

BACKGROUND

This post is intended to be read with an earlier post, “The Descendants of Robert Dodgson”. Both posts relate to Robert Dodgson who married Ellen Browne in the church of St. Mary in Long Preston on the 6th June 1633. They went on to have seven children that we know and a phenomenal number of descendants now scattered around the world. Robert, and those of his descendants who stayed in the area were largely referred to as “of Paythorne”, a small hamlet in the parish of Gisburn.

With help from several people, most notably two women with razor sharp minds and unwavering determination, the late Moira Payne in the earlier days and for the last twenty or so years Beth Mead, we tracked this Dodgson family back to Robert, using a wealth of Registers, Wills, Deeds, and other legal documents. The sources though became more sparse, and the Gisburn Register in particular more incomplete, and taking the family back beyond Robert was not possible. There had been a couple of Dodgsons mentioned in Paythorne before Robert, one simply named as the widow and the other as William. However, there was nothing to suggest that Robert might tie into either of these.

It seemed much more likely that Robert descended from the Dodgsons listed in records as “of Newsholme”, another small hamlet in Gisburn which bordered Paythorne across the River Ribble. A trawl of any and every source we could find, whether related or otherwise, proved fruitless. The brick wall was not for moving. Then one morning in the Lancashire CRO.....

THE NEWSHOLME LINK

The link to the Newsholme Dodgsons came with the discovery of the will below of Robert Dodgson of Wheatley, across the border in Lancashire. This Robert’s life journey took him to Wheatley from Newsholme via Southfield, a tiny hamlet between Gisburn and Nelson

Will of Robert Dodgson of Wheatley 1718

In the name of God Amen the first day of July in the third year of the reign of our sovereign lord George by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland king defender of the faith anno domini 1718 I Robert Dodgson of Wheatley in the parish of Castle in Clitheroe in the county of Lancaster Yeoman being aged and infirm of body yet in very perfect memory praise God and calling to mind my known frailty and the state of this transitory life that all flesh must yield unto death when it shall please God to call do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker, saviour and redeemer hoping assuredly to receive free pardon and remission of all my sins through the meritorious death and passion of my lone saviour and my frail body in hopes of a joyful resurrection I commit to the earth to be interred in such decent manner and sort as to my executors and loving friends shall be thought neat and fitting and touching my wordly goods which God of His goodness has bestowed on me my willing mind is as followeth:

First I will that all my just debts and my funeral expenses and all other

necessary charges concerning the probate hereof be well and truly paid by my executor hereafter named out of my personal estate. Also it is my will and mind and I do hereby give and bequeath unto Mary my loving wife the interest of £100 for and during the term of her natural life and also I give to Mary my wife one cow as she will choose and one bed and bedding for it which I do lie in. And further it is my will and mind providing that the interest of £100 shall happen to be too little for food, rayments and attendance of Mary my said wife before she depart this life then it is my will that she should take part of the said £100 for her better support and livelihood during her natural life. And after her decease that I do hereby give the said £100 or what as shall remain thereof after her funeral is plentifully made and discharged unto Lawrence my son and heir.

Also I do give unto Elizabeth and Margaret my two daughters, to Elizabeth Robinson the sum of £5 and Margaret Roberts the sum of 5 shillings. Also I do give unto James Robinson my grandson the sum of 5 shillings.

All which said legacies shall be paid by my executors hereafter named within 12 months next after my decease and touching the interest of the said £100 by me given to Mary my said wife it is my will and mind that she will have it paid by my executors hereafter named only six months after my decease by equal portions yearly and every year during her natural life. And further as she shall have need and be in necessity as aforesaid.

All the rest and residue and goods, cattles, chattles and personal estate whatsoever I do hereby give and bequeath unto Lawrence my said son and heir.

Last I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made and this and only this is to be taken to be my last will and testament and I do hereby nominate and appoint Lawrence Dodgson my said son sole and whole executor of this my last will and testament hoping he will duly and truly perform the same as my trust is in him reposed. And further it is my will and mind and I do hereby appoint Christopher Dodgson of Ellenthorpe my cousin trustee to see to Mary my wife that she have her legacy by me given according as this my will directs and for his trouble and care about it I do hereby give my said trustee the sum of 10 shillings to be paid to him by my said executor in witness whereof I the said Robert Dodgson have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year here above first above written.

Sealed, signed published and declared by the testator hereof to be his last will and testament in the presence of that these words (Elizabeth Robinson the sum of 5 shillings was interlined before the sealing hereof)

John Oxnard and William Dodgson

It isn't clear whether Robert or his father, John, was the first to move to Southfield or whether they all moved together from Gisburn after the 1650 death in childbirth of Robert's mother. Robert's father, John, is listed in the Gisburn Registers as being of Southfield at his burial, presumably returning to be buried with his late wife Elizabeth.

A Cause Paper CP.H.5704 dated the 1st of February 1682 and held at the Borthwick Institute relates to a testamentary dispute. A witness statement was submitted from Robert Dodgson of Southfield who is described as a 44 year old yeoman. Robert's signature at the end of his statement matches that on his will. Robert's age in the Gisburn Registers matches his age

here. Robert's children at Southfield, listed in the Colne Registers match the children listed in his will. Robert had moved to Wheatley by 1688 when his son Robert's burial in the church was listed in the Colne Registers.

At the end of his will, Robert mentions his cousin Christopher Dodgson of Ellenthorpe. This Christopher Dodgson of Ellenthorpe, (apart from being my line ancestor!) is the son of Robert Dodgson and Ellen Browne who married in 1633. Thus we now know that Robert does indeed descend from the Newsholme branch as we always suspected.

WHO WERE THE NEWSHOLME DODGSONS

The Dodgson family had been in Newsholme since the early 1400s. Before that it isn't clear.

One Christopher Dodgson of Newsholme is listed in "York Clergy Ordinations 1450-1474" which details people on the journey to being ordained as priests in the Cathedral of York. This particular Christopher's journey runs from 1473 into 1474. Other Dodgsons are listed with connection to Sawley Abbey and Whalley Abbey. The book that covers the years 1475-1500 includes one James Dodgson of Gisburn

The Feet of Fines mentions John Dodgson in 1432 in connection with lands in Newsholme and neighbouring places

"Memoirs of an Ancient House", a history of the Lister family who went on to become the Lords Ribblesdale mentions Richard and Henry Dodgson of Newsholme in 1454 in connection with a dispute.

John Dodgson and Richard Dodgson are names that appear in the will of John Dodgson of Newsholme made in 1438. That will which follows, transcribed from the Latin, would suggest that this John was to be survived by one son, Richard, and possibly several married daughters.

In the name of God Amen, the 25th day of the month of January in the year of Our Lord 1438 I John Dodgson of Newsholme in Craven of sound mind do make and ordain my testament in this manner. Firstly I leave my soul to Almighty God and the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother and all the Saints and my body to be buried in the parish church of the Blessed Mary in Gisburn with my best ----- as a mortuary. Item I leave to the rector of Gisburn 6s and 8d. Item I leave to the vicar there 3s and 4d. Item I leave to the parish clerks there 12d. and 12d to the Augustin friars at York and 12d to the Carmelite friars at York and 12d to the friars of St. Robert at Knaresborough. Item I leave to the wife of John Lofthouse 26s and 8d. Item I leave to the wife of Richard Daunsee 26s and 8d and to Alice the daughter of the same Richard 26s and 8d. Item I leave and ordain 5 marks for my funeral expenses. Item I leave to the wife of Edmund Elys 8 shillings. All the rest of all my goods whatever I leave to my wife Joanna and to Richard Dodgson

The residue I leave and dispose to my wife Joan and Richard Dogeson and for the well being of my soul as shall seem best to him to expedite, and the same Joan and Richard I make my executors to faithfully execute and complete all matters. Given on the date above written.

On 27 May [1440 not clear] probate was issued and a commission of

administration given to Richard Dogeson the executor named in the said will and power of commission given to Joan the relict of the said deceased when they shall apply for it.

Later, the lay subsidy rolls mention Dodgsons in Newsholme and Paythorne as follows

In 1522,

Richard Doghton was at Wigglesworth paying 5s to Mr. Hamertton

William Dogson was at Paythorne paying 6s 8d to the Abbot of Sawley

John Dogeson was at Newsholme paying 20s to John Greyn

In 1524

Richard Doghson was at Wigglesworth paying 40s 12d

William Doghson was at Paythorne paying 20s 6d

John Dogeson was at Newsholme paying 20s 6d

Richard Dogheson was at Newsholme paying 20s 6d

In 1525

Richard Dodshon was at Wigglesworth paying 40s 12d

Richard Dogeson was at Newsholme paying 20s 6d

John Dogeson was at Newsholme paying 20s 6d

In 1543

Widow of John Dodshon was at Newsholme paying 20s 2d

Edward (probably Edmund) Dodshon was at Newsholme paying 40s 4d

Richard Dodshon was at Newsholme paying 20s 2d

Christopher (page ripped no second name but most likely Dodgson) was at Newsholme paying £3 6d

A Robert with second name missing was also at Newsholme paying £4 8d

No Dodgson listed at Wigglesworth or Paythorne

Robert second name missing, at Paythorne paid 20s 2d.

Widow of William Dogeson was at Grindleton paying 20s 2d

Thomas Dogeson was at Grindleton paying 20s 2d

Thomas Dodgeyon was at Bradforth paying 40s 4d

John Dogeson was at Bradforth paying £4 8d

In 1545

William Dodshon was at Paythorne paying 40s 2d

Christopher Dodshon was at Newsholme paying £3 3d

Edmund Dodshon was at Newsholme paying 40s 2d

The muster rolls show the following information about the family in 1539

On the 1539 muster roll total people as follows:

Wigglesworth 38, Gisburn 73, Paythorne 34, Newsholme 14, Horton 23

of which Dodgsons

Newsholme

1539

Not halle Richard Dogeson filet bill

b. Christopher Dodgson jak & salt

b. Edmund Dodgson jak

Paythorne 1539?

b. William Dogeson

The Christopher Dodgson and Edmund Dodgson listed in the 1539 muster roll go on to have families. They could be brothers, but are more likely cousins, one perhaps descended from the John listed above in these tax records, the other from the Richard in the same records. Cousins seems much more likely since there is a second younger Christopher Dodgson at Newsholme at the same time. He is more likely to be Edmund's brother. This second Christopher doesn't appear to have had any children, so our Robert looks to descend through the family of either the Christopher or Edmund listed in the records.

THE TWO NEWSHOLME DODGSON FAMILIES AND THEIR WILLS

FAMILY ONE - CHRISTOPHER

Christopher Dodgson was born at some time before 1523. We know that from the muster roll. He married more than once. His last marriage was to Jennet Windle, herself a widow. Christopher had a son, John, from an earlier marriage. Jennet had several children from her marriage to Mr. Windle. Among these children was a daughter, Elizabeth. This daughter Elizabeth married Christopher's son, John Dodgson. Whether John and Elizabeth married before or after Christopher and Jennet is not known. Christopher survived for several years after his will was written.

The will of Christopher Dodgson of Newsholme

In the name of God Amen the 4th day of December AD 1572 I Christopher Dodgson of Newsholme sick in body but whole of mind and of good and perfect memory praise be Almighty God do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried within my parish churchyard of Gisburn at the east end of the said church. Item it is my will and last testament that John my son have my whole tenement or freehold immediately after my decease the widow right of Jennet my wife only excepted. I give and bequeath unto John Dicconson son of Anthony Dicconson two yowes and to Jennet Dicconson his sister 1 twinter whye. Item I give to Richard Ellis two yowes. Item I give and bequeath to the poor of my parish the sum of 8 shillings to be divided and bestowed among them at the discretion of Jen-

net my wife and John my son. Item I give to any child or person that I am Godfather to 4d. Item I give and bequeath my house, my , my husbandry gear and all the rest of my part and portion of goods unbequeathed my debts and my funeral expenses discharged unto John my son. Item I ordain Jennet my wife and John my son my true and lawful executors of this my said last will and testament to see the same truly to be performed, kept and ended these being witness Christopher Dodgson the younger, Christopher Wilkinson, Edmund Dodgson, Lawrence Butterfield.

Christopher's widow Jennet died a few years after Christopher and her will mentions several of her children from a previous relationship. One of her children who isn't mentioned is her son, Robert Windle, who went on to have a large influence on the Dodgson family and was probably responsible for introducing into the family the forename Robert, so prevalent in the years and decades that followed.

Nothing is known of Jennet prior to her marriages. We know of several children from her marriage to Mr. Windle. We know that one of them, Robert, was born in the parish of Thornton in Craven. He confirms this in his will. We also know that her daughter, Alice lived there with husband James Mitchell. We know from Robert's will that her son John lived there. The Windles had a long association with the parish, particularly with Earby. It seems most likely that she lived there with Mr. Windle and that all her children originate there.

In her will Jennet mentions several children, Elizabeth who married John Dodgson, Alice who married James Mitchell, and John whose wife Jennet names as Jane. She mentions Elizabeth's children Alice, and Agnes. She mentions Alice's children Jennet, Henry, and William. She mentions John's children Christopher, John, William, Robert, Richard, and Jane.

Some ten years later Robert Windle in his will mentions most of these people but adds a further child for Alice in the form of John, who had been acting as his servant. Robert names his brother John's wife as Agnes, presumably after a death and remarriage. Robert also names three further sisters, Jane Watson, sister Stockdale, and sister Withomes. Jennet mentions two of these three in her will, Jane Watson and Agnes Whitham.

Will of Jeneta Dodgson 15th January 1580/81

In the name of God Amen the 15th day of January in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and four score that I Jennet Dodgson of Newsholme late wife of Christopher Dodgson sick in body but whole in mind and in good and perfect memory praised be God do ordain devise and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and principally I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my saviour, maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried in my parish churchyard of Gisburn and that all duties be paid for my burial. Item I give and bequeath to John Windell one piece of gold in value 20 shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Christopher Windell, John Windell, William Windell, Robert Windell and Richard Windell, sons of the said John Windell every one of them 1 ewe . Item I give unto Jane Windell, daughter of the said John Windell Item I give unto Jane Windell younger one covlette Item I give unto Jane Windell the elder 1 blanket. Item I give and bequeath unto John Dodgson my son-in-law all my part of the oats, barley, meal, malt, hay and straw which I have or may lawfully claim to have as mine with the said John Dodgson. Item I give unto the said John Dodgson 1 dodshon (?), 1 swine and all my beef and bacon. Item I give and bequeath unto the said John Dodgson my said son-in-law 20 shillings which I lent unto John Airton towards the earth thing Item I give unto Elizabeth

Dodgson my natural daughter 1 gown of sheep black, 1 girdle and 1 blanket. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Dodgson daughter of John Dodgson my said son-in-law 1 cow. Item I give unto Agnes Dodgson daughter of the said John Dodgson my son-in-law 1 twinter stag. Item I give and bequeath unto James Mitchell of Thornton 1 twinter staff (?) Item I give unto Jennet Mitchell daughter of James Mitchell one cow. Item I give and bequeath unto Alice Mitchell my daughter my best gown, my best hat, my best kerchief, my best three garters, my best muslin bande, my best pair of sleeves and my best shoes. Item I give unto Alice Mitchell my said daughter one ark and one little silver ring. Item I give unto Agnes Whitham a covlette and one sheet. Item I give unto Agnes Harper? one pair of same sheet. Item I give unto Jane Watson the elder one violet robe. Item I give unto Jennet Dowson of Eshton one red petticoat and one hat. Item I give and bequeath unto William Mitchell and James Mitchell 20 shillings that I lent them. Item I give unto Alice Airton wife of John Airton one white petticoat and one pair of shoes. Item I give unto William Mitchell son of James Mitchell one quye stirk. Item it is my will and last testament that Elizabeth my daughter give to each of my godchildren every one of them 4d. Item I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods unbequeathed my debts, legacies and funeral expenses paid and discharged unto John Dodgson my son-in-law, my true and lawful executor to see that this my last will and testament be performed fulfilled and kept. These being Witness Lawrence Butterfield, Christopher Dodgson the younger.

Gisburn parish registers buried 7th April 1577 Christopher Dodshon.
Buried 20th January 1580/81 the widow of Christopher Dodshon of Newsholme.

Christopher's son John married Jennet's daughter Elizabeth. More about John will follow but in the meantime here is his will. It was made in 1613, though he lived on after that till 1619

The Will of John Dodgson of Newsholme – made 1613

In the name of God men : 11th May – in the year of Our Lord 1613. I, John Dodgson of Newsholme in the County of York, sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect remembrance praised be God, therefore knowing death to be certain but the time and hour thereof most uncertain do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commend my soul into the hands of God my Creator and Redeemer hoping to be saved by the death and crucifixion of Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in the parish church of Gisburn as near to my late beloved wife as may be possible, trusting that by body shall rise again at the last and general resurrection. And for these temporal goods wherewith it hath pleased God of his great mercy to bless me with all and me steward of them my will and mind is as followeth.

First my will and mind is that my debts and funeral expenses be paid and discharged out of my whole goods. Next I give and bequeath unto Christopher Lancaster my son-in-law the sum of ten Pounds to be distributed to his children at the discretion of him the said Christopher and to be paid within one year next after my decease. Next to my son-in-law Anthonio Baldwyn? I give and bequeath ten Pounds to and for the use of his children to be disposed by him at his discretion to the most ... of his children. And whereas I intended and promised to my son John Dodgson to give one hundred pounds in full satisfaction of his filial and child's portion, the wheresaid sum of ... will be made by mine executors. I do give and bequeath unto him the said John Dodgson ten Pounds as a legacy. Next I give unto my son Robert Dodgson the whole remainder of all my goods debts and chattel not doubting but that my said

son Robert will see me well and honestly brought forth and that such a competent sum of money be distributed at the time of my burial as he shall think in his disposition to be most fitting, according to his calling and my credit and according to the Lawful Customs of the Country. And I do constitute ordain and make the said Robert Dodgson the sole executor of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereto set my common mark the day and year first above written. Revoking all other wills by me formerly made, witnesses hereof Richard Gibson and Henry Wilkinson on the 11th day of May in the year 1613.

John had a son Robert who was born in 1574 in Newsholme. An old book about the history of the Lister family “Memoirs of an Ancient House” suggests that this Robert married Alice Lister. He was the nephew and godson of Robert Windle. This Robert Dodgson had a son Robert who was born in 1605 in Newsholme and who many people on the internet confuse with our Robert. This 1605 Robert left the following will in 1668

The Will of Robert Dodgson 1668

In Dei Nomine Amen. The sixteenth day of September Anno Domini 1668 I ROBERT DODGSON of Newsholme the Elder in the parish of Gisburn and county of York Freemason being aged and crazed of body and not knowing how soon it may please God to summon me home though now perfect in memory praised be God do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say first and principally I commit and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my Heavenly Father assuredly trusting through the Merits and Passion of Jesus Christ to be made partaker of everlasting life and salvation and my body to Christian burial in our Parish Church or Churchyard at the discretion of my children and friends. Then for my temporal estate and wordly goods my mind and will is and I do give and bequeath unto my son JOHN DODGSON twenty pounds to be paid him by my executor within twelve months next after my decease if he be then alive and either come for it in his own person or by sure certification sends for the same. Item I do give unto my daughter JANE DODGSON twenty pounds sixteen pounds whereof I have already secured her by bill under my hand and the said sum of twenty pounds to be paid her within twelve months next after my decease. Item it is my mind and will and I do give and bequeath unto my three daughters ELIZABETH GREGSON ELLIN SAWLEY AND JANE DODGSON all the residue and remainder of my goods and chattels and all and every part and parcel of my estate real and personal of what nature soever (all my just debts and funeral expenses being first paid and discharged out of my whole goods) and I do nominate and appoint my son in law JOHN SAWLEY whole executor unto this my last will and testament charging that he shall have no private benefit thereby to himself but just and faithfully impart himself with the other two sisters in fair accomplice and I do hereby require and appoint my brother in law CHRISTOPER SMYTH to be supervisor to this my last will and testament to see all things rightly done and discharged and in witness whereof I have hereto put my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Witnessed signed and declared CHRISTOPHER SMITH JOHN COARE ELIZABETH AYRTON

Robert Windle who was the son of Jennet who married Christopher Dodgson ended his days as the vicar of Chastleton in Oxfordshire

Robert's will centres mainly around two groups of three men. The first group he describes as his brothers namely John Windle of Thornton in Craven, James Mitchell of the same place, and John Dodgson of Gisburn. The second group consist of three sons of the first men. These are Christopher Windle, Henry Mitchell, and Robert Dodgson. They are Robert's nephews, Henry and Robert are also his godsons. He makes these three his executors and administrators.

It's clear from Robert's will that he was very well to do financially and one wonders if he was the main beneficiary of his father. He left money to parishioners in Chastleton where he was the vicar and also in Thornton in Craven. He left money to found a grammar school in Earby, and his loving family ensured a technical problem with his will didn't stop these bequests.

Will of Robert Windle

In the name of God Amen the 25th day of March being the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the 33rd year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth. I Robert Windle clerk and parson of the parish church of Chastleton in the county of Oxford whole in body and of perfect memory (God be thanked therefore) do make this writing concerning this my last will and testament in manner and form following. Firstly I commend my soul to Almighty God my creator and Redeemer beseeching him of his infinite goodness and mercy to make me partaker of the merits of the passion of Jesus Christ Our Lord and so to strengthen my weakness that I may die a member of his catholic church. Also I will that my body shall be buried in the parish church of Thornton in Yorkshire in that *ancient* burial place that my ancestors are buried in (if it may be conveniently carried) if not in my chancel at Chastleton. And touching the disposition of the final portion of lands which I have in the parish of Adle and Harwood my mind and will is that my brothers John Windle of the parish of Thornton, James Mitchell of the same parish and John Dodgson of the parish of Gisburn shall have as full power and lawful authority as if I myself were there personally present and Do myself without any lett or encumbrance of any person or persons belonging or in anywise appertaining to me the said Mr. Robert Windle to bargain align or sell all my lands and hereditaments of the Manor and Nunnery of Ardington at Ardington Grange, with all houses, edifices, barns, stables, yards, out yards, gardens, lands, meadows, feedings, waters, and water courses with all commodities and hereditaments whatsoever to the said messuage or farm belonging or anywise appertaining or with the same now or heretofore let, used or occupied as part parcel or member of the same situate lying or being in the parishes and fields of Adle and Harwood in the county of York or of either of them now or late in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Briggs or his assigns. All which said lands I the foresaid Mr. Robert Windle bought and purchased of the said Thomas Briggs for eight hundred and four score pounds which said lands thus bought and purchased my will is that this be sold within the space of one whole year after the death and departing of me the said Mr. Robert Windle that £440 being the one half which I gave for it be given and distributed to all the householders whether rich or poor dwelling within the parish of Thornton and that the other half of the said principle sum with all that

it shall be sold for more if more can be gotten be paid and delivered unto Christopher Windle, Henry Mitchell and Robert Dodgson my three executors and Administrators towards the full performance and whole satisfaction of the last will and testament of me the foresaid Robert Windle deceased. Provided always that my brothers John Windle, James Mitchell and John Dodgson shall have for selling of it and their pains taken therein £5 13 shillings 4pence a piece out of that latter half which is to be given to Christopher Windle Henry Mitchell and Robert Dodgson. Also my will is that for default of the sale of these lands thus to be sold and the delivery of the said money as aforesaid within the space of one whole year after the death of me the said Mr. Robert Windle that then the whole lands shall be forfeited to the foresaid householders of the parish of Thornton. And touching the disposition of the final portion of lands which I have in Earby my mind and will is all that messuage and closes now in the occupation of Marmaduke Brown and my brother John Windle and all that messuage and closes now in the occupation of Richard Dodgson with commons of *Moors* and *Turf grafts* belonging and appertaining unto them all in this parish in Thornton in Yorkshire and all other my lands tenements and hereditaments within the said parish of Thornton with all and singular their appurtenances shall after my death remain be and come to my brother John Windle and Agnes his wife during their said lives and after their decease I give and bequeath all the said lands and tenements containing all other the premises to Christopher Windle the son of my brother John Windle and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten forever. And for lack of such issue to his brother John Windle my godson and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten forever. And for lack of such issue to their brothers of the Windles and their heirs males one after another according to their age forever. And touching the disposition of the final portion of lands which I have at the manor of Horton Hall my mind and will is that all that messuage and closes now in the occupation of my brother John Dodgson in the parish of Gisburn in the county of York and all other my lands tenements and hereditaments within the said parish of Gisburn with all and singular their appurtenances shall after my decease remain be and come to my sister Elizabeth Dodgson during her said life and after her decease I give and bequeath all the said lands and tenements containing all other the premises to Robert Dodgson my godson the son of my brother John Dodgson and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten forever paying yearly to his brother John Dodgson 40 shillings during the life of the said John. And for lack of such issue to his brother John Dodgson and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten forever. And for default of issue to my right heirs of the Windles forever. And touching the disposition of the final portion of lands which I have in Gargrave my mind and will is that all that messuage and closes now in the occupation of Christopher F... in the parish of Gargrave in the county of York and all other my cottages, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the said parish of Gargrave and in the county of York and all that messuage and closes now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Ardington and all other my Cottages Lands tenements and hereditaments within the said parish of Gargrave with all and singular there ap-

purtenance shall after my decease remain be and come to my sister Alice Mitchell during her said life and after her decease I give and bequeath all the said lands and tenements containing all other the premises to Henry Mitchell my godson the son of my brother James Mitchell and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten forever. And for lack of such issue to John Mitchell his brother and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten forever. And for lack of such issue to James Mitchell and within their brothers and their heirs male lawfully begotten forever. And for default of such issue to my right heirs of the Windles forever. Item I give unto the Cathedral church of Oxford 12 pence. Item I give and bequeath unto my church of *Tuckly* 20 shillings [To the poor people of Chippingnorton 20 shillings] (*scored through*). And to Mr. Peter Aylesworth my best ring. Item I give and bequeath unto the poor people of Woodstock 20 shillings. To the poor people of Chippingnorton 20 shillings. To the poor people of *Storve* the *only* 20 shillings and to the poor people of Shepeston upon *Storvar* 20 shillings. Item I give every householder within Chastleton parish 10 shillings. Item I give unto George Greenwood my little pot of gold. And goodman Wade to have the custody of it until he come to the age of 21 years. Also I give unto every person dwelling within the said parish of Chastleton under the degree of his Master 4 pence. Item I give and bequeath unto John Mitchell my man three *four??* pounds of current English money and to every servant that shall be in my house at my departure 20 shillings. Item I give unto my brother John Windle £40. And to every child my brother hath £3 6 shillings 8 pence. Item I give unto my sister Elizabeth Dodgson £40 and to every child of hers £3 6 shillings 8 pence. Item I give unto my sister Alice Mitchell £40 and to every child of hers £3 6 shillings 8 pence. Item I give unto my sister Jane Watson £3 and every child of hers 6 shillings 8 pence. Item I give unto my sister Stockdale's children and to my sister *Withome's* children every one 6 shillings 8 pence.

Item I give and bequeath unto my uncle John Windle his children To my uncle Edward Harper his children To my uncle John Hartley his children To my uncle William Scott his children everyone of them 5shillings 8 pence. Item I give and bequeath unto ye parish church of Thornton, To the parish church of Gisburn and to the parish church of Gargrave every one of them 20 shillings Desiring that my *furthfare?* may be rung at every one of them so soon as they know of my departure . Also I will that my brother John Windle my brother John Dodgson and my brother James Mitchell shall make a account of all the money they have of mine unto my three heirs whereby my will may be better performed. Also I charge my three heirs as they shall answer me before God to see all these gifts in this my last will and testament performed. Item I give to the poor people at my departure out of this world £100 to be divided thus: £20 at Chastleton, and £4 score within the parish of Thornton where I was born My three heirs receiving at the hands of John Mitchell, John Windle, James Mitchell and John Dodgson All the rest of my goods movable and unmoveable all my corn all my cattell all my household stuff, all my plate coin debts or otherwise whatsoever doth pertain unto me not now given I give and bequeath unto Christopher Windle the

son of my brother John Windle and also to Henry Mitchell and Robert Dodgson my two godsons whom I make the whole executors of this my last will and testament. Item I give and bequeath unto Christopher Scott the son of Thomas Scott scholar in Oxford my best gown. Also I do make Henry Clayton parson of Dalford and John Wade of *Broken* in the parish of Chastelton the overseers of my will unto either of whom I give one silver spoon. In witness hereof I have written this my last will and testament and sealed it with my ring the day and year above written. Sealed published in the presence of Mr. Robert Horrocks Anthony Skay Richard Williams Thomas Green and Christopher Scott and John Mitchell. Post datum huius testimony : Item I give to my servant John Mitchell all the tithe hay and corn which I have within the parish of Chastelton together with all my tithe wool my best horse and fifteen pounds of money which is in my sister's hands his mother after her death. Item I give unto Christopher Scott student in Oxford £10 of good and lawful money of England. Item I give to my head maid Ann Whitley one of my best *kine*? my will and meaning is that these my gifts be of equal authority with my whole will in witness whereof I put to my hand in the presence of John Wade, John Skay, John *Osbasten*, with others with Thomas Okely.

Probate : 8.5 lines in Latin. At London - Feb. 1592

FAMILY TWO EDMUND

Edmund Dodgson, most likely Christopher's cousin, was married to Isabel at the time of his death. Their wills, read together, suggest that he had been married previously. He was of a similar age to Christopher. It may prove significant that all his children aren't named in the wills. Little is known about Isabel prior to their marriage. The only wills we have found for this family are those of the couple themselves and the younger Christopher who may be Edmund's brother. Here they are -

The will of Edmund Dodgson

In the name of God Amen the 22nd day of May AD 1577 I Edmund Dodgson of Newsholme sick in body in whole of mind and of good and perfect memory praise be God do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give my soul unto almighty God my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in my parish churchyard of Gisburn and that all my duties be paid thereto. Item it is my will and last testament that John my son have my whole interest, rite and tythe of my whole freehold the third part only excepted the which I bequeath to Isabel my wife during her widowhood. Item I bequeath to my son John one house provided always that Isabel my wife have and occupy the said house **** with

him during their continuance together. Item I bequeath to John my said son all my husbandry gear provided always that Isabel my wife have the only parts of my husbandry gear making rest of the third part. Item it is my will that Isabel my wife keep my daughter Elizabeth and have her portion of goods in her hand until she comes to lawful age trusting she will be a good mother unto her. Item it is my will that John my son have and keep my son Henry and have his portion of goods till he come to lawful age. Item I bequeath all the portion of tythe to John my son only the third part excepted the which I give to Isabel my wife. Item I leave the crops of my freehold with my wife, my son John and the rest of my children to be ordered at the discretion of these persons Christopher Wilkinson, Richard Walker, John Dodgson, William Ridiough, my debts paid and funeral expense discharged the rest of my part and portion of goods not paid or bequeathed I give and bequeath to every of my young children to be divided amongst them at the discretion of these four Richard Walker, John Dodgson, Christopher Wilkinson and William Ridiough. Item I ordain and make Isabel my wife and John my said son my true and lawful executors to see this my last will and testament obeyed and kept this being witnessed Christopher Wilkinson, Richard Walker, John Dodgson and William Ridiough.

The will of Isabel Dodgson

In the name of God Amen the second day of January in the year of our lord god a thousand five hundred four score and six that I Isabel Dodgson widow late wife of Edmund Dodgson late of Newsholme deceased sick in body but whole of mind and in good and perfect remembrance praised be God do ordain, devise and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say first I give and bequeath my soul unto almighty God my only saviour maker and redeemer. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Gisburn. Item I give and bequeath to Agnes Ayrton daughter of John Ayrton of Paythorne one red cow to be set forward with her. Item I give unto Edmund Dodgson the son of John Dodgson one black calf. Item I give unto Thomas my son a yard and three quarters of white cloth. Item I give unto Elizabeth my daughter all the rest of my white cloths. Item I give unto Jennet Ayrton my best gown one veil and one kerchief. Item I give unto Richard Houghton's wife my red petticoat. Item I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods not given nor bequeathed after my debts paid and funeral expenses discharged unto Thomas Dodgson and Henry Dodgson my sons and Elizabeth Dodgson my daughter equally to be shared amongst them. Item I ordain and make Thomas Dodgson my said son my executor of this my last will and testament to see the same performed and kept these being witnesses John Dodgson the older, Christopher Dodgson of Newsholme.

Christopher Dodgson the younger, possibly Edmund's brother, left the following will. He mentions neither wife nor children. It's possible that he is the Christopher Dodgson mentioned early in the Gisburn burial records as the husband of either one or both of two women being buried a few years apart.

The will of Christopher Dodgson the younger

In the name of God Amen the 13th day of June in the year of Our Lord 1588 I Christopher Dodgson of Newsholme in the parish of Gisburn and in the county of York husbandman being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance praised be God do declare and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First and principally I do hereby bequeath my soul into the hands of my maker and my Redeemer by the death and merits of Jesus Christ and through faith in his ? blood ? I trust to have full remission of all my sins constantly believing after this my *frail?* and transitory life to be made partaker? of his glorious kingdom in the world to come. And my body to be buried in the church yard of Gisburn aforesaid in such place as shall be thought convenient at the sight and discretion of my friends. Also my last will and true meaning is that Anthony Lister shall have my part and portion of the tythe laithe or barn with all kind of hay, corn and grain growing within the territories of Newsholme to him and his assigns during all the term yet to come of one close of the demise and grant of Thomas Lister of Westby gentleman to Christopher Wilkinson of Newsholme his assigns for many years yet to come and to occupy my part of the said tythe laithe or barn with the issues and a full part of the said tythe hay and corn aforesaid to his most commodity profit and advantage paying unto my executors every year 45 shillings 8 pence at the nativity of our Lord called the feast of Christmas to the purely use and commodity of John Lancaster senior and Richard Lancaster sons of Christopher Lancaster of Swinden and also the said Anthony Lister's assigns to discharge all duties rents and services due for the same unto the Lord thereof during all the said term

. Item I give and bequeath unto the said John Lancaster one filly and four sheep and unto the said Richard Lancaster other four sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto William Dodgson of Grantham my brother the sum of £16 Also I give to my brother Richard Dodgson 40 shillings trusting that he will ? good to my brother and sisters' children. Item I give and bequeath unto Anthony Lister that pair of bedstocks which he lieth in and unto Anne/Enne his wife I give the red cow one great pan and one bed of clothes. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Howgill and William Howgill one mare and a foal between them two. Item I give and bequeath unto the said William Howgill 20 shillings Item I give and bequeath to Florence Howgill two kyne, one whye, one feather bed, and one of the worsted coverlets and a brandrith pan Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Howgill my sister one swine Item I give and bequeath unto William Ellis 20 shillings which he is indebted unto me and one bed of clothes unto his wife and one brandrith pan. Item I give and bequeath unto Ann Brockden daughter of James Brockden one cow. Item I give and bequeath to Christopher Lancaster's wife my sister two bushels of meal two bushels of malt a great brass pot one ark and one cow. Item I give and bequeath unto John Airton one whye. Item I give and bequeath unto Richard Wilkinson's wife two bushels of meal and one bed of clothes and unto Margaret Wilkinson her daughter two sheep and a little brass pot. Item I give and bequeath unto Christopher Ridiough one Gauge of wheel timber and unto Ann Ridiough one whye stirk Item I give and bequeath unto Christopher Ellis son of William Ellis four sheep. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Browne wife of John Browne one whye. Item I give and bequeath towards the repairing of Stockbeck bridge three shillings and four pence. Item I give and bequeath unto every one of my god children 12d. Item I give and bequeath 20 shillings to 20 poor widows in the parish to be delivered and distributed amongst them at the sight and discretion of James Brockden and John Dodgson. And all the rest of my goods movable and immovable I will that they be distributed at the discretion and appointment of James Brockden and John Dodgson whom I constitute and appoint to be my executors of this my last will and testament, trusting that they will see the same executed, - discharged and performed according to the true intents and meanings hereof.

These being witnesses: John Wilkinson, John Butterfield, Anthony Lister, John Airton, William Howgill,

October quarter 1588

Three and a half lines in Latin

OTHER EARLY DODGSON WILLS FROM THE AREA

William Dodgson who lived just across the river in the hamlet of Paythorne also in Gisburn parish left the following will,

In the name of God Amen the 15th day of the month of November in the year 1557 in the year of Our Lord God I William Dodgson of Paythorne in Gisburn parish being whole of mind and good remembrance make my last will and testament in manner and form as hereafter followeth. Item first I bequeath my soul to God almighty to his blessed mother our Lady Saint Mary and to all the blessed company of heaven and my body to be buried in my parish churchyard of the said Gisburn. Item I give and bequeath unto my said parish church to be prayed for 20d. Item it is my will that Thomas Atkinson my son-in-law shall have my freehold after my decease by the licence of my landlord. Item I give unto Alys my daughter one arke and one brass pot. Item I give to Richard Gibbons one red jacket the residue of all my goods my debts paid my bequests fulfilled my funeral honestly discharged I give all wholly unto Jeanette Dodgson my daughter whom I make my executrix for to see this my last will to be truly fulfilled and this being witnessed Christopher Dodgson, James Airton, Robert Coldherde, Richard Gibbons and William ***

The following entries in the Gisburn parish registers relating to a Thomas Atkinson may have some connection with the Thomas Atkinson mentioned in William's will.

Baptisms 25.8.1565 Henry son of Thomas Atkinson

8.10.1574 Alice daughter of Thomas Atkinson

Burial 12.10.1565 Anna Atkinson

31.1.1565/6 Henry son of Thomas Atkinson

7.2.1566/7 Thomas Atkinson

8.1.1571 Jeneta Atkinson

13.5.1619 Thomas Atkinson

References to Richard Gibbons all burials

7.7.1578 the widow of Richard Gibbons of Paythorne

7.5.1588 John son of Richard Gibbons

7.2.1597/8 William Gibbons of Paythorne

25.4.1598 Richard Gibbons of Paythorne

References to Jeneta Dodgson

marriage 17.2.1558/9 William Swyre and Jeneta Dodgson

marriage 27.4.1576 John Airton and Jeneta Dodgson

and Richard Dodgson who lived at Holme Knotts, in Bolton by Bowland, just across the parish boundary left the following will.

In the name of God Amen the thirteenth day of February Anno Domine 1605 I Richard Dodgson of the Holme Knotts of the Monastery of Sawley in the County of York husbandman sick in body but whole in mind and in good and perfect remembrance thanks be to Almighty God therefore do ordain determine and make this my last will and testament in

manner and form following first and principally I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty God my maker saviour and redeemer trusting through the merits of his blessed passion glorious resurrection and mighty ascension to be in the number of his elect and Chosen people at the general dates of judgement And my body to be buried in the church or churchyard of Bolton at the discretion of my friends who shall be there present Also it is my will and mind that Margaret my wife shall have and enjoy my tenement in Holme Knott so long as I of right ought to have enjoyed. The same for and towards the education and bringing up of these Children which I am charged with all Also I give and bequeath unto the said Margaret my wife all my goods and chattels rights Credit debt sum and sums of money whatsoever paying out such debts and legacy as I shall hereafter appoint her. First I do appoint Margaret my said wife to pay unto Alice Thompson Agnes Thompson Margaret Thompson and Ellen Thompson daughters of Henry Thompson deceased the sum of twentie pounds at such times as I stand bound to pay them the said sum Also I give and bequeath unto Margaret Dodgson my sister six pounds thirteen shillings four pence. Also I give and bequeath unto John Brashay forty shillings. Also I give and bequeath unto a child of John Brasshay and unto Thomas Towneson and Margaret Towneson three gimmer lambs or else every one of them three shilling in money. Also I give unto the said Alice Tompson Agnes Tompson Margaret Tompson and Ellin Tompson every one of them three shillings Also I do assign that my tenement in Kirby Fornesse unto John Dodgson my brother and all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging. And it is my will and mind that my said brother John shall pay unto my brother William Dodgson the sum of forty shillings in two years next ensuing after that the said John shall enter thereunto by even portions. Item I do make nominate and appoint Margaret my foresaid wife sole executrix of this my said last will and testament. Also lastly I do request John Bond of Brockthorn and Richard Butterfield of the Flass to be supervisors of this my last will and testament trusting that they will see the same performed according to my true meaning These being witnesses Lawrence Robinson Nicholas Walker Richard Rimington and John Robinson.

27th September 1606 administration was granted to Margaret relict of the said deceased, sole executor named in the will.

A TREE OF FAMILY 1 CHRISTOPHER

There are insufficient sources to build a tree of which we can be completely certain. What follows is my attempt to create a tree going down a few generations from Christopher using wills, legal documents, tax records, and the Registers such as they are

Christopher Dodgson-1. He was born Bef. 1523. He died Apr 1577 in Newsholme.

Married Unknown Female.

Christopher Dodgson and Unknown Female. They had 1 child.

2. i. **John Dodgson.** He was born Bef. 1555 in Newsholme. He died Sep 1619 in Newsholme.

Married Jennet Windle. She died Jan 1580/81 in Newsholme.

Christopher Dodgson and Jennet Unknown. They had no known children.

Generation 2

2. **John Dodgson-2** (Christopher Dodgson-1). He was born Bef. 1555 in Newsholme. He died Sep 1619 in Newsholme.

Married Elizabeth Windle the daughter of Unknown male Windle and Jennet Unknown. She was

born Bef. 1555. She died Bef. May 1613 in Newsholme.

John Dodgson and Elizabeth Windle. They had 5 children.

3. i. **John Dodgson**. He was born 1581 in Newsholme.

4. ii. **Robert Dodgson**. He was born 1574 in Newsholme. He died Jun 1646 in Newsholme.

5. iii. **Alice Dodgson**. She was born Oct 1575 in Newsholme. She married Christopher Lancaster. They were married on 13 Apr 1594 in Gisburn.

iv. **Elizabeth Dodgson**. She was born Jun 1578 in Newsholme.

Page 10 of 23 24 December 2022 12:20:38

6. v. **Agnes Dodgson**. She was born Mar 1579 in Newsholme. She married Anthony Baldwin. They were married on 25 Nov 1602 in Gisburn. She died 1665.

Generation 3

3. **John Dodgson-3** (John Dodgson-2, Christopher Dodgson-1). He was born 1581 in Newsholme.

May have married Anna, whose second name may have been Swyre .

The following will is perhaps that of Anna's father or brother. Note the will says "**children**"

Will of John Swyre 1616

In the name of God Amen the 29th Day of October 1616 I John Swyre of Horton Sick of body but in good and perfect memory God be praised Do ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth First I bequeath my body to be buried in the Church or Church yard of ye parish of Gisburne. I give unto Ann Dogdson wife of John Dogdson and her children £20 Thomas Tillatson hath in his hands of his £20 7/- 7d Thomas Lawkland and James T.... hath in their hands £10 Edward Airton and Christopher Ayrton hath in their hands £3 3/- Myles Bollon hath in his hand 10/- Agnes Hartley hath in her hands John Wilkinson £12 in his hands ... especially? to make up the £20 in the hands of the said John Wilkinson ... of one bond of 12d I give unto Maud Anderson 40/- I ordain Marmaduke Swyre and Ann Dodgson to be ... Executors to see this my last will and testament performed all the rest of my ... moveable and immoveable I give unto my executors after my funeral Expenses and my debts be discharged Witnesses hereof Thomas Lawkland, Thomas Lawkland and William Browne.

Probate 13 Jan 1616/17

Marmaduke Swyne/Swyre married Alice Jackson 25 Aug 1605

Alice Swyne/Swyre married Richard Wilkinson 16 Oct 1603

Anthony Swyre married Agnes Aierton 28 Oct 1565

William Swyre married Jeneta Dodshon 17 Feb 1559/60

John Dodgson and possibly Anna Swyre. They had 1 known child.

ii. **Christopher Dodgson**. He was born Jul 1614 in Newsholme.

4. **Robert Dodgson-3** (John Dodgson-2, Christopher Dodgson-1). He was born 1574 in Newsholme. He died Jun 1646 in Newsholme.

Married probably Alice Lister. She died Oct 1638 in Newsholme.

Robert Dodgson and probably Alice Lister. They had 6 children.

i. **Alice Dodgson**. She was born 14 Jan 1596/97 in Newsholme.

8ii. **John Dodgson**. He was born Mar 1599 in Newsholme. He married Elizabeth

Lister. They were married on 22 May 1629 in Gisburn. He died 1678 in Southfield, Nelson, Lancashire.

iii. **Elizabeth Dodgson**. She was born on 13 Apr 1602 in Newsholme.

9. iv. **Robert Dodgson**. He was born May 1605 in Newsholme. He died Sep 1668 in Newsholme.

v. **Christopher Dodgson**. He was born on 31 May 1611 in Newsholme.

vi. **Maria Dodgson**. She was born on 14 Aug 1614 in Newsholme.

5. **Alice Dodgson-3** (John Dodgson-2, Christopher Dodgson-1). She was born Oct 1575 in Newsholme.

Married Christopher Lancaster.

Christopher Lancaster and Alice Dodgson. They were married on 13 Apr 1594 in Gisburn. They had 8 children.

i. **John Lancaster**. He died 1598 in Newsholme. He was born 1598 in Newsholme.

ii. **Alice Lancaster**. She was born 1599 in Newsholme.

iii. **Elizabeth Lancaster**. She was born 1602 in Newsholme.

iv. **Margaret Lancaster**. She was born 1604 in Newsholme.

v. **Anna Lancaster**. She was born 1606 in Newsholme.

vi. **daughter Lancaster**. She was born 1607 in Newsholme.

vii. **Agnes Lancaster**. She was born 1614 in Newsholme. Her death in 1616 (Newsholme).

viii. **Jeneta Lancaster**. She died 1614 in Newsholme. She was born 1614 in Newsholme.

6. **Agnes Dodgson-3** (John Dodgson-2, Christopher Dodgson-1). She was born Mar 1579 in Newsholme. She died 1665.

Married Anthony Baldwin.

Anthony Baldwin and Agnes Dodgson. They were married on 25 Nov 1602 in Gisburn. They had 5 children.

i. **William Baldwin**. He was born 1604 in Newsholme.

ii. **Ann Baldwin**. She was born 1606 in Newsholme.

iii. **James Baldwin**. He was born 1611 in Newsholme. He died 1628.

iv. **Edmund Baldwin**. He was born 1614 in Newsholme.

v. **Anthony Baldwin**. He died 1615 in Newsholme.

8. **John Dodgson-4** (Robert Dodgson-3, John Dodgson-2, Christopher Dodgson-1). He was born Mar 1599 in Newsholme. He died 1678 in Southfield, Nelson, Lancashire.

Married Elizabeth Lister. She was born 1610 in Gisburn. She died on 07 Jun 1650 in Newsholme.

John Dodgson and Elizabeth Lister. They were married on 22 May 1629 in Gisburn. They had 8 children.

i. **John Dodgson**. He was born May 1636 in Newsholme. He died Sep 1641 in Newsholme.

ii. **Robert Dodgson**. He was born Jan 1637/38 in Gisburn. He died 1718 in Wheatley Lane and left the following will

Will of Robert Dodgson of Wheatley 1718

In the name of God Amen the first day of July in the third year of the reign of our sovereign lord George by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland king defender of the faith anno domini 1718 I Robert Dodgson of Wheatley in the parish of Castle in Clitheroe in the county of Lancaster Yeoman being aged and infirm of body yet in very perfect memory praise God and calling to mind my known frailty and the state of this transitory life that

all flesh must yield unto death when it shall please God to call do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker, saviour and redeemer hoping assuredly to receive free pardon and remission of all my sins through the meritorious death and passion of my lone saviour and my frail body in hopes of a joyful resurrection I commit to the earth to be interred in such decent manner and sort as to my executors and loving friends shall be thought neat and fitting and touching my worldly goods which God of His goodness has bestowed on me my willing mind is as followeth:

First I will that all my just debts and my funeral expenses and all other *necessary* charges concerning the probate hereof be well and truly paid by my executor hereafter named out of my personal estate. Also it is my will and mind and I do hereby give and bequeath unto Mary my loving wife the interest of £100 for and during the term of her natural life and also I give to Mary my wife one cow as she will choose and one bed and bedding *for* it which I do lie in. And further it is my will and mind providing that the interest of £100 shall happen to be too little for food, rayments and attendance of Mary my said wife before she depart this life then it is my will that she should take part of the said £100 for her better support and livelihood during her natural life. And after her decease that I do hereby give the said £100 or what as shall remain thereof after her funeral is plentifully made and discharged unto Lawrence my son and heir.

Also I do give unto Elizabeth and Margaret my two daughters, to Elizabeth Robinson the sum of £5 and Margaret Roberts the sum of 5 shillings. Also I do give unto James Robinson my grandson the sum of 5 shillings.

All which said legacies shall be paid by my executors hereafter named within 12 months next after my decease and touching the interest of the said £100 by me given to Mary my said wife it is my will and mind that she will have it paid by my executors hereafter named only six months after my decease by equal portions yearly and every year during her natural life. And further as she shall have need and be in m necessity as aforesaid.

All the rest and residue and goods, cattles, chattles and personal estate whatsoever I do hereby give and bequeath unto Lawrence my said son and heir.

Last I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made and this and only this is to be taken to be my last will and testament and I do hereby nominate and appoint Lawrence Dodgson my said son sole and whole executor of this my last will and testament hoping he will duly and truly perform the same as my trust is in him reposed. And further it is my will and mind and I do hereby appoint Christopher Dodgson of Ellenthorpe my cousin trustee to see to Mary my wife that she have her legacy by me given according as this my will directs and for his trouble and care about it I do hereby give my said trustee the sum of 10 shillings to be paid to him by my said executor in witness whereof I the said Robert Dodgson have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year here above first above written.

Sealed, signed published and declared by the testator hereof to be his last will and testament in the presence of that these words (Elizabeth Robinson the sum of 5 shillings was interlined before the sealing hereof)

John Oxnard and William Dodgson

iii. **female Dodgson**. She was born 1642 in Newsholme. She died Jun 1642 in Newsholme.

iv. **John Dodgson**. He was born Jul 1643 in Newsholme. He died Jul 1694 in Horton.

v. **Anna Dodgson**. She was born Dec 1644 in Newsholme.

vi. **Alice Dodgson**. She was born Jul 1647 in Newsholme.

May have married William Armistead 9/9/1673. He was Yeoman of Giggleswick - see Pavers Marriage Licences.

- vii. **Maria Dodgson**. She was born Feb 1648/49 in Newsholme.
- viii. **unkown Dodgson**. She died Jun 1650 in Newsholme. She was born Jun 1650 in Newsholme.

9. **Robert Dodgson-4** (Robert Dodgson-3, John Dodgson-2, Christopher Dodgson-1). He was born May 1605 in Newsholme. He died Sep 1668 in Newsholme.

Married probably unknown.Smyth She died on 10 Dec 1657 in Newsholme.

Robert Dodgson and probable unknown Smythe. They had 8 children.

- i. **Agnes Dodgson**. She was born Mar 1624. She died Bef. 1668.
- ii. **Alice Dodgson**. She was born Feb 1625/26. She died Jul 1628.
- iii. **Ellin Dodgson**. She was born Apr 1629. She married John Sawley. They were married Bef. 1668. She died May 1705.
- iv. **Elizabeth Dodgson**. She married Christopher Gregson. They were married 28 Feb 1652/53 in Gisburn. She died Oct 1707.
- v. **John Dodgson**. He was born Jan 1631/32.
- vi. **Jane Dodgson**. She married Robert Watson. They were married 12 Feb 1669/70 in Gisburn. She died Aug 1700 in Thornton in Craven.
- vii. **Mary Dodgson**. She was born 1639. She died 1658.
- viii. **Anna Dodgson**. She was born 1646 in Newsholme. She died Bef. 1668.

A TREE OF FAMILY 2 EDMUND

There is insufficient information to create a meaningful tree for Edmund. We know that he married Isabel, we believe he had been married at least once previously. We believe he had the following children

**John who was of legal age at the time of Edmund's will
Henry who wasn't of legal age at that time
Elizabeth who again wasn't of legal age
Thomas again not of legal age, mentioned in Isabel's will.**

In his will, having mentioned John, Henry, and Elizabeth, Edmund then writes of "the rest of my children" and also "every of my young children" There are probably further children.

We know from Isabel's will that Edmund's son John himself had a son Edmund.

TWO RELEVANT INDENTURES

The summary of the following Indenture, part of the Bradfer-Lawrence collection and held by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society at Leeds is particularly interesting in its mention of William Dodgson. I am unclear quite who he might be.

Indenture 20 March 1575 (MD35/1/1/19/2) Gabriel Green conveyed lands to Thomas Lister of Westby Hall including one messuage & tenement in Newsholme in occupation of Edmund Dodgson at 13/8d per annum, one messuage & tenement in Newsholme in occupation of Christopher Dodgson at 13/4d p.a. Mention also of a lease in rewkond by Gabriel Green to William Dodgson of 2 messuages, rented land & tenements now in occ. of Christopher Dodgson & Lawrence Butterfield.

The following summary of this 1631 Indenture, again part of the Bradfer-Lawrence collection held by the YAS at Leeds, is particularly useful in helping to identify the John Dodgson cited. Mention of an earlier case involving Robert and of lands at Horton Hall suggest it is a John from Christopher's family since lands at Horton Hall were part of Robert Windle's legacy to the family. The likely John is the one born 1581 son of John Dodgson and Elizabeth Windle

25 April 1631 Indenture (MD335/1/1/14/3) re dispute between John Wilkinson of Horton Hall & John Dodgson of Newsholme re a way between Newsholme & Horton Hall touching various places including lands of John Dodgson in Horton. The way led between Horton & his lands at Horton Hall. The case had caused trouble for some time & in the past the 'Court of Starr Chamber' had ordered £8 to be paid to Robert Dodgson & Richard ...ocke

Some mentions of John Dodgson of Newsholme in legal documents and in the Registers are more problematic in deciding which John Dodgson is meant. Deciding for example which John is John junior in the Registers becomes an issue as people's position in the family changes over time.

THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THE JOHNS

Both Christopher and Edmund had sons named John. I believe Christopher's son to be slightly the elder of the two but both these Johns were "of Newsholme" and both were alive at the same time. This makes it difficult to be clear to which of these Johns certain documents refer.

The following Indenture from 1591 relating to the transfer of lands between John Dodgson and Thomas Lister of Westby is an example

Be it known unto all men by their expense that I John Dodgson of Newsholme within the county of York Yeoman, for and in consideration of a certain parcel of ground called Skelleron Bank late in the occupation of William Ellis and Thomas Goodrigg their assign or assigns containing by estimation 7 Roods and one half of ground be it more or less Bargain and sold exchanged given granted devised assigned released and set over and by their expense do fully and clearly and absolutely bargain and free exchange give grant devise assign release and set over clearly from me mine heirs heritors administrators and assigns Unto Thomas Lister of Westbie within the said county gentlemen his heirs and assigns forever all that my whole estate tythe interest claim and demand The said John Dodgson my heirs executors administrators or assigns or any of us had have or at any time hereafter shall or may have or claim to have of, in or to one parcel of ground called Dymingdale lying and being at the foot of Cutholme, containing by estimation 67 Roods of ground be it more or less or of, in or to one other parcel of ground lying or being at the south end of yee Paythorne bridge in a certain known place there called Murplo Wood containing by estimation one rood and 1/2 Falls of ground be it more or less as it is now And limited out So that neither the said John Dodgson my heirs executors administrators or assigns or any other person or persons for us and any of us or in the name of us or any of us at any time or times hereafter shall make any tythe claim or demand of in or to the said parcels of ground or any part or parcel thereof but from all manner of account tythe claim and demand be from ??? forever excluded barred and By their expense In Witness whereof I the said John Dodgson have hereto put my seal and handmark the 26th Day of March Anno Regni ?? Elizabeth Regina the 33rd 1591 John Dodgson his mark.

I suspect but cannot be sure that this relates to John son of Christopher.

Similarly it is a problem with this document from 1621 which mentions the late John Dodgson. This is particularly important since it mentions this John's sons Edmund and Robert. We know one of these two Johns had a son Edmund and the other had a son Robert, but there is no record anywhere other than here of one of the Johns having both. The Conveyance refers to John as "the late". Christopher's son John died in 1619, Edmund's son John died shortly before this conveyance. Both could fit. The conveyance perhaps suggests that Edmund may be the older of the two brothers.

Conveyance of Dodgsons Lease 1621

This Indenture made the three & twentieth day of July in the year of the Reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lord King James of England France and Ireland the nineteenth and of Scotland the 10th and fiftieth Between Richard Aske of Arnoldsbigging in the county of York esquire and Jane his wife late wife of Thomas Lister late of Arnoldsbigging aforesaid in the said county of York esquire deceased and also one of the committee of the body and lands of Thomas Lister now an infant son and heir of the said Thomas Lister deceased and Reginald Heber of ? xxx in the said county of York gentleman the other committee of the body and lands of the said Thomas Lister on the one part And Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson sons of John Dodgson late of the Hall of Newsholme in the said county of York on the other

part Witnesseth that the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife and the said Reginald Heber for and in consideration of a certain competent sum of lawful money of England to them or some of them well and truly in hand paid before then sealing and *delivery* hereof whereof they acknowledge the receipt and thereof and of every part thereof do ?

them the said Edmond & Robert Dodgson their executors & assigns and ? of them for ever by these ? have *devised granted* and to *farm letten* and by these ? do for and from them and ? of them their and every their executors and assigns devise grant and to farm let unto them the said Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson their heirs and assigns one messuage or tenement with the appurtenants in Newsholme aforesaid late in the occupation of the said John Dodgson deceased or his assigns and all the edifices barns stables and other buildings thereupon standing and being and all gardens orchards ? crofts lands tenements feedings meadows pastures hereditaments and other the appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or usually *demised* occupied or ? therewith or as part parcel or member thereof or of any part thereof ? deemed ? or taken to be part parcel or member thereof or of any part thereof together with all ? waters ? hedges hedgerows easements and other commodities whatsoever to the said messuage tenement and premises or any part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining To have and to hold all and singular the said messuage tenement lands and premises with all and singular the appurtenance in manner and form following That is to say *two* full parts thereof the said whole premises into three parts only to be divided to the said Edmond Dodgson his executors and assigns and the other third part or residue thereof to the said Robert Dodgson his executors and assigns from the fourth day of November last past before the date hereof unto the full end and term of sixteen years from thence next following and fully to be complete and ended the said Edmond Dodgson and his assigns yielding and paying yearly during the said term to the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife and their assigns for the said two parts of the said messuage lands and premises the yearly rent of six shillings and eleven pence And the said Robert Dodgson and his assigns yielding and paying yearly during the said term to the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife and their assigns for the other third part or residue of the said premises the yearly rent of three shillings and five pence at the feast days of Pentecost and St Martin the ? ? ? winter by even portions And the said Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson for themselves and other of them their executors administrators and assigns and every of them do covenant promise and grant to and with the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife their executors and assigns and every of them by these present that they the said Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson & either of them their and either of their executors and assigns shall and will well and truly satisfy and pay the said several rents above mentioned to be ? for the ? at the ? ? ? ? ? or within ten days next after any the said feast days to the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife or their assigns at their now dwelling house at Arnoldsbigging aforesaid without further delay And shall likewise uphold maintain repair and keep the said messuage and all the barns stables and other buildings thereof and thereupon builded and all the hedges walls ditches and other forms thereof with all necessary and needful ? tenantable during the said term And so well and sufficiently repaired shall yield up and leave the said messuage and premises in the end of the said term to the said Thomas Lister the younger his heirs or assigns And within ten days next after the end and expiration of the said term quietly and peaceably depart and leave the possession and occupation of the said messuage and premises to him the said Thomas Lister his heirs or assigns And the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife for the considerations aforesaid for themselves their executors and administrators and every of them covenanteth and granteth to and with the said Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson their and either of their executors and assigns and every of them by these presents that they the said Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson their executors and assigns and every of them shall and may for and under the yearly rent above mentioned and hereby referred, quietly and peaceably have hold occupy and enjoy all and singular the said messuage tenement lands and premises and every part and parcel thereof during the said term without any the lawful let disturbance or interruption of him the

said Richard Aske or of the said Jane his wife or of any other person or persons lawfully ? by from or under them or either of them in any wise In Witness whereof the parties above said have to both parts of these indentures interchangeably putt their hands and seals the day and year first above written Edmund Dodgson (signed Edmund Dodgsonne) Robt Dodgson (made his mark) Rd Aske

Memorandum that it is provided and by the within named Richard Aske and Jane his wife and Reginald Heber before the sealing and delivery hereof and the said Edmond Dodgson and Robert Dodgson executors and assigns do covenant and agree to and with the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife and Reginald Heber that they the said Edmond Dodgson & Robert Dodgson shall not let sell or pass a way the said messuage tenement or p... or any part thereof or aforesaid without the consent of them the said Richard Aske and Jane his wife and Reginald Heber or some of them first ... and obtained in writing And that they the said Edmond and Robert Dodgson their executors heirs assigns shall yearly pay and do these boons and following one day mowing two days three hens forty eggs one day harrowing when they shall be demanded Sealed and delivered in the presence of Tho Oddie; Christopher Lancaster (his mark); Robt Dodgson (his mark); James Titterington

Which John is this?? Going back to the wills, there is no mention of an Edmund who could fit, in the wills of Christopher's family. That suggests that this Edmund does not descend from Christopher. In terms of the son Robert, however, there are no relevant wills in Edmund's family to cast doubt on his descent from Edmund. I think we must conclude that the John mentioned in this conveyance is the son of Edmund and that this Robert mentioned here is his grandson.

Is this "our" Robert? It may well be. He is certainly alive at the right time, and in the correct place. This would make a line of ascent going upwards through John to Edmund.

Whilst this must be a possibility I suspect that this isn't our Robert. Going back to the Robert Dodgson of Wheatley will, the task that he entrusts to his cousin Christopher is a sensitive and very personal one. It is also something that is obviously important to him. This would strongly suggest to me that Robert and Christopher were close. Robert of Wheatley wouldn't be as closely related to any son of the Robert in this Conveyance, the two families would have diverged some generations back.

It seems much more likely that our Robert fits somewhere into the descendants of Christopher. The Gisburn Registers are very incomplete at this point with who knows how many Dodgson baptisms missing. Given the prevalence of Roberts, particularly in Christopher 's line, it's hard to imagine there weren't further missed Robert baptisms.

The naming patterns themselves may also be significant, with Robert very much the prominent name in Christopher's line as the generations unfold.

If Robert does belong in Christopher's family where does he fit? Ironically whilst the name Robert was to make sorting out later generations so difficult it actually helps us here. There are branches of the family with existing living Roberts where our Robert can't fit.

The only place where Robert can really fit is as the child of the John Dodgson who was born in 1581 the son of John Dodgson and Elizabeth Windle. If this 1581 John was the John Dodgson who was married to Anna probably Swyre as seems quite likely, then the mention of "children" in the will of John Swyre becomes crucial.

This puts the line of ascent as John, John, and Christopher.

Unless and until new resources become available we may never know for sure, but my educated guess is that this John, John, Christopher is the line in which our Robert's family goes back.