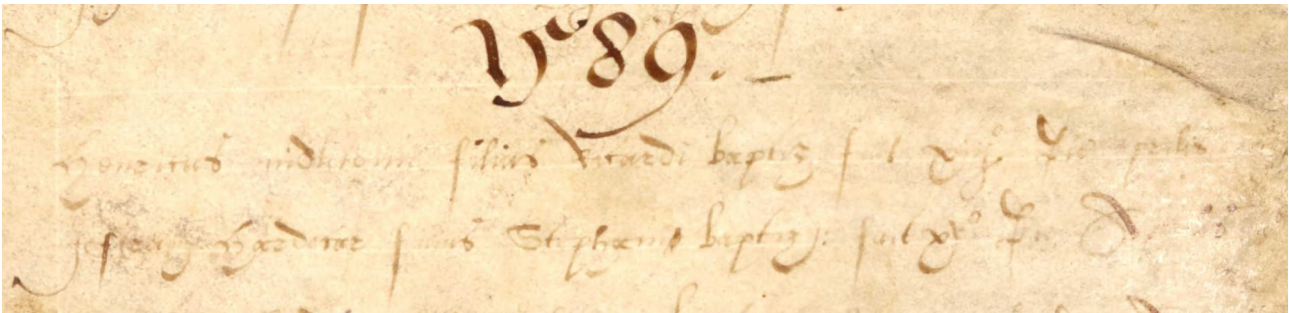


## The Early Hardacres of Long Preston

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*Reference numbers prefaced with “#” and highlighted in blue refer to individuals in the Hardaker One-name Study database on the HardakerFamily.id.au web site*

I have spent many hours researching the Hardacres who lived in the area of Long Preston North Yourshire and who recorded their births/baptisms, marriages and deaths/burials (BMDs) at St Marys church on the outskirts of Long Preston. The Hardacres appear in the earliest surviving church records in the latter part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and I have information that indicates that they were living in the Long Preston area well before then<sup>1</sup>. My research has identified a number of different Hardacre families living at Long Preston, Bendgate, Halton West and Hellifield in the late 1500s and early 1600s. It is almost certain that these families were related, but I have so far made relatively little progress working out those connections. Much of the problem relates to the early BMD records. There are no records prior to 1589 and there are gaps, some small and some large, in the records from that date. And for the records that have survived, many are difficult to read through a combination of damage, fading of the ink, the early handwriting, and the use of dog latin in many of the records. Below is an example of this problem.



The second entry for 1589 is a Hardacre baptism. The name hardacre is reasonably clear, but the christian name of the child is very hard to read. I have settled on Jeffery, but it may very well be a Latinised version of some other name. The word filius tells us that it was a boy (filia for a girl) The name of the father is something like Stephenni, so presumably Stephen.

A further problem with the early BMD records is that many contain very little information. For example burials up until 1600 recorded the name of the deceased only, meaning that we do not know whether the person was a child or an adult and we do not know where they lived.

The combination of missing records, records that are difficult to read, and records that contain minimal useful information makes it very difficult to develop a complete and accurate picture of the various Hardacre families living at or near Long Preston around this time.

Despite these difficulties I felt that it was important to record these people who lived and died around 400 years ago. These people were, for the most part, unremarkable. Very few of them are remembered in the history books. Most of them would have been extremely poor and just surviving would have been a daily struggle. Sadly, many of their children died very young. Most of them lived their lives in the same place and will have known very little about the world beyond their own individual experience. But they are our ancestors, and I will do what I can to remember them in this paper and on the Hardaker family web site.

There is a gap of about 13 years in the parish church baptism records from March 1608 to August 1621, and the 12 months prior to that (April 1607 to March 1608) are almost all illegible. Also there are no Bishop's Transcripts<sup>2</sup> for Long Preston baptisms prior to 1630.

1 Will of Adam Hardacre of Long Preston, 1552.

2 Bishop's transcripts were abbreviated copies of the parish records sent to the Diocesan bishop several times a year. FindMyPast.com.au has catalogued many of them.

As already noted, the very early burial records are largely useless because most recorded the name of the deceased person only.

Because of these factors I have divided the known early Hardacres of Long Preston into two groups. Those recorded between 1589 and 1605, and then those from 1622 to 1640.

Below are my best efforts to catalogue the Hardacre families living in and around Long Preston based on baptisms, burials and marriages from these two time periods.

Names, places and events in *green italics* are uncertain because the register entry is damaged, faded or otherwise difficult to read.

## **The Years 1589 to 1605**

### Stephen #4165

Unknown parents

- Son *Jeffery* #4167, baptised 15 Apr 1589
- Son Richard #4168, baptised 13 Jun 1589
- Son Roger #4168, baptised Nov 1591
- Daughter Anne #4170, baptised 13 May 1594
- Daughter Alice #4171, baptised 21 Dec 1598

If all of the above baptisms are in fact children of a Stephen Hardacre, it is very likely that there was more than one Stephen involved because sons *Jeffery* and Richard were baptised just two months apart. It is possible that *Jeffery* was born at least seven months before his baptism, but such a gap between birth and baptism was quite unusual around this time. Since I have no way of determining which children belong to which Stephen, I have catalogued all of the baptisms against the same single individual in the database.

A Stephen Hardacre, possibly of Bendgate, and presumed to be an adult, was buried at Long Preston church on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1613.

I have been unable to find any other information about this group of people. I do not know the names of the wives of the Stephens, and I have been unable to find a burial or marriage for any of the five children listed above. None of the three male children are good candidates for later generations of Long Preston Hardacre families for which I have records.

Roger, baptised in late 1591, is a possible candidate for the Roger Hardaker #4 who lived at Rawden in West Yorkshire during the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (he died in 1667) and who is my direct ancestor. I am not particularly confident that this is correct for two reasons. First, 1591 seems a bit early - the Rawdon Roger's first known marriage was in 1631, which would make him 40 at that time. Certainly possible, but unusual for the time. Second, the name Stephen does not appear in the two generations after Roger of Rawdon which is very odd if his father was in fact named Stephen. Even so, this 1591 baptism is the only known Roger Hardacre/Hardaker baptism within the time period 1590 to 1610, this being the year range that Roger of Rawdon was probably born, so this Roger remains a person of interest.

### Richard #4154

Unknown parents

- Stephen #4180, baptised May 1589
- Margaret #4181, baptised 21 Nov 1589
- Stephen #4183, baptised 4 May 1592
- Married Margaret Kendall #4184, 24 May 1593
- Robert #4185, baptised 26 Feb 1593/1594
- Alice #4186, baptised Feb 1596/1597

Like Stephen above, we have baptisms in the list above that suggest that there was more than one Richard Hardacre involved. Son Stephen and daughter Margaret were baptised seven months apart. And we have two sons named Stephen baptised in 1589 and then in 1592. It is certainly possible that the first Stephen was born a couple of months before his baptism, and that he died before the birth of the second son named Stephen, but I think it rather more likely that there were two (or more) fathers named Richard baptising children. Again, I have catalogued all of the baptisms against the same single individual in the database because I have no way of working out which children belong to which Richard. I have guessed that children Robert and Alice belong to Richard and Margaret née Kendall, but if there were other Richards baptising children in the late 1500s at Long Preston this may not be correct.

I think Margaret #4181 married *Richard* Kendall #4230 in February 1612/1613. Like almost everything from around this time frame there is some doubt about this. There was another Margaret Hardacre (#4162), daughter of Thomas, baptised at Long Preston in the same year as Margaret above. I do not have a burial for either of the two Margarets, so it is entirely possible that either of them married *Richard*. I have opted for Margaret daughter of Richard (above) because Margaret's father quite possibly was the Richard Hardacre who married Margaret Kendall (possibly closely related to Richard) in 1593.

I have up to the time of writing been unable to find any records that indicate what might have happened to any of the other children of Richard (or Richards).

Thomas #4038, buried 22 Feb 1622/1623, of Hellifield

Unknown parents

- Margaret #4162, baptised 1 Dec 1589
- William #4163, baptised 26 Jan 1593/1594
- *Martin* #4062, baptised Nov 1600
- Michael #4157, born 30 May 1605

I am reasonably confident that this family lived at Hellifield just to the south-east of Long Preston. I have a burial that is quite probably Thomas, in Feb 1622/1623, and he was recorded as "of Hellifield". None of the four known baptisms (above) record the place name, but I have a burial in September 1664 that is probably *Martin* born 1600 and he was living at Hellifield at the time of his death.

The only record relating to this family that I can find other than the burials of Thomas and Martin is the burial of an illegitimate son of Martin's named John, the mother was named Butterfield (first name not legible), on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1635. Martin was recorded as living at Hellifield at the time.

As noted above, Margaret #4162 is the other known good candidate for the marriage to *Richard* Kendall #4230 in February 1612/1613. However as also noted above, I have preferred Margaret 4181, daughter of Richard, for this marriage for the reason already given.

I have been unable to find a marriage record for Thomas, and the mother's name is not recorded on any of the four baptisms, so we do not know his wife's name. There are a couple of possible candidates in the burial records for Long Preston however. Dorathea Hardacre (presumably Dorothy), widow of Hellifield, was buried in 1635, and Jennet Hardacre (Janet), also a widow a Hellifield, was buried May 1642. At this point in time I have no evidence to prefer either of them as Thomas' wife, and obviously she could have been someone else entirely.

In addition to the four known baptisms listed above for Thomas, I have assigned Richard #4174 (detailed later on) as a possible son of Thomas'. I do not have a baptism for Richard, but he married a women named Janet *Elton* (surname is very hard to read) in April 1619, so born about 1598 if he married in his early 20s, and evidently lived at Hellifield. I have records of one baptism and four burials associated with this Richard, including his wife Janet in 1635 and Richard himself in 1663, and in all cases Richard was recorded as "of Hellifield". One of the burials was for a son named Thomas, I am guessing named after his father.

Henry #4188, buried 10 Aug 1635, of Long Preston

Unknown parents

- Married Margaret Hammerson [#4189](#), 19 Mar 1590/1591
- Married Janet Clarke [#4190](#), Sep 1591
- Richard [#4191](#), baptised 4 Apr 1593
- Elizabeth [#4192](#), baptised 21 Sep 1597
- Michael [#4213](#), baptised 22 Apr 1600

I think Henry and his family may have lived in Long Preston. This is based solely on a possible burial record for a Henry Hardacre in 1635 where the deceased was recorded as of Long Preston. The two marriages just a few months apart rather suggests that there were two different Henrys involved, but it is possible that the first wife died just weeks after the wedding and that Henry quickly remarried. My efforts to find a burial record for Margaret in 1591 have been unsuccessful, but many burial records are missing from around this time, so I do not think this rules out the possibility that the same Henry married both women. I have to date been unable to find marriage or burial records for any of the three children listed above.

Adam [#4194](#), perhaps buried 7 Mar 1633/1634, of Long Preston

Unknown parents

- Married Elizabeth *Grave* [#4214](#), 22 Nov 1591
- William [#4149](#), baptised 11 Dec 1592
- Richard [#4215](#), baptised 28 Mar 1594
- Anthony [#4216](#), baptised 23 Nov 1598

I think Adam's family may have lived at Long Preston based on burial records for an Adam (1633/34) and an Elizabeth (1638, recorded as a widow, husband's name not recorded) both of Long Preston.

A Jannetta (Janet) Hardacre, wife of Adam, was buried in 1613 (no day or month recorded). If the Elizabeth Hardacre buried in 1638 was in fact Adam's widow, then Janet must be the wife of a different Adam who was most likely still alive in 1613. Alternately, if Elizabeth was the widow of a different man and Adam's wife died before 1613, he could have remarried. Unfortunately I do not have any other relevant data to help determine what actually occurred here.

In addition to sons Richard and Anthony I have assigned Adam [#4197](#) "the younger" who was probably born around 1596 to these parents (no baptism found). This Adam married Anna Carr [#4212](#) in 1618 at Giggleswick and baptised (and buried) a daughter named Jane in 1623 while living at Long Preston.

The burial of Adam Hardacre in 1633/34 could be Adam senior or Adam junior. I have opted for Adam senior because Elizabeth, who might have been Adam's wife, was recorded as a widow and the 1633/34 burial does not name Adam as "the younger" or "junior". Neither of these reasons are definitive.

I have not found marriage or burial records for Richard and Anthony.

John [#4195](#)

Unknown parents

- *Francis* (daughter) [#4218](#), baptised 16 Apr 1589

The only evidence that I have found relating to this John Hardacre is the baptism of a daughter, who may have been named *Francis*, in April of 1589.

Michael [#4172](#)

Unknown parents

- Jane [#4182](#), baptised 13 Nov 1591
- Margaret [#4169](#), baptised 11 Jul 1593
- Elizabeth [#4222](#), baptised 9 Dec 1599, buried 28 May 1601
- wife (name not recorded) of Michael Hardacre, of *Bendgate*, buried 1613 (no day or month recorded)

Michael baptised three daughters between 1591 and 1599 that I can find record of, and buried his wife (name unrecorded) in 1613, and that is just about everything that I know about this family based on available records. I have a suspicion that Michael may have been closely related to Thomas #4038 (above) and/or to Henry #4188 (above), this based on both Thomas and Henry naming a child Michael, but I have no hard evidence to support this suspicion.

#### Margaret #4196

Unknown parents

- Jane #4219, baptised 13 May 1594

This baptism of Jane in 1594 is the only record I have found relating to Margaret. I have guessed that she would have been in her late teens or early 20s when Jane was born, which would mean that she would have been born around 1575. If this is right, she becomes a possible candidate for the Margaret Hardacre who married Thomas Iveson in February 1697/1698 at Long Preston.

#### Ambrose #4198, buried 10 Jun 1623, of Bendgate

Unknown parents

- Married Johanna Cockson #4220, 20 Jul 1605

I have a likely burial for this Ambrose in 1623 – he was recorded as “of Bendgate”. I have not been able to find any baptisms that I can attribute to Ambrose and Johanna, but I know of a Michael Hardacre #3964 who might belong to these parents. I do not have a baptism for Michael, but I know that he married Margaret Armistead #4035 in 1635 and raised a large family at Bendgate. Michael and Margaret named one of their sons Ambrose (buried in 1668). My confidence level that I have this assignment right is quite low for reasons that I explain later.

### **The Years 1622 to 1640**

#### Henry #4158 of Bendgate, buried 20 Mar 1622/1623

Unknown parents, but could be a son of Michael Hardacre #4172 (above) who I think lived at Bendgate.

- Wife Isabel #4159, buried 4 Mar 1622/1623
- Son Thomas #4160, buried 12 Mar 1622/1623
- Daughter Mary #4161, buried 1 Apr 1623
- Son Michael #4162, buried 10 Apr 1623

Readers may notice that both parents and all three of the known children were buried over a period of about three weeks in 1622/23. All were recorded as “of Bendgate”. Clearly something terrible happened to this family, but I have found no clues as to what that might have been. My guess is that they were victims of a serious disease, possibly smallpox, cholera or even bubonic plague.

I have not been able to find a record of the marriage between Henry and Isabel, so I do not know her maiden name.

It is clear that Thomas, Mary and Michael were all children when they died in 1622/23 (recorded as son or daughter), so I have guessed that Henry and Isabell married between 1605 and 1615. If Henry was in his early 20s when he married Isabel, that suggests a birth year of around 1590 (plus or minus about 5 years).

I have so far been unable to find any baptisms for the children of Henry and Isabel, so I do not know whether any members of the family survived the tragic events in 1622/23.

#### William #4149 of Long Preston

Son of Adam Hardacre #4194 and Elizabeth née Grave #4214 of Long Preston, born 1592 (see above)

- Married Jenette (Janet) Wright #4240 of *Fulton*, Jun/Jul 1612
- wife Jenette of *Long Preston* buried Sep 1613
- Alice #4151, baptised 3 Feb 1622/1623
- Margaret #4152, baptised May 1626, *buried May/Jun 1628*



William #4077 of Halton, buried 22 Oct 1672, a Smith (Blacksmith)

Unknown parents

- Ann #4079, baptised Sep 1626
- Elizabeth #4080, baptised 11 Apr 1631
- Henry #4083, buried 8 Apr 1634
- Alice #4082, baptised 15 May 1634
- Isabell #4085, buried Jul 1635
- Alice #4081, baptised 1 Nov 1638

I am fairly confident that there were at least two William Hardacres baptising children at Long Preston church between about 1623 and 1638 (as shown above). One appears to have lived at Long Preston, and the other at Halton West which is a small village about 2 kms to the south-west of Hellifield. Other than the differing place names on most of the baptism records, the baptisms of Margaret #4152 and Ann #4079 are only four months apart.

William of Long Preston married Jenette (most like Janet) Wright of *Fulton* in 1612 and I think buried her just over a year later. If this is right, this William must have remarried prior to the baptism of Alice in February 1622/23. I have to date been unable to find any record of this second wife (marriage or burial).

I have also been unable to find any record of the wife of William of Halton, but I am guessing that he married around 1625 because I can find no baptisms for this William between the years 1622 and 1625 (years for which the Long Preston baptism records exist).

The assignment of daughter Isabell #4085 to William of Halton is a best guess. The place name on the original parish register is completely illegible. The burial can be found in the Bishop's Transcripts for Long Preston under the name Isabell Hardiker with the father recorded as William of Hellifield. I have found no other record of a William of Hellifield around this time frame so I have opted for William of Halton as the likely father because William of Long Preston appears to have stopped baptising children in 1626, but we have a baptism for Alice, daughter of William of Halton, in 1638.

William Hardacre of Halton West, a smith, was buried at Long Preston church in October 1672. I have guessed that William was born around 1600-1605 (this based on a marriage in 1626). which if right would mean that he would have been around 65-70 when he died.

A William Hardacre of Long Preston, aged 88, was buried at Long Preston church in 1673. That implies a birth year of 1585. It is possible that this is William #4149, in which case he is not the son of Adam and Elizabeth as I have indicated above. I still prefer the 1592 baptism because that would make him about 20 when he married Janet in 1612.

He named a son Henry (buried in 1634, no baptism found), so it is possible that his father was a Henry, and if so, that could have been Henry #4188 (above), but I have no real evidence to support this idea.

Richard #4174 of Hellifield, buried 19 Jul 1663

Father assumed to be Thomas #4038 of Hellifield, unknown mother.

- Richard of Hellifield married Geneta *Elton* (probably Janet) #4175 16 Apr 1619
- Daughter *Margaret* #4176, baptised Mar 1622/1623
- Son Thomas #4177, buried 9 Mar 1623/1624
- Son *Henry* #4054, baptised 11 Sep 1625
- Janet #4175, wife of Richard of Hellifield, buried 26 Jul 1637
- Son Richard #4179, buried 12 Apr 1639

This Richard lived at Hellifield, and while I have not been able to find a baptism for him, I think he was probably the son of Thomas #4038 (above), also of Hellifield. And probably born around 1598.

Richard married a woman recorded as Geneta (probably Janet) in 1619. The couple may have baptised children over the next couple of years, but if so, those records are missing. They baptised a daughter possibly named *Margaret* in late 1622/23, buried a son named Thomas 12 months later and baptised a son possibly named *Henry* in September 1625. If this son was in fact named Henry, then he is a candidate for the Henry Hardacre who evidently married a woman named Alice and who raised a family at Hellifield during the middle part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. See the Appendix for a more detailed examination of this Henry Hardacre.

Richard's wife Janet was buried in July 1637, and a son named Richard for whom I do not have a baptism was buried in April 1639. Richard (senior) seems to have lived until 1663 and if I have his birth year about right he would have been in his mid 60s when he died.

Adam (the younger) #4197 of Long Preston

Assumed to be the son of Adam Hardacre #4194 and Elizabeth née *Grave* #4214 Hardacre of Long Preston.

- Married Anna Carr #4212 at Giggleswick on 16 May 1618
- Jane #4221, baptised 27 May 1623, buried 19 Aug 1623

Recorded as Adam the Younger of Long Preston on the baptism record of daughter Jane. Based on this I have guessed that he was the son of Adam #4194 (above), and also guessed that he was born about 1596.

The absence of any baptisms after Jane in 1623 suggests that one (or both) of the parents may have died, or the family may have moved away from Long Preston.

George #4202 of Long Preston, buried 4 Jun 1632

Unknown parents

- Married Margaret Kendall #4209, 19 Dec 1621
- Son *William* #4210, baptised 1 Oct 1623, buried 10 Dec 1623
- Daughter Ann #4211, baptised 24 Mar 1624/1625

George Hardacre and Margaret Kendall were both living at Long Preston when they married in 1621. The family disappear from the records after the baptism of daughter Ann in late 1624/25.

The appearance of the surname Kendall hints at a possible close family link to Richard #4154 who married another Margaret Kendall in 1593. I have guessed that George was born around 1605, and if this is right, he certainly could be the son of Richard and Margaret, but I have no evidence to support this.

John #4201 of Long Preston

Unknown parents

- Son William #4225, baptised 28 May 1623
- Daughter Elizabeth #4226, baptised 18 Jan 1625/1626
- wife Alice #4224, buried 14 Sep 1632

Other than the baptisms of children William and Elizabeth, and the burial of wife Alice, I can find no information about John.

Henry #4060 of Long Preston and later of Hellifield

Unknown parents, but could have been a son of Henry Hardacre #4188 of Long Preston (above).

- Son Henry #4311, baptised 11 Apr 1624, buried 6 Mar 1635/1636
- Daughter Elizabeth #4232, buried 25 Nov 1656
- Elizabeth #4061, wife of Henry of Hellifield, buried 20 May 1670

Henry Hardacre of Long Preston baptised a son named Henry in April of 1624 and buried him in March of 1635/1636.

Henry and Elizabeth Hardacre of Hellifield buried a daughter named Elizabeth in 1656.

Henry and Alice Hardacre of Hellifield baptised five children at Long Preston church between 1658 and 1667. I think this is a different Henry almost certainly born quite a few years after Henry #4060,

Alice Hardacre, wife of Henry of Hellifield, was buried in April of 1670 and Elizabeth Hardacre, wife of Henry of Hellifield, was buried just one month later. From this we can conclude the Elizabeth was the wife of the older Henry.

A Henry Hardacre of Hellifield was buried in June of 1681 and then another Henry of Hellifield was buried in November of 1684. It seems fairly clear that these are the two adult Henrys, but there is no way of working out which is which. I think that there is a slightly greater chance that the older one died first, so I have recorded them that way.

Reviewing what we have so far, we have a baptism and burial of a son for a Henry of Long Preston, and then 20 years later the burial of a daughter for a Henry of Hellifield. This could be two different Henrys, or it could be the same man who moved from Long Preston to Hellifield after the death of son Henry. I have been unable to find any baptism or burial records that indicate that any family members of a Henry Hardacre were living at Long Preston in the 100 years after 1636 (the burial of son Henry). For this reason, I have assumed that Henry of Long Preston moved his family to Hellifield around 1640.

I have to date been unable to find the marriage record for Henry and Elizabeth. If Elizabeth was the mother of Henry born in 1624 (mother's name not recorded on the baptism or burial unfortunately), then their marriage may well have been not long before then.

I have guessed that Henry was born around 1600, and if so, he could be the son of Henry #4188 (above), but I have no evidence to support this.

Michael #4157 of Hellifield

The son of Thomas Hardacre #4038 of Hellifield

- Henry #4019, baptised 29 Jul 1632, buried 24 Oct 1632

The baptism of son Henry is the only record that I have been able to find relating to this Michael Hardacre (other than his own baptism).

Michael #3964 of Bendgate, buried 25 Mar 1679

Unknown parents, but could be the son of Ambrose Hardacre #4198 and Johanna née Cockson #4220 of Bendgate.

- Married Margaret Armistead #4035, 25 May 1635 at Long Preston St Marys
- Henry #4155, baptised 20 Mar 1635/1636, buried 16 May 1642
- Janet #4042, baptised 2 June 1639
- Ann #4043, baptised 18 Apr 1640
- Robert #4231, buried 18 Dec 1656
- William #4036, baptised 18 Nov 1658
- Margaret #4037, baptised 12 Apr 1662
- Ambrose #4068, buried 3 Dec 1668

I do not have a baptism for this Michael, but as noted above I have guessed that he was the son of Ambrose #4198 and Johanna née Cockson #4220 (of Bendgate), and probably born around 1615. I am not particularly confident in this assignment because Michael and Margaret named their first son Henry and the couple did not name any of their three daughters (that I know of) after Ambrose's wife Johanna.

It is also possible that Michael #4157 of Hellifield and Michael #3964 of Bendgate are the same person. This obviously would mean that Michael moved from Hellifield to Bendgate between 1632 and 1635 (certainly possible). It would also mean that Michael would most likely have buried a wife during the same three year time period, and I have as yet found no such record.



In addition to the children for which I have baptism and/or burial records listed above, I have assigned two additional children to Michael and Margaret. These are:

- Henry #4020 who was probably born around 1650. I think he married three times and lived most of his life at Bendgate. He appears to have named his second daughter Margaret after his mother, and named his first son Michael after his father.
- Elizabeth #4040 who was probably born around 1655. She married John Settle #4041 in 1678 and was recorded as “Elizabeth Hardacre daughter of Michael of Bendgate” on the marriage record.

\*\* End \*\*

## Appendix: Henry Hardacre #4054 of Hellifield (circa 1630 to circa 1684)

We know that there was a Henry Hardacre married to a women named Alice living at Hellifield during the middle part of the 17th century from the baptisms of their children. In all cases they were recorded as Henry and Alice Hardacre of Hellifield. Working out where Henry came from and who his parents are has proven to be quite complex.

Henry and Alice baptised five children that we know of between 1658 and 1667. The first of these, Janet, was baptised just after the 30 year gap in the Long Preston parish baptism records (1629 to 1656), so it is quite possible that Henry and Alice baptised children before Janet but the records have been lost. I have not been able to locate a marriage record for Henry and Alice so they could have married not long before the birth of Janet, or they could have married quite a few years earlier (10 or even more). If we guess that Henry was in his early 20's when he married, he could have been born between about 1620 and 1635.

There were two Henry Hardacres living at Hellifield between around 1640 and 1680. Henry #4060, married to Elizabeth, who I have gussed was born around 1600 and Henry #4054, married to Alice.

Now I return to the question of who were the parents of the younger of the two Henrys?

An obvious possibility to consider is that the younger Henry of Hellifield could be the son of the older Henry of Hellifield. Certainly the age difference seems to be about right. I am reasonably certain that the older Henry baptised a son named Henry in 1624 while living at Long Preston. This child was buried in March 1635/36. This is only 22 years before the baptism of Janet in 1658, which is barely enough time for Henry and Elizabeth to have another son that they name Henry (and for whom we have no baptism), for him to grow up and marry Alice, and for daughter Janet to be born and then baptised. If the Long Preston Henry who baptised his son in 1624 was a different person to the older Henry of Hellifield, then the possibility of Henry and Elizabeth having had a son named Henry between about 1625 and 1630 is greater, but again, we are lacking any records that support this theory.

This is all a bit complicated, but my conclusion here is that while it is possible that the younger Henry of Hellifield is the son of the older one, the only concrete evidence we have to support this is that both of them lived at Hellifield, and both were named Henry. Also, the data we do have tends to support the theory that Henry of Long Preston is the older of the two Hellifield Henrys, and in that case, the timing for the birth of a second son named Henry is somewhat problematic, although not impossible. Given all of this, I think we need to consider other possibilities.

Henry and Alice can be found in the published family trees of a number of other researchers on Ancestry and Geneanet. Most of these have Henry recorded as the son of William Hardacre and Janet née Wright born in 1632 at Hellifield and have him marrying an Alice Hardacre (same surname as Henry) in 1657. All of this is entirely plausible, but unfortunately I have been unable to independently verify any of this information from the available baptism and marriage records and none of the Ancestry trees that I have checked provide original source citations for either event. The original Long Preston parish baptism records for 1632 are missing, but the Bishop's Transcript copy for that year is available<sup>3</sup>, appears largely complete, and is in generally good condition. The only Hardacre baptism in those records for that year is Henry, son of Michael Hardacre of Hellifield baptised on the 29<sup>th</sup> July. Perhaps this records has been incorrectly interpreted as Henry son of William of Hellifield at some point? Regardless, this Henry died only three months after his birth and was buried on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1632 ("Henry Hardacre son of Michael of Hellifield"), which rules him out as a candidate for the Henry who married Alice. I have found the marriage record for William Hardacre (of Long Preston) and Janet Wright (or Fulton) in 1612. The burial of a Janet, wife of William Hardacre of Long Preston in 1613 seems to indicate that Janet did not survive to give birth to a son in 1632. William appears to have remarried, although I have not found a record to confirm this, and baptised two daughters in 1622 and 1626, both while living at Long Preston (not Hellifield). This then allows for the possible birth of a son to be named Henry in 1632, but probably to the unknown second wife rather than Janet.

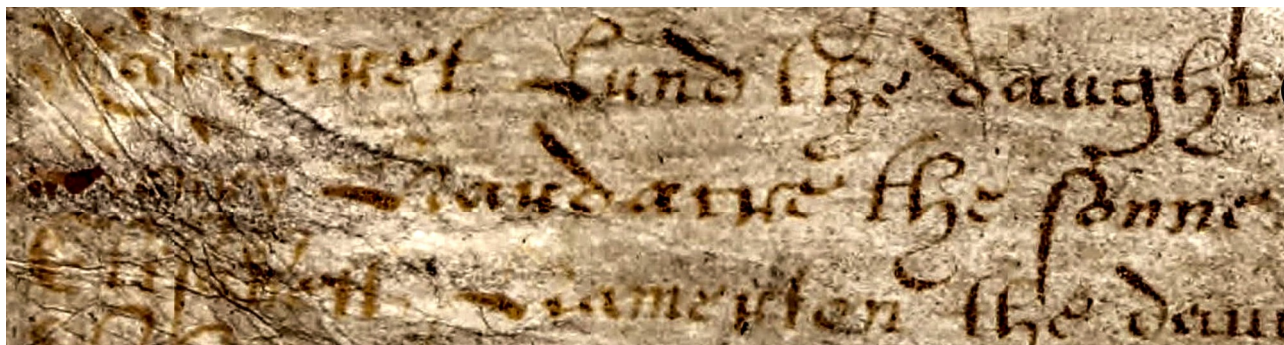
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<sup>3</sup> Available from Find My Past (<https://findmypast.com.au>).

The original parish marriage records for 1657 for Long Preston do exist, but are not in very good condition. I can find no sign of a marriage between Henry and Alice in that year, but it is certainly possible that this particular record is one of those that has been damaged. Unfortunately there are no Bishop's Transcripts for marriages at Long Preston for 1657, and the marriage does not appear in any of the other sources that are available from around that time (Boyd's marriage indexes for example). There was only one marriage performed at nearby Giggleswick in 1657, and it was not Henry and Alice. This does not mean that the marriage did not happen, it just means that I have so far been unable to find any record of it. It is of course quite possible that the couple never actually married.

The Ancestry trees that include Henry and Alice differ when it comes to Alice's parentage. Several have her as the daughter of William and Janet née Wright. I do have a record for an Alice baptised in 1622, daughter of William of Long Preston (and who married Janet Wright in 1612), but it is unlikely that she married Henry because these two would then be sister and brother. Other Ancestry trees have her as the daughter of Richard Hardacre of Halton Gill, baptised in 1626 at Giggleswick parish church. I have been able to locate this record, and some further investigation suggests that this Alice is the daughter of of Richard Hardacre and Anna née Baynes who married in 1614 at Giggleswick. I have not been able to find a burial for this Alice, or an alternate marriage record, so it certainly is possible that she married Henry in 1657, but if so I have so far been unable to find an authoritative record of this. I am left having to question whether this particular theory is correct due to the absence of baptism and marriage records to support it, and the lack of any primary citations on the Ancestry family trees.

My last option is to consider whether there are any surviving Long Preston baptism records for a Henry Hardacre during the time period of interest (about 1620 to 1635). Other than the Henry son of Michael of Hellifield mentioned earlier who died as an infant, I have a record of a Henry Hardacre son of Michael of Bendgate baptised in 1635. Unfortunately this child died in 1642, which rules him out. There is one other possibility. Richard Hardacre of Hellifield baptised a son on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1625. Unfortunately the christian name of this boy is illegible. The original register entry is shown below with some digital enhancement.



The name Margaret above the Hardacre entry is reasonably clear. The entry below the Hardacre one is probably Elizabeth. The Hardacre christian name is definitely a short name, perhaps four or five letters. The last letter might be a Y. The only short common male names used in the Long Preston area around this time were John and Henry (John actually not all that common). Much less common short names of the time were Adam and Roger. I had thought that this entry might be a Henry when I first looked at it, and at the time of writing, I still think that Henry is the most likely. The Bishop's Transcripts are of no help in this case because those records for Long Preston baptisms start from 1630. The father Richard is Richard Hardacre #4174 of Hellifield (see page 6 above), who married a woman named Janet (surname possibly Elton) in 1619. The couple had three other children that I know of, Thomas (buried 1627/28), *Margaret* (baptised in 1622) and Richard (buried 1639). The baptism in 1625 does not look like it could be Thomas or Richard (too many letters), and it is unlikely to be a shorted version of either because none of names recorded on this page of the register were shortened. My conclusion then is that this is a male child for whom I do not have a corresponding burial, and the name could very well be Henry.

Assuming that this is a Henry Hardacre, what do we know about him. He was born in Hellifield, which is a match for the Henry who married Alice. He was born within the time period of interest (1620 to 1635). His

parents were named Richard and Janet, and we know that Henry and Alice named a daughter Janet (born 1658) and a son Richard (born 1660).

Of the three options (Henry and Elizabeth of Hellifield, William and Janet of Long Preston, Richard and Janet of Hellifield), I have for now opted for Richard and Janet as the most likely parents of Henry. Obviously this is at odds with the generally accepted theory by other researchers that his parents were William and Janet. I think that it can be helpful to sometimes present a plausible alternative to certain widely accepted family history theory because this can encourage a reexamination of that theory testing it against potentially new information.

What of Alice, Henry's wife? One possible clue is that Henry and Alice named the second son that I know of Roger, which is not at all a common name for the time in the Long Preston area. Could this be Alice's father's name? There is a Long Preston baptism record for an Alice *Jueson*, father Rodger, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1622. This could be Alice who married Henry, but without a marriage record we cannot know.

I am rather tempted by the theory that Henry married an Alice Hardacre in 1657. It seems to me that this most likely has come from someone with access to information that supported it. For now, the search for that elusive source continues.