

# The Hardakers of Ackworth

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I became interested in this branch of the Hardaker family when I discovered that there is a Hardaker Lane in Ackworth. I soon realised that the Hardakers who went to live there in about 1870 must have prospered.

According to Wikipedia:

Ackworth is a village and [civil parish](#) in the [metropolitan borough of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England](#), situated between [Pontefract](#), [Barnsley](#) and [Doncaster](#) on the small [River Went](#). The village consists of four parts, High Ackworth, Low Ackworth, Ackworth Moortop, and Brackenhill.

## **William Hardaker, the Quarry Owner of Ackworth**

It was William Hardaker (1823-1887) who moved from Leeds to Ackworth and set up a stone quarry business at Moor Top. Ackworth stone was apparently of good quality and widely sought after and William evidently prospered.

William was father of a large family and some of his sons followed him into the business.

Drawing on census and BMD information, it is possible to work out William's family with a fairly high degree of confidence. I think he first married Mary HAIGH at Leeds St Peter in 1843. This is confirmed because in 1851 his sister-in-law Harriet HAIGH was present in the household. William was said to be of full age, a cloth dresser, son of John, also a cloth dresser. I discuss William's parentage below.

I believe that William and Mary had four children, all born at Leeds:

- John born 1845, died at Ackworth in 1905. He married Eliza BASTOW at Ackworth in 1877.
- Mary Ann 1850.
- Robert (1859-1922).
- Elizabeth 1861.

The parents of all above children were recorded as of William and Mary, William a cloth dresser. All of them are to be seen later with William in Ackworth.

Then the records show the baptisms of two boys called Arthur but with parents William and Charity, not William and Mary. The first was baptised at Leeds St Saviour on 20 Sept 1864, then the same couple baptised an Arthur at Leeds St Peter on 11 Feb 1866, born 30 Jul 1865. Presumably the first Arthur died, or the parents decided to have him baptised twice. I am reasonably confident that the parents were William son of James, born about 1827 who married Charity PREST at Leeds St Peter in 1850. But curiously, this William was also a cloth dresser, like William above, and, even stranger, in the 1881 Census (but not in the 1871 Census) there is a son Arthur aged 15 (b.c. 1865) living with William at Ackworth. Had William of Ackworth adopted the son of the other William?

In 1861 William later of Ackworth and Mary were at the Woodman Inn in Gower Street, Leeds with the three older children above. (Elisabeth was presumably not yet born.) William had given up his job as a cloth dresser and was now a 'licenced victualler'. However, by 1871

William had moved with his existing family to Ackworth where he was living with a wife Elizabeth. I presume that Mary had died, perhaps giving birth to daughter Elizabeth, and William had remarried. If so, I cannot find the marriage. Nor have I found the record of the death or burial of first wife Mary née Haigh, so it is just possible that the couple had separated and William was living with his new partner 'out of wedlock'.

Whatever the circumstances, William and Elizabeth had the following children at Ackworth:

- Emma, no birth or baptism record found but she was present in the household in 1871, 4 months old, said to have been born at Ackworth.
- William aged 8 in 1881 so born about 1873, bap Ackworth St Cuthbert 5 Apr 1874. He married Lilian Shelton PECK at Ackworth in 1894.
- Isabella, aged 7 in 1881 so born about 1874, baptised along with William on 5 Apr 1874.
- Catherine, born 23 Aug 1877, bap Ackworth St Cuthbert the next day. Died in 1878, buried Ackworth St Cuthbert 27 Aug.
- Ada Elizabeth, born 27 Mar 1878, bap Ackworth St Cuthbert 27 Oct of that year. She married Saville Lawless BEEVERS, a butcher, at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 7 Jul 1878. I have not traced her further.
- Lewis, said to be born 19 Jun 1878, bap the same day at Ackworth St Cuthbert and buried there the following day, presumably a very premature baby.

William, the father of this family, died 16 Nov 1887, said to be 54, and was buried, either at Wakefield or at Ackworth on 18<sup>th</sup>. He left a will nominating his sons John and Robert as executors. Elizabeth his wife died at Moor Top, Ackworth on 5 Nov 1905, said to be 59. She was buried on the 7<sup>th</sup> at Ackworth St Cuthbert.

## **Next Generation**

### **John b. 1845**

He married Eliza BASTOW at Ackworth in 1877. They had two children:

- Lewis (cf Lewis above), born 8 Aug 1878, bap 29 Jun 1879 at Ackworth St Cuthbert. He married Mary Hannah HARDAKER at Ackworth in 1914, described on the marriage record as a 'gentleman'. She was the daughter of Robert, below. So they were first cousins. They were aged 36 and 32, respectively. I have not traced them further except to note that Louis died at Stoneleigh Villas, Bell Lane, Ackworth in 1936 and was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 7 Feb.
- Mary, born 2 Feb 1880, bap 30 Oct at Ackworth St Cuthbert. She died aged 5 months and was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 5 Nov.

Just what happened next is unclear. In 1881 John was recorded in his father's household, as was his son Lewis, but Eliza was not there. In fact, she died in 1883 at Low Ackworth, aged 26, and was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 14 Feb.

John died at Moor Top on 18 Jan 1905, said to be 59. He was buried the next day at Ackworth St Cuthbert.

### **Mary Ann b. 1850**

She married John SWALLOW at Ackworth in 1870. I have not traced her further.

### **Robert b. 1859**

He married Sarah Ann TAYLOR at Ackworth in 1880. They had the following children:

- Mary Hannah, born 5 Mar 1882, bap 24 Sep at Ackworth St Cuthbert. She married her cousin Lewis, a.k.a. Louis, as noted above.
- Annie, born 23 Mar 1883, bap 28 Oct at Ackworth St Cuthbert. She married Joseph WILSON, a quarryman, at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 1 Sep 1911. I have not traced her further.
- William, born 23 Jun 1888, bap 27 Jul 1890 at Ackworth St Cuthbert. He married Mary Emma SMITH at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 22 Jun 1921 when they were both aged 33. I have not traced them further.
- Robert, born 10 Mar 1891, 31 May at Ackworth St Cuthbert
- Nellie, born 22 Sep 1896, bap 26 Sep 1897 at Ackworth St Cuthbert.

Robert died at Bell Lane, Ackworth in 1922 said to be 63 and was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 12 Apr. His wife Sarah Ann outlived him for several years, dying at the same address in 1938, said to be 79. She was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 20 Apr.

### **William b. c. 1873**

He married Lilian Shelton PECK at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 14 May 1894. He was 21 and she 20. I have traced only two children for this couple:

- Beatrice, born 3 Apr 1897, bap 10 May at Ackworth St Cuthbert. She died at Water Troughs, Ackworth on 13 Aug 1897 aged 4 months and was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Bernard, HARDAKER, born 9 Aug 1898, bap 5 Oct at Ackworth St Cuthbert, died at Water Troughs, Ackworth on 8 Oct that year aged 1 month, bur Ackworth St Cuthbert on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Lily, I presume the wife and mother of this family, died at Hardaker Lane, Ackworth in 1929, said to be aged 51. She was buried at Ackworth St Cuthbert on 26 Oct. I have not traced the death of her husband William.

### **Ancestry of William the Quarry Owner**

We know from the record of his marriage to Mary HAIGH that William was the son of John, a cloth dresser, which was William's original occupation. It is nearly certain, therefore, that he was born on 6 Jan 1823 at Bank, Leeds, and baptised at Leeds St Peter on the 26<sup>th</sup> of that month, son of John and Elizabeth. I think Elizabeth was probably Elizabeth ROBINSON who married John, a cloth dresser of Leeds Parish at Leeds St Peter on 10 Nov 1822. However, by 1841, John was at Lincoln Hill Fields with son William and a wife called Hannah. It seems that Elizabeth had died and he had remarried. Again, I can be quite confident that he married Hannah SOWREY at Leeds St Peter on 7 Sep 1840, he a widower of full age, a cloth dresser of Wortley, son of another John, a clothier. She was a said to be spinster of full age, also of Wortley, daughter of Benjamin, a clothier.

The children of John by his first wife Elizabeth appear to have been:

- William b. 1823, who became the quarry owner at Ackworth
- Elizabeth b c 1825 who is only known from the 1841 Census
- John born 12 Jun 1829, son of John and Elizabeth of Bank, bap 11 Apr 1830 at Leeds St Peter, father a cloth dresser. He was married by 1851, living in the home of his father with wife Elizabeth and three children, Joseph 8, Louis [NB] 2 and Emily 4 months. It is possible that his wife was Elizabeth LANCASTER whose marriage was registered at Kirkstall in 1842. I have not been able to trace this family further.

- Mary b 25 Jun 1831, daughter of John and Elizabeth of Ainsley St., Leeds, bap 24 Jun 1831 Leeds St Peter, father a cloth dresser.
- Sarah Sowrey b c 1832
- Sarah Ann b c 1834.

I could not find baptismal records of the two Sarahs, who, perhaps somewhat unconvincingly, were recorded as John's daughters.

In 1851 John, the father of William was said to be 50, born Yeadon, and so born about 1801, known to be son of John from the record of his second marriage. The only candidate for his birth that I can find is John born 4 Apr 1798, bap 22 Apr at Guiseley St Oswald, son of John of Yeadon. I think this John had married Elizabeth DUNHILL at Guiseley St Oswald on 30 Mar 1797, by banns, both of Guiseley parish. I have not yet fitted this John into the Hardaker tree. There were just too many Johns.

The children I can reasonably allocate to this John are:

- John born 4 Apr 1798 at Yeadon, bap 22 Apr at Guiseley St Oswald
- Mary, born 2 Jul 1799 at Yeadon, bap 21 Jul at Guiseley St Oswald
- James born 3 Dec 1800 at Yeadon, bap 28 Dec at Guiseley St Oswald.

I think it is somewhat likely that the mother of these children was Elizabeth DUNHILL who married John of Guiseley Parish at Guiseley St Oswald on 29 Mar 1797, both of Guiseley Parish.

I think Elizabeth died at Yeadon in Sep 1801 (exact date missing) and was buried at Guiseley St Oswald, wife of John of Yeadon.

If John was in his early 20s when he married Elizabeth, the most likely candidate is John #290 the son of John #237 and Hannah nee BATES #288, bap Guiseley St Oswald on 20 May 1774, meaning he would have been about 23 when he married Elizabeth. I have got this man in my tree marrying Hannah CLAYTON #1096 on 19 Apr 1807, which is quite possible as a second marriage after first wife Elizabeth died in 1801. If that is correct, John and Hannah had at least two children together:

- Robert #1087 born 2 Nov 1807, bap 24 Jan 1808 at Guiseley St Oswald
- Mary #1088 born 17 Jan 1810, bap 11 Feb at Guiseley St Oswald.

For what it's worth, note that these two forenames are recycled in subsequent generations.