

# THE FAMILY OF RICHARD HARDAKER, BADGER OF OTLEY, WHO DIED IN 1596

## J Brian Hardaker & Paul J Hardaker

*(Numbers following a hash mark are the code numbers of individuals  
in the Hardaker One-Name Study database)*

Latest Update – June 2016

We know about Richard #1030 because he left a will:

**WILL 1596 Jun 23 Richard Hardacar of Otley, badger.  
Apr 25 1596. Vol 26 fol. 314**

*Extracted from the records of the Borthwick Institute, York,  
by Mrs Brenda Sharp, 2002 - Main points only; not a full transcript*

My body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Otley.

To Thomas Hardaker my sonne one white mare withall furniture to the said mare belonging and 20s in money and one new bow.

I do make Elizabeth now my wife and Thomas my sonne my full and whole executors, my debts being paid and funeral honestly discharged, and the rest of my goods that remaineth equally between them.

Witnesses: Richard Dunwell the elder, Robert Turner, Robert Leeds, Lawrence Flesher.

It seems that a badger was an itinerant trader in cereals such as wheat, oats and flour, which was why he needed a horse. Moreover as a travelling salesman he would have been carrying cash, hence, in those days, his need for a bow, no doubt with arrows, to defend himself against would-be robbers.

Richard #1030 was buried at Otley All Saints on 27 Apr 1596. There is no information about his origins.

It is clear from the will that his wife's name was Elizabeth #1078 but there is no record of his marriage. We also know he had a son Thomas #1031 who was buried at Otley All Saints on 13 Jun 1634. Thomas married in 1605 (see below), and if we assume that he was in his early-mid 20s, that would put his birth year at around 1580.

We have found no record of the death of Elizabeth, Richard's widow.

## Second Generation

Thomas #1031, son of Richard, married Margaret Bradley #1032 at Otley All Saints on 13 May 1605. They lived at Farnley, just across the River Wharfe from Otley, and appear to have had a large family, all recorded at Otley All Saints. Sadly, few of their children lived very long:

- Katherine #1033 ch. 22 Dec 1605.

- Richard #1034, appears to have been christened and died on 18 Sep 1607.
- Jane #1035 ch. 25 Jul 1609. We think she married Edmund Whitehead #1036 at Otley on 26 Jun 1631.
- Thomas #1037 ch. 23 Jun 1611. He married and raised a family; see below.

*There is a seven year gap between births at this point. It is entirely possible that some birth and/or christening records are missing, perhaps including Mary #1069, noted below.*

- Margaret #1039 ch. 3 May 1618.
- Helen #1040 ch. Jun 1620, bur. 7 Jun 1620.
- Maria #1041 ch. 19 Jun 1622, bur. same day.
- Mary #1069 bur. 4 May 1624. Birth record missing, or perhaps this could be Maria #1041 above.
- John #1043 ch 13 Jan 1624/25, died in 1642, bur. 11 Aug, recorded as brother of Thomas (i.e. we presume Thomas #1037).
- Francis #1044 ch 26 Mar 1627. We assume he was male and went to live in Leeds.

Thomas, the father of the above family, was buried at Otley All Saints on 13 Jun 1634, probably dying from an infection such as the plague, for Margaret, his wife, was buried at Otley All Saints two days later. Their youngest child Francis would have been about seven years old at the time of Thomas and Margaret's death.

### **Third Generation – Thomas and Francis, grandsons of Richard**

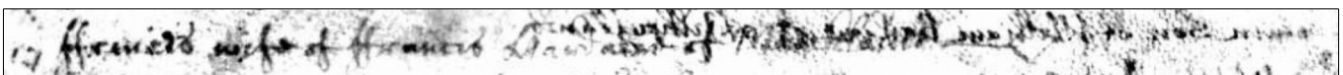
Thomas #1037 born in 1611 married Elizabeth Lyndley #1038 at Otley All Saints on 4 Sep 1634. They appear to have had at least three children:

- Grace #1045 ch Otley All Saints 7 Feb 1635/6. It is just possible that she married Michael Pearson #1079 at Pannal, near Harrogate on 15 Nov 1666, when she would have been about 29. Pannal is about 15 km from Otley where she was born.
- Francis #1046 ch Otley All Saints 13 Mar 1641/2. It is possible that he also moved to Leeds where he married and raised some children.
- William #1047 ch Otley 1 Dec 1644. Nothing more is known about him.

We have been unable to find death or burial records for either Thomas or Elizabeth.

Francis #1044 born in 1627 appears to have married a woman called Frances #1072. We can find no actual record of the marriage but we have a record of her death in 1678, buried at Leeds St Peter on 17 Apr, and recorded as the wife of Francis of March Lane, Leeds.

*From the Leeds St Peter burial register 1677-1678 (April)*



Francis apparently moved from Otley where he was born to “March Laine” (most likely now Marsh Lane) in the centre of Leeds sometime prior to the birth of his first child<sup>i</sup>. Francis and

Frances had a tragic time with their attempts to raise a family. Most of their children died well before reaching their teens.

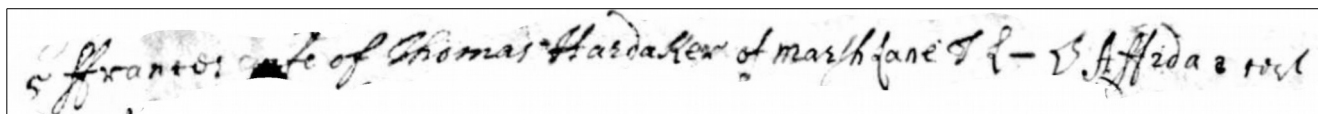
- Unnamed infant #1080 buried at Leeds St Peter on 5 Feb 1647.
- John #1063 born 1648, and ch. Leeds St Peter 14 May 1648, bur. 1 Apr 1657 aged 9.  
*There is a seven year gap between births at this point. Again, it is possible that some birth and/or christening records are missing here.*
- Margaret #1064 born in Leeds, 15 Mar 1655, ch. 25 Mar at Leeds St Peter, died at Marsh Lane Leeds on 20 Jan 1656.
- Thomas #1065 born in Leeds on 9 Jun 1658, ch. 13 Jun at Leeds St Peter. Thomas survived to marry and have four children.
- Unnamed infant #1081 buried at Leeds St Peter on 10 Jul 1658. Presumably the twin of Thomas (above).

As noted above, we have a record of Frances' burial on 17 Apr 1678, but no have death or burial date that appears to match up with this Frances Hardaker.

#### **Fourth Generation – Thomas son of Francis, and Francis son of Thomas**

Thomas #1065 married a Frances #1077. No record of this marriage is to be found but a Frances, wife of Thomas of Marsh Lane was buried at Leeds St Peter on 5, Nov 1693.

*From Leeds St Peter burial register 1693 (November)*



Another wife called Frances seem too much of a coincidence. It could be that this branch of the Hardakers adopted the strange practice of re-naming wives Frances/Francis, regardless of what they were previously named.

Thomas and Frances had the following children:

- Dorathy #1067 born 18 Apr 1682, ch. 23 Apr at Leeds St Peter.
- Mary #1068 born 26 Mar 1684, ch. 6 Apr at Leeds St Peter. She survived and later appears to have had two children: Mary Hardaker #1075, base begotten child (a bastard) presumably fathered by one John Bainbridge, bap Leeds St Peter 4 Apr 1708 and Sarah Hardaker #1076, again fathered outside marriage by John Bainbridge #1074. It would seem that Mary and John were living in sin when these two children were born.
- Ann #1070 born and died in 1685, bur 25 Apr at Leeds St Peter.
- Hannah #1071 born and died in 1688, bur 26 May at Leeds St Peter.

No death or burial record for Thomas has so far been found. As noted above, we do have a record of Frances' burial on 5 Nov 1693.

Next we have the marriage of Francis Hardaker to Dorothy Pattison #1066 on 29 May 1678 at Leeds St Peter. It is difficult to be sure which Francis this is.

The first possibility is that this is Francis #1044 born in 1627. His first wife Frances #1072 appears to have died around early April of 1678 (she was buried at Leeds St Peter on 17 April). If he was still alive, Francis would have been around 51 at the time of his wife's death. It is remotely possible that he remarried almost immediately after Frances' death. Supporting this theory to some degree is that all birth/christening/death records with Francis recorded as the father around this time, both before and after Frances' death, record the individual's address as 'March Laine' suggesting that it may be the one person in all cases. However for this Francis to remarry at such a relative old age, so soon after the death of his first wife and apparently father more children (see below) seems a little unlikely.

The second possibility is that this is Francis #1046 born 1641/42 in Otley (son of Thomas #1037). This Francis would have been about 36 at the time of the marriage to Dorothy. For this theory to be correct, Francis must have moved from Otley to live with, or very close to, his uncle Francis #1044 (if still alive) and first cousin Thomas #1065 at Marsh Lane, Leeds, at around the time of this marriage to Dorothy (or at some time prior). Francis would have been around 16 years older than his cousin Thomas so they are unlikely to have been close childhood friends; however there are a number of quite reasonable explanations for Francis to choose to move to live with (or close to) his uncle and/or cousin, particularly given that many of his immediate family had died or married and presumably moved away by this time.

We need to consider a third option that this is an entirely different, and as yet unidentified Francis Hardaker living in the same immediate area; however the number of Hardakers in Leeds/Otley area was small at this time, so this option seems quite unlikely.

Applying the 'balance of probabilities'<sup>1</sup> approach to these options suggests that option 2 (Francis #1046) is the person who married Dorothy in 1678. The records then suggest that this couple may have had the following children:

- Mary #1073, daughter of Francis of Marsh Lane, bur. 30 Apr 1679. No age given so date of birth unknown. In fact we can not be certain that this Mary is the daughter of Francis #1046. It is possible that she belongs to Francis #1044 and was born during the seven year gap noted above for Francis and Frances, and her birth record is missing. However if she is the daughter of Francis and Dorothy, and was conceived not long after the marriage, then it would appear that she died at or soon after her birth. This seems the more likely explanation, so we have gone with that.
- Unnamed infant #1082, bur 2 Aug 1681 at Leeds St Peter.

We have a burial record for what is most likely this Francis Hardaker on 23 Mar 1692/3 at Leeds St Peter. This would have made him about 51 or 52 at the time of his death. Dorothy appears to have died several years earlier, buried 1 Jan 1686.

## **End of the (male) line?**

Thomas and Frances appear to have produced no male children. Likewise for Francis and Dorothy. William #1047 (son of Thomas and grandson of Richard) is then the only known remaining male descendant of Richard who may have survived to propagate this particular Hardaker family line. At this point we have not determined what happened to William. Perhaps further work will turn up more information.

The full story of the various Francis and Frances Hardakers will most likely remain an unexplained mystery.

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1 <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/balance+of+probabilities>

i A terrible plague raged in Leeds for nine months, during the year 1644-5, by which 1,335 persons died; "probably;" says Dr. Whitaker, "a fifth part of the entire population of the town. It raged most violently in Vicar-lane. It was also very bad in **Marsh-lane**, the Calls, Call-lane, lower Briggate, and Mill-hill. The streets were grass grown, the markets were removed to Woodhouse moor, and divine service was suspended. The air in June, when the greatest number died, was very warm, and so infectious that dogs and cats, mice and rats, died; also several birds in their flight over the town dropped down dead."

*The Annals and History of Leeds, and Other Places in the County of York, 1860*

We do not know exactly when Francis and Frances moved to March Lane in Leeds. It may have been prior to 1644/5, in which case they evidently survived the outbreak. It may also have been not long after the outbreak, and in that case perhaps they were able to make the most of the availability of empty residences in that area.