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UPWARD SOCIAL MOBILITY AMONG DERBYSHIRE'S TUDOR MERCHANTS

PART 2: THOMAS THACKER AND HIS FAMILY'S SUCCESSORS

(by Anthony Thacker,

Introduction

This article continues the account of Thomas Thacker of Heage and Repton centering on Thomas' own place in history and its consequences for succeeding generations of his family. As we have seen in Part I in *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 19, Part 3, Spring 2011, Thomas was born roughly in 1480, in Derbyshire, not Calais (he told Cromwell that Darley Abbey was '*near to where I was born and where my poor lands lie*'), and was the son of Richard Thacker of Heage, a son or probably grandson of John Thacker, a yeoman of Crich.¹ The evidence to show which was Richard's eldest son is inconclusive. I have concluded the weight of the evidence just favours Christopher, and that Thomas was the second son. But it is possible Thomas was the eldest son of Richard - he does end up with properties in Heage, after all - though according to his son Edward, he had had these for 48 years, decades before his father Richard died.²

Either way, why Thomas Thacker was in Calais, and how he became a merchant of the Staple there, remains a matter for conjecture. Most likely, he arrived in Calais to follow the common pattern of first working under an older cousin or uncle. The earliest entry relating to him that I have discovered sees Thomas included among about 175 merchants of the Staple, in a Pardon Roll of 1505. Prior to this, the account books of John Turbeville, treasurer, and Adrian Wheathill, comptroller of Calais, mention Martin Thacker and John Thacker. These eleven books of about 100 folios each cover 1492-1503.³ They are fuller than the accounts for the years before and after, both in years covered, and their extent, with their inclusion of accounts of the renewed fortification of Calais. They detail rents on holdings, and payments to various workers. The accounts of Turbeville and Wheathill are largely but not exactly parallel. Both men mention a payment to John Thacker in 1496. To describe Thacker, Wheathill used the unambiguous word '*tector*', which in late Medieval Latin meant a roofer, not a plasterer. Thacker was a thacker (Calais documents in English used the dialect words '*thack*' and '*thacker*' for thatch and thatcher).⁴ Turbeville used an expanded version of '*tector*' in the parallel document describing John Thacker: '*tectator*'. In an earlier 1492 book, Turbeville used the same word, along with other words describing skilled labourers engaged in repair works for Calais at that time. In a long list of such workers which include '*stone-cutters, sawyers, joiners and thatchers*', one of these is named as Martin Thacker.⁵ John, certainly, and Martin, probably, were employed as roofers. The name is not common, and though it is not certain, it is likely they were both related to each other and to Thomas - and I suggest uncles, rather than more distant relations, especially if I am right to identify John Thacker of Calais with John Thacker of Rampton, Cottam, Cromwell and Norwell in Nottinghamshire.

By 1505 Thomas Thacker was a merchant of the Staple of Calais. A law of Edward III determined that all English wool destined for the Continental market had to be traded via Calais, ensuring hefty profits for these Calais merchants, who would typically buy in return luxury cloths for mercers to sell in England. There is also later evidence which shows Thomas operated as a vintner. He sold his continental wines in London, and most probably luxury cloths too. But he operated also in Lincoln (where he was granted exemption from mayoral and shrieval service in 1511), and probably also Newark, Notts, an inland port rapidly expanding at the time, where he could both load his wools and presumably unload cloths and goods for his brothers to sell in Derby.

How did Thomas come to such a sought-after position? We do not know for sure. But there are clues. The first is Martin Thacker and John Thacker: they were in Calais in the 1490s, and Thomas could have been sent to work with and for them. The second clue is that John Thacker (also Theker) of Nottinghamshire, probably an uncle of Thomas, had a strong and positive connection with Stephen Hatfield, a merchant of the Staple.⁶ If the Calais John Thacker is the Norwell man, then the opportunity for Thomas, his nephew, to profit from these connections and become Stephen Hatfield's protégé seems the most likely background I have been able to discover to suggest how Thomas Thacker rose to be a merchant of the Staple. In any case, Martin and John Thacker were skilled workers in Calais a few years before Thomas had become a merchant, and such a social context did not preclude advance. In the same entry listing payment to John Thacker for his skilled work, payments to other craftsmen are itemised. The entry concerning Thacker is followed by one for Otwell Butler, in 1496 in similar status, but presumably the same Calais man whose PCC will of 1508 shows him to have become an esquire and

burgess of Calais, and ship-owner by then, and whose widow Margaret went on to marry Humphrey Bannaster, mayor of Calais.

Thacker family archives preserved because of an eighteenth century Chancery case (which I term the '*Repton Archives*'), show transfer of some Calais property rights from 1383 up to 1498, after which Calais documents (from 1509) relate to Thomas Thacker. No document shows Thacker purchasing these Calais holdings, suggesting he gained them by inheritance or marriage instead. He did not gain them from John and Katherine Egginton or John and Marion Rolfe, named in a 1498 indenture of lease between them of a cottage in Castle Street, Calais, as this relates to the case with documentation from 1515-42, connected with Hull merchants Dalton and Harrison, mentioned in Part 1 of this article. He is most likely to have gained his properties from another Calais burgess named in these documents, Richard Rouhed (mayor of Calais in 1460). Calais treasurers' accounts show no change from Rouhed before 1532, so transfer to Thacker was probably not by purchase, but by inheritance, perhaps by marriage to Rouhed's daughter (or grand-daughter).⁷

As for his marriage, light is possibly cast through later documentation. A later dispute (1553-4) resulted in cases in both Star Chamber and Chancery, documentation of which survives. This concerned a certain William Wheatcroft of North Wingfield (d.1557) and his supporters John Brailsford the elder and John Sellars, who disputed and seized some of Edward Thacker's Heage properties. In one such document, Edward claimed that prior to his brother Gilbert's occupation of this freehold seven years previously (after Thomas' death), their father had held the property for 48 years without any such dispute.⁸ If true, Thomas gained his freehold land in Heage in 1500 (or 1507 depending whether the 48 and 7 years mentioned are taken concurrently or consecutively). So it was certainly not inherited from his father, and may have been gained through marriage or business successes. A marriage in 1500 or 1507 is certainly possible - Gilbert's birth in 1513 does not disprove this, as Thomas may well have had other children before Gilbert who did not outlive him. In any case, it is possible that Thomas married an heiress of some lands, enabling him to engage in financial transactions, selling such lands to hold properties in Heage, Calais and London.

What is certain is that Thomas Thacker operated as a merchant of the Staple and lawyer from at least 1505 onwards. This required him to travel extensively, and surviving documents naming him see him in Calais, Hull, Lincoln, London, and probably Bruges. The documents relating to his 1514-7 dispute over his allegations of being cheated at cards in London were against international traders (Roy, le Negro and Costapolegrino). In the early part of that time, it is known that Thomas Cromwell was involved in trade in and around Antwerp, and it seems highly likely that their paths crossed. Cromwell '*had a reputation for ... never forgetting old friends and benefactors*' and may have similarly noted Thacker among others, deliberately drawing him (and others) in.⁹ Furthermore, as Cromwell's '*grandfather ... had migrated from Norwell, Nottinghamshire, to Wimbledon, Surrey, in 1461*',¹⁰ Thacker's relation to John Thacker of Norwell suggests they were aware of each other even earlier. In any case, Thacker was already in royal service before 1529. Among the Wolsey papers is one where Thacker's plea (presumably to Wolsey as Chancellor) to restore £20 taken for someone else's debts, included the comment he could not remain in London to prevent this development '*by reason of diverse businesses that he had time to do at Calais as well on the King's behalf as of his own*'. The paper is thus presumably dated 1515-29. Furthermore, in 1514/5, the lieutenants on behalf of the mayor and aldermen of Calais report that Thacker had informed the King directly of his plea for justice in relation to his dispute over being cheated at cards, indicating Thacker already had some form of access to the King through which he could attempt to appeal over the heads of the mayor, aldermen and comptroller of Calais.¹¹ So Thacker would combine extensive experience of London, the Continent and the Midlands, and some royal commissions in Calais, and presumably Cromwell believed him capable of pressing his controversial business through effectively. Recruitment for such reasons would explain Thacker's sudden promotion from a lifetime of Calais trading to prominent royal service as Cromwell's servant.¹²

Evidence shows him as '*Thomas Thacker of London, Merchant of the Staple of Calais*', in a plea roll entry in 1534/5, where the administrator of goldsmith Robert Amadas was after unpaid debts.¹³ Though the plea roll states Amadas died intestate, his PCC will was proved in 1533 - where he requested the Duke of Norfolk and Thomas More to act as overseers.¹⁴ However, I have not located Thomas Thacker in the London or Heage Lay Subsidies of the 1520s or 1530s.¹⁵ So his main residence most probably remained in Calais, where no record of those subsidies paid by residents in Calais survives. By 1542 we find him recorded in tax records for Repton.

As for Thacker's work as a lawyer, one 1514-15 case in Chancery notes he acted as attorney for John Topcliffe, merchant of the Staple of Calais, in which connection he was authorised to sell Topcliffe's Lindsay wool (Topcliffe was of Somerby, Lincolnshire) and got embroiled in a dispute that another such merchant, Robert

Wentworth, had with Topcliffe. However that case was resolved, we can assume Thacker continued his association with Topcliffe, as we see him named in 1532/3 in his widow, Elizabeth Topcliffe's will, bequeathing him a 'writing obligatory' of an IOU of £15 due from John Medwall formerly of London, but by then 'beyond the sea', and also releasing him from any debts owed to her late husband John Topcliffe. The will then concludes with the names of four witnesses followed finally by 'and me Thomas Thacker/notary publyk'.¹⁶ One December 1529 document, signed and written (in Latin) by him as a lawyer, concerns a bond of £20 from London haberdasher Baldwin Ridgedale to London painter-stainer Henry Smith. The dorse, in English, names the 'indifferently chosen' arbitrators, with 'Thomas Thacker, vintner' heading the list. Thacker also wrote the Latin legal corresponding document a month later for Smith.¹⁷ Also the *Letters and Papers* show reference to this legal work: a 1539 letter of Thomas Whitworth complained at Thacker's and Mr Popley's lack of action of his behalf, and added 'trusting ye to be good solicitors for me'.¹⁸

Cromwell wrote 'remembrances', aides memoires, which helped him maintain bureaucratic efficiency. An early one relates to Thomas Thacker of Calais, and indicates (along with many others) Thacker would have had direct dealings with Cromwell, before he was recruited in Cromwell's service, which happened by 1535. As for Thomas' work for Cromwell, much of this is already published, and the reader may follow this through the many letters to be found in the *Letters and Papers*. In sum, these include many progress reports relating to the building of Cromwell's house, and reports relating to his work expediting the dissolution of the monasteries, in particular providing inventories of the plundered treasures, regarding which Cromwell's biographer Robert Hutchinson comments, Cromwell's 'steward Thomas Thacker, in a series of letters, described their safe arrival in disappointed tones, like a pawnbroker valuing new but mediocre stock', ie of one image of the Virgin Mary, 'There is nothing about her but two half shoes of silver and four stones of crystal set in silver'.¹⁹ There are also other items of interest. One curious episode tells of a time when Thacker and colleagues Gostwick and Edgar were with the mayor of London (Sir Richard Gresham). He reported to Cromwell that a certain Birch came in from court saying that if his wife should have a boy, then Cromwell's commandment was that he (Thacker) 'should as your lordship's deputy make a Thomas' and during the mealtime this male child was delivered, and Birch pressed Thacker to proceed with the christening. The tones of the letter show the great fear they had of Cromwell: fear of the penalties for acting presumptuously (lack of written proof of this command) versus fear of being condemned for disobedient failure to act. The latter fear won out: 'I as your lordship's deputy in that behalf with the said Mr Gostwick and young mistress Gresham have christened him, and given to his name Thomas, a goodly child, God bless him'.²⁰

As for Thacker's status and main residence, earlier documents place him in Calais. The earliest reference naming him as 'of Heage' comes in an 'exemplification' in one of Jeayes' Charters: 'Exemplification by Henry VIII, made at the request of Thomas Thacker of Highege, gent., and Gilbert Thacker his son'.²¹ This related to a grant made in 1536 by the Abbot of Darley - though the exemplification was made in 1539. As for his financial status, the earliest Lay Subsidy payment I have located for him comes after he gained Repton: in 1543 he paid 40 shillings (£2) for £40 in lands in Repton. A record of payment of estreats the previous year also survives. In May 1538, Thomas was granted a coat of arms, and gained Repton Priory, first as a lease (Nov 1538), then as an outright purchase (1543), and lived in the Prior's Lodgings, as a major landholder, with a water mill, demesne lands and over 500 acres of land. He was now deemed esquire, and his standing and responsibilities grew, so he was now among the leading local gentry - the commissioners of the peace, those who collected Lay Subsidies, and who drew up the musters.²²

Thacker's first marriage was by 1512, as Gilbert was born in or just after 1513, and Edward, said to be 59 in 1572 ('the age of lix yeres or nere there about') was born soon after. However, the name of Thomas' first wife remains unknown. After her death, Thomas had two marriages to widows in nearby parishes: to Margaret Blakesley, widow of citizen and draper John Blakesley on 25 September 1542 at St Mildred, Poultry, London (Margaret was buried there, 19 May 1543); and to Jane Hickman, widow of citizen and cloth-worker Walter Hickman on 19 January 1544/5, at St Dionis, Backchurch, London. Jane survived Thomas, and her dowry arrangements and the wedding seven days later are described in the Inquisitions Post Mortem (IPM). She is probably 'my sister Jane' whom Oliver Thacker named in his 1554 will.

The editors of the catalogues in the National Archives recognised that most of the 'Repton Archives' filed under C109/87 can be shown to have connections with Calais or Derbyshire, or with Thacker or Hickman. However, there are other contemporary documents among them with no known connection to these places and people. The editors did not know that Thacker married Blakesley before Hickman, and that several deeds relate to the Blakesleys, including those with Northamptonshire connections (C109/87/119-124).²³ Since these 'Repton Archives' include a range of material from the families of his second and third wives, it is likely that some of the

other documents in the group were kept because of family connections, whether from one of the three wives, or other relations. Three connections are clearer. In 1552, Nicholas Ley, son of Robert Ley of Naneby,²⁴ Leicestershire, released land to John Gilford of Scraftoft, Leics., and his wife (and Ley's mother) Elizabeth. He is likely to be the Nicholas Ley recorded as a supporter of Gilbert Thacker's legal case regarding Repton tithes in 1555, and thus (like John Hopkins, in the same list) most probably a tenant and close relative.²⁵ John Langston (C109/87/125) in his will (proved 1506) provided for the merchants of Calais, and was among its merchants pardoned in 1505;²⁶ and Jasper Fyllol (see C109/87/127-128) was a servant of Cromwell. C109/87/129-131 relate to William Burges (1501) and to John Burges of Stotfold, Beds., and his son, also John Burges, of London in 1519-20 concerning lands in Hexton, Herts. And C109/87/126 concerns Sir William Beale, clerk, in 1492, who is likely to be a close relative - either of Thomas' first wife, as two merchants of the Staple of Calais in 1505 were also named William Beale, or else of Edward's wife Joan Brooke, as a possibly related John Brooke married the sister of Robert Beale.²⁷ This document was preserved by the family not for financial reasons, but because it was personally signed by Henry VII (granting Beale special permission to wear his *'bonnet'* even in the presence of the King, for health reasons).²⁸

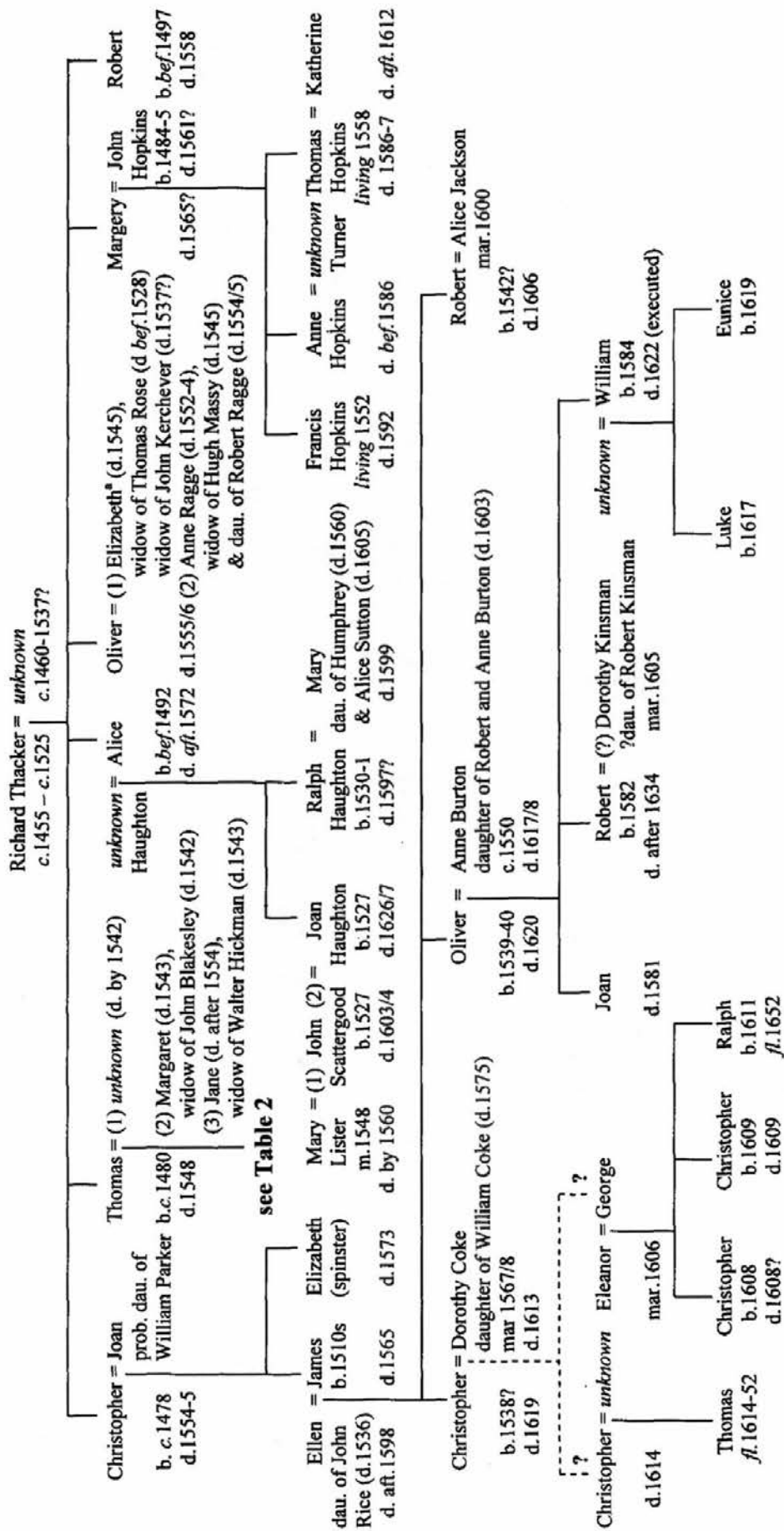
Gentrification of Thacker's Nephews and Their Descendants

James was described as *'one of the children of Christopher Thacker'*, so in Table 1 overleaf we take Elizabeth Thacker, a spinster of All Saints, Derby, as another child. The sources to compile this table include the documentation listed in Part I relating to Oliver and Robert Thacker, especially Robert's will, where we see nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces largely in sequence (as well as fellow-clergy). Other relatives in Tables 1 and 3 are similarly gleaned from Robert's will. Robert also names other beneficiaries, some of whom are likely to be relatives, but related in ways we cannot unravel: Margaret Parsons, widow; Isabel daughter of Richard Clarke; James Chetham; German Pole (a brother of Godfrey, who later married Katherine the widow of Gilbert Thacker); *'Barrett's wife'* (probably a Barrett of St Alkmund's, Derby, or possibly Margaret, the wife of Thomas Barrett of Wymeswold, Leics., whose 1587 will notes a debt to him by *'Mistress Thacker of Darbie'*, ie Ellen); and Thomas Bretby son of Mary Somerford. Bretby was to go into the care of James Chetham, suggesting Chetham was his uncle. James Chetham was a husbandman of Heage, and a servant of Edward Thacker, like other members of the Chetham family.³⁰

James Thacker's parents were married by 1517, probably considerably earlier, as James was likely to have been born some years before that as he was a witness for the coroners at Newark in 1533/4, and then stated to be a man *'of good standing and reputation'*.³¹ Indeed, plea rolls in 1522/3 name both Christopher and James as mercers of Derby.³² Very soon after leaving Newark, in 1537 or 1538, James married Ellen, a daughter and co-heir of John and Joan Rice of Meaford, near Stone, Staffs, and their three sons, Christopher, Oliver and Robert were born soon after. Like his father, James was a mercer, a churchwarden at All Saints (in 1542 and 1554), an auditor there (1551 and 1556) and paid Lay Subsidy (of 3d for £3 of goods) in the Market Head.³³ James was appointed a bailiff in Derby in 1557, when the All Saints churchwardens' accounts note there were *'counterpanes of 5 leases for Mr bailiff Thacker'*. In 1553, James and Ellen entered Duffield Manor Court to release and quitclaim a water mill and lands in Duffield to Richard Fletcher. In 1558 he became an MP and while he was still usually referred to as a *'mercier'*, James was recorded as *'generosus'* in the Parliamentary records noting him as MP for Derby in 1557/8.³⁴ James died of fatal injuries on 30 Nov 1565, though his assailant was judged not guilty of manslaughter by the jury. This attacker was Ralph Houghton, no doubt his first cousin, son of Alice Houghton.³⁵ Robert had called both men *'cousins'* in his 1558 will, a usage he made for nephews, as we saw in Part 1. James' death was slow, taking six weeks, allowing him time to write a will, in which he bequeathed to his wife and his three sons.

Ellen was named in the list of Stafford Archdeaconry families in 1532. Set up for religious purposes, it included deceased as well as living members of the household. In the published transcription, her father's name was mis-transcribed as Ryffe, but should be Rysse, and Ellen was the first child named and presumably the eldest.³⁶ Her surviving sisters follow, plus another daughter and two sons who did not outlive their father. Ellen and her sisters (and their respective husbands) were caught up in a number of legal arguments with each other, and their mother Joan's marriage after John's death to Thomas Busby provoked other conflicts. In 1584, Busby made a bequest to *'Ellen Thacker my daughter in law'* (here, step-daughter) of 20 shillings. Her sons, Christopher, Oliver and Robert received the same sum between them. Ellen can be seen in All Saints churchwardens' accounts even as late as 1598, as *'widow Thacker'* and as *'Mistress Thacker'*. Along with her sons Christopher and Oliver, she is found among the tenants in 1577 of the arable lands of All Saints' lands, as Cox's book on the church shows. Meanwhile depositions in March 1592 show Ellen, Oliver, and Oliver's mother-in-law, Anne Burton, as tenants of an acre of the church's lands, while Christopher and Oliver are among several tenants of three acres of

Table 1: Descendants of Richard Thacker of Heage



* Elizabeth was mother of William Rose, according to a legal case by Robert Pryde. In the will of John Rose of Nottingham in 1528, for whom Elizabeth's husband John Kerchever was an executor, the two main beneficiaries were William Rose the son of Thomas Rose deceased, and John Bredon son of Thomas Bredon. Both William Rose and John Bredon were grandsons of John Rose, leaving Elizabeth as Rose's daughter-in-law, and John Kerchever (no doubt already married to her by 1528), John Rose's step-son, and hence an executor.²⁹

meadow of these lands.³⁷

Of James and Ellen's three children, Christopher married Dorothy Coke, the sister of Richard Coke of Trusley in 1567-68, and the three brothers were named in an indenture in 1580 set up by Christopher and Richard to ensure financial support for Dorothy should Christopher die. He was described as a mercer in 1585-86 when he made several transactions relating to mines of coal and ironstone in Rushall near Walsall, Staffs. These show him acquiring these by indenture and assigning them to Sir Francis Willoughby of Middleton, Warwicks and of Wollaton, Notts (who was developing coal mines at Wollaton in the 1560s and 1570s).³⁸ James bequeathed his beer house to Christopher, who was still a Derby ale-keeper in 1577,³⁹ and may be the man named as indebted to Godfrey Pole in 1598, and is no doubt the Christopher Thacker buried on 11 March 1619-20 at All Saints who is described in the parish register as '*warden of the Almshouse*', ie those that Bess of Hardwick (Elizabeth Shrewsbury) built in 1599 in All Saints parish. The record of a burial of Mistress Thacker in Derby in 1613 presumably refers to Dorothy.

There is no direct record of Christopher's children. But there are people related to the Thackers of Derby and Repton who may have been his children. Christopher Thacker, a prothonotary clerk of Clement's Inn, Middlesex, is the most intriguing possibility. Gilbert Thacker of Repton appointed him as supervisor to his will in 1612; two years later, in his own will, Christopher made a bequest to his '*cousin*', Jane Thacker of Repton (née Harpur, Godfrey's wife), and in Sept 1614, Christopher's heir, Thomas and '*Gilbert Thacker of Repton, gent*' (presumably Godfrey's brother) are recorded together in a Middlesex Sessions case. Christopher's will shows he had a messuage in Walsall in which his brother George lived. Christopher also had lands in Leigh, Checkley and Tean, and stated that Robert Thacker of Leigh, Staffs, was his '*cousin*'. Some of these relations must be as distant cousins. Christopher Thacker of Derby's Walsall connection might lead us to conclude Christopher and George were his sons. However, they might as easily be descended from Thomas Thacker of Walsall in the 1520s and 1530s, or John Thacker of Great Barr in the 1510s.⁴⁰

Oliver Thacker was born in or about 1540, as depositions in September 1591 state he was 51 years old. He married Anne Burton (daughter of Robert and Anne Burton, the latter of whom died in Derby in 1603), by 1580, as their daughter Joan was buried in Sept 1581 at All Saints, Derby. In 1580, Oliver was already termed '*of Codnor*', so Anne Thacker of Codnor (the maid of Lady Zouch of Codnor, bequeathed to in Sir John Zouch's 1585 PCC will), should be identified as Oliver's wife. But in 1581 he paid Lay Subsidy in Derby, at 5 shillings for £3 in goods. One source, cited but not referenced on the internet, notes Oliver Thacker of Derby as an inn-keeper, 27 April 1597. Both Christopher and Oliver are included in the Derby Borough Rentals of that time, and Oliver is found again in 1611, for his close at Capp Croft, which he and Anne transferred by indenture to their younger son William in 1613. This came to Oliver from his great-uncle and godparent Oliver. But after William's execution in 1622, Capp Croft went to William's older brother, Robert, who leased it out in 1634. Anne and Oliver were buried at All Saints, in 1617-18 and 1620, respectively.⁴¹

James' third son, Robert, went on, like his namesake great-uncle, to be a clergyman, matriculating at Trinity College Cambridge in 1560, gaining not only M.A. but also B.D. degrees, becoming a fellow of the college in 1564, and serving as University Preacher in 1575. He was (probably⁴²) ordained at Lincoln in 1574, before pastorates at Enfield, Middlesex and, from 1579, at Benefield, Northants (where Sir John Zouch was patron) until his death in 1606. It seems that he remained mainly resident in Cambridge, acting twice as senior dean (1577-8, 1579-80) and as senior bursar (1581-2); his own signature does not appear in the Benefield registers until 1601. '*Fellows of the university colleges were not allowed to marry, and had to resign their fellowships if they did*',⁴³ so Robert's marriage in 1600 to Alice Jackson, explains his residence in Benefield thereafter. He died in 1606, so was not the '*Robert Thacker, gent of Benefield*', who married Dorothy Kinsman in 1605 and was listed as a recusant after 1606. The latter Robert was not the clergyman's son - not his legal heir, and as a '*gent*' not an illegitimate son either - and should be identified as a nephew, most probably Oliver's eldest son. As for the Kinsman family, they included several noted recusants, ie Catholics, and Robert and Dorothy's names are included in recusant rolls.⁴⁴

James' sons laid claim to gentry status: Christopher's marriage to Dorothy Coke is duly noted in the *Familiae Minorum Gentium*; Oliver was dubbed '*gent of Codnor*' in 1580, and later, of Little Chester. (He did not live in Stone House Prebend, which was by this time occupied by the Bate family, but in another tenement and other lands from an indenture made with All Saints by 1577.) In 1591, he was '*of Derby ... gentleman*'.

Thacker's sister Alice Haughton must have married about 1526 (probably shortly after her father died), and had at least two children. The elder was Joan, who in 1560 became the second wife of John Scattergood, a

husbandman living in one of the prebends of Little Chester. Both died in old age. John Scattergood was born about 1527: he was said to be aged 65 in a deposition of 1592 and 76 at his burial in St Alkmund's, Derby in March 1603/4. The same registers reporting Joan's burial in January 1626/7 say she was '*a woman as it was thought of an 100 years old*' - which if true would place her birth in 1526. Alice's son Ralph was born about 1531, as depositions of 1591 confirm that Ralph Haughton's mother was sister of Robert Thacker, and state his age that year as '*60 or thereabouts*'. Ralph married Mary, daughter of Humphrey and Alice Sutton before 1558, and later acquired the occupancy of Stone House Prebend, serving twice as bailiff of Derby, while his son Gilbert received an Oxford education.⁴⁵ Haughton was a mercer and vintner before acquiring the status of a gentleman.⁴⁶ These depositions state that Ralph Haughton was by this time '*of Haughton* [Houghton on the Hill] *in the county of Leicester gentleman*' (in this county records spell his name as Houghton).⁴⁷ This was the manor at Houghton, Leicestershire. As '*Houghton of Houghton*', it may indicate that prior to living in Derby, Ralph's father, ie Alice's husband, came from that village - if so, he would be likely to be a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Houghton of Houghton (Thomas' will was proved in 1526). But perhaps it is more likely Alice's husband was a Duffield man: William and Matilda Haughton appear in court rolls along with Thomas in the 1510s, and John Haughton is found also in the 1520s, while (another?) Thomas appears in Duffield Ward in 1548. Alice's husband is not named in the known wills of her brothers, and so had most likely died by 1554, after which she seems to have lived within Little Chester, perhaps in a dower house, or else with a member of her family there.

There were other Haughtons in All Saints, Derby, whose relationship is unproved. They may have been younger brothers, but more likely, if related at all, were cousins: Thomas, William and John. Thomas was a butcher, but is described as '*Laius*' in the burial register in 1582, perhaps meaning he had been a layman seeking to enter orders at the monastery at the time of dissolution, and John Haughton was a clerk at All Saints from 1564, but buried at St Michael's four years later.

Thacker's other sister Margery Hopkins had at least two children: Francis, who was to remain in Southwood and, in 1565, to hold a lease on the house his father held, and was probably the Francis Hopkin buried at Repton in 1592; and Thomas, who received a half-mark from his great-uncle Robert Thacker's will in 1558 and is probably the Thomas Hopkins who paid 3 shillings for goods of £3 in Hartshorne, in the Lay Subsidy of 1572, and died there in 1586 or 1587.

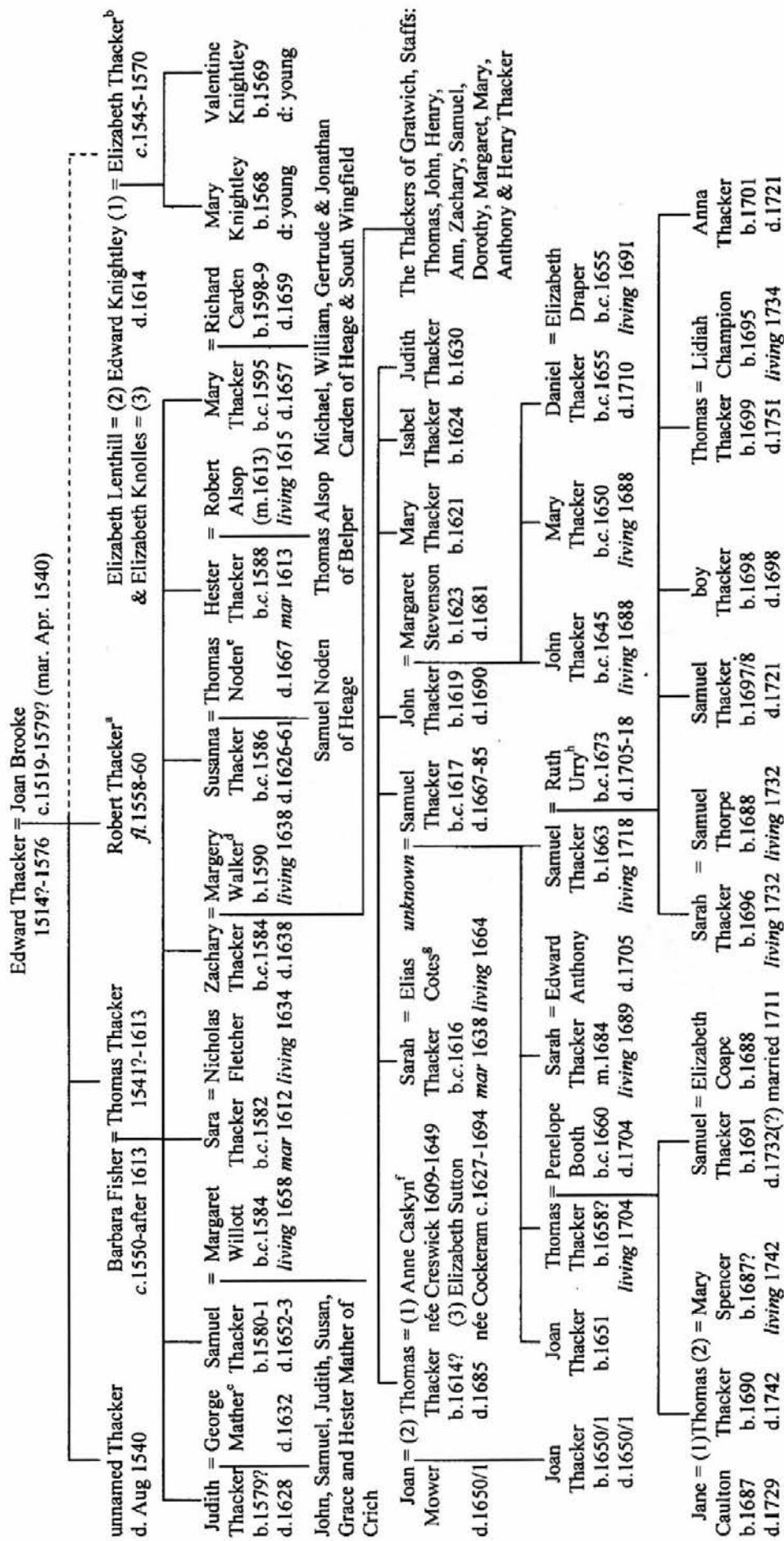
Thomas Thacker's Son and Heir, Gilbert Thacker

To condense information relating to the families of Thomas' two sons, Gilbert and Edward, we show their family trees in extended form below. The first of these (Table 2) is the least obscure or contentious, being effectively an elaboration of that provided in the *Dugdale Visitation of 1662-4*, but continuing Gilbert's family to the end of this line with Jane Thacker, who died in 1744.⁴⁸ Table 3 shows Edward's family. We cannot outline the story of all named in these families but will concentrate on the main factors while highlighting some features not published before.

Gilbert inherited his father's Repton lands in 1548 and, although the IPM seems to allocate the Heage and Belper lands to his brother Edward, many seem to have been held by Gilbert before being sold or transferred in stages by Gilbert and his son Gilbert to Edward and his son Thomas. The *Alumni Cantabrigienses* suggest that the otherwise unnamed '*Thacker*' who matriculated in 1548 was Gilbert. However this is unlikely. Not only was he 34 years old, but the *Repton Archives* show him making a flurry of leases over the next two years. All the evidence suggests he was at this point firmly in Repton, not Cambridge. His legal battles with Richard Blackwall - centred on their lands bordering each other in Repton and Calke, in Southwood (and which ultimately ended when Gilbert married Richard's niece, Katherine, the daughter of John Blackwall of Alton in 1558) - also began in 1549. The Cambridge man cannot be Gilbert's son Thomas (aged four), or Edward's son Thomas (aged six or seven), but a rather more distant relative or unrelated man. A certain John Thacker was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1550, and is perhaps a more promising candidate. The only factor suggesting that Gilbert might be connected is the year 1548, when Gilbert was sorting out family affairs. If so, he was making arrangements for the son of a cousin or more distant relative.

Gilbert was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for Derbyshire, and one document illustrative of his responsibilities survives, a letter of the sheriff to him and to his neighbour, Mr Francis of Foremark, that they might ensure a man accused of several murders in Staffordshire, apprehended in Melton, Leics, and escorted to Derby goal, might be delivered to the jurisdiction of Staffordshire. Gilbert must have been 44 or 45 when he married and 48 or 49 when he died, and his two children by Katherine were young: his son and heir Gilbert was stated to be three years and five months at the time of the Inquisition in June 1563, and Richard must have been

Table 3: Genealogy of Edward Thacker of Heage



^a Thomas was the "senior" son of Edward (NA: DL30/36/373 fo.4), one brother was probably Robert Thacker of St Albans (L3RO: BC11/1558 Robert Thacker of Mackworth), and perhaps the Corpus Christ College, Cambridge student of 1556 (*Alumni Cantabrigienses*). ^b Edward Knightley, younger son of Sir Valentine Knightley, married an Elizabeth Thacker recorded as being of or born in London and a daughter of Edward Thacker. As this man would no doubt be gentry, and Edward lived in London probably until 1553, this Elizabeth was probably his daughter. ^c Judith was George's second wife: his will reveals a daughter Mary who married in 1614. ^d The daughter of Henry Walker, rector of Somersall Herbert, a post their son, John would eventually hold, 1663-9. ^e Also Naden. His second wife, Dorothy, died, 1661/2. ^f The 'relict of Francis Caskin', daughter of Nicholas Creswick (NA: C22/36/13; C6/158/47). ^g See NA: C9/411/217; C6/13/1/99; C9/21/66 ^h The daughter of Richard Urry of Nottingham and Sarah née Wingfield.

about half that age. Katherine went on to marry Godfrey Pole of Heage (spelt Poole in many documents), whose family were the leading gentry of Heage. Records show Godfrey will have occupied the Repton estate through much of this time, but it passed in due course to Gilbert's son. Two of the *Repton Archives* documents concern the Court of Wards, the second of which (when Gilbert was 16) was to allow Godfrey Pole, esq., to farm Gilbert's lands. Once he passed the age of 21, the *Repton Archives* show Gilbert started to manage his estates, making an indenture of assignment to his cousin Thomas Thacker of 'Netheredge', ie Nether Heage, regarding Potlocks by Repton in 1581, for example. More importantly for Thomas, Gilbert made an indenture of sale to him of a messuage in Heage in 1588.

Godfrey and Gilbert, his step-son, seem to have made their affairs work amicably and, when there were disputes, they seem to have worked together. A series of new legal challenge took place in 1596-97, relating to the rights and responsibilities of the Thackers relating to Repton by John Harpur of Calke, in which we see Harpur challenge both Gilbert and his step-father, Godfrey. One of the deponents was Gilbert's half-brother Thomas Thacker of Southwood, who said he had tried to act as a go-between for Harpur and Gilbert Thacker. In some ways, history repeated itself: Gilbert's father had battled his neighbour Richard Blackwall at Calke and ended up marrying Blackwall's niece; his son, Godfrey, somewhat later ended up marrying Jane Harpur, niece of John Harpur (presumably this man of Calke), and daughter of Richard Harpur of Littleover.

Meanwhile, Godfrey Pole died and was buried in 1598 in Duffield, and in 1600 his widow Katherine was buried - with her first husband Gilbert - in Repton. In the church, there remains an alabaster monument with images carved no doubt from portraits of Gilbert and Katherine, together with miniatures of the younger Gilbert and Richard. Although the only date given is of Gilbert's death in 1562/3, the monument will have been made after 1600 (that the younger Gilbert is bearded proves this was not drawn in 1563 when he was three!).⁵⁵

This younger Gilbert went on to become escheator of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and the *Repton Archives* include the document of the appointment of *Thomas Thacker gent* as his deputy. We suggest this deputy must be his older half-brother, rather than his cousin at Heage. This Gilbert married Katherine Curzon, daughter of George Curzon (also spelt Curson) of Croxall, esq, and Mary (née Leveson). Curzon made a deed poll for his daughters to advance their marriages on 21 Sept 1580, and within a very short time, Katherine married Gilbert Thacker because their son and heir Godfrey was born between 26 June and 1 October 1581.⁵⁶

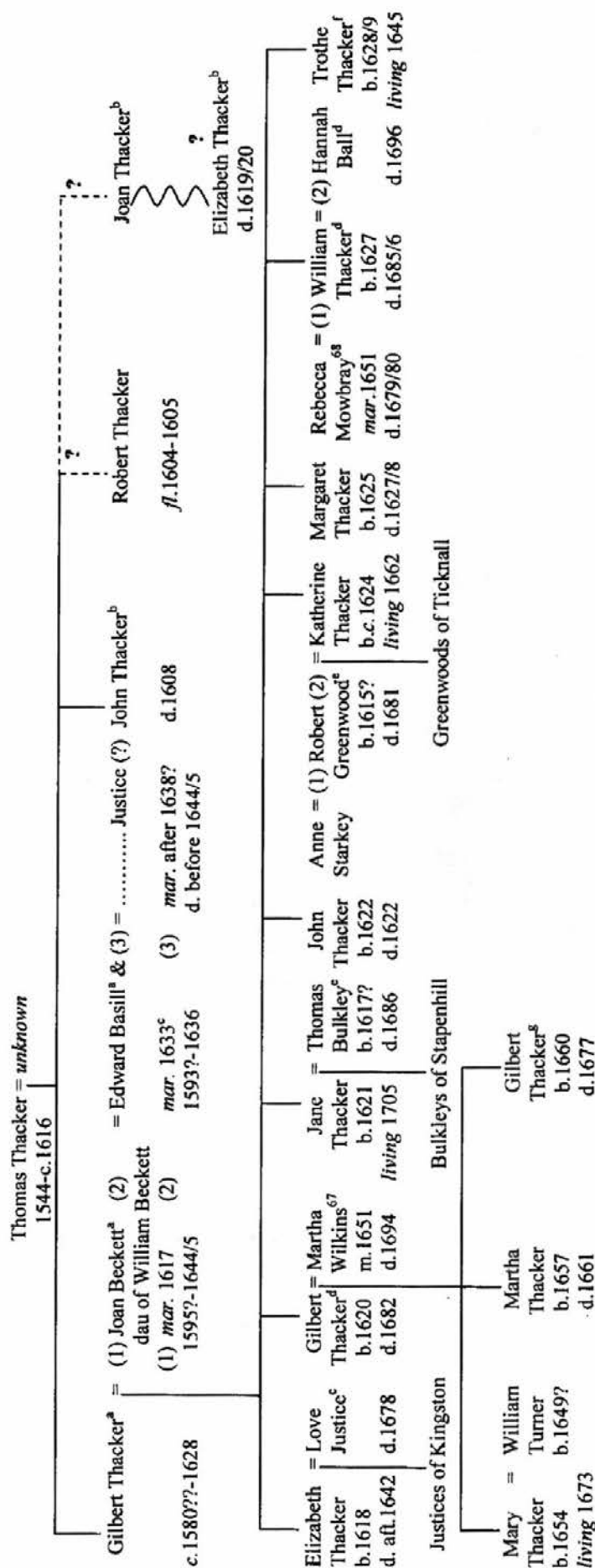
Among the *Repton Archives* we find Gilbert's indenture for a jointure with his wife Katherine, which also shows his arrangements for his children. This was made on 1 April 1587 and names his children at the time as Godfrey, Thomas, Katherine, Jane and Elizabeth. A third part would be for Katherine's dower house. The main inheritance was to go to Godfrey and, if he died without male heir, to Thomas, thereafter to his brother Richard, thereafter to his cousin 'Thomas Thacker of Heage, gentleman', thereafter to his half-brother, 'Thomas Thacker of Southwood ... gentleman' and thereafter to revert to Gilbert's other lawful heirs (at that stage, his three daughters).

The Thackers of Repton increasingly flourished as lawyers. It was one aspect of their rise: in 1519, Richard acted as attorney in Duffield Manor Court (not the full-blown legal rôle later indicated, but '*someone authorised to act for another*', and therefore clearly literate, taking letters of attorney, and signing any relevant documents if necessary),⁵⁷ and Thomas acted as attorney for merchants in the Staple, as solicitor and as public notary. After Thomas' armigerous elevation, the Thackers' place in legal affairs grew. Thomas was regularly appointed a commissioner of the peace for Derbyshire. Shortly after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, on 9 March 1558/9, his son Gilbert was appointed one of the seven Justices for Derbyshire and, five days later, made escheator for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Gilbert's son Gilbert was similarly appointed escheator in February 1584/5, while his younger son Richard was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1586. This Gilbert's son Godfrey matriculated to Balliol College, Oxford in 1596 and was admitted as a barrister-at-law in the Inner Temple, in 1608 (as 'Geoffrey'). Godfrey's son Gilbert was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1632 and three of Gilbert's sons trained as lawyers - Gilbert who was admitted to Grays Inn in 1663, Godfrey who was also admitted to Gray's Inn in 1668 and became a Barrister-at-law there in 1675, and Francis, a barrister of Furnivall's Inn, became '*Clerk of the Bails and Postas in the Court of King's Bench*'.⁵⁸

Thomas Thacker's Younger Son, Edward Thacker and his Descendants

For Edward's family, see Table 3. Edward was said to be 59 in a 1572 deposition, suggesting a birth year of 1513, the same as Gilbert's, and thus likely to be a year too early. In April 1540, he married Joan Brooke at St Benet Fink, in London. It seems she was pregnant as the registers record the burial of his (unnamed) child in

Table 4: Genealogy of Thomas Thacker of Southwood



^a London marriage licence of 1633 shows Joan, aged 38, as widow of Gilbert, marrying Edward Basill aged 40 at Hampton.

^b "John the son of Thomas Thacker" (d.1608), and Elizabeth, daughter of Joan (d.1619/20) are named in the Repton PRs, both for Ingleby chapel; Joan could possibly be Thomas' widow, but chronology suggests daughter; either way, both being of Ingleby, they may be related. Thomas was born in 1544-5 (NA: E134/34Eliz/East8; E134/39Eliz/East23).

^c The unlikely named Love Justice and his wife, Elizabeth Thacker had two daughters they also named Love Justice! This man is presumably related to the third husband of his mother-in-law, but I have not traced the connexion. (Alternatively, there was no third husband; Joan simply changed her surname to match her daughter's married name.)

^d The probate of Gilbert, William and Hannah (1680s-1690s), at Guildhall Library, does not prove my identifications beyond doubt; my suggestion that this particular William is Gilbert's brother includes the fact that they lived in the same parishes in Aldermanbury, and all four have the honorary designations Mr and Mrs.

^e The Bulkley and Greenwood connexions are confirmed both by the Dugdale Visitation and by the PCC wills of Edward Basill (1636) and Joane Justice (previously Thacker, secondly Basill) in 1644/5, as are a number of other family relations, and also confirmed in the will of John Buckley (Lichfield RO: B/C/11 John Buckley 1705). While Greenwood's PCC will has not survived, his 1682 inventory has (PROB 4/19496), effectively a list of bonds from Timothy Greenwood.

^f Trothe was born posthumously. The Coke MSS enable us to know that Gilbert Thacker of Westminster (and by then, of Hampton Court) died on 30 June 1628. Trothe was christened in Feb 1628/9, so Joan was about 2 months pregnant at the time of her husband's death. Trothe was the named executrix for her mother's PCC will (when aged 16).

^g Gilbert Thacker of Westminster College was elected to Trinity College, Cambridge University, 29 June 1677 and was a scholar, but did not matriculate. He is probably the "Gibbel Thacker a stranger" buried at St Lawrence Jewry, London, 19 Oct 1677 (Gilbert and Martha were both buried there, later, and Martha's brother, John Wilkins had earlier been vicar).

August. Thomas, his eldest son was most probably born within a year of this burial because as he is noted as soon as 1555/6 in Pension Roll with his father, perhaps indicating he was over 14 years old.⁵⁹ He is also likely to be the Thomas Thacker who matriculated at Corpus Christi Cambridge in 1556. The *Alumni Cantabrigienses* also record a Robert Thacker matriculating at the same college at the same time, and its editors speculate about possible duplication, but it may be a brother: Robert Thacker of Mackworth in his 1558 will made a bequest to Robert Thacker of St Albans immediately prior to his bequest to Thomas and he seems likely to be a younger brother of Thomas and godson of Robert. These two brothers should not however be identified with the Thackers of Walton.⁶⁰ A further probable child is Elizabeth Thacker who married Edward Knightley of Offchurch, Warwicks as *Visitations* record her as being daughter of Edward Thacker, gent, of London. Though possible, it is very unlikely there was a second Edward Thacker, gent of London, and we conclude that Edward, later of Heage, had his children in London.

We will discuss Edward Thacker's Heage lands in an article elsewhere. But these colourful lawsuits in the Star Chamber show us some of Edward's servants. He was accused with Adam Hellott, labourer, James Chetam, husbandman, James Reeve, husbandman, Richard Chetam, baker, Alexander Spendlove, tailor, John Hellott, 'syvemaker', Thomas Heeley, labourer, Margery Chetam, spinster, Edmond Chetam, labourer and four others (all of Heage), of rioting in 1554. Their case was that servants of John Brailsford the elder has set Edward's animals loose, and when Thomas Hellott's wife Isabel (also called Elizabeth) and Christopher Chetam's daughter Jeanette brought them under control, they were assaulted by Brailsford's men. They raised an outcry, and the disputed riot ensued.

Whatever the final outcome, we get a glimpse of both parties: John Brailsford senior's servants included John Brailsford junior, Francis Brailsford, Richard Widdowson and a certain Robotham, several of them clearly close family - and similarly, many of the Chetams and Hellotts were clearly among Edward Thacker's household servants and tenants, and, perhaps, relatives. In 1599, Thomas Hellott's widow Elizabeth was still a tenant. And James Chetam received the largest bequests from Robert Thacker, after Robert's nephew James (and James's sons) and Alice, one of his sisters.⁶¹

Meanwhile, after Thomas Thacker of Heage inherited his estates from his father Edward in 1576,⁶² he married Barbara, daughter of Ralph Fisher of Foremark, and had two sons and five daughters, three of these children by 1584 (mentioned in Fisher's will). In his 1612 will, he passed on his freehold lands to his son and heir, Samuel (including those purchased from his cousin Gilbert Thacker the younger in 1588), while passing on to his second son, Zachary, much of the copyhold land which he had purchased from the same Gilbert in 1599. This Zachary (dubbed 'gent') moved between 1617 and 1620 to Gratwich, Staffordshire, where the family stayed as yeomen farmers until the 1770s.⁶³ Samuel followed his father as a gentleman farmer, and the land passed first to his son Thomas, who died in 1685. The family home, first called Toadmire Hall, then Thacker Hall Farm, was demolished, and rebuilt on a smaller scale in 1676. It still stands next to Thacker's Wood (close to Ambergate), with initials TET 1676. While it has been suggested that this stands for Thomas Edward Thacker, I have seen no evidence of a middle name. More likely it stands for Thomas & Elizabeth Thacker. Despite three marriages, Thomas died without surviving issue, and the estate went to his nephew Thomas Thacker, who is to be identified as a son of Samuel's middle son, Samuel, a plough-wright of Heage.⁶⁴ This Thomas first mortgaged and then sold the family estates at the turn of the eighteenth century and this branch of the family moved to Chesterfield where later heirs served as bailiffs of Scarsdale. Samuel's youngest son, John (1619-1690) stayed in Heage as a yeoman. Their sister, Sarah, married Elias Cotes of Heage and several documents see Cotes and these brothers closely allied. As for the Chesterfield connection, the older Thomas first married Anne Caskin, daughter of Nicholas Creswick of 'Barley' (Barlow, near Chesterfield but actually within the parish of Staveley) in c1638 and then Joan Mower of Barlow Woodseats in c1649. John's marriage to Margaret Stevenson, also of Staveley parish, in 1641 is in the Duffield registers. Several records show John's brother Thomas in partnership with Margaret's brother John Stevenson.⁶⁵

Thackers of Southwood – and Royal Service

When we follow the developments for the illegitimate son of Thomas' elder son Gilbert, Thomas Thacker of Southwood, we discover that connections with the royal court did not end for this family with Thomas Thacker.

Two depositions in which this Thomas made witness statements state his age. Those of 1 April 1592 state he was 48; those of 4 April 1597 state he was then 52. These do not exactly tally, reminding us not to put too much weight on the exactness of age stated in such documents. But both point to him being born in (or close to) 1544.⁶⁶ This means he was born many years before Gilbert's marriage to Katherine Blackwall in 1558. Indeed,

among the *Repton Archives*, we see that 'Thomas Thacker, sonne to ye sayd Gilbert Thacker' was a witness with his father to a bond made by Thomas Hindley with Repton yeoman Thomas Calton in 1561. From 1587 at least, he was known as Thomas Thacker of Southwood and was so named in the PCC will his half-brother Gilbert wrote in 1612. In 1598, Thomas wrote and signed the will of his step-father, Godfrey Pole of Heage. He also signed the IPM set up because of the inquisition for 'lunacy' of his brother Gilbert's widow Katherine, in 1614.

Gilbert Thacker (1559-1612) successfully had appointed a Thomas Thacker as deputy escheator. Which Thomas? We suggest that this must be Gilbert's half-brother, Thomas Thacker of Southwood. As an illegitimate son he would have had no estate of his own to inherit, so developing a career of some sort would be important. For that reason (and because his son Gilbert was engaged in similar work), I think it possible he is the Thomas Thacker who made a survey of Sherburn estate in 1588.

Thomas should indeed be identified as the father of the man known both as Gilbert Thacker of Southwood and as Gilbert Thacker of Westminster, in various places in Dugdale's *Heraldic Visitation of 1662-4* (the wills of Gilbert's wife Joan Justice, and of her second husband, Edmund Basill, prove these Gilberts are the same man). In 1617 in Westminster, probably soon after Thomas' death, Gilbert married Joan the daughter of William Beckett, vicar of Kingston, who was also Confessor of the Household to James I and Charles I.⁶⁹

This Gilbert, like his great-grandfather, Thomas, also entered royal service. First he can be identified with the man who drew up surveys of estates (often royal ones, eg of James' Queen, Anne), record of which survives in land registry documents and elsewhere from 1607-21.⁷⁰ Later he was living at Hampton Court and working as English and 'ancientest' secretary for Sir John Coke from 1622, who became a Principal Secretary of King James I for the last few months of his life, and then of King Charles I. Some elements of this Gilbert's family tree are illustrated in Table 4. Earlier, John Coke, younger brother of Sir Francis Coke of Trusley, had worked in a lesser capacity in royal service. Earlier still, in 1605-6, John Coke had a servant named Robert Thacker, who may well be either Robert Thacker of Petworth, Sussex (d.1632) who described himself as a 'near kinsman' of Godfrey Thacker of Repton, or else Robert Thacker who became 'Yeoman of the Tilt Staves', serving Princes of Wales (Henry and Charles), from 1609-25. That man must, rather later, have also served the young Charles II because his memorial inscription at St Katherine Coleman, London stated he was 'Yeoman of the Armoury' and had served three princes by the time of his death (aged 62) in 1642.⁷¹ John Coke's aunt, Dorothy, had married Christopher Thacker of Derby and it seems very likely this servant of Coke's was related, possibly a son or nephew of Christopher's or a brother of Gilbert Thacker of Westminster.

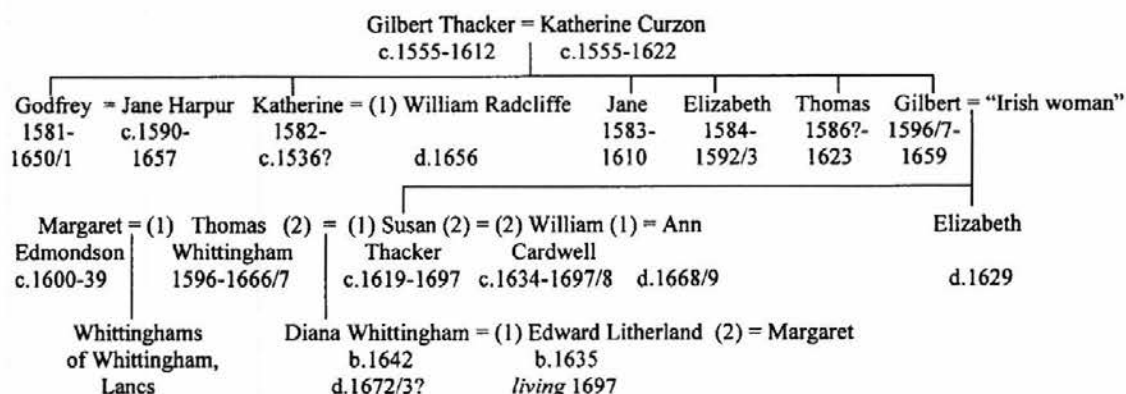
Gilbert's son and heir, Gilbert married Martha Wilkins, and in 1667 he was resident with Martha's brother Timothy in Holywell, Oxford (for whom, later, she was sole executrix). But it was their brother John Wilkins who is more well-known to history, first as the scientist who brought Galileo's teaching to England, second as Warden of Wadham College Oxford and Master of Trinity College Cambridge, and third, as the second husband of Oliver Cromwell's youngest sister Robina.⁷²

A later Robert Thacker, possibly related, but whose relationship (if any) with the foregoing is undetermined, became Designer to the king (James II), noted for maps and designs of architectural buildings including of Flamsteed's Observatory and Telescope, dying suddenly in his 40s in 1687.

Gilbert Thacker of Repton and Whittingham

Finally, and briefly, we show below the pedigree of a different Gilbert Thacker - the youngest son of Gilbert and Katherine, née Curzon. This man's daughter, Susan (later, she called herself Susanna), married Thomas Whittingham of Whittingham, Lancashire, a widower gentleman much older than her (far from uncommon) and after his death she married William Cardwell, a yeoman of Barton. She had one child, Diana (christened 1642), from her first marriage, but was step-mother to several from her husband's first marriage. The Dugdale *Visitations of Lancashire* in the 1660s and Susan's own will confirm that it was this Diana who married Edward Litherland, recorded in the parish registers in 1657, when she was presumably 15 (Table 5, overleaf).⁷³ Meanwhile Gilbert himself is no doubt to be identified with the 'Mr Thaceker' whose burial is recorded in his daughter's parish church of Goosnargh (which included Whittingham), on 4 December 1659.

Table 5: Genealogy of Gilbert Thacker of Repton and Whittingham



Conclusions

The Tudor windfall of the dissolution of the monasteries provided spectacular opportunities for upward mobility, but especially for those with the money to pay for the estates, as many in the rising merchant class did. In Derbyshire, these clearly included the Thackers of Heage and Derby - Thomas Thacker, his brothers and their descendants, Thomas, Christopher, Oliver and Robert and their sisters Margery and Alice, who were the children of Richard Thacker of Heage, a baker and brewer. Richard was a church reeve, manor juryman and occasional attorney there, and so literate; and before him, John Thacker was deputy collector for Crich Manor, which indicates this family was among that class of minor local officials who served both in the manor and the church in administrative and financial matters, with some degree of literacy. But Richard's sons managed to operate as merchants and mercers and used the opportunities available to them to rise into gentry.

Thomas Thacker was born in Derbyshire, not Calais. He was not the son of Thomas, Edward or 'Sir Gilbert', as stated in earlier accounts, but of Richard. Thomas made his way in Calais, perhaps first working for uncles engaged in thatching. But by 1505 he had already made the key breakthrough in acquiring the status of a merchant of the Staple of Calais. He will have married around that time, and as a result of marriage connections or merchant networks, acquired property in Calais, London and Heage. By 1515 he was known to the king, and was working in his service before 1529, long before Cromwell appointed him to work as his household comptroller. According to his son, Edward, Thomas' acquisition of the major family property in Heage came before 1536 - even before his father's death in the 1520s, reportedly in 1500 (or 1507).

Meanwhile, in the early minor dissolution of the monasteries, Thomas had ensured that his '*brethren*' made gains from dissolved Derbyshire institutions. Evidence shows these include both Christopher and Oliver.⁷⁴ As we have seen, he also acted to ensure promotion for Robert to Mackworth in 1543. Everywhere, we see Thomas single-minded in his pursuit of his business, but also running this business very much as part of a family firm. Thomas and his brothers and sisters do not seem to have lost an opportunity to support each other's interests. There were other strong connections, certainly in Newark, and possibly elsewhere. The Thackers of Heage and Repton were strongly connected with those of Derby and Little Chester. These continued through the Tudor era. To give one example, when in 1548 Gilbert set up a bond of agreement for the dowry for Thomas' widow, Jane, James Thacker, Christopher's son, was a signatory. And as we have seen, Thomas' younger brothers, Oliver and Robert, in their wills of 1554 and 1558, both made their major bequests to James, and to his second and third sons, respectively. While these connections lessened in the Elizabethan era, the Heage and Repton link continued throughout the sixteenth century, with sales of freehold and copyhold land by Gilbert II to Thomas of Heage in 1588 and 1599.

Thomas Thacker's family developed their gentry status and connections and each generation married more established daughters of gentry, until Jane, daughter of the final Gilbert first married a younger son of the Earl of Chesterfield. Then the line died out when Gilbert's brothers Godfrey and Francis, also esquires, died without surviving children. Meanwhile, the Thackers of Heage sold their estate in 1704, and after that no longer claimed gentry status.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. For John Thacker, yeoman of Crich, see NA: CP40/814. The images of plea rolls can be located via the homepage of the website of the Anglo-American Legal tradition (AALT) at <http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT.html> - as can the indexes of the eighteen rolls completed at the time of writing. Entries citing John Thacker can be located via the section relating to Edward IV, for Hilary Term 1465 (image no.552 front) and Easter Term 1465 (CP40/815: image no.337 front).
2. For Darley: *The Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII* (L&P), Vol 13, Part 2, 1538ii, 1893, p158; NA: STAC4/9/39 (of the six documents, see the Answer of Edward Thacker).
3. NA series DL28/2/1-11.
4. For 'tector', NA: DL28/2/9 fo.57r; 'tectator' DL28/2/1 fo.47r and /3 fo.53r; for 'thacks', NA: LR2/58 fo.5r.
5. NA: DL 28/2/1 fo.49d. The Latin reads 'Cementar' serratores ionator' tector' & ultra munn' ordinar' op'ante & laborante in op'ibus pre'cus per tempus predict'. See also DL 28/2/3 fo.43r; DL28/2/9 fo.47r. Perhaps Calais was a magnet for such traditional skilled labourers, as the accounts for 1479-80 also include payments to Thomas Plummer, 'plumbator' (plumber), and to James Brikmaker for his bricks (NA: E101/199/10).
6. See Part I in *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 19, Part 3, Spring 2011, pp56-58. L&P, Vol 1, 1509-14, 1920, no.1083.46; L&P, Vol 12, Part 2, 1537ii 1891, p39 (No.111). Extra circumstantial evidence, possibly suggestive of this connection, is where the York Registry will of Elizabeth Hatfield (dated 19 May 1509), widow of an earlier Stephen Hatfield, escheator of Holderness (d.1492) included a bequest to Elizabeth Gudknap of Hull. As the *Repton Archives* show, five days earlier, 14 May 1509, Elizabeth was now executrix of her late husband, William Gudknap (merchant of the Staple of Calais), and was now the wife of Thomas Tomson (merchant of Hull), when Tomson made a 1509 bond of £200 to Thomas Thacker (NA: C109/87/15).
7. For Richard Rouhed as mayor of Calais, see BL: *Stowe Charters*, no 130. Treasurers' accounts refer to some of Rouhed's holdings in Calais, of which I have checked NA documents E101/199/10; E101/200/18, 19; E101/201/2; DL 29/2/1-11 (except DL 29/2/4, too fragile for inspection but parallel to DL 29/2/10); E36/269, 271, 272; E101/206/4, 6; E101/207/9, 11 extending from 1479-80, then 1490-1531, and intermittently in the 1530s. None overtly shows any transaction to Thomas Thacker. Volumes up to 1532 (24 Henry VIII) continue to define these holdings Richard Rouhed first gained in 1465 and 1479 by means of those dates of transfer (E36/272, p578), though he must have died well before 1532, so it seems that the rental was not sold or transferred, but continued to be held by Rouhed's heirs. This follows a pattern that can be seen elsewhere. For example, Ministers' accounts in 1547 still define one rental in Heage as that of Elizabeth Parkhall, late the wife of William Parkhall of Heage, where the 'new rental' is dated a century earlier, 33 Henry VI, ie 1454-5 (DL29/385/6306, rot7). As for Rouhed's holdings in St Nicholas parish, Calais, which presumably later were held by Thacker, Richard Rouhed was a burgess and alderman of Calais in 1479, married to Joan (C109/87/12), and was probably the same man as Richard Rouhed, merchant of Calais in 1436-45, then married to Agnes - or else his heir (C109/87/8, 10). In 1479, two corresponding documents show Rouhed enfeoffing Thomas Martyn and Robert Aubry, clerk, perhaps to ensure they would secure his family interests after his death, for example, to protect his daughter's rights. There is no evidence of any male descendants of Rouhed after this in Calais or elsewhere, and his holdings seem likely to have been inherited by a daughter, and through her (directly or indirectly) some at least were gained by Thomas Thacker.
8. NA: STAC4/9/39; C1/1386/11-14; L3RO: B/C/11/William Whetecroft 1557.

9. G. R. Elton, *England Under the Tudors*, 1991, p127; Robert Hutchinson, Cromwell's biographer commented in a letter to me (dated 7/6/2007): '*Apropos your ancestor Thomas Thacker, I've always assumed that Cromwell met him through his early specialisation in legal business emanating from Calais*'.
10. Robert Hutchinson, *Thomas Cromwell*, 2007, p7.
11. *L&P*, Vol 2, 1515-18, 1864, no 242, p79; cf. also no 2970, and *L&P*, Vol.1 1509-14, 1920, no 5712.
12. G. R. Elton, *op. cit.*, p127; for Thacker's plea to Wolsey, NA: SP46/186, folio 150.
13. NA: CP40/1084. The AALT image of the entry relating to Thomas Thacker can be located via the section relating to Henry VIII after 1529, via copies of CP40/1084 at image no.3551 dorse. The Latin original of the section concerning Thacker reads: '... v[er]sus Thomam Thakkar nup[er] de London merchaunt alias d[i]c[tu]m Thomam Thakker mercatorem Stapule Calec' ...'.
14. NA: PROB 11/25 will of Robert Amadris, 28 Nov 1533.
15. Even in 1537, when working for Cromwell, Thacker is not located in the London subsidies, which are about 85% complete, when others of similar financial standing (like John Blakesley and Walter Hickman, whose widows he would later marry) are to be found. (Of the 25 wards, only Tower, Farringdon Within and Walbrook are largely missing, while Queenhithe and Vintry are incomplete: NA: E179/144/91-115, /145/169 (Part 1), 172-173, /146/284). The same is also true for the 1541 (published and complete) London Subsidies.
16. NA: C1/370; PROB 11/25: PCC will of Margaret Topclyf proved 4 Feb 1533/4.
17. NA: C109/87/117-118.
18. Thomas Witworth to Mr Thacker: 19 June 1539 on NA: Microfilm SP1/152, see the abbreviated account in *L&P*, Vol 14, Part 1, 1539i, 1894, p511. Mr Popley may well be William Popley of Bristol, for whom, see Robert Hutchinson, *op. cit.*, pp285f., n.23.
19. Hutchinson, *op. cit.*, p162, quoting Sir Henry Ellis, '*Original Letters*', Third series, Vol.III, p79, but the words I quote are also in *L&P*, Vol 13, Part 1, 1538i, 1892, p555.
20. Thacker, letter to Cromwell, 18 Aug 1538. See the shortened version in *L&P*, Vol 13, Part 2, 1538ii, 1893, p45.
21. I. H. Jeayes, *Derbyshire Charters*, 1906, no.1012, p124.
22. *L&P*, Vol 20, Part 1, 1545i, 1905, nos.622 & 623; *L&P*, Vol 21, Part 1, 1546i, 1908, no.67; Patent Rolls of Edward VI: 26 May 1547.
23. NA: PROB 11/29: will of John Blakesley, 5 August 1542, shows his brother at Daventry, Northants.
24. Naneby (not Naveby as the editors of the C109/87 index at NA have it) is a farmstead just east of Cadeby. It was said to be in the parish of Market Bosworth in Robert Lee's will of 1508 (LRO: Microfilm 656, fo.309).
25. DRO: DE156M/E1/9. This is a letter by Gilbert to Robert Smith his '*cousin*' (not Robert Burdett as stated in the Register of Archives indexes).
26. Thacker, Langston and about 175 other merchants were included in a pardon for an offence not recorded. *Patent Rolls Henry VII, Vol 2, 1494-1509*, 1970, p449 (27 Nov 1505).
27. NA: PROB11/32 will of Robert Bele of St Christopher le Stocks, London, written 16 Sept 1545, proved 11 July 1548.
28. For Beale: NA: C109/87/126. As for NA: C109/89/125, (dated 1478) described as '*Rogers wyf cotype of a dede*', between John Langston of Caversfield, Bucks and others, this likely came into Thacker's hands via his Calais interest, as Langston's will made provision for the merchants of Calais. But as Thacker's first wife is likely to have lived in Calais, a connection with her cannot be ruled out. The same applies to properties in the main series of Calais documents, which ended up with Richard and Joan Rouhed (NA: C109/87/1-13).
29. Wills at York (Borthwick Institute): will of John Rose of Nottingham proved at York 11 March 1528/9; NA: C1/950/58-60; C1/1072/9-11; C1/1162/14-15; C1/959/47-48.
30. NA: STAC 4/9/39, best dated 1554. LRO Microfilm: will of Thomas Barrett of Wymeswold, 29 Sept 1587
31. R. F. Hunnisett, *Calendar of Nottinghamshire Coroners' Inquests 1485-1558*, Thoroton Society, Vol 25, 1969, pp63f.
32. NA: CP40/1038. This entry can be seen on the AALT website, via the first Henry VIII section, at image 396 front.
33. For that reason, he can be distinguished from James Thacker of Osmaston by Derby, executor for Ellen Thacker of Osmaston in 1540 (see L3RO: B/C/11), who paid lay subsidy of £10 in lands in 1549, NA: E179/92/177.
34. *Return of Members of Parliament Part I Parliaments of England 1213-1702*, 1878, p396.

35. Patent Rolls: Mary I (for May 1566). In 1591, Ralph Haughton identified his mother as the sister of Robert Thacker (NA: E134/33&34Eliz/Mich40) and was said to be aged 60 or thereabouts.
36. L3RO: B/A/27ii, fo.78d. See Ann J. Kettle, *A List of Families in the Archdeaconry of Stafford 1532-3*, Collections for a History of Staffordshire, Fourth Series Vol 8, 1976, pp1-216. This transcription also incorrectly names 'Henry Thaker' of Stone as 'Henry Baker' (p134) - Henry's *Act Book* probate (the will is lost) names as executor John Hakyn, in whose house he is listed. See L3RO, *Act Book*, 1533: Henry Thaker (12 May 1533). Henry was quite possibly a cousin of Thomas and his siblings, as James' wife Ellen came from Meaford near Stone, immediately adjacent to Darlaston, where Thacker and Hakyn were recorded.
37. Rev. J. Charles Cox and W. H. St John Hope: *The Chronicles of the Collegiate Church or Free Chapel of All Saints, Derby*, 1881, pp15-19.
38. For the indenture, see transcriptions of the Cokes of Trusley MSS No.15342-3 in D1LSL and DRO. St Werburgh, Derby parish registers record the burial, 25 Sept 1613, of what appears to say M^{rs} (Mistriss) Thacker. As Ellen would be over 100 by then, this burial will most probably be Dorothy's! For Rushall deeds, see NUL: Mi 5/169/1/70-71.
39. L3RO, B/C/11/James Thacker 22 April 1566; W.H. Hart, 'A List of the 'Alehouses, Innes and Tavernes' in Derbyshire in the year 1577', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* (DAJ), Vol 1, 1879, p79.
40. NA: PCC wills at PROB11/120, 124 (Gilbert Thacker: 28 Nov 1612; Christopher Thacker: 18 July 1614); *County of Middlesex. Calendar to the Session Records*, New Series. Vol 2, 1614-15, 1936, p99. Many documents name Thomas Thacker of Walsall, eg NA: C1/683/17-21; for John Thacker of Great Barr in 1516 see NA: STAC2/2/19 (part of *Arderne v Willoughby*).
41. NA: E134/33&34Eliz/Mich40; PROB11/101, Anne Burton, 8 July 1603; DRO: All Saints, Derby Parish Registers (which do not say why William Thacker was executed - but maybe he was a recusant like his brother Robert). I have not been able to track the document noted in the internet source (which is no longer online), stated to be Oliver Thacker of Derby, innkeeper v Thomas Benson and William Collier, bailiff of the manor of Beverley, regarding the lease of a house and 10 acres in Beverley, 27 April 39 Eliz. For Capp Croft: William Salt Library: D1965/B/2/3, 4, 5, 9.
42. The transcribers of this ordination are in conflict. *Lincoln Episcopal Records*, Lincolnshire Records Society, correctly transcribes the ordination record of 6 June 1574 as 'Thomas Thacker', so assumes the graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge was Thomas Thacker, while *Alumni Cantabrigienses* and *Northamptonshire and Rutland Clergy From 1550*, Vol 13 assume that Robert Thacker, graduate of Trinity and later rector of Benefield (son of James Thacker of Derby), was the man ordained in Lincoln. Either Bishop Cooper's registers write his name wrongly (twice!) as Thomas, or this ordination is of a different man. The record does not state any additional factors, except that the ordination took place in the chapel at Buckden.
43. Jasper Ridley, *The Tudor Age*, 2002, p186.
44. For the unnamed tenement, see the All Saints Derby Churchwarden Accounts on microfilm at DRO. For Robert and Dorothy Thacker: NRO: 'Northants Recusants - extracted from Recusant Rolls' - card indexes by Godfrey Anstruther for NRO, February 1967, showing Robert Thacker of Loddington in 1598, and with Dorothy his wife for 1607.
45. In her PCC will of 1599, Ralph Haughton's widow Mary mentions her 'sister' Scattergood, confirming that the Joan Haughton who married John Scattergood in 1560 was his sister. Probate of Robert Thacker - L3RO: B/C/11/Robert Thacker 1558; Joan D'Arcy, *A City within a City. Little Chester AD80 - AD2000*, 2005, pp28-30.
46. NA: E176/5/17; /13/15 both show tripartite indentures (dated 1571) naming Ralph Haughton bailiff and Ralph Haughton vintner. That they are the same man is shown by the identity of the signatures and (in the former document) the identity of (what survives of) their seals. For Haughton as mercer, see Part I of this article.
47. NA: E134/33&34Eliz/Mich40.
48. G. D. Squibb, ed, *The Visitation of Derbyshire begun in 1662 and finished in 1664 made by William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms*, 1989, pp21, 22f., 101.
49. See p3 and 4 above for possible identifications.
50. Barbara Fisher was the daughter of Ralph Fisher of Foremark (d.1584) and Joan his wife. She is not to be identified with the 'widow Thacker' who was buried 17 July 1613 in Tansley, parish of Crich, as she is named as living in a Heage Court Roll in December 1613 (NA: DL30/39/407).
51. Gilbert was 3 years 5 months on 12 June 1563 according to his father Gilbert's IPM of 28 June 1563, and thus born between 13 December 1559 and 12 January 1559/60.
52. A certain Francis Thacker, then of Comberford, Tamworth, married Isabella Reinolds in Croxall in 1640 according to Croxhall parish registers. We should not identify him with Francis Thacker of

- Repton, but most probably as a son of a William Thacker of Tamworth, recorded in 1611, marrying Alice Hudson.
53. Thomas Cramphorne, a citizen of London and innholder in the parish of St Lawrence, Jewry, had a wife, Anne, before Jane. She was buried in 1652. After Jane's death in 1654/5, he went on to marry a third wife, Elizabeth Chappell, a spinster, in 1655.
 54. As the *Dugdale Visitation of Derbyshire* said her father was a Doctor of Divinity, he may be Lambrocke Thomas, DD, vicar of Pevensey (d.1672), the author of *Milke for Children* (1654); however, his will does not mention Mabel.
 55. See Alec MacDonald, *A Short History of Repton*, 1929, opposite p53, for a good reproduction of this.
 56. Deed Poll: transcription of Cokes of Trusley MSS in D1LSL No.15339-15340, and in DRO. Godfrey was aged 14 on matriculation to Balliol College, Oxford, 25 June 1596: see *Alumni Oxonienses*, q.v., so must be the eldest child. Elizabeth was christened at Repton, 15 September 1594, and Katherine and Jane were older according to the deed poll.
 57. Mark Herber, *Ancestral Trails*, 2004, p650.
 58. NA: DL30/34/358 fo.3r; *L&P*, Vol 20, Part 1, 1545i, 1905, p316; Patent Rolls of Edward VI: 26 May 1547; the *Admissions Registers of Grays Inn and Lincolns Inn*; *Alumni Oxonienses*; *Foster's Judges and Barristers*; Parliamentary Archives of House of Lords: HL/PO/JO/10/1/415.
 59. For the Pension Roll of 1555/6, H. M. Colvin in 'The Dissolution of Dale Abbey', *DAJ*, Vol 64, 1943 calls the mention of 'Edward Thacker and Thomas Thacker' 'the somewhat mysterious entry' - as Colvin was unable to unravel their relationship to Thomas Thacker (d.1548). However, this Thomas was Edward's son and heir.
 60. In 1577, a certain Thomas and Robert Thacker were accused by Godfrey Foljambe of Walton of fraudulently assisting Anthony Goodwin's attempt to become parson of Rawmarsh, Yorks. Foljambe's dire accusations (cozenage) quickly passed, and the Foljambes accepted Goodwin as parson, and Thomas Thacker as his own chief servant, and when Foljambe became Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1579, Thomas Thacker served as his deputy Sheriff. This Thomas Thacker was a 'gentleman' in 1579, but in 1577 still only a yeoman - which rules out identification with Thomas Thacker of Heage, who inherited his estates (and status as a gentleman) in September 1576, and was in Heage thereafter, not Walton. The connection with a Robert Thacker makes identification of Thomas Thacker with Gilbert's illegitimate son, unlikely, as Robert could be neither brother, nor son, as that Thomas was born in 1544-5, and a son must be too young. This strongly suggests that these Walton men were different relations, or unrelated. The earlier, Easter 1577 document accusing the Thackers and Goodwin: NA: STAC 5/F9/11; next (20 April 1577), Foljambe's lease of land near Rawmarsh to Thacker: NottsA: DDFJ 7/43/4; for 1579: Wolley MSS No.6672, ff.166-168; Foljambe's 1583 will: *Derbyshire Wills Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1575-1601*, Derbyshire Record Society, Vol 31, 2003, No.153, p72. For later evidence showing the family also accepted Goodwin as Rawmarsh's vicar (despite the 1577 Star Chamber claims against him), see the Parish Records of Rawmarsh.
 61. NA: STAC4/9/39, also C1/1386/11-14. For Elizabeth Hellot: NA: DL30/36394A. L3RO: B/C/11/Robert Thacker 1558, where James Chetam, like Alice Haughton received £4, with many other gifts.
 62. Edward most probably died in late September 1576. Earlier woodmotes for Belper Ward show Edward paying this tax at the rate of 4d. His entry is replaced by widow Thacker for the taking of the tax, dated as 25 Sept 1576. However on a different roll, dated 26 Sept 1576, the jurors for the view of frankpledge and Court Leet presented Edward Thacker as tithingman for the forthcoming year. Although 'widow Thacker' could be someone else, I am convinced she was Edward's widow. Most likely, Edward died soon after 26 Sept, but the woodmote account was written up later from earlier notes, with Edward's name now replaced by his widow. If correct, she was also the widow Thacker in the following woodmote entry for 12 Nov 1578, ie Joan was still alive then. The lack of an entry for widow Thacker on 2 Dec 1579 suggests (but does not prove) that she most probably died within that year. NA: DL30/36/383; DL30/37/384-386 - which in 1577 and later show Thomas active in Heage - eg as juryman.
 63. See Anthony Thacker: 'Gratwich in the Seventeenth Century', *Staffordshire History*, Vol.45, Spring 2007, pp3-19. Zachary was described as 'generosus' in 1614 and 1616/7 court roll references to him - as 'supervisor viarum', and in transactions affecting his copyhold lands (NA: DL30/39/409 and /412).
 64. Samuel stated that Thomas was his brother in 1667 in NA: C6/38/119.
 65. NA: C22/36/13; C6/158/47; C6/131/199; C9/21/66; C9/411/217. See L3RO: B/C/11/Nicholas Creswicke 9 May 1649 and /Robert Stevenson 3 March 1640/1, both stated to be 'of Barley' and in the parish of Staveley.

66. Compare NA: E134/34Eliz/East8 (Wakefield v Wigley) with E134/39Eliz/East23 (Harper v Poole & Thacker).
67. Marriage registers at St Martin Orgar and St Clement Eastcheap, London spell both names badly: 'Gilbert Thagar' and 'Martha Wilkinson'. She was however the sister and sole executrix of Timothy Wilkins her brother (with whom Gilbert is recorded living in the same property in Holywell, Oxford, 1667), and a legatee of their brother John Wilkins, who, while warden of Wadham College, married Oliver Cromwell's sister, Robina. See C. S. L. Davies, *The Family and Connections of John Wilkins, 1614-72*, (<http://oxoniensia.org/volumes/2004/davies.pdf>).
68. William Thacker married Rebecca Mowbray, widow of Thomas Mowbray: NA: C10/14/36; see also registers of St Mary, Aldermanbury, *Harleian Transcripts*, Vol.61-62 and of St Giles Without Cripplegate.
69. Vicar of Kingston 1613-26 (see online: Clergy of the Church of England Database); PCC will: NA: PROB11/150, proved 22 Nov 1626. His will, making Gilbert Thacker sole executor, was the focus of a lawsuit from his widow Mudwyn Beckett: NA: C2/ChasI/B135/30; C2/ChasI/B147/27. See also *The Environs of London*, Vol 1, County of Surrey (via British History Online).
70. See for example NA: LR2/208/folios 42-73, 118-160, 216-243 for his 1609 surveys of various manors in Pembrokeshire. In these documents, he is described as 'Gilbert Thacker gent Commissioner with others for surveye of his Ma^{ties} Mannor of...', fo.43, 160a, 217, 229. This Gilbert Thacker was the only man of that name at this stage who was a gentleman. The Repton namesake was an esquire (and died in 1612, while this Gilbert made surveys 1608-21) and in 1608 his namesake son was only 13 and others of this name would not be gentry. And as we have seen, this Gilbert Thacker was also in service in the royal court. Other surveys he wrote include one of Gillingham manor, Dorset in 1608, from the jointure of Queen Anne, wife of James I (John Rylands Library, Manchester), together with entries that year for royal estates in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Wiltshire (BL: Add.38444, fo.173, 183); also one of Mildenhall, Suffolk in 1618 (NA: DL/43/9/6) and 1619 (LMA: CLA/044/03006/13) of St Bartholomew the Great in London (1616) (Rentals and Surveys R.O. Portfolio 11/39 Midd); also a map of Beaumanor, Leicestershire in 1621 (an estate of Sir William Heyrick), signed by the initials GT, is attributed to him (LRO: DG9/2736), no doubt rightly, as his letter to Heyrick in 1619 shows him also working for Heyrick's interests in Rushden, Northamptonshire (Bodleian Library, Oxford: MS.Eng.hist./c.484/fols. 83-4).
71. For Robert Thacker (Coke's servant), see *Historical Manuscripts Commission 12th Report*, pp47, 56; for Robert Thacker (servant to Prince Henry and Prince Charles) see *ibid.*, pp197f.; for Robert Thacker of Petworth: NA: PROB11/162. The details of Gilbert Thacker's service together with letters to and from Gilbert from 1622 until his death and a detailed outline of his work by the man who, having deputised for him, wished to succeed him, can be found in the records of the Cokes of Melbourne, *ibid.*, pp123, 153, 185f., *et freq.* Other details for this Gilbert Thacker have been obtained from the parish registers of St Margaret's Westminster, the PCC wills of his widow and her second husband and from Dugdale's *Visitation of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire 1662-4*, and documents listed in NA and A2A.
72. C. S. L. Davies, *The Family and Connections of John Wilkins, 1614-72*, 2004, pp93-107, esp. pp101-5.
73. In 1697, with the declared 'assent and consent' of her husband, she wrote a will, signing it as 'Susanna Cardwell', making many bequests to grandchildren from her first marriage but also naming Edward Litherland of 'Poulton cum Secum' in Cheshire (in Wallasey). (Richmond Archdeaconry wills: L2RO, WRW 1697 Susanna Cardwell of Barton).
74. Oliver gained the dissolved nunnery at Kingsmead. It may be on that account that he was numbered among those still indebted to the King on 20 May 1539 (*L&P*, Vol 14, Part 1, 1539i, no.992). Pension Rolls published in *DAJ* add to this. See Rev. J. Charles Cox, 'The Religious Pension Roll of Derbyshire, temp. Edward V1', *DAJ*, Vol 28, 1906 for the Pension Rolls of 1548 and 1552.

THE DIARY OF JOSEPH HUTSBY: PART 6

14 APRIL 1845 - MAY 1846

(continued from Vol. 19, Part 3, Spring 2011)

Joseph was a miner and preacher. His diaries cover the period 1843 to 1846 when he was a colliery official at Loscoe, probably at Loscoe Colliery close to the village centre. (Extracted from introduction to Part 1.)

1845

Monday April 14th

Turned ½ day at hard, alday at soft. Paid my club 4s 4d.

Tuesday April 15th

Turned alday at both pits. Self at Collry.

Wednesday April 16th

Laystill at both pits. Went Newstead for a load of poles, payed £2s 0d. Self walked.

Thursday April 17th

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self at Collry.

Friday April 18th

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self at Collry.

Saturday April 19th

Turned at both pits ½ day. Self paid the men. A whole day at hard. Mr Griffin said he whould go and order some timber to conduct the shafts on next week.

Monday April 21st

Turned alday at both pits. Self at Collry.

Tuesday April 22nd

Turned ½ day at both pits. Self and B. Farnsworth went and looked at the Conducters and Cheers at Bealey Brouck and Millhay. Took the Demenchans of the Concourn altogether in order to do ours.

Wednesday April 23rd

Turned ½ day at both pits. Started to saw the timber for the pit tops, also started to sink the well deeper at Granfield House. Self at both.

Thursday April 24th

Turned ½ day at hard, alday at soft. Self at Collry.

Friday April 25th

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self at Collry.

Saturday April 26th

Turned ½ day at soft. Laystill at hard. Self paid the men as usual £40 12s 2d.

Monday April 28th

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self went to Newstead. Bought load of poles. Paid £2 2s 0d.

Tuesday April 29th

Turned ½ day at soft. Turned 5 waggons at hard. Self at Collry.

Wednesday April 30th

Turned alday at soft. 3 waggons at hard. Self at Collry. Received 2 balks of memal timber 37 feet long 14½ x 14½ to conduct the shafts with.

Thursday May 1st

Turned alday at hard. ½ at soft. Tried the shafts with the Center Lines.

Friday May 2nd

Turned ½ day at each pit, self at Collry.

Saturday May 3rd

Turned ½ day at each pit, self at Collry. Paid the men as usual £33 11s 4d.

Monday May 5th

Turned at each pit ½ day, self at Collry till 10. Went to Miss Ann Ward sail. Bought a barril.

Tuesday May 6th

Turned alday at hard ½ day soft. Self at Collry. Went a teetotal meeting at night. Loscoe.

Wednesday May 7th

Turned alday at hard. Laystill at soft, self Collry.

Thursday May 8th

Turned alday at hard, ½ day at soft. Self at Collry.

Friday May 9th

Turned at hard alday. Laystill at soft. Self at Collry.

Saturday May 10th

Turned alday at hard. Laystill at soft. Self paid the men as usual £44 9s 11½d.

Monday May 12th

Laystill at both pits, being Whitsun Monday. Self went to my Club. Back at 6.

Tuesday May 13th

Laystill at both pits. Self and Ed Stanley went to Kimberly to look at the pits.

Wednesday May 14th

Laystill at both pits. Self and wife went to Nottingham.

Thursday May 15th

Turned ½ day at hard, laystill at soft. This day Samuel Barks sent for me. Self went, and when I got too him he told me that he was dieing, and he wished me to go to his place. Self went to John Hoabruck about it. who said he would do what he could for me, as Mr Ray was out. Did not get satisfied.

Friday May 16th

Turned ½ day at hard, laystill at soft. Self went to see S. Barks, found him very bad.

Saturday May 17th

Turned ½ day at hard. Laystill at soft. Self paid the men as usual.

Monday May 19th

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self went to see Sam Barks, found him very bad. Nothing settled yet.

Tuesday May 20th

Turned alday at hard, ½ day at soft. Self went to Mr Radford. Brought a summons for Isaac Rigley for leaving his work without notice.

Wednesday May 21st

Turned alday at hard ½ day. Self took Isaac Rigley before Mr Radford for leaving his work without notice, committed him for 6 week. Self begged him off for paying the expences which was 7s 6d.

Thursday May 22nd

Turned alday at hard, ½ day at soft. Self at Collry in hard.

Friday May 23rd

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self at Collry. Began to steas in at soft.

Saturday May 24th

Turned alday at hard, ½ day soft. Self at Collry. Paid the men as usual, £39 10s 8d.

Sunday May 25th

Self at home, lame, strained my ancle.

Monday May 26th

Turned alday at hard, ½ day at soft. Self at Collry.

Wednesday May 28th

Turning at both pits. Charles Allen caught hould of the end of the chain coming out of the bottom of the soft cold

pit and held while he could, who told William Leavers who was at the bottom he could hold no longer, and then dropt and killed himself, being about 10 years and 10 months old. Mr Whiston the Coroner being passing this way today, the inquest was held at the Golden Ball, Loscoe. Self on the Jury.

Thursday May 29th

Turned at hard alday. Laystill at soft. D. Farnsworth made a coffin for Charles Allen. Self gave John Allen a sovering. Mr Griffin gave him ten shilling towards herring his lad.

Friday May 30th

Turned alday at hard, ½ day at soft. Self at Collry. John went to Charles Allen furnal to night. Received 3 Dale balks memal to conduct the shaft 171¼ at 2s 6d.

Saturday May 31st

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self paid men as usual £48.

Monday June 2nd

Turned ½ day at each pit. Self went to Godbers, bought a suit of flannel for Daniel Farnsworth for the conducting the shafts.

Tuesday June 3rd

Turned alday at each pit. Self at Collry.

Wednesday June 4th

Turned alday at hard, ½ at soft. Self at Collry.

Thursday June 5th

Turned alday at each pit. Self at Collry till night: sent Joseph Thorpe to Millhay to borrow a Purches weel. Brought it, also asked Thomas Hicking if they would lend us there Grab. Could not give an answer.

1846

March 20th 1846

After a long silence I again resume writing. And after being at the throuble and expence of making a new pit inside Mr Griffin begins to be very dissatisfied and will not allow any odd work to go on, not to the amount of one shilling, and his every day insults become intollarable, his bad usage to the overlookers caused them to leave their employment, and Mr Griffin brought one who does not understand the fire, who went and tried the pit with a lamp and pronounced it safe. When the men was all at work about 7 of the clock the fire damp explouded, when self and 9 other men and boys was all burnt, one of whom died. This catastrophe overtook us on 4 March 46, the whole of which may be fairly charged upon Mr Griffin for taking work out of my hands and interfering with that he did not understand. The men refuses to go in the pit with the overlooker that Mr Griffin brought, and consequently a stagnation insued both of work and trade, and some of the men at the other pit knowing that I was lay at home burnt, applied to Mr Griffin for an advance of wages who complied with there request and gave them one shilling per day rise of wages making five shillings instead of four.

May 1st

Mr Griffin and selfe disagreed about a furnace and a head from engine pit. Whould not let me do it. Self left on that day. Whould not stay without he whould allow me to make the pit safe. Stayed at home till my three month was up.

Went on the 1st of August to Joseph Ricking, making a demand of my quarter's wages N would not pay it. Self went on 2nd August to Watford, saw Mr Whitingstall on the 3rd at 8 in the morning, who promest to come down in this month or the beginning of September, and pay my wages.

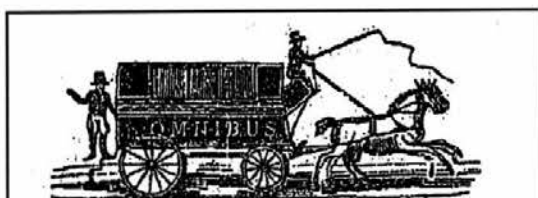
So what happened next to Joseph Hutsby? He left Heanor where he lived with his wife Charlotte and son John and by 1851 was living at Adderley Green, Caverswall, Staffordshire, working as a ground bailiff of coal miners. He was a mine agent in 1861 and died in the first quarter of 1866, aged c66 years.

Joseph continued writing his diary and there is an *Extract from the Journal of Joseph Hutsby, 5 Jun 1847 to 1 February 1852* in Hanley Library (SD 1158).

He married Charlotte Moss on 16 July 1823 at Greasley and his first son, another John, was born in Brinsley in 1824 but died soon after his birth on 23 March 1824.

THE RAILWAY OMNIBUS FROM AMBER GATE TO MATLOCK BATH IN 1840

(by Jane Steer,



AMBER GATE STATION FOR MATLOCK.

The Public are respectfully informed that the OMNIBUS will run on Week-days for the ensuing Season between Matlock Bath and the Amber Gate Station TWICE A DAY, viz.:-

In the Morning to meet the up Train which leaves Leeds at 6h. 45m. a.m.,* and also the down Train which leaves Derby at 9h. 30m. a.m., and which arrive at Amber Gate about 10h. 0m. a.m.

And in the Afternoon to meet the up Train from Hull, York, and Leeds, which leaves Leeds at 1h. 0m. p.m.,* and also the down Train which leaves Derby at 3h. 30m. p.m.,* and which arrive at Amber Gate about 4h. 0m. p.m.

On SUNDAYS, the Omnibus in the Evening will meet the down Train which leaves Derby at 7h. 0m., and also the Western Mail to Birmingham, which leaves Leeds at 4h. 30m. p.m.,* and which arrive at Amber Gate about 7h. 30m. p.m.

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Parcels under 14lbs., 3d.—28lbs., 6d.—beyond, 1d. per lb.

N.B.—Post Horses are kept at the Station. Orders for Flys, Phaetons, &c., punctually attended to.

Cumming's Old Bath Hotel, Matlock Bath,
October 6th, 1840.

On 25 January 1840, the principal inhabitants of Matlock and the neighbourhood held a meeting chaired by Peter Arkwright at the Old Bath Hotel in Matlock Bath to discuss 'the best mode of memorializing the Directors of the North Midland Railway, as to the necessity of establishing a First Class Station at Amber Gate'. The North Midland Railway was building a line from Derby to Sheffield and it was thought that the number of visitors would be greatly increased if the station was built because 'the scenery of the neighbourhood had already proved itself as a constant source of attraction'. Amber Gate (formerly Toadmoor and later Ambergate), the nearest access point on the new line, was 6 miles away. The meeting appointed a deputation to meet the Directors the following Tuesday at the Bell Hotel in Derby who agreed to their request (*Derby Mercury*, 29 January 1840).

In order to encourage visitors, 'Rapid Conveyance' by omnibus from the station to Matlock Bath was advertised by Mrs Cummings, the owner of the Old Bath Hotel, in the *Derby Mercury* on 6 May 1840; just before both the railway line and Amber Gate station opened to the public on 11 May 1840. The fare was 1s but had risen to 1s 6d by October 1840 (see adjacent advertisement). When the line was open to Leeds the following year, the fares had been further refined and were now 6d for 2 miles (including luggage not exceeding 50lbs), 1s for 2-4 miles and 1s 6d for more than 6 miles (the distance to Matlock Bath). Parcels too were charged by weight and mileage (*Derby Mercury*, 21 April 1841).

The momentous day when a train first ran on the track was reported in the *Derby Mercury* on 4 March 1840. A number of the directors, engineers, contractors and friends

'traversed the line' nearly 50 miles from Norton, near Wakefield, to Derby. When they reached Bull Bridge the passengers had to leave the train because the works there were incomplete. They travelled in carriages 'one or two miles on the turnpike' to Amber Gate where they boarded a train which had been sent from Derby 'travelling the distance under three quarters of an hour'. Vast crowds greeted the train in Chesterfield and Belper.

An enthusiastic report on the opening of the North Midland Railway was printed in the *Derby Mercury* on 20 May 1840 (p3; the train times were advertised on p1). The reporter began by saying 'By the opening of the North Midland Railway, as far as the line has been completed, Sheffield is placed within ten hours of London ... A person may now breakfast in Sheffield, and dine in London on the same day'. He goes on to describe the scenery and the buildings he passes: Renishaw Park, Tapton House, North Wingfield Church, Ogston Manor, etc. He marvels at the viaduct at Icles and the retaining wall in the cutting at Belper. At Bull Bridge, he says, 'are some very extensive and curious works. The Canal is carried over the Railway, and the Turnpike road over the River Amber'. He then describes the stations, all designed by Francis Thompson, finishing with Derby which he says 'is a wonderfully extensive place, which astonishes every person on arriving there for the first time'. More amazing to us today is that all the buildings: the station, the Round House and engine sheds were erected in 9 months. The article finishes with a letter from a passenger who travelled on the first train on 11 May who describes his journey, including an unscheduled stop in Clay Cross tunnel for 15 minutes when the engine ran out of steam!

In 1840 Amber Gate station was sited north east of the Toadmoor Tunnel on the Derby to Sheffield line. In 1849 a branch was built to Matlock and Rowsley with a west to north connection between the lines, followed in 1863 by a south to west connection for trains from Derby to Rowsley when the station was rebuilt 400m to the south. Yet again the station was rebuilt in December 1876 when a loop was built to bypass the Tunnel, this time 605m north to its present site on the A6 at Ambergate (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambergate_railway_station).