

*Meat and Drink:
Butchers, publicans and yeomen of the Fells*

Park, Swarbrick and Walker families in Lancashire

Part 2

John² Park and family - Bleasdale and Barton

A wrong turning taken nearly 30 years ago led me to believe that John² Park, butcher and cattle dealer, was the brother of Richard Park Protestant yeoman of Broughton, and that John¹ was Richard's son. It was this 'uncle', without children of his own, who according to family lore had taken John¹ under his wing and introduced him the trade of butcher. I now believe that this Protestant John Park, born in July 1770, spent his whole life in Broughton township, marrying Cicely Threlfall at Broughton chapel in 1793 - with his father Richard's signature clearly witnessing the marriage - and being buried there, aged 67 according to the register, in February 1838. The couple appear to have had no children. Both the Broughton Land Tax¹ records and Poor Rate Assessment Books² show Protestant John disappearing from the records after around 1835. It was the fact that John² Park, chose to ignore his sons Richard² and John¹ in his will which led to the erroneous conclusion that he had fathered no children. In the light of his sons' later financial

¹ LA, PR 1882/1, Broughton Land Tax Assessments 1811-1819

² LA, PR 1878/1, Broughton Poor Rate Assessment Books, 1828-39

extravagances, I suspect that their father had earlier supported them and felt that they had both received their due portions.

When I found the marriage certificate of Richard² Park in Liverpool, which clearly stated his father to be a butcher named John Park, and checked a series of census returns which all gave his place of birth at Broughton, the penny dropped, and I realised that a Catholic baptism which I had rejected as being the 'wrong one' was in fact the right one. It was too much of a coincidence for two unrelated Parks – Catholic Richard² and Protestant John son of Richard to be found living such parallel lives, married to sisters and both plying their trade as butchers, in Liverpool.

As a Catholic, John² was born too early for there to be a record of his baptism. Several documents suggest a date of birth around 1778-9, and the Catholic register for Chipping, where his younger siblings were baptised, began in 1780. However, a variety of evidence proves that he was the son of Henry Park and his wife Martha, née Walker. His first appearance in official documents came in the form of a marriage licence³ granted by the Archbishopric of York:

The Twelfth Day of February ...1804...appeared personally John Park of the Township of Bleasdale ...Farmer...and made oath ...he is... twenty one years and upwards and a bachelor and intends to marry Miriam Coulthurst of the parish of Mitton in the Diocese of York aged nineteen years and upwards and a spinster by and with the consent of Richard Coulthurst her natural and lawful father...And he prayed a licence to solemnise the said marriage in the parish church of Mitton aforesaid, in which the said John Park further made oath, that she the said Miriam Coulthurst hath had her usual abode for the space of four weeks last past.

The marriage took place the following day at Mitton:

John Park of the parish of Bleasdale in the county of Lancashire Waggoner and Miriam Coulthurst of this parish spinster were married in this church by Licence this thirteenth day of February in the year 1804 by me Thomas Armistead, vicar

Both parties signed the register, providing useful evidence in John's case of later marriages. His brother Robert was one of the witnesses, and his signature too is recognisable in other documents. Miriam's brother Robert Coulthurst was the other witness. (Coulthurst ancestry will be followed in a separate volume.) It is interesting that John² gave his occupation as farmer on the licence and wagoner in the register, but the two are not incompatible. As a wagoner, John² would have been peripatetic, which may explain how he, with a home in Bleasdale, came to meet a bride from Mitton. If you search for Bleasdale on Google maps, it comes up as Bleasdale, Preston, which is slightly odd as the town of Preston is some 12 miles away, but it does have a PR postcode, so is obviously in Preston postal district today. Whether links were close in the early 19th century is unknown, although something

³ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

drew John and his bride to the area. Mitton was about the same distance away, across the Forest of Bowland.

Bleasdale, where the Parks lived for three generations, is a small, isolated village. In 1841, only 255 people were enumerated in the township. A family history on-line⁴ for a family of the same name described the area as 'tucked away' in a corner of Lancashire, and continued as follows:

The roads around Bleasdale are narrow and winding. The homes are tucked behind tall, thick hedges that give a message, "Don't bother us." This area has had that reputation for generations. As one man once said, "You're not in Lancashire now, lad. We're nowt to do with them. Up here's Bleasdale. It's bin that way since afore the Roman times."

A slightly less whimsical description comes from a book published in 1894⁵:

The Forest of Bleasdale (co-extensive with the township) formerly in the parish of Lancaster and the deanery of Amounderness ... [is]... closely bound up with the history of the parish of Chipping.... About the middle of the 15th century, the custom of laying out vaccaries, or great upland pastures, became common... The appearance of the district is fully shown in the name, and although of late years much of the bog, morass and wild moorland has been reclaimed, there is still a bleak, cold look about this picturesque and secluded spot.



Approaching Bleasdale

Fashions change; it is now in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The name, incidentally, may mean 'valley with a bare spot', unless the first element comes from an Old Norse personal name, Blesi. Another source⁶ suggests the name comes from

⁴ <http://www.blaisdell.org/BPBleasdaleVillage8-4-2008.doc.pdf>

⁵ <https://archive.org/stream/historyparishch01smitgoog#page/n238/mode/2up> *History of the parish of Chipping...* Thomas C Smith, 1894

⁶ *Bowland and Pendle Hill*, WR Mitchell, 2004, Chichester, Philimore

an Old Norse word 'blesa', meaning blaze or light spot. To compound the confusion about the place, it is also known as Admarsh and until 1779 it was part of St Mary's parish Lancaster. The city centre, where St Mary's Priory church is situated, is around 13 miles from Bleasdale – hardly convenient for the Protestant congregation of the township, or for Catholics forced to marry in their parish church.

Further detail about Bleasdale can be found at *British History On-line*⁷, which has the Lancashire volumes of the *Victoria County History*:

Although now in the parish of Lancaster, owing to its inclusion in the forest, Bleasdale has remained in the hundred of Amounderness, and was probably once within Garstang. It occupies a hilly country, divided into three main parts by the Rivers Calder and Brock, which rise near the Yorkshire border and flow south-west through it. The northern part lies on the slopes of Grizedale and Stake House Fells, the height on the border of Wyresdale ranging from 900 ft. to 1,520 ft. above sea level. The central portion, between the rivers, is occupied by Bleasdale Moors on Oakendough and Hazelhurst Fells; most of this is over 1,000 ft. level, 1,505 ft. being the highest point. Bleasdale Tower lies on the north side of the Brock. The part of the township south of this stream is in the main lower, but on the eastern boundary the ground rises very steeply, the flattopped Parlick at the south end of the ridge attaining 1,416 ft. above sea level, while Fairsnape Fell to the north attains 1,700 ft. on the boundary of Yorkshire. In this part Admarsh Chapel is situated. The stream which bounds the township on the south is also called the Brock. There are 7,298½ acres in the township, and the population in 1901 was 403.

No wonder if the Parks thought of themselves as squires of anything, it was the Fells. From what I have been able to glean⁸, it would seem that Lower Fairsnape dates from after Henry's time, and I suspect it was his demise which split the property. The land owned by Higher Fairsnape appears on the Tithe Commutation Award⁹ of 1833 and numerous plots of land are right up on the edge of the Fell. Mitchell's book cited above¹⁰ gives glimpses into life in the area:

Bowland farmers cannot afford to be too clever. Their plans are ruled by the state of the land, by the (somewhat damp) weather and by the slow progress of the seasons in a highland area... Sheep and grouse are dependent on the heather.

And again:

In the settled times of the late 17th and early 18th c families with spare cash built for posterity, confident their sons could inherit. Yeoman farmers joyously vacated homes made of wattle-and-daub and thatch for homes built of stone.

⁷ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp141-142>

⁸ *History of the Parish of Chipping in the County of Lancaster with some account of the Forests of Bleasdale and Bowland* Tom C Smith, F.R. Hist. S., Whitehead, Preston, 1894

⁹ LA, AT/2, Plans of [numerous places, including] Bleasdale

¹⁰ *Bowland and Pendle Hill*, WR Mitchell, 2004, Chichester, Phillimore

Tree 9 - John Park and family

<p>Miriam Coulthurst Born: 1785 in Bailey, Mitton, Lancashire Baptism: 21 August 1785 Mitton, Yorkshire m: 13 February 1804 in Mitton, Yorkshire Died: 1816 in Barton, Lancashire Burial: 8 February 1816 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs</p>	<p>John Park Born: Abt. 1778 in Bleasdale, Lancashire Died: 5 February 1849 in Barton, Lancs Burial: 8 February 1849 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs</p>	<p>Hannah Woods m: 27 November 1816 in Broughton, Lancashire Died: 1823 in Preston, Lancashire Burial: 19 October 1823 Broughton, Lancashire</p>	<p>Rosamund Parker Born: Abt. 1787 m: 17 May 1825 in Broughton, Lancashire Died: 1870 in Clitheroe, Lancs</p>
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<p>Mary Wilson m: 3 June 1833 in St Philip RC, Liverpool Died: 24 August 1840 in Liverpool</p>	<p>Richard Park Born: 28 November 1805 in Barton, Lancashire Baptism: 29 November 1805 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs Died: 1882 in West Derby</p>	<p>Ann Swarbrick Born: 1820 Baptism: 28 April 1820 Alston Lane, Chapel, Longridge m: 25 November 1840 in Liverpool St Nicholas, Lancs Died: 1896 in Birkenhead</p>	<p>John Park Born: 6 May 1807 in Barton, Lancashire Baptism: 6 May 1807 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs Died: 2 June 1866 in 45, Brunswick Rd, Everton Burial: 5 June 1866 Anfield Cemetry, Liverpool</p>	<p>Elizabeth Swarbrick Born: 1813 in Dilworth, Longridge, Lancs Baptism: 11 February 1813 Lee House Chapel, Thornley, Lancs m: 14 February 1832 in Ribchester, Lancs Died: 6 November 1868 in 47, Compton St, Everton Burial: 9 November 1868 Anfield Cemetry, Liverpool</p>	<p>Unknown Park Born: 1808 Burial: 20 August 1808 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs</p>	<p>Martha Park Born: 7 October 1809 in Barton, Lancashire Baptism: 7 October 1809 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs Burial: 8 January 1810 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs</p>	<p>William Park Born: 27 June 1811 in Barton, Lancashire Baptism: 27 June 1811 St Mary Newhouse, Barton, Lancs</p>
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By the time John²'s grandfather settled his family in the area though, things were changing:

The Bowland landscape took on a tidier appearance towards the end of the 18th and early part of the 19th century with the passing of the Enclosure Acts

John² Park doesn't seem to have taken his bride back to Bleasdale, however. Instead they settled in Barton, a township in the chapelry of Broughton near Preston. *British history on-line*¹¹ describes the area as one where:

The land is chiefly meadow and pasture

Whether John² settled here because the land was good cattle country or whether his choice of career was dictated by the landscape is impossible to tell, but either he decided that being a cattle dealer and butcher offered better prospects than being a wagoner, or more likely, he was picking up the kind of dual occupation that others in his family undertook. His father also farmed land and ran a butcher's shop.

The couple's first child, Richard² was born 21 months after John and Miriam married – on 27th November 1805 and baptised at the Catholic chapel of St Mary Newhouse Barton, as were his siblings (see tree 9 - p.97). His rather chequered career has already been outlined, as has that of his brother John¹, born on 6th May 1807. Shortly after the burial of their unnamed child John² took out a lease¹² (dated 14th December 1808) from Thomas Whyman for two parcels of land in Barton (totalling 3 acres 1 rod and 32 perches) - namely Daniel Field and Daniel Meadow - for a rent of £10 per annum. The lease came with a string of conditions:

And the said John Park shall at his own as his own proper costs and charges amend and keep in good repair the hedges ditches gates stiles upon or belonging to the said fields or any part thereof and so leave the same when lawful notice is given for that purpose. And it is agreed that in case the said John Park shall at any time or times plough dig or breakup or use otherwise than as grass ground all or any of the above mentioned fields he shall pay unto the said Robert Shuttleworth the further rent or sum of £15 every year for every acre so ploughed dug or broken up as aforesaid and so in proportion to any less quantity than an acre so long as the same shall be so ploughed dug or broken up.

In addition he was not to:

sell or otherwise dispose of any dung manure or compost which shall at any time arise from the said premises

These conditions make it fairly clear that he was aiming to use the land as pasture for cattle.

¹¹ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp127-128>

¹² LA, DX 210



St Mary Newhouse, Barton

The next child, Martha – named after her paternal grandmother - was born on 7th October 1809 and baptised at St Mary Newhouse on the same day, as was customary amongst Catholics; however, she may well have been a sickly infant, as her burial is recorded at St Mary Newhouse on 8th January 1810.

In these early years, John² seems to be paying minimal land tax¹³, as between 1809 and 1811 he is simply recorded as paying 2/11 on land owned by Robert Shuttleworth. However, in 1811, he, like so many men of his status and time, diversified, leasing an inn, three cottages and closes in Barton in the tenure of Richard Parkinson at a rent of £217 p.a,¹⁴ also from Thomas Whyman. Not surprisingly, from 1812 his land tax went up to £1 12/7 – James Shuttleworth was listed as proprietor. It stayed at that level until at least 1821. (The next four years are missing from the records.) The lease outlines the premises concerned:

...it is agreed, that the said Robert Shuttleworth the younger, shall let to the said John Park and the said John Park shall take, hold and enjoy all that messuage, tenement, farm, lands, and premises, hereinafter mentioned; that is to say,
the Further Intake, Singleton Acre, Intake Meadow, Long Intake, Meadow, Broad Field, Near Shaw, Kiln Croft, Highams Field and Cottages formerly occupied by Henry Barnes, Nearer and Further Daniel Fields formally Richard Parkinson's, the Cottage Garden ... Little and Great Marled Field, Door Fields, Barns Fields, Croft and Meadow formally in occupation of Roger Wilding, together with the Acre, Nearer and Further Moor Fields and the house known by the sign of the Ball Inn at the Broughton Lane Ends containing by statute measure 60 acres more or less lying and being in Barton in the County of Lancaster

¹³ LA, QDL/A/4 Barton Land Tax, 1781 – 1820

¹⁴ LA, DX 222, Lease to John Park, 1810

The terminology shows how difficult it is to differentiate between the townships of Broughton and Barton. The pub then known as the Ball Inn lies in Broughton, as the following¹⁵ makes clear:

Four Lane Ends crossroads may date from Roman times when the road north south Chester to Carlisle crossed the road from Ribchester to Kirkham. Around the crossroads there are 2 buildings that were the north and south coach public inns and stables. The older of the 2 the Shuttleworth Arms is now called the Broughton Inn and is marked on maps of 1723. The Golden (Blue) Ball (Bell) now the Gates of Bengal is first seen on maps in 1744. Both had extensive stables which are now car parks.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the pub had a Catholic history, as a plaque on the wall reads:

BROUGHTON CATHOLIC
CHARITABLE SOCIETY
Founded in this building (then the
Golden Ball Hotel) for the relief of
Local poverty, on May 6th 1787



The Golden Ball in 1922
From: Broughton Catholic Charitable Society

John was a member of this society from at least 1814, when he appears in the Members' Book¹⁶ in November, as:

No. 112 Mr John Park Broughton

Subs appear to have been collected quarterly, in November, February, Whitsun and August, at a rate of 1/6. He doesn't always seem to have been regular in his

¹⁵ <https://www.broughtonparishcouncil.org.uk/assets/documents/neighbourhood-plan-wi-presen>

¹⁶ LA, DDX 830/2/1, Broughton Catholic Charitable Society, Register of Members, 1812-41

payments. Gaps in entries are followed by catch-up payments on occasion, but he continued as a member at least until the end of the book, in 1841. His brother Robert (Mr Robert Park Barton) has entries, also slightly erratic, from 1819 until 1832, which suggests that he may have died at around this time. The book also records petitions for charity and the entry for 3rd August 1817 has:

John Park for Mary Forrest 5/-

The Golden Ball was known as the *Jacson Arms* (after the new owner of Barton Hall) from 1840 until the Hall was sold in 1894 and became *The Golden Ball* again. According to F O Blundell¹⁷ meetings of the society were held in 1840, 1841 and 1842 at the *Jacson's Arms*, but from then until 1850, they were held at the *Shuttleworth Arms* on the other side of the crossroads.



The Ball Inn Broughton (now Gates of Bengal)

Tucked into the Charity Society's Members' Book¹⁸ is a bill for one of these dinners held at Richard Barton's *Shuttleworth Arms*, and these philanthropists clearly didn't stint themselves. Among other items, it records £4 3/8 for rum and brandy, 16/- for whiskey, £4 8/- for 'Hollands and common gin', and £1 3/8 for porter and ale. Servants' food and drink came to a mere 8/4. The bill also includes the cost for meals, cigars, and hay and corn for the horses.

Presumably John was doing well for himself, and gaining respect in the community as on 7th June 1811 he was asked to witness a lease¹⁹ between Robert Shuttleworth and James Cattrell and James Stewart. Just under three weeks later, on 26th June, his wife Miriam gave birth to their last child, William.

¹⁷ *Broughton Catholic Charitable Society*, F O Blundell, Preston, Mather Brothers, 1923

¹⁸ LA, DDX 830/2/1, *Broughton Catholic Charitable Society, Register of Members, 1812-41*

¹⁹ LA, DX 230, *Lease to James Stewart and James Catrell, 1811*

The baptisms of the first three of John² and Miriam's children all record her as a Protestant. The last two do not. This and the fact that Miriam seems to have acted as a godmother in 1810 suggest that she may well have converted at around this time. The baptism in question was that of Thomas Bamber, son of William Bamber and Elizabeth, formerly Park, at St Mary Newhouse on 19th April 1810. The other god-parent was John Kighly, who along with Elizabeth Bamber was god-parent to Martha, so although the Latin register names her as Maria Park, I suspect this was Miriam.

Miriam didn't live long enough to see either her children or god-children grow up. On 8th February 1816, five years after the birth of her last child, she was buried at St Mary Newhouse as:

Mariam Park aetatis 31

In terms of research her given age of 31 accords nicely with the date of her baptism at Mitton on 21st August 1785, but she was very young. No record exists of the cause of death; childbirth gone wrong is perhaps the more likely, although it may have been disease.

In the meantime, John² was evidently prospering. In 1815 he took out a further lease²⁰ for 8 years on *The Ball Inn* at the Broughton Lane Ends and several closes at £255 p.a. Many of the fields named – and the inn of course – were the same as in the 1810 lease, but spelling and nomenclature are not always consistent, and so there may have been some changes. What is clear is that the acreage was bigger: 60 acres as opposed to just over 54. This presumably explains why the rent rose from £217 to £255. The lease was signed by Robert Shuttleworth junior and John Park, and witnessed by Benjamin Price. Below these signatures, though, is a hand-written comment, added by Robert Shuttleworth, which suggests that John was also growing crops to a limited extent. It also shines a light on farming practices of the early 19th century:

Mr John Park I consent to your ploughing every year seven customary acres of the above-mentioned land on the following conditions, that is that you plough no meadowland and that upon such land as is ploughed you either put marl at the rate of four to every acre or lime at the rate of eight score windles to the acre or long dung towns muck or scrap waste in such proportions as will be equal to the marl or lime; that you take only two crops of oats in succession, that you then fallow the land and take one crop of wheat, and one of oats, and sow upon the latter crop £27 weight of clover and grass seeds at the least upon every acre thereof and make no marl pits without my consent.

Robert Shuttleworth Jun^r

Barton Aug^t 21 1815

²⁰ LA, DX 241, Lease to John Park, 21.8.1815

I agree to the above conditions
John Park

A windle was a bottle of hay or straw.

A rental²¹ taken at around the same time details John²'s landholdings:

	Quantity	ARP	Value	Yearly value
			p acre	
No 17. John Park				
Public House Stable Garden&Yard	0 1 8	....	100 4 9	
Stable ... Acre	1 0 9	130	6 17 2	
Nearer Moor Field	1 0 33	74	4 9 2	
Further " "	<u>2 0 5</u>	74	<u>7 10 3</u>	
Carried forw ^d to No 39 - Survey	<u>4 2 15</u>	£	<u>119 1 4</u>	
No 19 John Park				
House Barn Garden Orchard etc	0 1 8		16 2 1	
Meadow at back of Barn	1 2 27	100	8 6 10	
Kiln Croft	1 0 18	110	6 2 4	
Bread Field	2 2 17	70	9 2 4	
Highams	1 3 13	66	6 0 9	
Nearer Shaw (part taken to Park)	1 1 19	65	3 18 10	
Long Intack	2 0 32	80	8 16 0	
Intack Meadow	1 0 16	130	7 2 10	
Singleton Acre	0 3 36	90	5 7 8	
Farther Intack	<u>1 0 3</u>	20	<u>1 0 4</u>	
Carried forward to no 39 Survey	<u>14 0 29</u>	£	<u>66 0 0</u>	
No 39 John Park				
Further Daniel Field	1 2 25	75	0 4 2	
Lane Daniel Field	<u>1 3 7</u>	"	<u>6 14 6</u>	
	3 1 32	£	12 8 8	
No 17 Brought forward	4 2 15		119 1 4	
No 19 " "	14 0 29		68	
No 20 " "	14 1 31		57	
Total Survey	<u>39 1 9</u>	£	<u>255 0 0</u>	

A presumably later note on the opposite page says 'Jn^o Seed this farm for 7 years at the rent of £95 per year....' John's brother Robert also features prominently in the rental.

In 1816 John² remarried, taking out a licence on 26th November in which he described himself as an inn keeper and was supported by a shoe maker, John Cottam of Broughton. He described himself as:

aged Thirty Eight Years, and a Widower

and his intended bride as:

²¹ LA, DX 244, Rental of Barton, Kidsnape, High Moor and Goosnargh, c 1815

Hannah Woods of Broughton... aged Thirty Nine Years, and a Widow

This marriage took place in the chapel at Broughton:

John Park and Hannah Woods both of this parish were married in this church by licence this 27th day of November 1816.

John's signature is clearly recognisable. His new wife made her mark. One of the witnesses, Thomas Arkwright, was obviously a church official, and a regular signatory at weddings, but the other was his bondsman John Cottam, who may just have been a Coulthurst connection kinsman, although Cottam is a common name in the area.

Hannah Woods had been born Hannah Hool and married John Woods by licence at Broughton in 1801. In view of the licence it seems likely that either she or her husband were Catholic, especially as Bart Diconson - Richard's godfather - was one of the witnesses. However, their four children - Ellen, Jane, James and Richard - were all baptised at the parish church in Broughton between 1804 and 1813. On the first three baptisms Woods is described as a husbandman; on the fourth an innkeeper. When he was buried at Broughton on 25th May 1816, Hannah was presumably left running a pub and looking after their children. Whether he was in partnership with John² in running *The Ball Inn*, or whether this was a separate establishment is not clear. Either way, with John widowed in February 1816 and Hannah in May 1816 and both with children to look after, and a business to run, it is perhaps not surprising that the two married within the year.

This marriage lasted nine years before Hannah died. She was buried in Broughton on 19th October 1823, but with her abode given as Church St Preston. Why she was there is not clear. Maybe she was on a visit to grown-up children or maybe she and John were no longer living together. In 1824 a lease²² to John Park of Broughton for 7 years on a messuage, shop, slaughterhouse and lands in Barton at £30 p.a. was not actually executed for some reason, but suggests a continued interest in butchering and cattle dealing despite his new career as a publican:

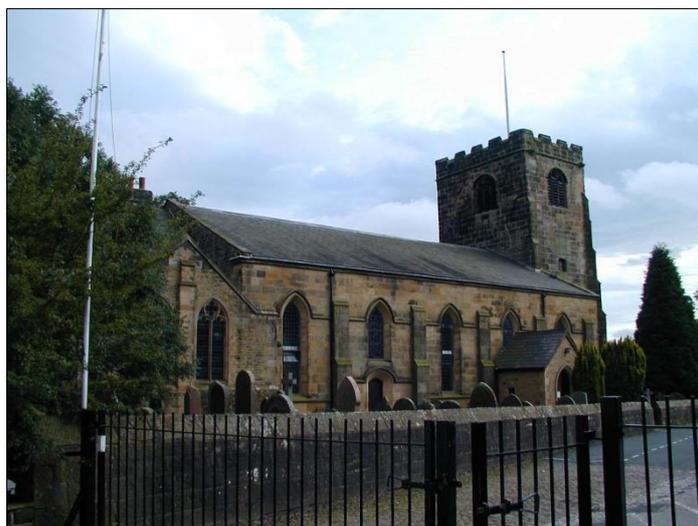
Memorandum of an agreement made the third day of March ...between Samuel Storer, of Barton, ... on behalf of James Shuttleworth, of Barton, Esq,...and John Park of Broughton ... and the said John Park hath agreed to take... all that messuage land and premises in Barton hereinafter mentioned, that is to say - house, shop, slaughterhouse etc - Daniel Fields, Singleton Acre, Further Intack 5a 1r 31p more or less to commence as to the meadow land, from the 25th day of December, last, as to all the other lands, (except the outlet, which will be set up by the steward) on 2 February, last and as to the farmhouse, out housing, outlet, and other premises on 1 May, next to hold the same to the term of seven years, at the clear yearly rate of £30 due and payable in one entire payment, on the 24th day of June in each

²² LA, DX 257, 3.4.1824

year.

That the tenant shall pay all Parliamentary, parochial, and other taxes and assessments whatsoever: ... and shall repair the premises during the term, and leave them in good repair at the end thereof; (main walls and main timbers excepted) and should any alteration or improvements take place between the parties hereafter, the tenant shall cart, at his own expense, all the materials wanted.

That the tenant shall not sell any hay, straw, or manure, but the whole shall be consumed upon the premises, and set upon the meadow and pastureland, and plough according to the following conditions...



St John's chapel Broughton

After Hannah's death, John² soon married again. Again, his bride was someone well-known to him. On 17th May 1825, at Broughton chapel, he married Rosamond Parker – his eldest son's godmother:

John Park of Barton widower of the chapelry of Broughton and Rosamond Parker of Barton, spinster of the chapelry of Broughton were married in this church by license

Once again, John's signature is recognisable, and once again, his wife makes her mark. The witnesses were Elizabeth Tuson and ? Jacson. The licence taken out the day before describes John² as a 46 year-old widower living at Barton and by occupation a butcher. This wife was younger than him – 38 and a spinster living in Preston. Despite the apparent change in occupation, he still had links with the licensed trade as in 1827 he and his brother Robert acted as character references for one William Gosnell to be an inn keeper in Barton²³:

We whose names are hereunto subscribed being the churchwarden

²³ LA, QSB/1/1827/Apr/pt4/27a, 22.1.1827

overseers of the poor and eight reputable and substantial householders of the township of Barton in the County of Lancaster do hereby certify that William Gosnall hath last inhabited and dwelt for the space of six months and upwards in the said township of Barton and was an inmate of a private house there, and that he is a person of good fame, sober life and conversation, and a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a licence to sell beer or other exciseable liquors by retail. Witness our hands this twenty second day of January 1827.

The first signature is that of Samuel Storer, the Shuttleworths' agent, but also churchwarden. The overseer, John Ramsbottam, also signs, and amongst the others are both John Park and his brother Robert.

From 1826 until 1828, John² seems to have paid a minimal land tax²⁴ of 4/8 on a property described as a farm. In 1829 and 1830 it went up to 15/2, with the note beside the 1830 payment 'not exonerated', so maybe in the previous years he had had some of his tax burden removed for some reason. In 1831 he was charged 19/4 on a tenement. The land tax was repealed the following year.

A survey of Barton²⁵ was taken in 1830, listing John's holdings and their uses:

			A	r	p
John Park		Popes etc			
19	House and yard	Butchers	"	1	8
"	Single acre	Pasture	"	3	36
"	Further Intake	"	1	"	3
39	Farther Daniel Field	Plough Land	1	2	25
"	Lane Daniel	" Meadow	1	3	7
14	House, Outhouses etc	Popes's	"	3	34
"	Nearer Intake	Meadow	1	1	24
"	Further Intake	Plough Land	1	2	26
"	Nearer Paddock	Meadow	"	3	34
"	Further "	"	1	"	15
"	Nearer Bank	"	2	2	2
"	Further Bank	Plough Land	3	2	13
		Survey A	17	3	17

John's next appearance in the records was in the 1841 census²⁶, where under an address simply records as 'Butchers' appear:

John Park	55	Butcher	Y
Rose Park	50		Y
Robert Parker 15	MS		Y

²⁴ LA, QDL/A/4, Barton Land Tax, 1821-31

²⁵ LA, DX 280, Survey of Barton, Bilsborough and Goosnargh, 1830

²⁶ HO 107/500/1, 1841 census, Barton

It is possible that Robert Parker was a relative of Rosamond's. Seven years later, the Tithe Apportionment²⁷ shows three plots under John's name and he is recorded as occupier of Near Bank and Further Bank, pasture and meadow. This seems to be much less than might be expected from his earlier dealings. Had his fortunes fallen? Was some of his land not liable to tithes? Or had he perhaps given up land he was leasing in order to assist his son Richard in his financial troubles? The timing would be about right, and would also perhaps explain why in his will²⁸ he left what remained to his wife Rosamond, ignoring his sons.

John's will is a brief document, made in 1843 when he was still six years away from death. He may of course have suffered a period of illness at this time, from which he recovered, but given its contents, it is tempting to speculate. Richard had been imprisoned for debt in 1841 but seems to have temporarily restored his fortunes by 1851. It seems feasible that John bailed his older son out, and then gave his younger son his proposed inheritance at the same time to keep things fair. We will never know, as the will only says:

In the name of God, the father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen. I John Park of Broughton, in the County to Lancaster and Hundred of Amounderness, Butcher and Cattle Dealer, being of sound and disposing mind, declare this to be my last Will and Testament. That is to say: I hereby will and bequeath all my real and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever to my beloved wife, Rosa Park, for her sole and entire Use and Benefit after the payment of all my just debts, testamentary and funeral expenses. And I hereby appoint her my sole Executrix to this my last Will and Testament - in testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my Hand this eighteenth of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight Hundred and Forty three.

John signed the will and it was witnessed by Richard Barton and Richard Parkinson. On the reverse is the date 14th June 1851 - presumably the probate date - and the heading:

The will of Mr John Park

John died in 1849, at Barton. The certificate gives the following information:

5th February 1849 Barton; John Park; Male; 71 years; Farmer; Phthisis 13 months certified; the mark of Thomas Simpson present at the death; 6th February 1849; Cuthbert Hoole registrar

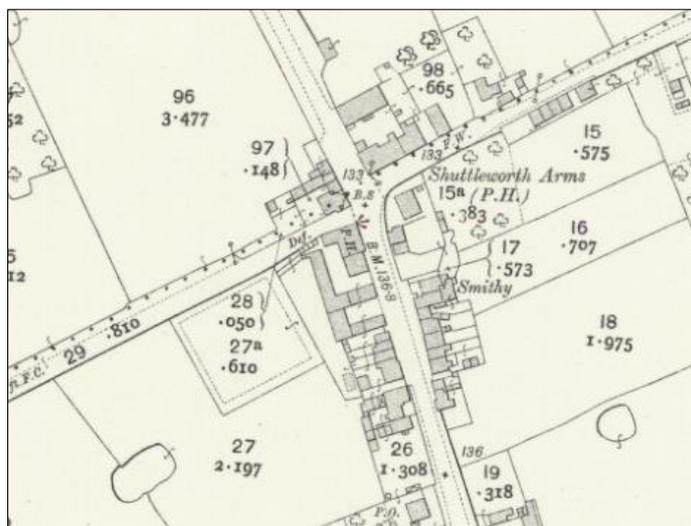
Phthisis is a form of tuberculosis, a disease which can lie dormant for many years. Given the very high proportion of deaths from this disease in the 19th century, it begs the question whether this is also what killed Miriam, but there is no way of knowing. He was buried at St Mary Newhouse - presumably with his first wife. The entry in the register, which is in Latin, translates more or less as follows:

²⁷ PR2845/6/1, Barton in Amounderness Tithe Apportionment, 1848

²⁸ LA, W/RW/A/R/190/7, Will of John Park, 1851

He returned his soul to the Lord all fortified with the last rights John Park of Barton paterfamilias aged 71 years. His body was buried in our cemetery 8th February.

No headstone remains, but presumably he was interred with his first wife and their two, maybe three infant children.



Broughton Crossroads²⁹
John's pub is marked PH opposite the Shuttleworth Arms

For some reason, Rosa didn't attempt to prove John's will until 1851. When she did, she presumably had to supply the Waste Book which is now archived with the will. A waste book is a rough form of a day's receipts and expenditure, kept to facilitate book-keeping. Given that it is dated Lancaster 1st January 1851, it must show Rosa's business dealings over John's estate. It shows surprisingly large sums of money, which suggests that their somewhat diverse transactions were thriving:

Cash in hand		1000 " "
Bills receivable		
N ^o 50 George Brown dec.	) 200.0.0	
6 th Feby	)	387.10.0
N ^o 51 George Smith dec.	) 187.10.0	
9 th Feby)	
Wine		
Port 57 pipes at 60 ^s p pipe		3420
Sherry 37 Hhds at £40 p Hhd		1480
Paper 77 Reams at 17 ^s a Ream		65.9 "
Debts Joseph Strong		87.1.1
2 nd		
Sold for cash 2 pipes of Port Wine	)	150
At £75 per pipe)	
Exchanged 3 Hhds of Sherry at £40		120
For 100 Yds of cloth at 24 ^s /		120

²⁹ <http://maps.nls.uk/view/128075847> from Barton, Broughton, Newsham, Myerscough, 1892

2 nd	Sold for cash 7 yds of cloth)	8.18.6
	at 25/6 per yard)	
	Bought for cash 58 Reams of paper)	15. 5.0
	at 22/6 per ream)	
6 th	Received Cash for Bill on George)	200
	Brown N ^o 50 due this day)	
	Received Cash for Bill on James)	187.10.0
	Smith N ^o 51 due this day)	

It seems that John and Rosa were selling far more than meat and drink.

Rosa continued to farm John²'s land, or at least a small portion of it. The 1851 census³⁰ is slightly more precise about the address:

Barton, Butcher's Lane
 Rosa Park H Wid 63 Farmer of 4 a land Barton, Lancs

But it is interesting that she puts her primary occupation as farmer. Maybe she had sold the business detailed above. Living at the same address was servant Thomas Simpson – presumably the man who had registered John²'s death. In 1871³¹ Rosa was visiting with the Dilworth family in Chipping. Her death was registered in the Clitheroe Registration District in 1870.

Henry and Martha Park and family – Bleasdale and Chipping

John² Park was born before any Catholic registers exist, but there are numerous pointers to him being the son of Henry and Martha Park. The first is that he gave his abode as Bleasdale when he married Miriam, and a series of baptisms in a Catholic register begun at St Mary's Chipping in 1780, just after John² was born show Henry and Martha baptising children in 1782, 1783, 1786 and 1788. Bleasdale was technically in the parish of Lancaster, but the nearest Catholic chapel was in Chipping less than 5 miles away. A Catholic place of worship had been established at the home of the Shireburn family at Leagram Hall since the late 17th century, and although no records survive it was probably here that Henry and Martha's older children were baptised.

Henry Park took out a licence³² to marry on 27th November 1771. In it, he declared himself to be 23 years old. He swore that his bride was the same age, living in Chipping parish. His bondsman was probably his brother, the one closest in age to him if I have interpreted the records correctly:

³⁰ HO107/2268, 1851 census, Barton

³¹ RG9/3085, 1861 census, Chipping

³² LA, ARR/11, Marriage Licence, Henry Park, 1771

Know all men... we Henry Park and John Park both of Bleasdale in the parish of Lancaster in the county of Lancashire and archdeaconry of Richmond, yeomen.... Henry Park of Bleasdale in the parish of Lancaster and Martha Walker of the parish of Chipping spinster... may lawfully marry together.... [at] Lancaster...

Both Henry and John signed the bond and the same day Henry married Martha at his parish church of St Mary Lancaster, nearly 15 miles away from his home in Bleasdale:

Henry Park of Bleasdale in this parish husbandman and Martha Walker of the parish of Chipping spinster were married in this church by licence the 27th day of November 1771

He signed the register; she made her mark. Witnesses were Joseph Dewhurst and Betty Sumne.



Parlick and Fairsnape Fells - Bleasdale

I had assumed the couple made their home mainly in Bleasdale, as it is here that Henry principally paid land tax³³. In 1782, there were around 30 occupiers of land, and Henry and his brother William topped the list, paying the largest sum after Richard Parkinson - probably their brother-in-law and member of the leading family in the township. The principal proprietor in the area was Thomas Clifton esquire, of Lytham, and William and Henry as tenants paid £1 13/4 each from 1782-1786. William died in 1787 and his tax was paid by his widow, so until 1797 it is Henry and his sister-in-law Ann paying £1 13/4 each every year. From 1793-1801 he was one of the collectors for the township, and in 1802 he was the assessor as well. The following year he had a year off! Maybe carrying out these tasks earned him a discount, he had disposed of some land or the rate of taxation was lowered, as

³³ LA, QDL/A/7, Bleasdale Land Tax, 1782-1813

during this period he only paid 18/11 a year. Ann also seems to have enjoyed the discount, although she died in 1800 and that year her entry read:

Estate of late Park

However, from 1801 until 1803 Henry was recorded paying tax on his own account on two parcels of land, clearly his own and his late brother's. By 1804 they are recorded as one entry, with Henry paying £1 17/11. He continued to be assessed at this sum until 1811, serving as assessor and collector between 1808 and 1811 and as assessor only in the final year of his life, 1811.

At the same time, he was paying land tax³⁴ at Chipping. Between 1794 and 1798 the entry reads:

Proprietor	Occupier	Sums assessed
Tho ^s Rogerson	Henry Park	16/-

He appears to be missing from the 1800 return, but pays tax at the same rate between 1801 and 1807. After that, the Chipping tax is taken up by his grown-up sons.

It is possible that Henry's Chipping landlord was subletting from the Earl of Derby. If not, Henry seems to have escaped land taxation on another parcel of land in Chipping, one which proved to have interesting links to his wife's family. A Manor Rental³⁵ for Chipping survives for the second half of the 18th century. Several pages are headed:

Chipping Reserved rents due to the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby at Martinmas [followed by year] and Pentecost [the following year] by two equal portions.

I was looking for clues to the Walker family - which I found - but the entry which leapt out was for 1777:

Occupants	Whole year rent due at Pentecost	Boons then due	Total
Walker Richard now Henry Parke	17/8	1/-	17/8

Other columns were blank for this entry; the whole read: Occupants; Whole year rent due at Pentecost; Boons then due; Arrears due at Pentecost; Lives; Total; Received; Posted; Arrears due next year; and Notes. Boons were extras such as giving your landlord a fat hen, or doing work for him.

This immediately begged the question whether Richard Walker was related to Martha, and was Henry therefore inheriting a lease from his in-laws. Further

³⁴ LA, QDL/B/16, Chipping Land Tax 1782-1807

³⁵ LA, DDK/1807/1-60, Yearly Rentals [including Chipping], 1749-99

investigation proved this to be the case, and what is known about Martha Walker's family will be explored later.

Henry Parke promptly paid his 17/8 rent on this land from 1777 - 1792, in which year the rent was increased by 11^d to 18/7. In 1794 it went up by a further 1^d to 18/8, and stayed at that rate until the volume ended in 1799. However, in 1798, an entry in the Notes column read:

life in being William Walker 75

Henry Park was farming this land under the terms of a lease for three lives, and the one remaining 'life' at this time was William Walker, who proved to be Martha's father.

The following volume³⁶ continues to track Henry Park's occupation of this land. In 1800, Henry still promptly paid his 18/8 rent, but the life column has '1 life' and the number 77 beside it. Henry appears to be the only tenant listed under reserved rents. In 1801 and 1802 just the rent paid is recorded, but in 1803 the '1 life' note has a 76 against it, and a long commentary which reads:

Look to this lease

followed by a breakdown of what rent is actually due:

Rent 1 6/8
2 fat hens or 1/0
2 days making hay or 1/0
2 days shearing or 1/0
2 days lead^g turves or 3/-
£1 2/8

I'm not quite sure how this adds up, as if Henry had done all his boons, the rent should have been £1. However, it suggests that someone felt that this lease had gone on for long enough. The following year, 1804, the entry carries the same note, though in 1805 only the rent is recorded. In 1806 there is a note saying:

William Walker only life 83

In 1807 the note records his age as 84, and when the rent is collected in 1808, someone has written:

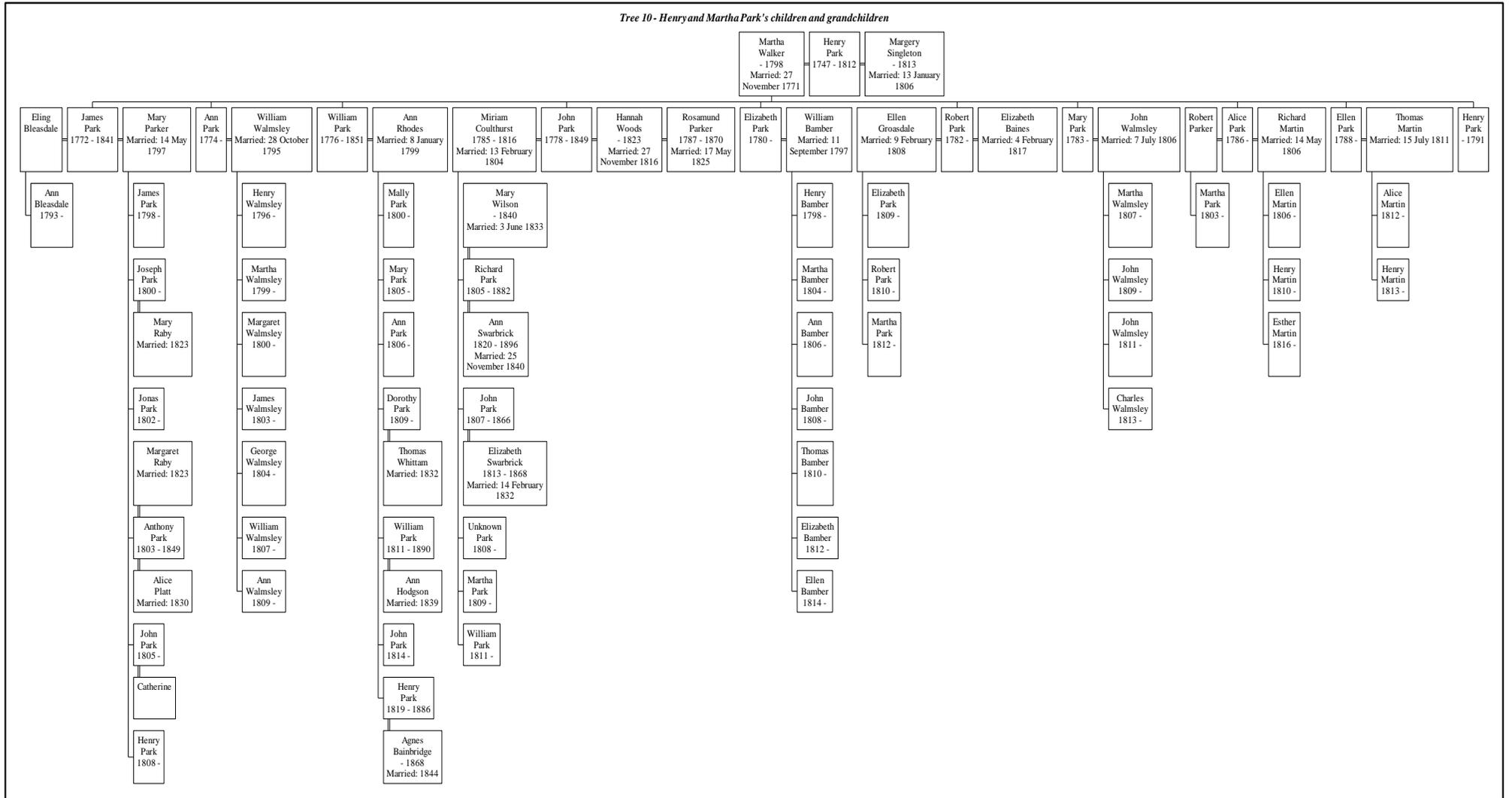
Chipping

Qu is William Walker ... 85

Followed by a further entry in which you can almost hear a sigh of relief from the rent collector:

³⁶ LA, DDK 1807/61-94, Yearly Rentals [including Chipping], 1800-25

Tree 10 - Henry and Martha Park's children and grandchildren



Exp^d 5 July 1808

With William Walker's death, the lease taken out nearly 70 years earlier had finally run its course, and, unsurprisingly, there is no entry for Henry Park in 1809.

A survey of Chipping Manor³⁷ in 1785 bears an entry for Henry Park with '1 life' bracketed beside his name. The identifier 'R no 12' ties this to Richard Walker's land, which is no. 12 in the Lease Register³⁸. In this document the land parcels and their extent are described:

Henry Park (1 life)	A	R	P
House Barn and Saddle Field	5	3	24
Garden			15
Acre [sic]		3	4
Long Meadow		3	36
Nearer Hall Field	2		29
Further Hall Field	2		36
Broad Meadow	<u>1</u>		<u>34</u>
Survey	13	1	18

In the meantime, Henry and Martha were busy raising a family (see **tree 10 - p.113**). A gap of eleven years between marriage and first child is decidedly unlikely, and from piecing together a variety of evidence, I think the family grew as follows.

The first child was a son, probably William (although it may have been James who was named first in Henry's will), born in 1772 or 1773, according to age given on later documents. He married Ann Rhodes at Goosnargh on 8th January 1799. Goosnargh was Ann's home parish, but William was of Chipping. The witness was John² Park. William and Ann baptised a first child named Mally (should this have read Matty, i.e. Martha, after her grandmother?) in the parish church at Chipping on 2nd February 1800, and then disappeared for a time. It is possible that a William and Ann, baptised at Ribchester in 1805 and 1807 but living at nearby Dutton are part of the family. Later, William and Ann moved north, to Moss House, where a daughter Dorothy was baptised at Warton on 29th October 1809. These first four baptisms were all Anglican, and this, along with the fact that the parents' marriage was by banns, may suggest that Ann was C of E. However, their last three children were baptised at St Mary's Catholic chapel at Yealand; William on 26th August 1811; John on 31st July 1814; and Henry on 28th June 1819 with Robert and Ellen Park as sponsors, so maybe Ann converted.

Ann's burial has not been found but William appears as a widower on the 1851 census³⁹, at Preston as a 78 year-old butcher - no surprise there - born in

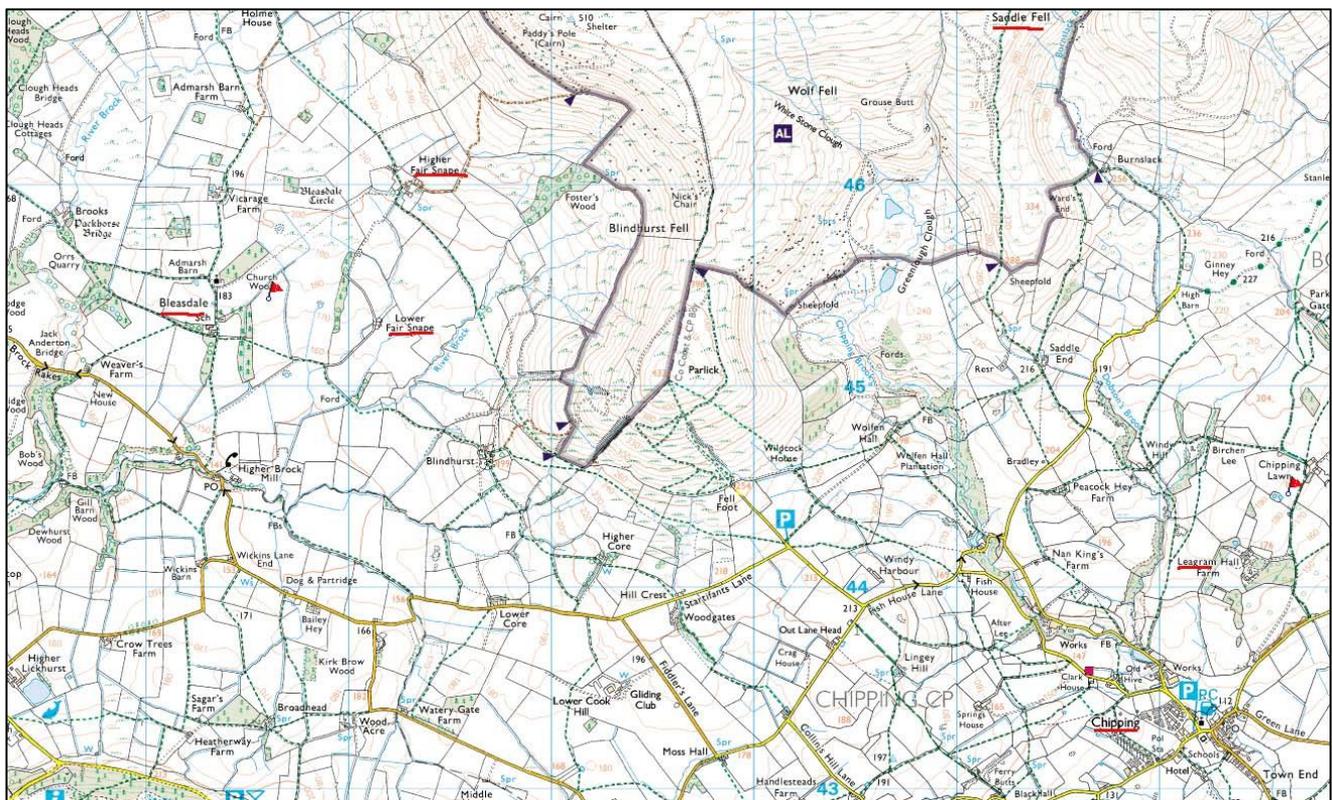
³⁷ LA, DK1548/38 Survey of Chipping Manor with other Manors, 1785

³⁸ LA, DDK 2111, Chipping Manor Lease Registers, 1766

³⁹ HO 107/2267, 1851 census, Preston

Bleasdale. With him is his son John, born in Yealand; the only problem is the son's age, given as 32, whereas he was in fact only 25. However, they were lodgers in this household and the householder may not have known his age for sure. William's seems more precise, fitting with a birth in around 1773, but perhaps he was proud enough of his advanced age to have advertised it. I suspect William returned to the Bleasdale area, as the only death which could fit for him between 1851 and 1861 was registered in Lancaster RD in 1852, though the age given was only 72. John was enumerated as a labourer in 1851, but was recorded as a warehouseman in the Preston Burial register in 1860, with a note marking him as a Catholic.

I have found no further record of William's daughters, but his elder son William also settled in the Preston area. Curiously, there is no occupation against his name on the 1841⁴⁰ census, although his wife was recorded as a butcher - clerical error maybe. By 1861 he had followed in his Uncle John's footsteps and was recorded as a farmer of 25 acres at Hutton⁴¹. Henry, William's youngest son, also migrated to the Preston area and raised a family there. He was Police Constable at Myerscough (also in Broughton parish) in 1851⁴² but by 1861⁴³ had become a railway fireman in Preston.



Bleasdale, Fair Snape, Saddle Fell, Leagram and Chipping (underlined)

⁴⁰ HO 107/2266, 1841 census, Preston

⁴¹ RG 9/2134, 1861 census, Hutton

⁴² HO 107/2270, 1851 census, Myerscough

⁴³ RG 9/3133, 1861 census, Preston

Henry and Martha's next child was Ann, probably born around 1774, as she was said to be 21 on her marriage licence⁴⁴. She married William Walmsley of Leagram at Chipping on 28th October 1795, giving Chipping as her abode. Between 1796 and 1809 they baptised seven children at St Mary's Catholic chapel at Chipping: Henry and Martha came first, confirming Ann's parentage, then Margaret, James, George, William and Ann. Some familiar names appear among the sponsors: Henry Park – presumably Ann's father, and siblings, Mary, John and Ellen. Ann died in 1814 and was given a Catholic burial at St Bartholomew's church in Chipping on 6th November. The register notes her as the wife of William Walmsley.

James was probably Henry and Martha's third child, born around 1776, if the given age of 21 on his marriage licence⁴⁵, which describes him as a husbandman of Chipping, is accurate, though he may have been the eldest. As a young man, he had a fling with Elling Bleasdale, which resulted in an illegitimate daughter Ann, baptised at St Mary Chipping on 21st October 1793. Four years later he had settled down – it is hoped – and married Mary Parker of Leagram in the parish of Whalley by licence at Chipping on 14th May 1797. The name Parker crops up regularly in connection with the Parks, but it is not proven whether they were all part of the same family or whether it was just a common name in the area. However, there are several occasions where it could be assumed that siblings married siblings – as John¹ and Richard² did, and in the close Catholic community it is not unlikely. So the question remains: was Mary Parker sister to both Rosamond (who married John²) and to the Robert Parker who was father to her sister Alice's illegitimate child?

James and Mary baptised six children at St Mary Chipping between 1798 and 1808, namely James – 1798, Joseph – 1800, Jonas – 1802, Anthony – 1803, John – 1805 and Henry – 1808. Sister Alice was godmother to Joseph, and brother Robert to Jonas and John. It seems likely they were living at Bleasdale at the time as Jonas appears to have been living there when he died in 1804. The Anglican burial register at Chipping gives his father's name as William on the entry dated 15th March, but given that he was aged two I suspect the father's name should be James. The youngest child, Henry, was buried at Chipping as a Catholic on 21st August 1814, when the family was living at Chaigley. James was bondsman on his brother Robert's marriage licence twice – in 1808 and 1817. Between 1800 and 1817, with a couple of gaps, James paid land tax⁴⁶ of 16/- on the plot of land previously held by his father at Chipping. Between 1810 and 1821 he was paying land tax of £4 2/6 at Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley⁴⁷, about 8 miles from Chipping. Given that his son was buried at Chipping from Chaigley, it is clearly 'our' James, in which case he was still alive in 1821. After that, he drops out of sight, but in 1841⁴⁸, his widow Mary was found living with her grown-up sons Joseph – a publican – and Anthony – a

⁴⁴ LA, ARR/11, marriage bond William Walmsley, 1795

⁴⁵ LA, ARR/11, marriage bond of James Park, 1797

⁴⁶ LA, QDL/B/16, Chipping Land Tax, 1782-1832

⁴⁷ LA, QDL/B/3, Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Land Tax, 1782- 1832

⁴⁸ HO 107/538/11, 1841 census, Bury

male servant, presumably helping out in the pub – in Bury. In 1861⁴⁹ Joseph and his wife were running a pub named *The Pack Horse* in Bury – yet another inn keeper in the family.

John², whose life has already been followed, was born in either 1778 or 1779; in the light of what follows, 1778 seems the more likely date. Elizabeth must have been born to Henry and Martha either in 1779 or just before the register began in 1780. She married William Bamber at Whitewell on 11th September 1797 by an informative licence⁵⁰ dated two days earlier:

...William Bamber of Legram in the chapelry of Whalley ... husbandman... intends to marry Elizabeth Park of Bleasdale in the parish of Lancaster aged seventeen a spinster with the consent of Henry Park of Bleasdale... her father

Elizabeth's brother William was William Bamber's bondsman, and signed the affidavit that Henry had consented with the same distinctive capital P that all the sons seem to have been taught.



St Mary's - Chipping

William and Elizabeth's first child, named Henry after its grandfather, was baptised at St Mary Chipping on 29th January 1798, only 4 months after the wedding, which may partially explain Henry's consent. The couple settled near St Thomas RC Cloughton-on-Brock, less than seven miles from Chipping and five from Barton. Here three children were baptised at the local Catholic chapel: Alice on 30th December 1799, William on 14th February 1802 – with aunt Alice Park as one of his god-parents – and Martha on 26th April 1804, with Robert and Ellen Park – uncle and aunt – as sponsors. The last four children were baptised as St Mary Newhouse in Barton – John on 24th February 1808, Thomas on 20th April 1810, with aunt Mary

⁴⁹ RG 9/2846, 1861 census Bury

⁵⁰ <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>, Cheshire Marriage Licence Bonds and Allegations 1606-1905

Park as god-mother, Elizabeth on 10th August 1812 and Mary on 19th November 1814. William Bamber was godfather to John¹ Park in 1807, and Elizabeth to John¹'s brother William Park in 1811. Once again, this Catholic family was showing how close the ties were even if they didn't always live close by.

Having pieced together the eldest five children of Henry and Martha's family, the youngest five proved easier, as they appear in the official registers. Robert Park was baptised on 10th March 1782 at the newly created St Mary's Roman Catholic chapel in Chipping. His god-parents were Thomas Huntinton and Ann Walker, who was probably Martha's mother. Mary, baptised on 25th December 1783, had John Leeming and Elizabeth Dewhurst as sponsors, while Alice, baptised 3rd March 1786 had as god-parents William Livesey and Margaret Cottam, both from Gossop. Ellen, baptised 6th April 1788 had William Chew and Isabel Leeming as god-parents. Unusually, there were no Park sponsors. Were these relatives of Martha, or just friends and neighbours?

I think Henry, who was buried at Chipping St Bartholomew on 24th February 1790, may not have lived long enough to have been christened; He was probably the last of Henry and Martha's children. The rest, though, all grew up to marry and have families of their own – quite an achievement in an era of high child mortality.

Robert Park of Bleasdale, husbandman, married Ellen Croasdale of Chipping at that parish, by licence, on 9th February 1808. Both he and his bride signed the register, as did his brother James Park as one of the witnesses. The other two were John Noble, and John Townley – who witnessed all the weddings on the page. According to the licence⁵¹, both parties were 21, although Robert was actually 25, and a husbandman. The couple baptised three children at St Mary Chipping: Elizabeth on 30th January 1809, with Henry Park and Elizabeth Croasdale as sponsors; Robert on 22nd November 1810, with James Park as sponsor along with Elizabeth Croasdale again; and finally Martha, on 13th September 1812, with John Walmsley (married to Robert's sister Mary) and Jane Croasdale as sponsors. Martha, under her married name of Haighton, consistently gave Bleasdale as her place of birth on the census returns⁵², so this is presumably where the family settled initially. However, when Ellen died in 1815, although she was buried at Chipping, her abode was given as Barton. The family was still in Chipping when Robert proved his father's will⁵³ in January 1812, and he paid 16/- land tax⁵⁴ there on what had been his father's land in 1810. In the same year, he paid land tax⁵⁵ at Bleasdale of 18/11 ½, again, presumably on his father's land. He also served that year there as both assessor and collector of the tax. In 1814, he was still assessing and collecting the Bleasdale land tax, but his own entry is crossed through, so presumably his move to Barton can be placed around this time.

⁵¹ LA, ARR 11, Marriage Bond, 7.2.1808

⁵² E.g. HO 107.2260, 1851 census, Church

⁵³ LA, W/RW/A/R136/4, 1812, Will of Henry Park of Fairsnape, 1812

⁵⁴ LA, QDL/B/16, Chipping Land Tax, 1803-32

⁵⁵ LA, QDL/A/7, Bleasdale Land Tax, 1782 - 1813



St Mary Lancaster

Robert married again on 4th February 1817, and although the ceremony was at Lancaster, he gave his abode as Barton. His second wife was named Elizabeth Baines. On the licence he called himself a farmer and gave his age more accurately as 35. The witnesses to the marriage were John Baines and his brother James Park. In Barton, he followed a similar trajectory to his brother John¹, appearing first on the same rental⁵⁶ as his brother in around 1815 with a long entry as follows:

No 4. Rob ^t Park per Cross's						
House Barn Orchard Fold Garden	)	1	0	9		9 9 3
Cross Lane etc)					
Great South Gladden Field		5	3	25	66	19 9 9
Meadow Gladden		2	0	39	68	7 12 1
Brewey Gladden		2	1	11	96	11 2 7
Woody Brew		1	0	20	60	3 7 6
West Bread Field		4	0	24	60	12 9 0
East " "		4	1	30	75	16 12 9
Croft		0	2	2	100	2 11 3
East Holme and Lane Adjoining		2	0	23	66	7 1 5
Middle Holme		1	0	28	70	4 2 3
Bridge Holme and Rye Croft		1	3	30	70	6 15 7
Lane Adjoining		0	2	26	24	0 15 10
Cross Field		2	2	25	60	7 19 4
Fold Croft		0	1	25	88	1 15 8
Cross Meadow		2	0	30	100	10 18 9
Moor Field		2	0	9	50	5 2 9
East Close		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>13 4 3</u>
Survey		<u>38</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>27</u>	£	<u>140</u>

A note on opposite page says:

⁵⁶ LA, DX 244, Rental of Barton, Kidsnape, High Moor and Goosnargh, c 1815

Let to Jn^o Seed this farm for 7 years at the rent of £95 per year....

While an entry on page 4 for James Stewart has a pencil note against Bark House Croft saying:

This part let to Rob^t Park...

He took out a seven year lease⁵⁷ on a house and closes in Barton in 1817, 1824 and in 1827; he signed alongside John¹ on a document giving a character reference for William Gosnell⁵⁸; and in 1822 he appeared to be occupying Bell House⁵⁹. There seem to have been no children from his second marriage, and there are no sightings of Robert after 1832; presumably he died before the 1841 census was taken. Martha seems to be the only one of his children to survive until adulthood. Having married Richard Haighton in 1845 at Clitheroe in a civil ceremony, she settled down to life as the wife of a beer seller⁶⁰.

Mary, born in 1783, married John Walmsley on 7th July 1806 at Whitewell. Both parties were described as being of the parish of Whalley and chapelry of Whitewell, and the ceremony was witnessed by Robert Park. Whether the fact of a marriage by banns suggests that John Walmsley was a Protestant or that the couple were happy to pass as such is unclear; the children were baptised as Catholics, though. It is also unclear whether John and William Walmsley, who married Mary's sister Ann, were related. Walmsley is a common name in the region, but it would be easy to get to know your sibling's in-laws. A daughter Martha was baptised at St Mary's Chipping on 4th June 1807, with godparents Harry [sic] and Margery Park. This would be her grandfather Henry and his second wife, Margery Singleton, which would explain the bequest of £10 to her god-daughter Matty, daughter of John Walmsley, in Margery's will⁶¹. To balance this, John, baptised 21st March 1809, had two Walmsley sponsors. A second John was baptised on 27th June 1811 (sponsors apparently unrelated) and a son Charles was baptised, with Walmsley godparents, on 7th July 1813.

Alice, who was born in 1786, gave birth to an illegitimate daughter named Martha in 1803. When the child was baptised at St Mary's, on 28th August, the father's name was given as Robert Parker. Once again, the question arises as to whether this was a member of the extended family. Was he Rosamond Parker's brother, or maybe cousin? Whatever the truth, her prospects don't seem to have been blighted as three years later she married Richard Martin at St Mary Lancaster on 14th May 1806. A daughter Ellen was baptised seven months later at St Mary's Chipping on 23rd December. James Park was godfather, and an Alice listed as god-mother - a clerical error maybe? It was 10 years before another child was baptised: Esther, on 17th November 1816. However, Henry, son of Richard Martin was listed

⁵⁷ LA, DX 247 and DX 256

⁵⁸ LA, QSB/1/1827/App/p84/279, 22.1.1827

⁵⁹ LA, DX 248, *A List containing the Names of the Different Farms in the Township of Barton, 1822*

⁶⁰ HO 107/2260, 1851 census, Church

⁶¹ LA, W/RW/A/R/136/7, will of Margery Park, Broughton, 1813

in Margery Park's will as a godchild, in the clause after Matty, and with a bequest of £10, so I suspect he belonged to Richard and Alice as well.

Mary's sister Elling, two years younger, also married a Martin – again, was this a brother of Richard? Elling, or Ellen, married Thomas Marton on 15th July 1811, at St Mary Lancaster. A daughter Alice, baptised at St Mary Chipping on 4th March 1812, was buried at St Bartholomew's four days later. Henry was baptised on 14th November 1813, with Robert and Ellen Park standing sponsors, as they had with the unlucky Alice. Another daughter, Mary, was buried on 5th September 1819 at St Bartholomew's as an infant noted as a Catholic. Neither of the sisters seems to have lived long enough to appear in census returns.



St Bartholomew Chipping - churchyard

A year after Henry and Martha's son Henry was buried, the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1791 was passed, allowing them to practice their religion and run schools, among other things. In exchange for taking an oath of loyalty to the crown, Catholics were promised freedom from prosecution on the grounds of their religion, though stringent conditions were placed on how they ran their assemblies. Henry made both declaration and oath. The former was made at Preston on 31st October 1790 – the 31st year of George III's reign and appears in the book⁶² as:

The mark of Henry Park X farmer, Bleasdale in the county of Lancaster

The following year he took the oath, which begins:

Oath: I AB do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to his Majesty King George the third and him will defend to the utmost of my Power against Conspiracies and Attempts whatever that shall be made against his Person, Crown or Dignity, and I will do my utmost Endeavour to disclose and make known to his Majesty his Heirs

⁶² LA, QSJ/4/1, Oaths of Roman Catholics, 1791

and Successors, all Treasons and Traitorous Conspiracies which may be formed against him or them, and I do faithfully promise to maintain, support and defend to the utmost of my Power the Succession of the Crown; which succession by an act entitled 'An Act for the further Limitation of the Crown and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the subject, is and stands limited to the Princess Sophia Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants, hereby utterly renouncing and abjuring any Obedience or Allegiance unto any other person claiming or pretending a right to the Crown of these realms...

It goes on to say that they abjure the opinion that princes whom the Pope has excommunicated can be deposed, and that he has no jurisdiction in England. Once again, Henry is recorded as follows:

The mark of Henry Park X farmer of Bleasdale in the county of Lancaster

It is curious that he chose to make his mark when other documentation shows him to have been literate. Was this his minor rebellion against the whole process perhaps? It must also have rankled that oath-takers had to pay 2/- for a certificate to prove that they had completed the process.

In 1798, Martha Park, Henry's wife, died. Henry remained a widower for eight years; he had no very young children to raise and it may be significant that he remarried the same year as two of his younger daughters. However, when he did finally wed again, it was to a woman from Broughton, so near to where his son John was living:

Henry Parke of Bleasdale in the parish of Lancaster widower and Margery Singleton of Broughton widow were married in this chapel by licence this 13th day of January in the year 1806

Henry signed; Margery (who had been born Margery Haymon and had previously married James Singleton in 1785 at Goosnargh) made her mark. One of the witnesses was George Singleton; the other Henry's son, John² Park. The marriage licence⁶³, dated 8th January, called Henry a yeoman, living at Bleasdale.

Presumably Henry took his new wife back home to Bleasdale, but the marriage, which may have been one of convenience, did not last long. Henry died in 1811; his burial has not been found, but his will⁶⁴ is helpfully annotated:

The Testator died 24th July 1811.

After the usual openings, he makes the following statement:

⁶³ LA, ARR 11, Marriage License, Henry Park, 8.1.1806

⁶⁴ LA, W/RW/A/R136/4, Will of Henry Park of Fairsnape

Whereas I am possessed of a certain cottage House and Butcher's Shop situated and being in the village of Chipping and County of Lancaster aforesaid, I hereby give and devise the same to James, my son, to Anne, wife of William Walmsley, to William, to John, to Elizabeth wife of William Bamber, to Robert, to Mary wife of John Walmsley, to Alice wife of Richard Marton, and to Ellen, my children and appoint them co-heirs thereof for ever.

Not only does this appear to confirm the order of birth of his children, and his daughters' marriages, it also implies that, like his son John and grandsons John and Richard, he earned part of his living as a butcher. It was very common for butchers to also be graziers, and farm their own herds. In addition, it shows Henry to have property in the parish of Chipping. Although a parish, Chipping is a small rural village, described on its Local History website⁶⁵ as follows:



Chipping's Town's Hall - one time butcher's shop

The name "Chipping" is derived from the Old English "ceping", which means "a market". The market developed near the bridge over Chipping Brook at the entrance to the vast Royal Forest of Bowland east of the village. This "Forest" was an area of ancient cattle farms, or "vaccaries"... The Chipping market was thus at a point of exchange between two different economies and a major outlet for the Bowland cattle farms.

There were two fairs each year, on the first Tuesday after Easter and on St. Bartholomew's day, August 24th. Cattle would be sold in the street. Farmers would take the opportunity of visiting the village shops, meeting tradesmen such as butchers and leather workers, and socialising in the alehouses.

⁶⁵ <http://www.chippinghistory.co.uk/page2.html>

A building in the village known as the 'Town's Hall' has a wall plaque saying it was used as a butcher's shop in the 19th century. This may well be too late to have been the property Henry willed to his offspring, but no doubt his shop would have been similar.

Having disposed of his urban property, Henry's will now turned to:

My interest in my Farm at Fairsnape in Bleasdale

which was willed to his son Robert:

during the reversion of my present lease, he paying for the use thereof two hundred pounds...to my executors and by them divided among my sons and daughters before named equally share and share alike.

So far he had been totally even-handed. However, when it came to the disposal of his:

ready money and securities

although it was to be shared among all his children, there was a caveat:

But as some of my children have received pecuniary assistance from me, to a greater amount than others (as will appear from my Accounts) I will that what they have respectively received be reckoned in part of what each may hereafter receive so that their shares may all be equal.

To me, this strengthens my earlier hypothesis that his son, John² had already financially supported his two sons Richard² and John¹ and that this was the reason behind him leaving his estate to his wife Rosamund.

Henry, though, clearly wanted to keep his second wife in the frame, especially as he thought it was possible that his children might later be beneficiaries of her own will when the time came:

I also give and bequeath unto Marjery, my present wife, the sum of ten pounds; and if any property, either in land or money, should devolve to me or my children, after her decease, it shall also be divided as aforesaid

i.e. equally among his children. In the event, the only references to her Park family in Margery's will⁶⁶ were the bequests to her step-grandson John and her two godchildren, mentioned above, and a reference to:

eighty pounds principal money owing by my late husband Mr Henry Park deceased and received by his bond

⁶⁶ LA, W/RW/A/R/136/7, Will of Margery Park of Broughton, 1813

This money appears to have been part of a mortgage. Margery's will is full of bequests to a vast array of people, many of them clergy or nuns – though some of these were rescinded in a codicil – but the bulk, I think, went to her stepson George Singleton. She had clearly been a good catch for Henry; her estate was valued at under £1,500. In contrast, Henry's estate was under £800. His will, written on 24th April 1811, had been witnessed by Joseph Stuart, clerk, Lawrence Hewitt and Thomas Marton, later to marry Henry's youngest daughter Ellen. Henry had named two executors, his son Robert and John Cutler of Bleasdale. It was proved by the former on 11th January 1812.



Bleasdale – looking towards Fairsnape

The will called Henry Park a yeoman of Fairsnape, Forest of Bowland. Fairsnape is a small hamlet – if that – in Bleasdale. In 1841 it only had three households. Wikipedia⁶⁷ describes the area as follows:

Fair Snape Fell is one of the larger hills in the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire, England. It occupies a position in the very south of the main range of fells, alongside and just to the north of Parlick, to which it is joined by a ridge. The main paths approach the summit from Parlick in the south, Saddle Fell in the east and Bleasdale in the valley to the west.

The Saddle Fell approach is as boggy as the hills to the north. The summit is covered in grass and peat groughs. A trig point and large cairn occupy the top of the western escarpment, with the highest point being about 700 metres (770 yd) to the north-east. The word *snape* means 'pasture'; thus Fair Snape Fell means 'fell of the fair (beautiful) pasture'.

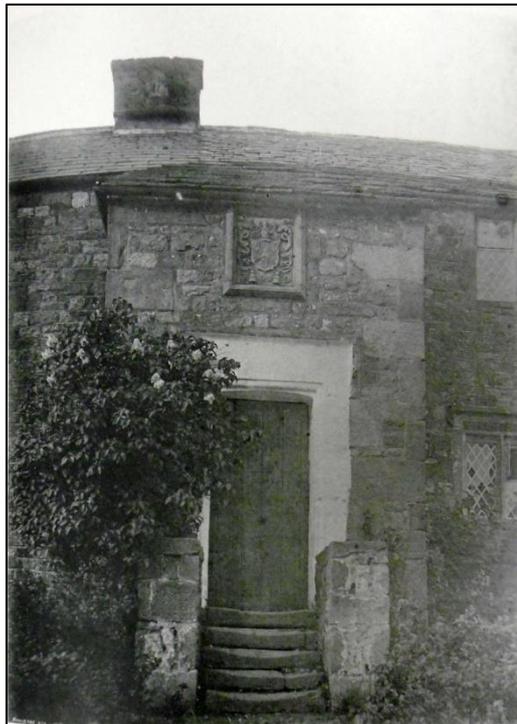
The reference to Saddle Fell raises echoes of the Saddle Field mentioned by Henry in reference to land inherited from Martha's grandfather, who in turn mentions a tenement on Saddleside. It would seem that Henry and Martha were probably closer neighbours than their respective parishes suggested.

⁶⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Having proved his father's will, Robert Park now wished to dispose of the property. On four occasions in 1812, the following advertisement appeared⁶⁸:

Lot 3. All that capital Messuage or Mansion-house and Tenement, called *Fairsnape*, or the *Hall of Fairsnape*, situated in Bleasdale, in the said county of Lancaster, about seven miles from Garstang, and fourteen from Preston; with the several Parcels of Demesne and other Lands therewith occupied, containing together, 408a. 2r. 34p. seven yards to the rod, or thereabouts, be the same more or less; together with all that Vaccary or Cowhouse, called *Fairsnape* alias *Fulsnape*, now in the possession of Henry Parke's executors, for a term of three years, from Candlemas and May-day, 1812. Three hundred Sheep belong to the owner of the inheritance, and will be sold therewith, according to the custom.

Both the terms capital messuage and mansion house suggest Fairsnape was a substantial property. However, despite the advertisements, it seems that part of it at least stayed in the family as two years later, another advert appeared⁶⁹:



Fairsnape in Bleasdale⁷⁰

TO BE LET
FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS
...ALL that MESSUAGE and TENEMENT, called *HIGHER-FAIRSNAP*,
Situate in Bleasdale, in the said county, and the several Closes of Land
thereunto belonging, containing together, 120 acres of thereabouts ... with

⁶⁸ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Lancaster Gazette*, 7 & 28.3.1812, 4 & 11.4.1812

⁶⁹ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> *Lancaster Gazette*, 24.9.1814

⁷⁰ Picture from: *History of the Parish of Chipping in the County of Lancaster with some account of the Forests of Bleasdale and Bowland*, Tom C Smith, F.R. Hist. S., Whitehead, Preston, 1894

right of COMMON upon Fairsnape Fell, now in the occupation of Thomas Martin

Also, at the same time and place, will be LET...

All that other MESSUAGE and TENEMENT, called LOWER FAIRSNAPE, situate in Bleasdale aforesaid, and the several Closes of Land thereunto belonging, containing together, 110 acres or thereabouts, of the measure aforesaid, now in the occupation of Robert Park.

Thomas Ball, who lives upon the premises (except on Sundays) will shew the same.

The estates have lately been drained, at very considerable expense; and great encouragement will be given to deserving tenants.

Excellent marl in the estates, and lime at a short distance.

Thomas Martin was married to Robert's sister Ellen. Higher Fairsnape Farmhouse was built in 1637, though no doubt with later alterations, and is now a grade II listed building⁷¹. It is described as of two stories with attic, with one bay on either side of the porch. It is made of sandstone rubble and now has a slate roof. The arms of its builder, Robert Parkinson, are above the door.

Walker - Chipping and Leagram

Martha Park, née Walker, the matriarch of the family described above, and grandmother to some 46 grandchildren, is a shadowy figure. We know that she married Henry Park at St Mary Lancaster in 1771 and gave birth to at least 10 children, that she was 'of Chipping' when she married, and that she was buried there on 11th February 1798 as:

Martha wife of Henry Park of Bleasdale

The *Returns of Papists*⁷² lists three Catholic Walker families in Chipping in 1767, but unfortunately only gives the name of the head of the household. So, initially I reasoned that if she grew up in Chipping as well as being of there when she wed, she could either be the daughter of Richard, Thomas or William Walker:

A true account of the Papists and reputed Papists in the parish of Chipping

Names of heads of families	Occupation	Adults		Minors	
		M	F	B	G
Thomas Walker	Farmer	1	-	1	2
William Walker	Blacksmith	1	1	-	1
Richard Walker	Farmer	1	1	1	

⁷¹ <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101072915-higher-fairsnape-farmhouse-bleasdale#.W3K8aOhKiUk>

⁷² SoG, RC/Per, *Returns of Papists* 1767, vol 1 Diocese of Chester, and vol 2, Dioceses except Chester

If she was part of the statistics above, she must have been born after 1746 to appear as a minor, probably, given marriage in 1771, around 1750. Richard seemed the least likely, as there was no daughter in the household, but despite wondering if she had links to the Dewhurst family, which also provided godparents (Isabel Leeming was born a Dewhurst) and a wedding witness, I doubted I would ever be able to trace her ancestry.



St Mary Lancaster

The discovery that Henry Park was farming land previously tenanted by a Richard Walker, that a note in the Chipping Manor Rental⁷³ in 1781, beside an entry for Henry Park said:

Paid William Walker for going to Lancaster

and that Richard's lease specified a son named William born around 1722-3 led me to two key dates. The lease for three lives expired on 5th July 1808, and the Chipping register noted:

William Walker of Bleasdale aged 85 buried

on 7th July the same year. The age given tallied with the supposed birth year, and the Chipping register also noted:

William son of Richard Walker of Chippin bap husbandman

on 8th April 1722. Dates, abode and occupation all fitted. What was puzzling, though, was the fact that a Catholic family should choose to baptise their child in the Church of England. Was this a smoke screen or maybe a pragmatic act given that, if a child was named on a lease, the powers that be might request proof of baptism?

⁷³ LA, DDK/1807/1-60, Chipping Manor Rental, 1749-99

Or did Richard, who was evidently a Catholic by the time the Papist Returns were taken, change allegiance at some point? This will be explored further later.

The same Returns⁷⁴ show that William did not follow his father into farming but became a blacksmith – at least he was one in 1767, though he may have combined this with husbandry, as his will⁷⁵, made on 21st April 1808, calls him a yeoman. The will also specifies his residence as Bleasdale; maybe he had moved to be nearer his daughter's family after his wife's death. I suspect that Martha was his only child to have reached adulthood and as she had children of her own, although she predeceased him, he left his worldly goods to his son-in-law Henry Park:

I give and devise all that my dwelling house in Chipping in the said county now in the occupation of Anne Salisbury as tenant to me together with the Butcher's Shop under the same to my son-in-law Henry Park his heirs and assigns for ever. I give and devise all my other lands messuages and tenements both freehold and leasehold situate and being in Chipping aforesaid to my said son-in-law Henry Park for and during the term of his natural life

While Henry was free to devise the first part of the bequest as he wished, William specified that the second pass to his grandchildren (**see tree 11 – p.130**) after Henry's death:

equally amongst my nine grandchildren namely James, Ann wife of William Walmsley, William, John, Elizabeth wife of John Walmsley, Alice wife of Richard Martin and Ellen, sons and daughters of the said Henry Park

Henry was nominated sole executor; William made his mark and the will was witnessed by William Sawyer, Hannah Park and Margery Park. The last named witness was Henry's second wife; I suspect Hannah may be one of the siblings of Henry missing from the Bleasdale Papist Returns. Henry proved the will on 5th November 1808.

William was presumably a widow when he died; there is no feasible record of a marriage for him in the Anglican registers I have seen, and no Catholic records exist early enough. However, Martha's eldest child had a godmother named Ann Walker, and it seems likely that this was her mother and William's wife, especially as there is a burial recorded at Chipping for:

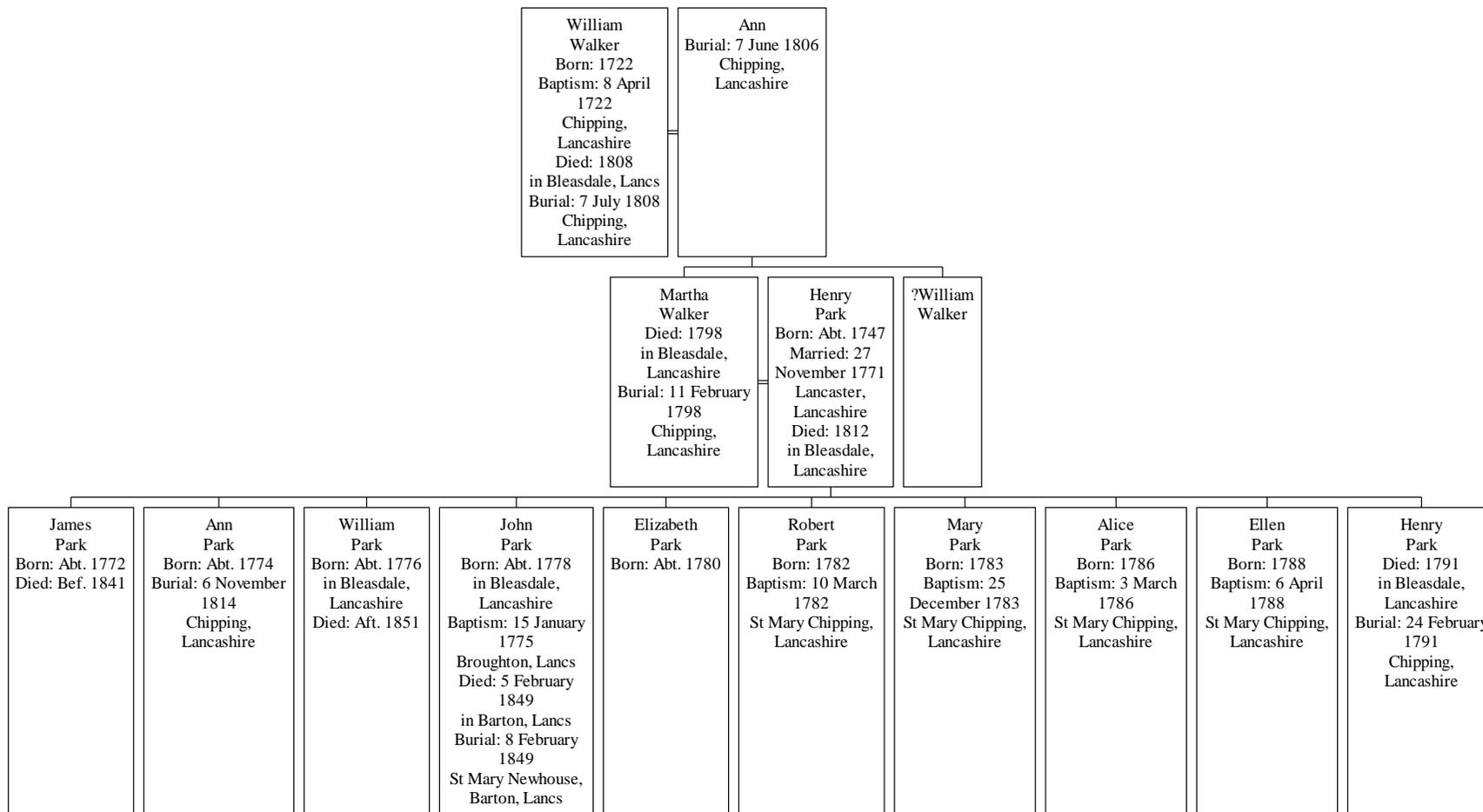
Ann wife of William Walker of Chipping aged 80

on 7th June 1806. This suggests she was born around 1726, but it has proved impossible to discover anything further about her.

⁷⁴ SoG, RC/Per, *Returns of Papists 1767*, vol 1 Diocese of Chester, and vol 2, Dioceses except Chester

⁷⁵ LA, W/RW/A/R127/13, Will of William Walker, Bleasdale, 1808

Tree 11 - Descendants of William and Ann Walker



Gr grandchildren's spouses omitted. See tree 10 for their details.

Because William Walker was the 'third life' on his father's lease, we can say with certainty that his father and Martha's grandfather was Richard¹ Walker. He took out a lease for three lives on the land outlined above – namely: a House, Barn and Saddle Field, a garden, an 'acre', Long and Broad Meadows and Nearer and Further Hall Fields – containing 13 acres, 1 rood and 18 perches. The Chipping Lease Register⁷⁶ compiled in 1766 shows that the lease was taken out in 1732. The title page is headed:

An abstract of the Earl of Derby's Register of his Estates in his Lordship's Manors in Three Volumes by Tho^s Dana 1766 Vol 1

and the entry for Richard reads:

13 January 1732	No 12	Richard Walker [lessee]
Lives		Age
Jane Dobson.....		d
Lessee.....		28
W ^m son.....		9

Another Lease Register⁷⁷, undated, but post-dating the one above gives more detail, although some of the entries are inscrutable:

Date	No.	Lessee
1732 13 Jan	12	Ric. Walker 1 Horsegate and 20 Sheepgates on Castlesteads
Land	Value	Lives
Mess	17 - -	Jane Dobson died in 1733; lessee 28 d; Wm son 9,
Rent	Boon with value	
16/8	2 hens, 2 reapeen 2 haymak ⁿ 1 ^s 1 Turf Cart 3 ^s - 2/- 4/-	
Fine		
10 e 30 2 added		

This gives us an address, albeit vague. According to an article by Christine Ironfield⁷⁸, Castlesteads was an area of land owned by the Sherburne or Shireburn family in the 1600s. Notable Catholic landowners, their home at Leagram Hall was a centre for Catholic worship during the penal times. 'Mess' I take to mean messuage or house. The boons show what services were due to the Lord of the Manor, but not entirely clearly, and the last entry – the fine – no doubt made more sense to the recorder than it does to me.

This register must have been compiled after 1733, when Jane Dobson died, and possibly some time later, as the only burial for a Jane Dobson at Chipping took place in 1735, but if Richard¹ was being asked to remember a date some time past, two years slippage seems reasonable. Jane was buried as a widow, and it begs the

⁷⁶ LA, DDK 2111, Chipping Manor Lease Registers, 1766

⁷⁷ LA, DDK 2101, Chipping Manor Lease Registers

⁷⁸ <https://www.hslc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/127-3-Ironfield.pdf> *The Parish of Chipping in the Seventeenth Century*

question of whether she was related to Richard in some way – a mother-in-law perhaps. The term ‘Reserved Rents’ implies that the lessee paid a lump sum at the beginning of the lease, but thereafter paid only a small fraction of the land’s value in annual rent. Life leases under this system were often taken out in the names of the lessee, his wife and his eldest son, and could be renewed on payment of a fine when one party died. If both lessee and son had died, the widow might well have opted to include a son-in-law on the new lease. According to Christopher Clay⁷⁹:

The normal practice was for each life to be 'renewed' upon payment of the appropriate fine when, or soon after, it had 'dropped', and only if a leaseholder was utterly unable to afford the fine, or had no heirs to succeed him, would he fail to keep his lease 'filled up'.

As life expectancy increased in this period, leases began to last longer, and it is easy to see therefore, why there was so much interest paid in the early 1800s to William Walker’s advanced age. The landlord no doubt felt that this lease had lasted long enough. Rack rents, in contrast, which the majority of the entries were for, would be charged at the whole value of the land each year.



Chipping

The Chipping Manor Rental⁸⁰ has numerous entries for Richard¹ Walker, beginning with the following in 1747:

Occupants	Whole year rent due at Pentecost	Boons then due	Arrears due at Pentecost
Richard Walker	16/8	1/-	
Lives	Total	Received	Posted
	17/8	17/8	
Arrears due next year	Notes		

⁷⁹ <http://www.bahs.org.uk/AGHR/ARTICLES/29n2a2.pdf> *Lifleasehold in the Western Counties of England 1650-1750*, Christopher Clay

⁸⁰ LA, DDK/1807/1-60, Chipping Manor Rental, 1747-99

These entries are spread across a double page in a large volume, and not every column was filled in. The entry for 1751 is identical to the one above, but from 1748-1750 the number 2 appeared in the 'lives' column. Entries continue, in one form or other, until 1775.

The Chipping Manor Rental⁸¹ offers one more intriguing detail. On the pages headed 'Chief Rents', i.e. freehold land, from 1747 a plot of land named Walkers is listed. The rent seems to be 6^d, but over the years, arrears accrue regularly, so that by 1799 the land is owing 13/-. Was this land belonging to the Walker family of the day, or was the name purely historical? There is no tenant's name listed, so I suspect the latter. The name Walker first appears in the register in 1603 (see tree 12 - p. 138).

Obviously close to death, Richard¹ Walker made his will on 23rd January 1776. Despite the fact that he chose to be buried at Chipping (two days later, on 25th January), the register describes him as 'of Leagram' and his will⁸² states:

Will of Richard Walker of Leagram, Whalley, yeoman

Whalley was a large parish mainly some 10 miles away on the other side of the River Ribble, but it had a detached portion at Whitewell, which lay next to Chipping, and presumably included Leagram. Richard¹'s will is in many ways frustrating, as the first bequest is of 5/- each to:

every one of my children begotten of my body

but he omits their names. He does, however, name his wife - Jennet - and I suspect that the Jannet Walker buried at Chipping on 7th March 1792 may be her, despite her residence being Chipping not Leagram. All the rest of his estate goes to her, provided she stay a widow:

Namely the rents and profits of my two farms (viz) Townend and Moss Side during the remainder of the leases and also all the rents and profits or income of the tenement I have at Saddleside in Chipping which I hold under the Right Honourable Edward Stanley Earl of Derby for my life and the life of William Walker my son

Richard appointed three executors: Samuel Leeming of Leagram, John Leeming of Goosnargh and John Dickinson of Over Wyresdale. Again, there is a suggestion of kinship with the Leemings, maybe. He makes no further reference to William, but presumably, as one of the named lives on the lease, his position as heir was assured. Or maybe not, as having sealed his will in the presence of John Wilkinson and James Walmesley, he added a codicil to the effect that after Jennet's death the rest and residue of his effects be divided equally among his children. The will was proved on 5th February 1777.

⁸¹ LA, DDK/1807/1-60, Chipping Manor Rental, 1747-99

⁸² LA, W/RW/A/R110b/9, Will of Richard Walker of Leagram, 1776

If we accept that William Walker, aged 9 in the 1732 lease, was the boy baptised at Chipping on 8th April 1722, then it seemed reasonable to expect that his siblings, unnamed in their father's will, were also baptised. In fact, only one other baptism of a child of Richard Walker was recorded, Thomas, who was baptised on 7th September 1726, but must surely have been the Thomas buried – also as the son of Richard Walker – at Chipping on 5th June 1741. No mother's name was given in any of these entries, but on 7th December 1727, when Thomas was still an infant, the burial was recorded of:

Elizabeth wife of Richard Walker of Leithgrim

With two small sons, Richard¹ would no doubt have married again fairly soon, presumably to the Jennet named in his will. She seems to have outlived him by about 16 years, probably buried at Chipping as Jannet Walker on 7th March 1792.

Although according to the National Archives website⁸³ Catholic children did sometimes appear in Anglican registers – and weren't always identified as such – so many 'mixed marriages' have turned up in this account, I think it is more likely that Richard¹ Walker was born – and therefore baptised – an Anglican and died a Roman Catholic. Perhaps Jennet was a Catholic, and persuaded him to convert. Certainly, there must have been children from this marriage; the wording of the will makes that plain, and a minor other than William was living with him and his wife when the Papist Returns were taken. However, no baptisms are recorded at Chipping or nearby. A child named Richard (son of Richard Walker), was nevertheless buried on 21st March 1751. Unless there were two Richard Walkers in Chipping, and there is little to suggest this, this was probably a child of Richard and Jennet. The Thomas Walker, farmer, who appears on the Papist Returns⁸⁴ with his family in 1767, may also have been part of this family.

This is, of course, something of a speculation, but there were only three Catholic Walker families in Chipping parish in the 1767 Return, and the church register only records around 30 Walker entries between 1600 and 1800, so it wasn't a common name in the area. The only entry I cannot firmly place after 1720 is a stray burial of a Richard Walker in 1761, which could have been a mis-transcription perhaps.

William and Richard¹ both wrote wills which described themselves as husbandmen or yeomen, and this leads us back to another Richard Walker, who I think must have been Martha's great-grandfather. It seems highly probable that the Richard Walker who wrote his will in 1776 was baptised at Chipping on 16th October 1698 as the son of another Richard Walker and his wife Deborah. This Richard was also a husbandman and also wrote a will in which he described himself as of Leagram; I will return to that later.

⁸³ <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/catholics/>

⁸⁴ SoG, RC/Per, *Returns of Papists 1767*, vol 1 Diocese of Chester, and vol 2 Dioceses except Chester

There is no record of a marriage between Richard² Walker and Deborah, but it must have taken place in the second half of the 1690s. Richard¹ was probably the oldest child, and may have been followed by a daughter Ann, who is named next in her father's will but whose baptism is missing. Sarah was baptised on 18th April 1703 but buried a week later; Isabel was baptised on 17th March 1705 as the daughter of Richard Walker and his wife Deborah. Presumably this concession was made as Deborah presumably died in or just after childbirth; her burial was recorded on 22nd March 1705 as:

Deborah the wife of Richard Walker

All these entries place the family at Leagram.

Richard² married again, and three further baptisms were recorded: Ellin – 25th December 1710; John 19th October 1717 and Mary 24th April 1720 – all giving Leagram as their abode. Another entry records the burial of William Walker, son of Richard, on 26th February 1717, but it is not clear whether this is a child of the first or second wife – or even, as no place is given, of a different Richard, though this seems unlikely, especially as the father is noted as a husbandman.

Nothing further is known about Richard² until he came to write his will⁸⁵ on 4th August 1727. He begins with what seems to be a very Protestant opening (Catholic wills tended to refer to the company of heaven):

I give and commit my soul to Almighty God hoping to be saved by the merits and mediation of my saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ

He begins with bequests to his surviving children from his first marriage:

First I give to my son Richard all my wearing apparel and four pounds in money. Item I give to my daughter Anne the sum of four pounds Item I give to my daughter Isabell the sum of four pounds in money and one cow at Widow Marsdens

The next section confirms the name of his second wife:

all the remainder of my goods and effects whatsoever I do give and bestow upon Ann my wife and three younger children Elin John and Mary equally amongst them

with the stipulation that this be 'improved and jointly managed' to the advantage of all, and that no division of goods be made until the children reach the age of 21. Despite trusting his wife to be joint executor, with one Thomas Slater, he adds the following caveat:

if she either marry or have issue unlawful before the time that the

⁸⁵ LA, W/RW/A/93A/16, Will of Richard Walker of Leagram, 1727

youngest child comes to the age of twenty one that then all her proportionable part shall return and be taken from her and given to her children equally amongst them

I suspect that the Slaters must have been a family connection, as all three witnesses were Slaters - Christopher, Isabel and Margaret, though her married name was Goodday.

What happened next seems curious. On 8th November, Thomas Slater appeared before the surrogate to be sworn, claiming that Ann Walker had renounced the executrixship. However, three months later, on 15th February 1727, Ann Walker was also sworn. There are two obligations kept with the will, one with Thomas Slater and James Dilworth swearing to administer the will of Richard Walker of Bowland, and the other showing Ann Walker, widow, supported by John Cromleholme of Bolland, swearing to administer the will of:

Richard Walker of Leagram aforesaid husbandman

Maybe Thomas Slater had died in the interim, forcing Ann to take up her role as executrix.



17th century school and almshouse - Chipping

The inventory, taken by Edmund Corles and James Parker on 2nd November 1727, is one of the most detailed I have seen. By the end of it, I imagine they had lost the will to live, as, in totalling the value of the estate, they added £74 17/5 in goods and £22 2/6 in money and made it £96 19/11. Fortunately, someone at the Surrogate's court noticed, and recorded the total accurately as £96 19/11. The list begins with what is often just recorded as husbandry gear, and includes: horse collars, a saddle, various pieces of equipment used for both packhorses and carts; plough parts, hoes, spade, fork, shovel and 'muck drag'; and other items described in dialect not immediately understandable.

Inside there is 'the house' itself, a buttery, a parlour, two further rooms upstairs and a 'chamber below'. The upstairs rooms, chamber and the parlour contain bedsteads and bedding, ranging in value from £2 to 10/6, suggesting the household may have consisted of several people. The 'house' contained a proving chest (presumably for bread-making), fire iron, rack, girdle (interestingly the Scots word is used, rather than the English griddle), frying pan, six chairs, a cupboard, a table, stools, a box, and brass and pewter – the final two items valued at £1 8/-. The brewery contained a brewing stand and dairy items – including a piggin or milk pail – shelves and chests. The other rooms are frugally furnished – beds, chests, baskets, and a meal chest, and few other items.

The main value of the estate was clearly in 'Quine Goods' – cattle. These are listed individually, mainly heifers, though some are listed just as cows and some as 'why stirks'. (Why is a variant of a Yorkshire dialect word *quy* – a young heifer.) There were also three young oxen. The value of these ranged from £3 15/- for a red heifer for calving to 16/- for a why calf. There were three horses, and a 'cole' – a colt perhaps – valued at £4. Hay and corn also feature as of great value - £11, while his purse and apparel were listed as worth £3 7/6.

Richard² Walker was buried at Chipping on 12th August 1727. No burial has been found for his widow Ann, so maybe she defied the will and remarried.

Equally no baptism has been found for Richard², but the surviving Chipping register has huge gaps, so a bunch of baptisms in the 1650s – Christopher on 14th April 1654, William on 23rd November 1656 and Anne or Jane (the register isn't clear) on 17th November 1659, offspring of Raynold Walker, seemed likely candidates to be siblings for Richard. Raynold Walker's will⁸⁶, proved at Chipping on 15th March 1675, by Richard and Christopher Walker, showed my surmise to be correct. A baptism in 1614 and a burial on 15th November 1675 are recorded in Chipping register, but those, and the three baptisms above are the only paper trail he leaves apart from the will. Fortunately this is quite informative, as is the accompanying inventory. It was written on the 7th October in the 22nd year of the reign of Charles II, in other words, 1675, and he describes himself as a husbandman and of Leagram.

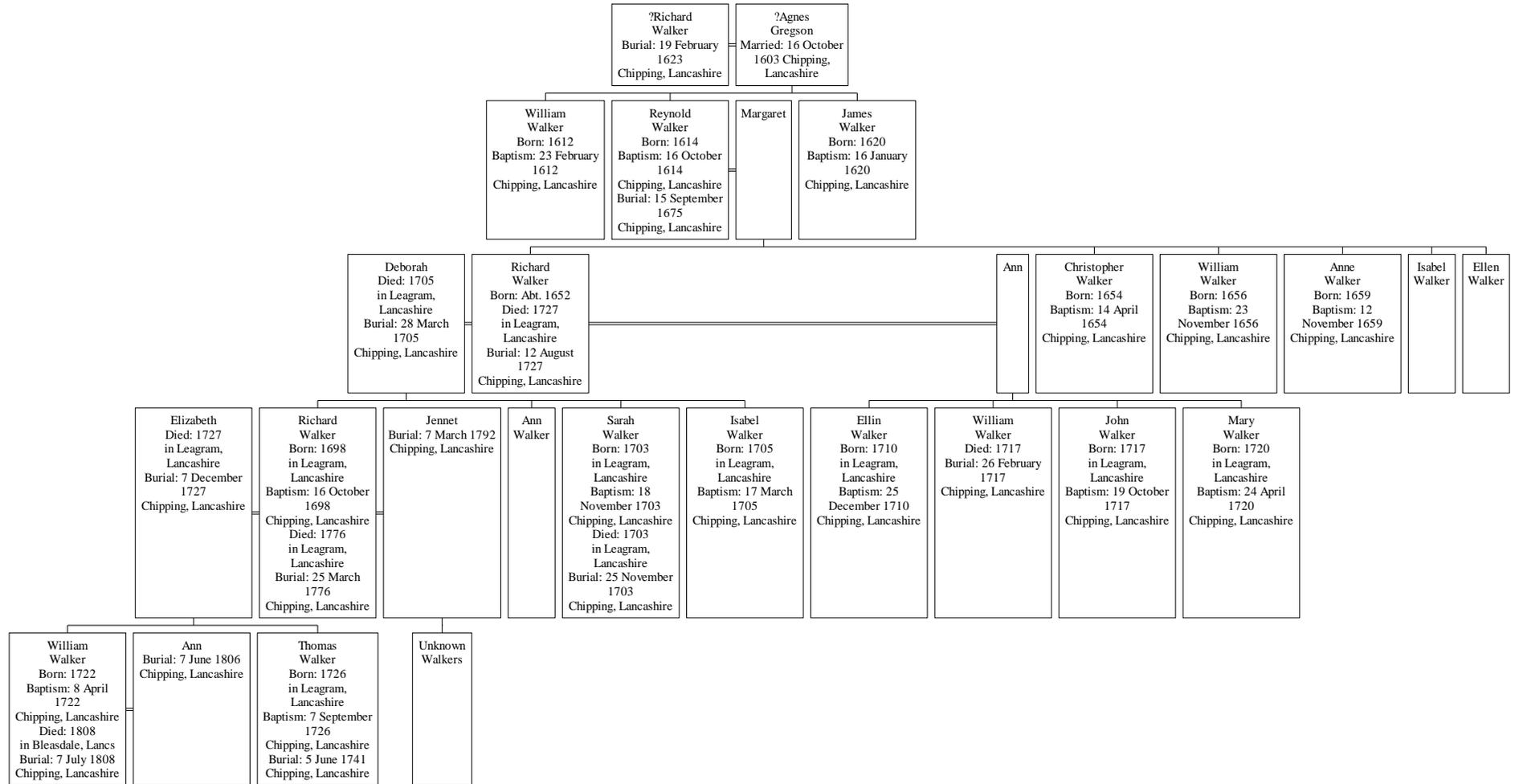
The opening confirms my suspicions that the earlier Walkers were Protestant rather than Catholic, as the main part of the will begins:

first and principally I bequeath my soul to God my maker trusting through the meritorious death and passion of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to be one of the happy number to whom that ... sentence shall be pronounced come ye blessed of my father inherit the kingdom of heaven prepared for you from the beginning of the world

which rather suggests he held to the Calvinist view of predestination. He then deals with his temporal estate:

⁸⁶ LA, WRW/A/R89A/14, Will of Raynold Walker of Leagram, 1675

Tree 12 - Descendants of ?Richard and ?Agnes Walker



I give and assign all my part of the title interest or tenant right which Thomas Slater and I have of a certain parcel of Moss or new improved ground in Leagram by a joint lease from Mr Sherburn to Richard Walker my son his heirs executors administrators or assigns during the residue and remainder of my title or tenant right therein by virtue of the said lease in any wise

With regard to his goods, his wife Margaret (the only mention we have of her) is to receive one third; the second third is to be divided equally between all his children and the final third is to be given to his two youngest, Isabell and Ellen. His 'two sons' Richard and Christopher are appointed executors, a phrasing which may be suggest that William has died. The fact that Richard² inherits the lease suggests he is the eldest, which implies a birth somewhere around 1652.

The inventory, taken by Hugh Dobson, John Holden, Richard Marsden, and Thomas Slater on 5th January 1675, suggests Raynold was less successful than his son Richard², no doubt why he was termed a husbandman rather than a yeoman. The first item listed is 'an old cow' worth £2 6/8, while the heifer which follows is valued at £2 13/4. A mare and a horse are valued at the same rate together as the heifer. All his husbandry gear is worth only 5/- but corn, hay and turf together make £2 5/4. Inside the house were two beds, two bolsters, three pillows, four blankets and a caddow - a coarse woollen bed covering. There was brass and pewter but also wooden and earthen vessels, and a variety of ironware including a bake stone and a frying pan. At least the four chairs had cushions. The total came to £16 8/-.

On 15th March 1675 Richard² and Christopher were sworn to carry out their executorship appropriately, along with John Dobson of Chipping - an older relative perhaps, maybe a link to the elusive Jane Dobson of Richard¹'s lease - assisting the two young men. Interestingly, the obligation calls all three yeomen. At the bottom of the document, the letter R which Richard made his mark with later on his own will appears - though in a different orientation and seeming to serve for both brothers.

Raynold's widow Margaret was, I think, buried on 13th March 1683, although no relationship is given. There is no further definitive trace of any of Richard²'s siblings, though I suspect that the 'Crosser' Walker (as it is transcribed), buried on 6th November 1711 is probably Christopher. Details of the others, and of the various missing Walker marriages, seem to have been lost in the gaps in the register. However, there is a little more to be gleaned. Raynold Walker was baptised as the son of another Richard on 16th October 1614. His older brother William was baptised on 23rd February 1612 and the younger, James, on 16th January 1620. There may well have been others, as a marriage is recorded at Chipping on 16th October 1603 of Richard Walker and Agnes Gregson, and these two are almost certainly the parents of William, Raynold and James. Richard³ Walker was buried on 19th February 1623 at Chipping. There is no sign of Agnes' burial.

Here, the Walker line ends, although a Ranold Walker was baptised on 18th August 1566 at Chipping and was probably the father of a son Robert born in 1608 (father's name transcribed from a nearly illegible page as Reongold). My guess is that Ranold's unnamed parents were also the parents of Richard³. There is no clue as to Agnes Gregson's parentage, but at least her surname is known, whereas for Raynold's wife Margaret, Richard²'s wife Deborah and Richard¹'s wife Elizabeth, that key piece of information is missing.

The earliest Parks - Bleasdale

Although there is no baptism record for Henry Park, it can be surmised that he was born around 1747 (see tree 13 - p. 140). The burials of a James and Ann Park of Bleasdale at Chipping in the 1770s had made me wonder whether these were Henry's parents, and fortunately, the *Returns of Papists*⁸⁷ for Bleasdale - also known as Admarsh - are more informative than those for Chipping. So we find the following:

A list of the Papists in the Township of Admarsh in Lancas^r parish....

James Park	60	Farmer	24 yrs
Ann his wife	60		
William)	36	Husbandman	24 yrs
Henry) their	19		
Elizabeth) children	21		
Ellin)	8		

and further down the page:

John Park	19	Farm servant	19 yrs
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From this we discover that Henry's father was also a farmer, and that he and his wife must have been born early in the 18th century - around 1706 if the ages given are accurate. There is a huge gap between William, aged 36 and Elizabeth, aged 21. Of course, it may be filled by children who have died, but it seems a fair speculation that James Parke, farmer, who appears on the return for Chipping⁸⁸ with an adult woman and a boy (unfortunately unnamed), may be another of James and Ann's children, maybe in his twenties of early thirties.

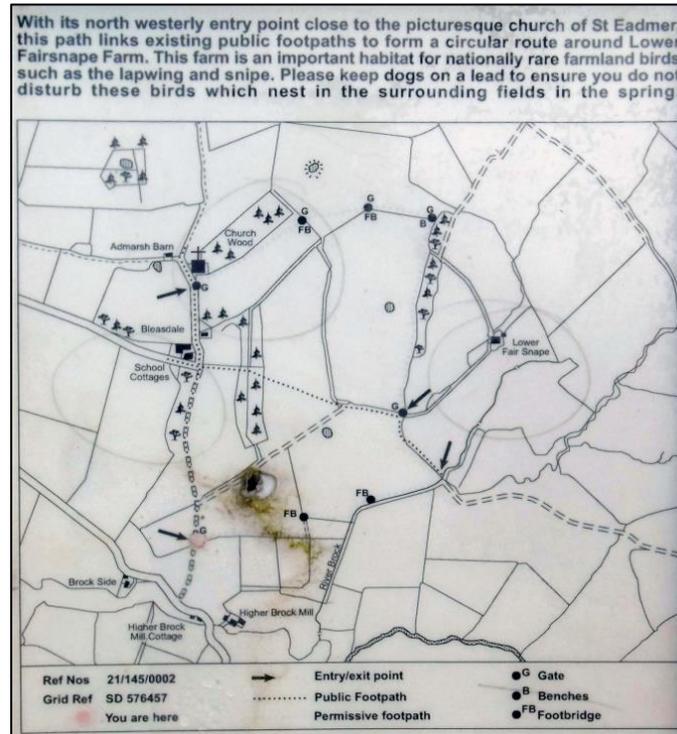
William is probably the eldest son, following his father's occupation, but not sufficiently established yet to be a yeoman. A year later, on 21st January 1768, he married Ann Parkinson at Lancaster. He was buried, as William Park of Bleasdale, at Chipping on 26th March 1787, so it is no doubt his wife Ann who was paying land tax⁸⁹ in Bleasdale at the same rate as her brother-in-law Henry in 1798. William left

⁸⁷ SoG, RC/Per, *Returns of Papists* 1767, vol 1 Diocese of Chester, and vol 2 Dioceses except Chester

⁸⁸ SoG, RC/Per, *Returns of Papists* 1767, vol 1 Diocese of Chester, and vol 2 Dioceses except Chester

⁸⁹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Land Tax Redemption 1798

no will, but his wife Ann did when she died in 1800⁹⁰, although she made no bequests to her late husband's family.



Bleasdale footpath information board

There is a long gap on the return between William and Elizabeth – 15 years, so I am guessing that the son Robert, who was buried at Chipping on 28th February 1752 fits into it somewhere, as possibly does the Hannah Park who witnesses William Walker's will. However, as a Hannah Park of Bleasdale married at Lancaster in 1813, with Thomas Martin as witness, she probably belongs somewhere in the next generation. There may have been other children, who had maybe grown up and moved away, and are lost through lack of records. Elizabeth, aged 21 on the return, would have been born around 1745, but again, I have found no further sighting of her. Henry's age is given as 19, suggesting a birth in 1748, which would fit a marriage in 1771 nicely, especially as the licence records him as a husbandman aged 23.

Another long gap separates Henry from Ellin, the youngest of the family. At eight, she would have been born in about 1759. This would make Ann a very elderly mother – around 53 years old, and Ellin very much an afterthought. This is not impossible, but alternative scenarios present themselves: Ann was born later than 1706 – the most likely, and intervening infants died young (a daughter Mary was buried at Chipping on 27th May 1757); or Ellin is in fact the daughter of an elder daughter no longer at home, but there is no suggestion of this.

⁹⁰ LA, R/118b/1, will of Ann Park of Bleasdale

Tree 13 - Family of James and Ann Park

James Park Born: Abt. 1706 Died: 1776 in Bleasdale, Lancs Burial: 6 January 1776 Chipping, Lancashire	Ann Born: Abt. 1706 Died: 1770 in Bleasdale, Lancs Burial: 8 February 1770 Chipping, Lancashire
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William Park Born: Abt. 1731 Died: 1787 in Bleasdale, Lancs Burial: 26 March 1787 Chipping, Lancashire	Ann Parkinson Married: 23 January 1768 Lancaster, Lancashire Died: 1800 in Bleasdale, Lancs Burial: 11 April 1800 Chipping, Lancashire	?James Park	Elizabeth Park Born: Abt. 1745	Martha Walker Married: 27 November 1771 Lancaster, Lancashire Died: 1798 in Bleasdale, Lancashire Burial: 11 February 1798 Chipping, Lancashire	Henry Park Born: Abt. 1747 Died: 1812 in Bleasdale, Lancashire	Margery Singleton Married: 13 January 1806 Broughton, Lancashire Died: 1813 in Broughton, Lancashire	John Park Born: Abt. 1747	??Hannah Park	Robert Park Died: 1752 in Bleasdale, Lancs Burial: 28 February 1752 Chipping, Lancashire	Mary Park Died: 1767 in Bleasdale, Lancs Burial: 27 May 1767 Chipping, Lancashire	Ellen Park Born: Abt. 1759
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The other intriguing – and frustrating - clue from the return is that some of the family have only lived in their current home for 24 years. Does this mean in their current house, or more likely, in this township? If the latter, where did they come from? There is no way of telling. Does the fact that there is no number against Ann's name mean - as it seems to with the younger children - that she was born in Bleasdale?

Also interesting is the reference to a 19 year-old John Park, living as a farm servant. At first glance, it seems likely that he is another of James and Ann's children, especially as Henry had a John Park as bondsman on his marriage licence in 1771. However, either he and Henry were twins, or his age is wrong – possible in a household where he has been sent, as was the norm, to learn farming practices from other than his father.

James and Ann Park were both buried at St Bartholmew Chipping; Ann on 8th February 1770, as:

Ann wife of James Parke of Bleasdale

and James in 1776; when he was recorded on 6th January as:

James Parke of Bleasdale

and there the trail of the Catholic Parks of Liverpool, Barton, Chipping and Bleasdale ends.

Richard and Harriet Park's children – Gertrude's siblings

This history would not be complete without exploring the lives of my grandmother's siblings. I never knew any of them, and even my father only seemed to be aware of Auntie Bea and Auntie Lily and their families. No doubt this was a result of the disconnect brought about by my grandmother being brought up in Gospel Oak rather than Liverpool. Most of what I know comes from correspondence with various cousins, including Gilbert Park, which was carried out in the 1980s. I am grateful to all those descendants of Richard and Harriet who responded so generously to my nosy letters about their families.

Bertha was the eldest child, born in Everton on 15th May 1867 and baptised at St Francis Xavier. She presumably took over the running of her father's household after her mother's death, and didn't marry until 1895. I imagine she stuck to her Catholic upbringing as the UKBMD⁹¹ site lists her wedding to Bernard Golding as:

Old Fylde Register Office or registrar attending

⁹¹ <http://www.lancashirebmd.org.uk/cgi/marrind.cgi>

so it clearly wasn't an Anglican ceremony. Bernard, who was a year younger than Bertha, came from Armagh in Ireland, and the 1891 census⁹² shows him to have been a marine fireman, in other words a stoker on board ship. They were living at that time in Kendrick Street, Seaforth, just north of Bootle. Ten years later they were recorded at 30, Brook Road, Bootle⁹³. Bernard was still a marine fireman, but Bertha had taken in lodgers, as two pairs of actors appear on the enumeration form, classed as boarders. There were no children from the marriage, and the property had five rooms. Bertha filled in the form on behalf of her husband, but there is a cross between her first and last names and what looks like 'HM' after it, implying maybe that she only made her mark. Perhaps her peripatetic upbringing meant an interrupted or even virtually non-existing education. Bernard died in the spring of 1930, and Bertha only outlived him for a short time⁹⁴:

Golding Bertha of 15 Roby-street Bootle Lancashire widow died 2 June 1930
Administration Liverpool 30 June to Richard Stanley Park boiler fireman.
Effects £121 16s 2d.



Bertha Park

⁹² RG13/3443, 1901 census, Seaforth

⁹³ RG14/22422, 1911 census, Bootle

⁹⁴ National Probate Calendar

Bertha has been the most elusive of this part of the family. My father was unaware of her existence, and as there were no children, there is no one to contact to fill in the gaps. However, when I went in search of her parents' grave at Kirkdale, I found the headstone was also inscribed as follows:

ALSO BERNARD
SON-IN-LAW OF THE ABOVE
& BELOVED HUSBAND OF BERTHA GOLDING
DIED MARCH 25TH 1930 AGED 61 YEARS
ALSO BERTHA GOLDING
THE BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED JUNE 2ND 1930 AGED 63 YEARS



Richard Stanley Park

Richard Stanley Park was born in Everton and baptised at St Francis Xavier, in 1868. By 1891⁹⁵ he had left home and was living at 19 Brook St, Windle, as a boarder in the household of John Cummins, a chemical worker from Galway in Ireland. Richard gave his occupation as wood carver. It is a pity he did not – or was not able to – continue in this line of work as he was evidently very talented. Gilbert Park, who turned wood as a hobby and so spoke from knowledge, described a piece he had seen:

...with his initials and date 1886 carved into the leaf and fruit design. A mahogany box carved overall and with claw and ball feet. A fine piece

⁹⁵ RG12/1320, 1891 census, St Helen's

of work.

Percival's daughter Helena also recalled his work, saying:

I think his altar-rails and other carvings may have graced churches in and near St Helens.

Also in the household was John Cummins' daughter Margaret, aged 27, born in St Helens and a tailoress by trade. Clearly romance blossomed, as Stanley and Margaret married on 10th October that year at Holy Cross, RC, St Helens. They settled near Margaret's home, and the 1901 census⁹⁶ shows them at 48 Brook Street in St Helens and Richard Stanley as a fireman on a stationary engine. There were three children in the house, Frances H, aged 8, Lily aged 6 and John C aged 2. A photograph given to me by Gilbert Park shows this baby many years later in WWI uniform, having spent time as a prisoner of war and apparently 'fatted up' before being sent home after the armistice. Margaret's widowed mother, Frances, completed the household.

In 1911⁹⁷ the couple was living at 55 Rigby Street, and Richard Stanley was now a chemical worker, presumably following his father-in-law's trade. John Cummins Park, now 12, was the only child still at home. There were two boarders, though: Patrick Yarding and Job Barrow, who presumably helped swell the family income. I have a note from many years ago saying that he was a glassworks teaser at some point in his career, but I have no idea now who gave me that snippet of information. If it is correct, then his employment would have involved the following⁹⁸:

MELTING. As the melting progresses the teaser (a) watches it most carefully, urging the furnaces to their utmost intensity and determining the fitness or unfitness of tile metal for working, as there are signs which indicate to the practiced eye when the metal is ready, such as the color of the flame or the appearance of proof specimens taken from the pots with a short rod flattened at one end. The escape of the carbonic-acid gas answers the purpose of stirring the materials. When the disengagement of this gas ceases, especially in the manufacture of window-glass, the mass is stirred with a pole of green wood, or a piece of arsenious acid is thrust into the bottom of the pot, thus causing a forcible expulsion of gas and consequent stirring of the materials. When impure materials were used, the close of the period of melting found the surface of the molten glass covered with a thick scum of unvolatilized salts, called "glass-gall", or "sandiver", which was skimmed off. The relative proportions and the purer materials of modern glass houses render this skimming unnecessary; indeed, the appearance of "sandiver" in any quantity is regarded as an indication of impure materials or wrong proportions.

⁹⁶ RG13/3521, 1901 census, St Helens

⁹⁷ RG14/22768, 1911 census, St Helens

⁹⁸ <https://www.british-genealogy.com/archive/index.php/t-57163.html?s=ba723f810154d44466f79c1ff0c2a072> citing Archive.org



John Cummins Park

On 21st March 1917, aged 17 years 11 months, John Cummins Park enlisted in the army. The descriptive report⁹⁹ shows him to have been 5'4" tall, with a chest girth of 33" which could expand by 2". He gave his next of kin as his father, Richard Stanley Park of 35 Rigby Street St Helens. A stamp at the bottom of the page shows that John was awarded the British War and Victory medals. John became part of the South Wales Borderers as a private in the 2nd Unit. Less than a month later, on 11th April, he was captured. The place name is very faint, but looks vaguely like Sclaires. The last place of internment is equally hard to read, but looks like Hammel, so was maybe Hammeln, or Hammelin, where there were camps during WWI. According to Helena Patton – who knew him well, he spent his 21st birthday in a prisoner of war camp. On his release he spent two days presumably in a British army camp – between 12th and 14th January 1919, but was pronounced A1 fit despite his ordeal. John, or Jack, married Anne Sykes and they had a daughter Barbara in 1940 when both parents were in their 40s. Helena recalls her christening:

She [Barbara] is also my god-child and was christened at the nearby Catholic church [Sacred Heart] as I remember walking to it carrying her.

Jack recalled to Helena that his father:

was the local authority for any Catholic in need of advice or information on dogma etc.

⁹⁹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-20

so presumably strong in his faith. Richard Stanley Park died at St Helens in 1935. His wife had predeceased him by a year, dying on 27th January 1934¹⁰⁰. Their address was still 35 Rigby Street in Bootle and administration for her estate was granted to Richard Stanley Park, engine driver. Effects were £105. Stanley and Margaret's two daughters both married: Frances to John Burke, I believe, and Lilian to Andrew Taylor. Both raised families – 7 children for Frances, and a boy and a girl for Lilian.

The third child, Percival Douglas, did not survive infancy; his death was recorded in the third quarter of 1872, but I have not been able to trace his burial. Harriet would have been already pregnant when this child died, as Lilian Harriet Park was born on 4th December 1872. She was the first of the Anglican brood, and was baptised at St Peter's in Liverpool (not to be confused with St Peter's Seel Street). On her baptism entry the address is given as Soho Street, and Richard's occupation as victualler. In 1891, aged 19, she married Andrew Agnew. It was not, by all accounts, a particularly happy marriage; Andrew, who had been a barman as a young man and then run a pub for a while, had a drink problem, which on occasions was severe enough for him to develop DTs and need to be taken away to be 'dried out'. However, the marriage produced six children, all born in Liverpool or Bootle: Lilian Andre - known as De-de and born in 1893, Eliza Beatrice – known as Beatrice, William Andrew – Willie, Edith Gertrude, John Robert – known as Bobby, and Clifford or Cliffie, born in 1908.

In 1910, Andrew had become a member of the Freemasons, giving his occupation as stevedore and address as 2 Garden Lane, Bootle. However, in December he was excluded, seemingly for failing to pay his dues, but possibly because of his drunkenness. It may well be around this time that Percival was called in to help part Andrew from a rather valuable dress ring before going into hospital for re-hab. Andy agreed to lend the ring, but told his brother-in-law that he couldn't stay long as he was awaiting a visit from some Freemasons as he intended to become a member. When the hospital attendants arrived, he greeted them with a supposed Freemasons' sign, which they obligingly returned. He was induced to 'go for a little drive' with them, but sobered up as they entered the hospital grounds. Helena said her father described Andy's eyes as:

those of a trapped animal, and he seemed, suddenly, quite sober.

Alcoholism is a terrible disease, and although his family clearly suffered from his behaviour, he too must have found it painful to be unable to control his addiction.

At the time of the 1911 census¹⁰¹ Lilian and Andrew, along with Beatrice, Bobby and Cliffie, were enumerated with her younger sister Beatrice in Grimsargh, near Preston, presumably on a family visit. The other three children¹⁰² were at

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

¹⁰¹ RG14/25349, 1911 census, Grimsargh

¹⁰² RG14/22440, 1911 census, Bootle

Garden Lane, with 17 year-old Lilian in charge, although Andrew had signed the schedule. Lilian's daughter Beatrice, writing in response to my suggestion that Andrew had been a 'checker', summed her parents up as follows:

Dadda checked carpentry. Otherwise he just lorded it on the couch and he and his Dr checked a bottle of whisky off. We were all very frightened of him. Poor Mamma had a hard time with him. She was a gentle lady but firm with us.

Despite Beatrice's comment, Liverpool directories seem to place him in the same trade as his father-in-law. In 1894 he was at a Wine and Spirit Vaults in 49 Portland Place in Everton; in 1897, possibly the same property, he was at the Portland Arms Public House 8, Rose Vale, Everton¹⁰³. Between 1913 and 1934, he was a 'checker' at 7 Park Place, Park Street, Bootle.

Andrew Agnew died in 1934, but Lily lived on for another 22 years. Although the National Probate Calendar¹⁰⁴ gives her address as 1, Sterrix Avenue Liverpool 21, she was actually at Yeomans, Sand Pits-lane, Tylers Green in Penn in Buckinghamshire when she died on 1st May 1956. Clifford Agnew, shipping clerk, was granted probate on October 2nd. Effects were valued at £3,678 6s 4d.



Beatrice and Lilian (née Park) with ?Francis Drake and Bobby Agnew

¹⁰³ LL, *Gore's Directory of Liverpool and its environs*

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar

Of the children of this family, the only one I ever met was Bobby, who lived to be over 90 and also had the family history bug. It is from him that I learned of the family connection to John Porter of Kingsclere, horse trainer to royalty, and from whom I received one of the few photos of Harriet Porter I own. In 1916, De-de married Joseph Stillman, a naturalised British citizen born in Russia who no doubt fled to England to escape Jewish persecution there. Their first daughter, Ruth, died young, and their second, Nina, never married; but Stella and Olive married Jack Winston and Philip Gould respectively and had five children between them. Beatrice Agnew married William Aynsley. Of their offspring, Stephanie - who married Norman Thompson - probably went to South Africa, and Rita- who married Mike Fechera - settled in America. Both raised families. The middle child, Brian, married Edna Hughes and had four daughters.

Willie, according to Helena, worked in a music shop and found he could play most of the instruments. The upshot was that he formed a dance band and emigrated with it to America, taking one of his sisters with him. This would presumably be Edith, who appears on an outward passenger list from Liverpool to New York in September 1929¹⁰⁵, two months after William sailed back from New York. He was returning as a 'musician' and was no doubt full of enthusiasm for the New World, having left Liverpool on the SS Orontes on 23rd October 1918 and arriving in New York on 6th November¹⁰⁶. He died in San Francisco on 20th September 1953. Bobby, whom I have already mentioned, married twice, first to Margaret Morris, by whom he had two daughters, and then to Alice Callow. Cliffie married Vivien Williams and had two sons.

There was nearly a five year gap between Lilian Park and her sister Beatrice, though I suspect they were fairly close, and, with their sister Gertrude, another five years younger still, they were known - in a family photo at least - as 'The Three Graces'. This was no doubt a reference to the three famous buildings along the Pier Head: The Port of Liverpool Building, The Cunard Building and the Royal Liver Building, though as a child, this allusion passed me by.

Beatrice, or Bea, was born in Birkenhead in 1877, and would have been just 10 when her mother died. She was still at home as a scholar in 1891, but presumably there was not a lot to keep her there, as in 1901¹⁰⁷ she was working as a live-in waitress at the London and Yorkshire Railway Refreshment Rooms in Halifax. Perhaps this is where she met her future husband, Frederick Drake, a local boy, born in Sowerby but now living in Halifax and working as a clerk in an Iron Warehouse¹⁰⁸. The couple married on 1st December 1903 in Halifax, but sometime after the birth of their first child Dorothy in 1905 moved to Whittingham in Lancashire, where Fred became clerk for the County Asylum. The Whittingham

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=48057980>

¹⁰⁷ RG13/4119, 1901 census, Halifax

¹⁰⁸ RG13/4120, 1901 census, Halifax

Hospital¹⁰⁹, where Fred worked, was a psychiatric hospital, beginning life in 1873 as the Fourth Lancashire County Assylum. It eventually became the biggest establishment of its kind in the country, and even had its own railway branch from Grimsargh. Again, according to Gilbert Park, they are listed in the directory at 12, West View and appear in the Preston Directory until 1913 but I have not verified this. Frederick is listed as a clerk at Yew Tree Terrace in Grimsargh in 1917, however¹¹⁰.



**Gertrude Grainge, Lily Agnew, Beatrice Drake (all née Park)
The Three Graces**

In 1911, Bea and Fred and three of their children were at Yew Tree Cottage, Grimsargh. It must have been a crowded five-roomed house as there were five Agnews there as well. Dorothy was 6 years old, Francis 2 and Frederick – known by his second name Gerard, was just 5 months old. The gap between Dorothy and Francis was briefly filled by Constance Winifred, born in 1906 but died the following year. There were two further children, Hubert born in 1914, died 1915, and Beatrice in 1920. Ironically, although she had been one of the Anglicans by baptism, Bea apparently later turned back to the old faith. Her niece Beatrice, Lily's daughter, told me:

I know Auntie Bea turned Catholic and brought her children [up] in the same faith, but they turned C.O.E. Funny what goes on in families.

¹⁰⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whittingham_Hospital

¹¹⁰ *General and Commercial Directory of Preston, 1917*

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16445coll4/id/218249/rec/1>

Helena Patton suggested that Fred Drake was Catholic, which would explain Bea's conversion, but also said that Fred played the organ in both the local Catholic and Anglican churches, which shows a pleasing degree of open-mindedness. She also said that Bea's faith led her to refuse:

to turn any beggars away from her door empty-handed in case they turned out to be saints in disguise.

Another of Helena's recollections from her mother involved either Willie or Bobby, who, on a visit to their Aunt Lily's house:

kept hovering round where she was sitting in a rather unnerving fashion. At last, in desperation, she asked him if there was something that he wanted. He answered, 'Please Auntie, would you get up. You're sitting on my worms'. And so she was. They were under the cushion of her chair.

Sometime round 1929 or 1930, Bea and Fred moved to Preston, near Horrocks Mill, and they opened a grocer's/confectioner's shop. Their daughter Dorothy did the baking for the shop.

Bea died on 7th August 1938 at Sharoe Green Hospital, Fullwood. Probate was granted to Fred, who was described as a retired assistant clerk and steward. She left an estate of just under £570. Once again, Helena fills in the details:

After my Aunt Beatrice had died and during the early part of the war, Uncle Fred wrote to my mother and asked if he could visit us. Dad had died in 1937 and we were living in Albert Edward Rd, Kensington. He came and brought his violin, playing it to my very nervous piano accompaniment as I had often heard what a good musician he was.

In a return visit to Preston, Lena met the rest of the family, recently engaged Dorothy and Gerard, and their sister Trixie, who later joined the ATS and then married an American serviceman.

Fred died on 14th May 1956 at Langdene, 14 Kings-drive, Fullwood; the same address was given eighteen years before when Bea died. Street-view shows a substantial, brick-built semi-detached house in a leafy, tree-lined road – a comfortable-looking home. Probate was granted the following November to his daughter Dorothy. His effects amounted to £6,624 10s. Of this line, the two sons died without issue, although Gerard had married Mary Connor in 1940. Francis may have been epileptic or retarded in some way. According to my father, Dorothy supposedly had a failed marriage with a man named Ian Defoe, but the only marriage recorded for her that I've found is to Norman Stephens in 1940, and I can find no reference of any kind to an Ian Defoe. Her death was apparently caused by a faulty electric blanket. A daughter Deirdre was born in 1942 but died in a car crash aged 19. Beatrice, or Trixie, had 4 sons, about whom I know nothing, born in Tennessee.

By a quirk of fate, Beatrice and her husband were buried at the same chapel, St Francis Goosnargh¹¹¹, as their great-grandparents, Richard and Caroline Swarbrick, though I doubt they knew of the connection. Their memorial reads:

In the most holy name of Jesus
Pray for the soule of
Beatrice Maud
Beloved wife of Fredrick DRAKE
Died 7 August 1938
Aged 61 years
Also the above Frederick DRAKE
Who died 14 May 1956
Aged 77 years
Also for Constance Winifred and Hubert Drake
Children of the above
Died in infancy
Also for Francis Herbert, son of the above
Who died 15 December 1958
Aged 50 years

The next child of Richard and Harriet was Percival Clifford Park, born in Birkenhead in 1879. This was an uncle my father didn't even know he had, and yet the physical resemblance between them was striking. It has been suggested that his wife was rather possessive and didn't like him seeing his sisters, but I have no way of knowing if this was true. Another Anglican baptism, Percival nevertheless married a Catholic bride, Helena Florence Hoskisson, at St Chrysostom C of E church in Everton on 12th May 1907. A year later, apparently, the Catholic Church outlawed marriage other than by Catholic rites. The marriage certificate calls Percival a 'ship's waiter' and gives his address as 84 Steers Street; Helena was living at no. 63. The only child of this marriage, Helena Florence, born in 1916, remembered the embarrassment she felt at her convent school when the subject of 'pernicious' mixed marriages came up. Little did she know at the time how close her father had been to being baptised a Catholic.

The 1911 census¹¹² found the couple at 3, Althorpe Road, Dingle, Liverpool, with two of Helena's sisters. His occupation is listed as 'ship's waiter (steward)' working for the Elder Dempster steamship company. Percival was a ship's steward for all his working life, apart from during the First World War, when he enlisted with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Helena recalled her mother's attempts to join him near Cork in Ireland, where he was stationed. She:

wrapped me in a shawl and took off across the Irish Sea. After a very stormy crossing and a ride in a troop train, we arrived in Cork only to be told by my

¹¹¹ LA, Goosnargh St Francis Book of Remembrance

¹¹² RG14/22247, 1911 census, Toxteth Park

father that he had just heard that he would be shipping out for Egypt almost immediately. So back we came.

After the war Percival returned to Elder Dempsters, sailing to the West Coast of Africa until malaria, picked up on the Gold Coast, forced him to stay away from the area. He then moved to the Far East and Australia runs with Alfred Holt's Blue Funnel line, until scarcity of work during the Depression forced him back to West Africa. Here, a bout of malaria put him into a weakened state, and he died of pneumonia shortly after returning home.



Percival Clifford Park and Helena

His wife, Helena, shattered by his untimely death, ended up working for his old shipping firm as a stewardess, a job she was still doing when the Second World War started, with the result that she was twice shipwrecked – once by torpedo and once by bomb. After this, her daughter engineered her out of working on ships, much to her mother's disgust. They were fortunately both staying with Jack Cummins Park when their house at Albert Edward Road was destroyed by a bomb in May 1941. Helena junior married an Australian Air Force pilot in 1945, and went to Australia with him, where she was eventually joined by her mother. Helena senior died in 1958 after being hit by a car.

During his researches, Gilbert Park listed various directory entries for Percival Park. A statement beneath his notes says that adjustment has been made for two years arrears in directories:

1912-17, 8 Boxwood [?Bowood] St, Toxteth (by Herculaneum Dock)
1917, 5, Boxwood St, Toxteth
1931-33, 154, Morningside Rd, West Derby
1937, Albert Edward Rd, Kensington

He also notes that Percival died at 107A, Mill Road, Everton.

It was through Gilbert Park that I made contact with my unknown cousin Helena. His initial letter to her sparked a long and very informative response from Lena, the first of many. In this letter, as well as the snippets mentioned above, she writes about her contacts with the extended family:

We had one visit from Aunt Bertha during the 1920s when we lived in Bowood St... I know mother used to visit Beatrice and Fred Drake when they lived at Grimsargh but that must have been before I was born or soon after... However, we did keep in touch with Stanley and his family and used to visit them fairly regularly.

It was Helena's unfulfilled ambition to become a journalist, something she would no doubt have been very good at if the style of her letter-writing was anything to go by. Her letters to me date from nearly 30 years ago, but are still full of vibrancy and rich detail about sections of the family about whom I only knew the dry facts.

Gertrude Evelyn Park – Liverpool, Gospel Oak, Cricklewood, Norbury

My grandmother, Nana Grainge, Gertrude Evelyn Park, died when I was 8 years old; she was also profoundly deaf for much of her life, supposedly from contracting scarlet fever when younger, so I never felt I knew her well. My abiding memory of her is of a stationary figure sitting next to my grandfather in a chair in the bay window of her home at 25, Crescent Way, Norbury, where they had a live-in housekeeper to look after them in their old age. We visited fairly regularly, but because my grandparents were so elderly, my mother often took us out for a walk around Norwood Grove or across Streatham Common, leaving my father with his parents. We felt we had to be on our best behaviour, possibly influenced by the fact that my mother, as the youngest daughter-in-law, was somewhat in awe.

It was only later, when I began to be interested in the family history that I began to realise there was more to her than I had realised. In fact, she had a sense of humour and a sense of fun, and my mother recalled me as a baby chortling at my grandmother and her sitting, shoulders shaking with laughter in response. In addition, photos of her taken in earlier life show someone who, although she could be snapped in thoughtful mode, usually had a smile on her face.



Gertrude Evelyn Park



Gertrude had a tough start to her life. She was born on 30th April 1882 in the *New Brighton Hotel* at 178, Beacon Lane in Everton, where her father was presumably running the establishment. She was baptised at St Cuthbert's in Everton, and despite the fact that she was living in a pub, and both birth certificate, census and directories suggest that her father was a publican, the baptism register reads:

June 18th; Gertrude Eveline; Richard and Harriet Park; 178, Beacon Lane;
Steel Engraver and Die Sinker

Maybe Richard felt that he couldn't own up to dealing in the demon drink to the officiating minister.

Given that Gertrude's mother died when she was 5, it maybe that her earliest memories of her mother were of someone who was ill. Maybe Bertha, at nearly 15, helped with the new baby, although the two sisters don't seem to have kept in touch in later life. After Harriet's death, Gertrude was sent south to live with her mother's younger sister, Sarah Jane, married to John Thomas Williams - an accountant's clerk born in Abergele in Denbeighshire. They were living in Marylebone, at 36 Alma Street¹¹³ in 1881, but by 1891¹¹⁴ they had moved to 22 Sherlock Road where they were enumerated with their niece Gertrude, aged 8 and a scholar.

By 1901¹¹⁵ the Williams had moved again, to 133 Constantine Road, Hampstead, the little household containing just John and Sarah and niece Gertrude E, aged 18. No occupation is given for her, though my father always believed she had been a milliner before she had married. If so, it must have been only briefly, as sometime within the next two years, she met, fell in love with and married my grandfather, Louis George Grainge (usually known as George).

The ceremony took place on 9th December 1903 in St Marylebone Register Office rather than a church, with the groom giving his address as 51 Twisden Road, St Pancras and the bride 392 Edgeware Road, St Marylebone. She was 21 to his 22, and given that my Auntie Ivy was born less than four months later, about 5 months pregnant. She gave her father's occupation as licensed victualler retired. There were four witnesses to the marriage: Daisy Jeffery, George's maternal aunt, S W [Susanna Watson] Grainge, George's mother, S J Williams, Gertrude's aunt and guardian, and Robert Grainge, George's brother. George gave his occupation as Stockbroker's Clerk, a position he had acquired no doubt due to the work he'd put in at the Mansfield Road Evening Continuation School, where he had been studying.

They moved into 7 Lichfield Road, Cricklewood, where their first child, Ivy Lilian was born on 7th April 1904. A second child, Jack (John George) was born at the same address on 28th November 1905. By the time Dorothy Beatrice was born on 23rd September 1909, the family was probably at 5, Lisburne Road, Camden, where

¹¹³ RG11/212, 1881 census, St Pancras

¹¹⁴ RG12/137, 1891 census, St Pancras

¹¹⁵ RG13/122, 1901 census, Hampstead

George appears on the Electoral Roll¹¹⁶ in 1909 and 10, although her birth was registered in Willesden. By 1911¹¹⁷, though, they had moved to 78, Ivy Road, Cricklewood, a house which was to be their home until they moved south of the river in the late 1920s. Along with George, Gertrude and the three children, there were two lodgers, Charles and Alice Loder. He was a butcher's clerk, and a resident of Argentina. George recorded himself as a company clerk. He appears again in the Electoral Registers¹¹⁸ at the same address in 1914 and 1915.

On 3rd March 1913, a fourth child was born, and named Percival for Gertrude's brother and Louis for his father. However, my grandmother thought he looked like the comedian John Bunny, so this child was known as Bunny for the rest of his life. In 1916, tragedy struck, as Dorothy caught and subsequently died from diphtheria. As the death is registered in the second quarter of the year, Gertrude would have already been expecting her last child, my father, Cyril Ronald, born on 8th January 1917. The fact that she saw him as a replacement for her lost child was shown by the comment to that effect on the back of his baby photo.



George and Gertrude Grainge

Despite this rather sentimental comment, my Dad always felt that his parents had got rather tired of raising children by the time he came along, and that he was pretty much left to his own devices. I suspect that this is slightly stretching the point, as he also reported that after he had married, if he hadn't been to see his mother at some point during the week, his father would be on the phone wanting to know why.

The lives of George and Gertrude's children are followed in *A Grainge Family History*. All of them apart from my father and, of course, Dorothy, married during the 1930s. My parents, though, were engaged for pretty much the whole of World War II. During this time, while my father was away in the army, Gertrude kept in

¹¹⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> London, England Electoral Registers 1832-1965

¹¹⁷ RG14/7053, 1911 census, Willesden

¹¹⁸ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> London, England Electoral Registers 1832-1965

close contact with my mother and her family, who were living less than half a mile away. Maybe because of her fractured childhood, she was quite family-minded. Photos taken in the 1930s show Nana and Grandad on holiday with their children, and sometimes friends and extended family.

She also kept in contact with her family in Liverpool. I don't know how often they saw each other, and I have only one photo of the three younger sisters together. However, my Dad knew many of his Liverpool cousins and second cousins when he was young, and made contact with several of them again in old age. By chance, though, Gertrude was staying with her sister Bea's family at Langdene in Fulwood when the 1939 Register¹¹⁹ was taken, engaged in:

Unpaid domestic duties

Her brother-in-law Fred was there, along with niece Dorothy and nephews Francis and Frederick, but Bea had died the previous year. So perhaps my grandmother was there to help out.

George worked his way up to become a Trust Company Accountant, which meant that eventually the couple could buy a large, comfortable semi-detached house at 25, Crescent Way in Norbury, and also acquire that symbol of the upwardly mobile at the time – a motor car. With this greater affluence Nana felt she could indulge her love of collecting. This involved a variety of artefacts, from the huge ceramic planter which sat in the porch, to an arts and crafts corner cupboard, to a gold pocket watch, to a huge collection of fabrics in which my sister and I endlessly dressed up during our childhood. In my student days, I even made a skirt out of one length of material, and her collection of lace was recently pressed into service for a Victorian costume.

Nana also enjoyed family parties to which grown-up children, grandchildren, friends and extended family including in-laws were invited. Often they were held at the Norbury Hotel, which had a huge glitter ball which fascinated me. There was usually a sit-down meal, followed, I think, by dancing, and of course a family photo to mark the event.

Her love of holidays lasted well into old age, and it was on one of these, while she was staying at the Southborough Hotel in Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, that she succumbed to a coronary thrombosis, and died there on 27th March 1958. Her will made her eldest two children, Ivy and Jack, her executors and Ivy, as the only girl, was left all her jewellery, although a triple string of cultured pearls did come my way. Her closeness to her sisters Lily and Bea was maybe shown in two bequests of £10 each to her nephew and niece – Lily's son Bobby Agnew and Bea's daughter Dorothy. Two charitable bequests were made - £100 to Barnardo's and £50 to the Salvation Army. The residue of estate, which amounted in value to £6,088 11s 4d, was divided equally between Ivy, Jack, Bunny and my Dad. The will was witnessed

¹¹⁹ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> 1939 Register

by long-standing friend, Gladys Pavitt and a neighbour, E.M. Dengate. Probate was granted to John George Grainge, Trust Company Accountant. She was buried at Streatham Crematorium.



Nana

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