on <http://midgleywebpages.com/index> and in West Yorkshire Archives.

⁶³ The name of the father in Martha's baptism record is very hard to decipher. I am fairly sure it is "Abram". The only other father named Abraham or Abram that year is more clearly recorded as Abram (Brunte) on 16/4 1682 and it looks very similar. So we may assume the parish clerk at the time recorded it this way. Earlier and later records all show Abraham.

There were other Martha Rhodes who married around the same time but they lived elsewhere – Martha of Clayton married Ezra Jowet in 1703 and Martha of Haworth married Jonas Foster in 1708.