

# **History of the Hansby Family.**

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## Foreword 2015.

As with any work of history, this text represents only the sum total of information available to the author up to this point in time. The quality of some information has been diluted over the passage of time, altered inadvertently by errors in transcription, and then colored by the author's personal viewpoint. As further information comes to hand in the future, opinions contained herein may well prove to be incorrect.

That in the twenty-first century I am in possession of any of this material is thanks to the 'keepers of the flame' before me. I suspect Dr. Michael William Hansby has received some version of his pedigree handed down to him. This in turn seems to have been passed to Sir Michael William Russell, his grandson, and thence to Joyce Mary Atkinson, his great grand-daughter. In 1955, Joyce's husband John A.C. Barradale, cognizant at that time that the name Hansby was almost extinct in Britain, brought a copy of the Hansby pedigree to Australia, and it was received by my grandfather Thomas Cyril Hansby.

This work, then, might be regarded as a 'sixtieth anniversary edition' of the Hansby tree, as conveyed to the southern hemisphere. With the advent of the internet, tracing and collating one's genealogy is now a far easier task, and the process of fleshing out the bare bones of the 1955 tree has been relatively straightforward, as compared to the extensive legwork that was required of family history sleuths of previous generations. The combined efforts of family historians since 1955, and more recently, the power of the internet has, of course, identified certain errors contained in the Barradale documents (which he indeed concedes existed) and so part of the purpose of this work is to correct and update where necessary the information transmitted in 1955.

It is my hope that the power of the internet will allow the ready dissemination of this history such that Hansby descendants in both hemispheres will be able to receive a detailed overview of their pedigree and forbears. I have certainly identified 'orphan Hansbys' whom I have not been able to definitively attach to the tree thus far, and so I certainly concede that this tree is not complete or exhaustive. I will be most interested to hear from any Hansby family members who are able to trace themselves back to this tree.

It is noted, in particular in Chapter 7, that the lives and fortunes of Hansby daughters are certainly no less interesting than those of the Hansby males. Indeed, in a family where the surname has barely been perpetuated to the present day, the tales of the daughters must rank as equal in significance also. With this in mind, acknowledgement is also made to the husbands and sons of Hansby daughters who have carried and nurtured the flame. As mentioned already, Sir Michael William Russell and JAC Barradale, and in the present day, Terry O'Connor (NZ) and Bob Sweeney (USA), have added branches and leaves to the Hansby tree. [Further thanks to Philip Ward for locating the will of Thomas Hawtcliffe, and to Richard Gravestock (UK) for further recent finds also.]

## Foreword 2024.

My opening disclaimer of 2015 has proved prescient. In 2017, I announced that Hansbys could confidently claim descent from William the Conqueror, but I am obliged to inform that that observation is now not necessarily correct.

In this updated version, I will attempt to explore why this is the case. As noted previously, the **Hansby** name and family appear to have originated *de novo* in Yorkshire in the late fifteenth or early 16<sup>th</sup> century, and so the true **Hansby** history begins here.

However, two of the wives of the early Hansbys, namely **Audrey Lovell**, wife of John Hansby, and **Etheldred Gerrard**, second wife of Sir Ralph Hansby and mother of his son Ralph - both of whom are *also* antecedents of all modern Hansbys - have documented histories in England which extend further back than that of their husbands.

In this updated edition of the Hansby history, I will be adding sections on the histories of these two Hansby wives, thereby expanding the Hansby history along these maternal lineages.

Also of interest are a couple of 'near-misses' in these early times, which will be explored briefly as well. Hansby 'almost-antecedent', the elder Beatrix Hatcliffe was first married to Ralph Lord Greystoke, and this man's close ties to the usurping King Richard III will be revealed. There is also added a brief history of Tickhill Castle.

With the extraordinary challenges faced by the world in recent times, an examination of history reminds us that the challenges we face in the present world are scarcely different from those faced by each generation of our ancestors before us. With the very same perseverance and determination that ran in their veins, we hope to triumph over the challenges that face us in the present day.

## **1. Hansbys of New Malton. c.1500-1550: Servants of the King.**

### Historical Context.

Each step of the history of the Hansbys must be regarded in the historical context of the prevailing times. For the earliest Hansbys, this was the turbulent times of the feuding Royal families of the Middle Ages in England. The Wars of the Roses was the ongoing feud between two branches of the Plantagenet royal family. The House of Lancaster was symbolized by a red rose, and the House of York by a white rose. From 1399 the House of Lancaster held the throne, and this included Kings Henry IV-VI. In 1461, Edward IV took the throne for the House of York at the decisive Battle of Towton. After victories in battle in 1471, the Lancastrian heirs were put to death, and a brief time of peace followed.

In this time, Edward IV signed the Treaty of Utrecht, granting trading privileges to the Hanseatic League of north European trading cities to conduct trade with England. The Germanic term for the Hanseatic League is 'Hansa', or 'Die Hanse'. Trade was of the various commodities of the time - wood, foodstuffs, textiles, iron and so on. A large building owned and operated by the Hanseatic League in London at this time was known as the 'Stahlhof' - literally the steel yard. The single surviving Hanseatic building in Britain is the Hanseatic Warehouse at King's Lynn.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the nation of Germany did not exist. The region was a collection of city-states still nominally under the control of the Holy Roman Empire. Within this, the Hanseatic League as a 'trade union' spread over a number of cities wielded as much power as a nation in its own right, just as the various East India Trading Companies would come to do in subsequent centuries. As it was not a sovereign country, however, its records have largely not survived to the present day.

The Hanseatic League had warehouses at the ports of Hull and Yarmouth, and also 'branch offices' at Norwich, York and Scarborough. It is my presumption that Hanseatic traders and officials from Europe were permitted to immigrate to England to staff these operations. In the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, the power of the Hanseatic League was in decline, however, and some of these immigrant traders may have chosen to stay on in England rather than return to their lands of origin as business waned.

Edward IV died suddenly in 1483, leaving his young son Edward V as heir to the throne. His uncle Richard usurped the throne in Edward's minority, and there followed the infamous disappearance of the Princes in the Tower, where Richard is believed to have killed his two young nephews Edward and Richard, in order to secure the throne for himself as Richard III. In 1485, Richard III is slain at Bosworth, and Henry Tudor marries Elizabeth of York, (Edward IV's daughter) re-uniting the warring Houses. He becomes King Henry VII, and this marks the beginning of the Tudor period. The symbol of this period is the Tudor Rose, which is a merging of a white and a red rose.

In 1509, the great Tudor King Henry VIII ascends. His quest for a male heir will ultimately cause the split from the Catholic Church, and the formation of the Protestant Church of England - the 'Reformation.' It is in the time of Henry VIII that we see the start of the Visitation Books. Deputies of the king, known as Officers of Arms, visited the houses and castles of all parts of England, and recorded the known pedigrees of the established families, for the purpose of identifying which families had the right to bear arms. Further visitations took place at intervals, to record the births and marriages of subsequent generations. Visitations to Yorkshire took place in 1530 (Tonge), 1552 (Harvey), 1558 (Dalton), 1563-4 (Flower), 1584 (Glover), 1612 (St. George) and 1665 (Dugdale). By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the nation's fascination and obsession with heraldry had waned, and the process ceased after 1689.

#### Conjectured Origin of the Name 'Hansby'.

Barradale speculated that the name 'Hansby' is of Viking origin, and therefore might have existed in Britain since before 1000 AD. There are a number of factors that make that unlikely, however. As we shall shortly see, the earliest written record of the name Hansby I have identified is at 1520. Furthermore, the first and only Hansby pedigree in any of the Visitation Books is recorded by Glover at 1584. The absence of earlier recorded pedigrees suggests that the family had not borne arms prior to this time. Indeed, the appearance of the Hansby pedigree in Glover's volume of 1584 coincides conspicuously with the 'acquisition' by the property magnate Ralph Hansby of the Hansby Coat of Arms in 1583. Historically, knights chose their coats of arms and carried them into battle; by Elizabethan times, knights in suits of armour no longer rode into battle, and so Queen Elizabeth 'sold' Coats of Arms to wealthy families to raise funds for national revenue. Royal allegiance was now by the pound and not by the sword, and clearly Ralph Hansby was 'new money' in 1583.

The title of the pedigree in Glover's Visitation of 1584 is "Hans *alias* Hansby, of Beverley". This might well lend weight to the notion that a newly-arrived European family may have borrowed its name from the Hanseatic League, and perhaps adopted an anglicized version of the word 'hanse' for their name, which over time became the name Hansby. Around this time, we find various spellings of the name: Hansbe, Hansbie, Hansebie, Hanceby, Hancebie, Hanse, and so on. Spelling was phonetic at this time, so different spellings do not represent different branches of a family, for example.

In the 1584 pedigree provided to Glover, Ralph Hansby only names one single generation prior to himself. This is in comparison to other established English families who have records of a dozen or more generations stretching back even to the Norman invasion. The fact that Ralph can only name his parents suggests not merely that his family is of humble rather than noble origin, but that he quite possibly does not know who they were at all, because contact was lost when they migrated to England. Indeed, if his forbears were actually from another country, then his ancestry would not be English at all.

It is also noteworthy that there is no town in the UK named 'Hansby'. Many family names originate from the town or village that the family occupied since antiquity, and so the surname 'Hansby' also would not seem to be a toponymic name in this sense.

Finally, we must regard the very small size of the family. A family that had been established in England for centuries would almost certainly have grown and spread out and around, and yet the only tiny pocket as at the start of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is in north Yorkshire, and so in aggregate, it would seem the name Hansby appeared *de novo* in Yorkshire around the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, rather than having its origin from the Vikings, as Barradale speculates.

### The First Hansbys at New Malton.

The town of New Malton is situated approximately 20 miles to the north-east of York, about halfway to Scarborough, on the River Derwent. It is here that we find the earliest surviving records of the name Hansby in Britain - the wills of Robert Hansby and John Hansby.

The following are found in Testamenta Eboracensis (literally 'York Wills') collated by the Surtees Society, vol.5 p. 118. Both these wills were written in Latin, and are among the few wills in the book written in Latin, again possibly suggesting these Hansbys may not have been 'locals'. The following is an approximate translation:

Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 1520 - Will of Robert Hansby, burgess of New Malton. "For my mortuary, my best horse and armaments.. to build the bridge at Malton, 10 oak trees .. the chapels of Sts Michael and Leonard.. their guardians to celebrate my funeral annually.. Two (? properties) in Malton for my sons William and John... for my daughter Agnes, my stall in the market at Malton, and 20 marks... each child of Alice Flonders, my sister, 3s4d... Margaret Brignell, my sister, 10s... Rest to Helen my wife, and my children" (Proven 15 Nov 1520)

Oct 12, 1522 - Will of John Hansby (Hanceby) of New Malton, valet of the crown of the king of England. "To the guardians of St. Michael's in New Malton, for the foundation of a chantry, I give three burgages in Malton, and 20 pounds. To William Wildon, my son, and Joanna, his wife, my daughter... Agnes, my wife... 20 marks or 10 pounds. To Gilberto H, the horse named Crukedikes. To Johanna Lokwod, my sister 3s4d. Margaret, my daughter.. Rest to wife, Richard my son and Katherine my daughter, they executors." (Proven 11 Dec 1522)

From these, it is possible that Robert is the father of John - Robert's will mentions a son John and a 'daughter' Agnes, which may well mean 'daughter-in-law' referring to John's wife Agnes. The salient feature suggesting against this is the close dates of their respective deaths - only two years apart - raising the alternate possibility they may have been cousins of a similar age. This dilemma is discussed further below.

The next reference to the Hansbys of New Malton appears in 1528, in a piece called 'A Priory Right', taken from the Malton Priory Notes. It refers to a court case where a parishioner in Malton challenges the right of the Prior (Lord of the Manor) to collect the 'Mortuary' - a tax at death of one's best horse and armaments. [Reference is made to this in Robert Hansby's will above.] The Bailiff in this case was Richard Hansbe (presumed son of John, above); witnesses included John Hanse (unclear whether related or not) John Hansby (discussed below) and Robert Lokwoode (possibly related to Johanna Lokwod above).

If the 'father/ son' hypothesis for the two wills above is the case, then Robert the father would have had to have been very old, perhaps in his seventies or eighties, for his grandson Richard to already be Bailiff of New Malton in 1528, and there must be a different or unrelated John Hansby present in 1528 as a witness, as 'John-son-of-Robert' died in 1522. Richard has a son John, but again, for this great-grandson John to be old enough to be witness at a case in 1528, Robert must have died a very old man indeed.

The 'two cousins' hypothesis requires some doubled names - John and Agnes, Robert's son and daughter, and John with his wife Agnes - but this does give a better explanation for the John Hansby as witness at the trial in 1528. As none of the sisters' names match in either will, and with the wills only two years apart, it seems unlikely they are brothers from the same family.

If, then, they are two cousins, that suggests their fathers were brothers, and that these two brothers came with their families to England in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. Both families seem to have prospered in the Malton area, and the two cousins leave significant bequests to the local churches and area.

#### The Reformation.

It is probable that external events now come to influence the New Malton Hansbys. Although they seemed to have held favour with Henry VIII in the early years of his reign, with John Hansby's will of 1520 recording him as 'valet of the crown of the King of England', and Richard his son presumed the Bailiff of New Malton in 1528, this favour may well have soured in 1534, when Henry VIII declares himself Head of the Church of England. The Hansbys as Catholics and northerners may well have become targets for Henry VIII's Reformation.

If we extrapolate from the 'Hanseatic' theory of the Hansby name above, then we infer that Robert and John Hansby likely received their titles from the late Yorkist or Tudor Kings. New kings are looking for new allies, the Hansbys are recent immigrants at the behest of the Yorkists, and so they receive favour in return for their allegiance. This continues into the 1520's. The Hansbys as European immigrants are nominally Catholic, but they are not deeply tied to the long-established Catholic families in their vicinity.

As Henry's Reformation proceeds, Thomas Cromwell is appointed Vicar General, and is commissioned to dissolve all the monasteries and seize the assets of the Catholic Church.

In 1536, the great northern uprising known as the 'Pilgrimage of Grace' opposes this, but nonetheless all the monasteries are ultimately dissolved by 1540. Conspicuously, the Hansbys appear to 'keep their heads down' during this time. This 'temporising' approach, while quietly holding on to their Catholic faith, is the secret to the tiny family's survival across the centuries.

Around 1540, a List of Debts (reference from UHouston O'Quinn Law Library Image 2210 side f.) records the following:

County - Coventry

Plaintiff - Christopher Waren (Bailiff of Coventry 1537-8)

Defendants - Richard Hansbe, of Malton, *Dydale* (correctly 'Ryedale'), Yorkshire; draper  
Richard Resson, of Malton; draper

Christopher Waren was a hard-nosed fellow who issued writs against people he didn't like, particularly following the 'Trial of the Vicar of St. Michael.' Assuming this is the same Richard Hansby as the Bailiff of New Malton of 1528, he has now been reduced to a draper, a common enough trade at that time. It is possible that this trade also harks back to the 'original Hansby's' role in the Hanseatic League.

#### Richard Hansby and Beatrix Hatcliffe.

Barradale's pedigree begins with Richard Hansby, as does the 1584 Visitation. The only other actual published Hansby pedigree is in 'The History and Topography of the Deanery of Doncaster, vol. 1, p.234, by Rev. Joseph Hunter, published London 1828. (Referred to hereafter in this work as 'Hunter's Deanery' - it is quite possible that this republication of the Hansby pedigree in the 19<sup>th</sup> century 'Antiquarian Era' has re-invigorated the family's interest in its own history.) Barradale's pedigree appears to incorporate much of Hunter's, but corrects some of the salient errors it contains. Hunter's pedigree records the marriage of Richard Hansby to "Beatrix, daughter and coheir of William Hatcliffe of the county of Cumberland," as does the 1584 Visitation before it.

#### The Hatcliffes and the Greystokes.

History records well an earlier Beatrix Hatcliffe - more commonly spelt 'Hawtcliffe' or 'Hautcliffe' at the time - who lived about fifty years before 'our' one. This earlier Beatrix is recorded as the daughter of (Sir) James Hatcliffe of Grimthorpe in East Yorkshire. In September 1483, as a young lady, she married Ralph, Fifth Baron of Greystoke, as his third wife. [Greystoke Castle is in Cumberland, and so this is potentially the source of the Cumberland reference in the pedigrees.] In 1483, Baron Ralph was about 75 years old, with a number of mostly adult children, and so this marriage was surely to endow the old knight with a nursemaid rather than a wife. However, in January of that year, Robert, the nominal Greystoke heir had died, leaving no sons. Perhaps the Hatcliffes were throwing their Hat into the ring in an attempt to tap into the Greystoke inheritance??



The old Baron's first marriage in 1436 was noble, to Elizabeth Fitzhugh, uniting two long-aligned Houses. They had had up to twelve children, with at least three males, but while the girls had done a reasonable job at marrying other noble men, the boys were a bit tardy. Robert had only produced one daughter, Richard had become a Church man and John was not married. Baron Ralph had been quite occupied with the see-sawing War of the Roses, and was compelled to change hats regularly, in order to keep his lands and his head intact. But around 1469, his faithful wife died, and the old Baron figured maybe he might need to find a new one, just to see if he could shore up the stock of heirs a bit...

With the Yorkist victory at Towton in 1461, King Edward IV was enthroned, and with the slaying of the Lancastrian heirs at Tewkesbury in 1471, his position became ironclad. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, his feisty 18-year old younger brother, was made Constable of England, and so now spent much time patrolling the castles of northern England, even fathering an illegitimate son while sojourning at Pontefract. The Yorkist cause had found one further adherent: James Tyrell, of Gipping in Suffolk, had fortuitously switched over to the Yorkists on the eve of Tewkesbury, and been knighted for his acumen. This willing young knight would become one of Gloucester's greatest supporters as he rose to become King Richard III. Even after the death of Richard III at Bosworth in 1485, Sir James Tyrell managed to remain in the favour of the new King Henry VII for many years, and it was not until 1502 that Henry VII had Sir James Tyrell arrested, tried and executed, ostensibly for soliciting the murders of the Princes in the Tower at the behest of his former master Richard III. James' purported role in 'The Murders in the Tower' is explicitly referenced in Shakespeare's *Richard the Third*, Act IV, scenes ii-iii.

It would seem that this enigmatic Sir James Tyrell had a sister Elizabeth, and it would seem that the equally enigmatic Yorkist grapevine brought the eligible sister of this young knight-on-the-make to the aging widower Baron Greystoke, and somehow, somewhere in the midst of the Yorkist zeal of 1471, Ralph 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Greystoke took Elizabeth Tyrell as his second wife. Fate did not smile on this new couple, however - Elizabeth's death is recorded soon after, and the fruit of their union, a daughter named Anna, also died young.

Fast-forward now to 1483: King Edward IV has died suddenly, and Richard Duke of Gloucester assumes control of Edward's two sons and the country. Robert Greystoke, the nominal Greystoke heir, has died with no male issue, and his only daughter Elizabeth aged 12 is now an orphan. Old Baron Greystoke thus puts the word out for one final tilt at a new male heir. From the eastern realms of the Greystoke empire - the manor of Grimthorpe in East Yorkshire - an eligible young bride named Beatrix Hatcliffe is proffered. Even though the Greystoke seat remained at Cumberland, the marriage took place at the chapel of Hinderskelfe Castle in East Yorkshire, part of the extensive Greystoke portfolio, in September 1483. The Hatcliffes have no clear affiliation to the Yorkists.

By this time, the destiny of the country under the usurping King Richard III is looking decidedly shaky. In November 1483, Henry Stafford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Buckingham is executed for organizing a rebellion; one of the Constables at his execution is indeed the

wily Sir James Tyrell. Nonetheless, the crafty old Baron Greystoke has one last card to play. It would seem he finally solicits the marriage of his middle-aged son John, to a young lass named Cecilie Herbert in 1484. Which might seem astute enough. Until we countenance the fact that about the same time, King Richard III is soliciting the marriage of his illegitimate daughter Katherine Plantagenet to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Pembroke - William Herbert... the brother of Cecilie Herbert.

It seems unambiguous that Baron Greystoke had tied himself to the mast of King Richard III's cause. And when, on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1485, Henry Tudor's men bashed in the brains of King Richard III at Bosworth Field, all hope for Baron Greystoke was lost too. He and Beatrix spent his remaining days at Hinderskelf, far from the misfortunes of Greystoke. In 1487, as per his last Will, he was interred before the high altar at Kirkham Abbey, in East Yorkshire, where chaplets of Greystoke roses adorned the stonework...

Our Beatrix had borne him no children, however, and she received essentially nothing in his Will. In 1490 she re-married, to Robert Constable Esq. of Flamborough. She had seven children with Sir Robert, and after his death in 1501, she took a 'vow of chastity' and became a 'vowess' - effectively a late-life nun. She died at Sancton in 1505. In her will, she styles herself as 'Beatrix Lady Greystock', so she is still happy enough to flaunt her former title. Her brothers are recorded as William Hatcliffe, who is named an executor, and Richard Hatcliffe, whom she gives 10 quarters of malt and 2 of kye. Vexingly, there is also a Sir Richard Hawtclif, whom she describes as a 'prest', and bequeathes 14 marks, to sing for the souls of herself and her husband at Sancton.

It remains to this author enduringly perplexing that the purportedly armigerous Hawtcliffe family seems to have no primary proof of its existence. Any further information regarding her father (Sir) James, her brother William, and indeed any other 'Hatcliffes of Grimthorpe', or 'Hatcliffes of Cumberland', is completely elusive, but the recent discovery of the will of Thomas Hawtcliffe of Grimthorpe, dated 1549, which names his sister Beatrix as the wife of Richard Hansbie, and lists their seven children as beneficiaries, has at least affirmed that much as historical fact. It is presumed that Thomas and the younger Beatrix are the children of the elder Beatrix's brother, William Hatcliffe.

The ancient manor house of Grimthorpe was at the top of a hill near present day Great Givendale in East Yorkshire. The site is presently occupied by a farm house, and marked by a brass plaque. It would seem that the Greystokes held the manor of Grimthorpe at that time, but did not occupy it. There is a town of Haltcliff in Cumberland near present-day Caldbeck, and near the seat of the Greystokes. It could be wildly conjectured that the Hawtcliffes may have had their origins in that town, and have been employed by the Greystokes to run the Manor at Grimthorpe. James Hawtcliffe may have been the caretaker in the employ of the Greystokes, and when old man Greystoke put the call out for an eligible young wife, James may have sent his daughter Beatrix out of loyalty to his employer, or in the hope that this gesture may have brought a slice of the prodigious Greystoke pie. No such largesse was forthcoming, however... It is possible that William Hatcliffe remained on as 'caretaker' at Grimthorpe, and that his children Beatrice,

Thomas, and possibly Richard grew up there. William also had three other daughters: Jane, Margaret and Elizabeth, who are recorded as marrying into prominent local East Yorkshire families. It is inferred that William's children are born between approximately 1480-1500. Confusingly, Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire, volume 3, describes William as 'Sir William' on page 129 and William Esq. on page 161, so his exact title is uncertain. He has no title in Glover's 1584 pedigree, and Glover's is the only place where he is described as 'of Cumberland.'

Ralph Baron Greystoke's late-life allegiance seems clearly towards the ill-fated star of King Richard III. His children are married to the allies of this faction, and there are a couple of Greystokes knighted by Richard while Duke of Gloucester. If one extends that notion to the possibility that the Hawtcliffes were allies of Greystoke, maybe one or more Hawtcliffes were knighted by that doomed Duke during his evanescent rise, but then those same Hawtcliffes might have suddenly come to regret that honor post-1485, as they found themselves on the wrong side of history...?

It would seem the Manor of Grimthorpe passed with the Greystoke fortune to the Dacre's and thence to the Howards (the children of the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Howard, who was executed by Queen Elizabeth in 1572 for treason). By this same chain of inheritance, the castle at Hinderskelf is now Castle Howard. It would seem plausible that if William were caretaker at Grimthorpe, then he might remain in situ even as the nominal owners changed hands.

In the will of Thomas Hawtcliffe in 1549, he describes himself as 'of Grimthorpe.' It is clear he has no children. He makes specific reference to his 'brother parson', which is likely Richard Hawtcliffe, elsewhere described as the Rector of Nunburnholme from 1507-52. [The book 'Nunburnholme - Its History and Antiquities, by Rev. M.C.F. Morris 1907 indicates that Richard Hawtcliffe Rector at Nunburnholme is the brother of the *earlier* Beatrix Hatcliffe, but this is perhaps chronologically unlikely. Indeed, *that* author may well be confused between the two Beatrix Hatcliffes.] It is unclear whether Thomas means "His ecclesiastical brother in parson-hood" or "His biological brother who is *also* a parson." Thomas records two parsonages amongst his assets, which might indicate that he was also a Church of England clergyman. One wonders if the two boys have somehow inherited their uncle Richard's calling. We assume the brother Richard is also childless.

Thomas does not appear to distribute any of the assets of the manor of Grimthorpe. He has clearly accumulated significant assets in his career. One strongly assumes he has been a temporizer on the subject of religion, and this accommodation to the changing times seems to have underpinned the accumulation of his wealth. His last years are in the brief Protestant epoch of Edward VI, and it would seem this is the last he knows of England. The absence of Hawtcliffe heirs in his will, and the absence of further information regarding the 'Hawtcliffes of Grimthorpe', seems to suggest that this was 'the end of the line' for this family name. His sisters are also described as co-heirs in various pedigrees. As the Visitations did not start in earnest until about 1530, the Hawtcliffes did not survive to leave record in them. This is in contrast to other apparent temporizers such as the Sothebys who seem to have made their great start from the turmoil of the Reformation.

One is obliged to regard the apparent enmity between Thomas Hawtcliffe and Richard Hansby as being based in their approach to the new religion. We can only assume that Thomas, who appears to have embraced the new religion, along with the remainder of his compatriotes, is making a point of ostracizing the recusant Richard, who fairly conspicuously ‘disappears’ from all other records after the Reformation, presumably for the exact same reason. A strong thread of recusancy remains through the Hansbys in the coming centuries.

#### Other Malton Hansbys.

There are two other minor references to property owners in Malton at this time, a Robert Hanse in 1543 and a William and Agnes Hansby in 1550 (possibly the son of Robert Hansby above), but it would seem the Hansbys were laying low at this time. It is also possible that records were either not well kept, or were destroyed during these turbulent times. A marriage of a ‘Wal. Hansby’ is also recorded in Norfolk in 1550. It is possible that the Norfolk branch was still in relation to the Hanseatic League, but it fades out after a couple of generations.

At Henry VIII’s death in 1547, his frail son Edward VI becomes a child king until his death from tuberculosis in 1553, then Mary I, Henry’s daughter, takes the throne and reinstates Catholicism. In 1558, her half-sister Elizabeth I ascends, and restores Protestantism. It is under Elizabeth’s long reign as the Virgin Queen that the next chapter of Hansby history takes place.

## 2. Ralph (3) Hansby of Beverley: Was he ‘King Lear’? c. 1550-1620

The Children of Richard and Beatrix Hansby.

From here on, I must assign a number to some individuals, which pertains to the generation to which they belong. This is particularly necessary for the name ‘Ralph’, as there is a ‘Ralph Hansby’ in each generation from 3 to 10.

I have assigned as the index generation John (1) Hansby, who died in 1522, notwithstanding the possibility that Robert may be his father. His wife is Agnes, and, as per his will, his only definite son is Richard (2), and his daughters may include Joanna, Margaret and Katherine.

As above, Richard (2) Hansby is the first Hansby mentioned in the Barradale history. As Thomas Hawtcliffe’s will, which was written in 1549, indicates two of the daughters are already married, the marriage of Richard Hansbie and Beatrix Hawtcliffe must be estimated to be before 1530. This would also seem to suggest these two daughters were the eldest children. Richard and Beatrix Hansby seem both to be alive at 1549, but I have no definite record of the death of either. While the birth order of their seven children is not clear, the Hawtcliffe Will suggests the following:

- **Agnes**, who was already married to Richard Langley (Longley) as at 1549. Richard Langley was martyred in 1586 for his support of Catholics; their pregnant daughter Isabel was also imprisoned for the same offence, and died in prison not long after. They had four daughters and a son Christopher. They lived at Owsethorpe, possibly in a property bequeathed to them by Thomas Hawtcliffe. An Elizabeth Langley of Pocklington continued to receive ‘tithes out of Grimthorpe and Ousethorpe 5L 2s 6d’ in the non-conformists’ register of 1715.

- **Isabell**, who was already married to Anthony Hungate in 1549. They lived in Catton, possibly also in a property bequeathed to them by Thomas Hawtcliffe. Their son Thomas was involved in a property dispute with Katherine Constable around 1600, which also involved this bequested property, and Thomas Hawtcliffe’s will formed part of the evidence presented in this case. Anthony Hungate died ‘outlawed’ in 1585, and was prevented from writing a will as such. The text of the ‘Cause Paper’ indicates that he was outlawed for unpaid debts rather than for his religious beliefs.

- **Ralph** (3) is likely the eldest son. His birth is estimated around 1540, and so his death at 1619 appears to be at a fairly advanced age. He receives the largest bequest of all the sons from Thomas Hawtcliffe, his very-well-to-do, but heirless uncle. Ralph (3) is certainly the most ‘famous’ Hansby ancestor, and is known colloquially as ‘Ralph of Beverley’. One could speculate that he was named for Ralph Lord Greystoke - perhaps the Hawtcliffe inheritance was soon to be up for grabs, even if the Greystoke one was long gone?

Ralph fathered four daughters, but he did not father any sons who might carry the Hansby name forward. His public battles with his daughters and their husbands in regard to their inheritances were prominent in their time, and led one modern-day commentator to speculate that these events may have inspired at least in part William Shakespeare's contemporaneous character of 'King Lear'. It is through one of Ralph of Beverley's daughters that the Hansby name appears in the pedigree of the current Royal Family, connecting down to the Queen Mother, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. It is to Ralph (3) Hansby's legacy that this chapter will be principally directed.

- **Robert** - Essentially nothing is recorded of him apart from his death in 1577, which appears to be in Wragby, Lincolnshire. Possibly named for his putative great-uncle?

- **Eleanor** - married Robert Pierson of Hull, a butcher, in 1560.

- **Edward**, possibly named for Henry VIII's new son? This Edward would become a Church of England rector after graduating from St. John's College, Cambridge. This would seem, then, to indicate that someone has paid for his education in the new religion, and we would have to again invoke the legacy of Thomas Hatcliffe. Mysteriously, Edward is then instituted rector at Greystoke, Cumberland in 1568 – *surely* some residual Hatcliffe/ Greystoke influence at work. In this role, he is indeed described as 'chaplain to the Duke of Norfolk', Thomas Howard, now the nominal owner of Greystoke. Technically this is true, but the Duke's seat was still in Norfolk, so it is unlikely that Edward spent many Sundays personally administering Mass to the Duke. Doubtless they would have empathised with one another's positions as late and reluctant adherents to the new religion, and when the Duke went to the block in 1572 for his troubles, Rector Edward doubtless decided that complicity was the best way forward from here...

Edward marries Margaret Snawsell in 1576 and they have six children, including 3 sons. (One daughter dies young.) His youngest son Ralphe also goes on to become a Church of England vicar, and this Ralphe had at least one son who may remotely possibly have gone on to father other living Hansbys. Edward dies in 1585, leaving his five children then aged 8 through 2 fatherless... Margaret apparently remarries, to a William Carnaby, of Skipton, co. York. This Protestant Hansby cadet-branch seems fairly certainly to fizzle out after a couple of generations.

- **John** (3) Hansby is possibly the youngest, and possibly named for his grandfather. He apparently lives in or near New Malton his whole life; possibly he inherits the family estate at the death of his father Richard because he is the only one left at home. It should be mentioned that while the will of Thomas Hawtcliffe provided generously for the Hansby children, the father Richard Hansby was very specifically excluded as a beneficiary. This family rift might give an explanation for the Hansby family house apparently passing to the youngest child. John does not father any children until the mid-1580's, presumably after the deaths of his parents. John is only known link to present-day Hansbys.

John eventually marries Audrey Lovell from Skelton; she appears to be about 20 years his junior, and at the time, an orphan. Their children include:

- Beatrix, who married Herbert Davy, a mercer from York, in 1606. Following his death, she married Thomas Agar, who served as Lord Mayor of York. No children are recorded from either union. She dies in 1634. Her will confirms various family relations at this time. Her will states she was born in Hutton, Yorkshire.
- Ralph (4), first son and heir, is born in late 1587. He is the subject of the next chapter.
- Thomas is mentioned in both the wills of his father and his uncle Ralph, but no further information about him seems to exist.
- Jane, dies young.

That John names his children Beatrix for his mother and Thomas possibly for his uncle suggests that he does not perpetuate the enmity between his father and his uncle. [The names 'Thomas and Jane', are also those of Audrey's parents, however.]

There is a marriage recorded between an Audree Hansby and a Thomas Sotheby of Birdsall in 1619, but this is almost certainly John's widow re-marrying after John's death in 1607, rather than a daughter of theirs marrying. Intriguingly, this Thomas Sotheby was named as an executor of John Hansby's will, and he also seems to have been a very young beneficiary of Thomas Hawtcliffe's will, apparently receiving 40 shillings at the probate in 1553. Thomas's grandfather John Sotheby married Jane Hatcliffe, John Hansby's aunt.

As can be readily observed, there is a high degree of intermarrying between the local families of this area, and this seems likely to be the basis for each new relationship as it arises. *Per se*, Thomas Sotheby is the son of Robert Sotheby of Birdsall and Grace Vavasour; this couple had nine children in total. After Grace's death in 1559, Robert Sotheby goes on to marry Elizabeth Smethley. Elizabeth is the widow of William Daniel of Beswick; Elizabeth and William are the parents of Isabel Daniel, who will go on to be Ralph (3)' wife in 1565.

At William Daniel's death in 1557, he and Elizabeth had six children, and so the union of Robert Sotheby and Elizabeth Smethley could possibly have brought together up to fifteen children in a 'Brady-bunch' fashion at the manor house at Birdsall. Furthermore, Thomas Sotheby's sister Agnes Sotheby marries in 1569 William Daniel (son of William Daniel and Elizabeth Smethley), and so we find a marriage between a step-brother and step-sister. [In fairness, though, the date of the marriage of Elizabeth Smethley and Robert Sotheby is not known, and so it is possible that these siblings married before the parents – perhaps the parents met at the wedding??]

Thomas Sotheby's death recorded in 1624 at New Malton seems to suggest that he had moved into Audree Hansby's house, possibly having ceded the family manor at Birdsall

to his son-and-heir Robert and his speculatively giant conglomerate family. And for a final mystery, a mortgage from Thomas's great-great-grandson Thomas Sotheby is recorded to Michael Hansby (Audrey's great-grandson) in 1719 - a century later. Further, the Sothebys of Birdsall are *not* the antecedents of the present-day Sothebys Auction House. Birdsall would eventually pass to the Willoughbys, who are the present-day owners. More to follow on the Willoughbys, also...

### Marrying into money?

One notes recurrently the possibility that family members seem possibly to be trying to marry into monied families. The marriage of the first Beatrix Hatcliffe to Ralph Baron Greystoke seems a clear endeavour in this regard. The marriage of Richard Hansby to the younger Beatrix Hatcliffe is possibly an endeavour to marry the putatively immigrant Hansby family to local landholders the Hatcliffes, which does eventually pay off. And as we shall see, Ralph (3) Hansby makes great efforts to see that his heirs marry above themselves. The Vavasours proudly declare that they have never had to marry a wealthy heiress to make ends meet...

### Ralph (3) Hansby's Marriage and Children.

Ralph (3) Hansby's marriage to Isabel Daniel is confidently recorded at September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1565, at Bishop Burton. As noted, Isabel's father William has died in 1557 and her mother Elizabeth re-marries, to Robert Sotheby, the widowed father of Thomas Sotheby. Ralph is almost certainly past the age of 21 at this stage, and has therefore received his generous bequest from his uncle Thomas Hawtcliffe. A lease of land is assigned to the newlyweds for 60 pounds in 1567 in Littlethorpe, near modern day Hayton. This lease does not appear to have specifically come from uncle Thomas' bequest, but the largesse from his rich uncle has almost certainly kindled the impressive business career of Ralph (3) Hansby.

Ralph (3) and Isabel's first daughter Julyan was born on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1568, their second daughter Catherine in September 1572, then Elizabeth in 1574 and Isabel in the years after that.

Over the ensuing years Ralph (3) became a very substantial property owner in this district and there are many references to properties and leases and charitable bequests in his name. [The location of Hansby House, a former 'hospital' and almshouse, is still marked at the corner of Church Side in Bishop Burton.] On October 10<sup>th</sup> 1583, the Hansby Coat of Arms is granted to him by William Flower, Norroy (The Queen's Officer of Arms of the North). The heraldic description is: "azure, three shovellers, closes argent, a chief ermine. Crest: a pheon or." Shortly after this time, the first Hansby pedigree appears in Flower's Visitation of 1584.

[In regard to the birds depicted on the Arms, Hunter's Deanery later erroneously refers to them as '3 sheldrakes', though it is possible they are both names for the same bird. The Wilson manuscript – a private documentation of local pedigrees dating to about 1750 –



wanders even further, and calls them 'cleck geese.' 'Closes' is not mentioned in some descriptions – it likely refers to the wings being folded.]

It would seem that Ralph and Isabel's daughters married relatively young – the intermarriages are well recorded by the various Visitations, as all the daughters marry into prominent local families.

The eldest, Julyan, marries Sir John Yorke of Gowthwaite, but the couple do not have any children. The marriage was quite possibly arranged around 1580, while Julyan was still very young. The lives of Sir John Yorke and his wife are detailed in a book 'Sir John Yorke of Nidderdale.' by Christopher Howard, published Sheen and Ward, 1939. They remain conspicuously Catholic, and are imprisoned for a time for staging a Catholic play at Gowthwaite Hall in 1609. [Interestingly, these events have been recreated in a present-day stage play titled "Gouthwaite Hall" by Christine and Nevin Ward, which was performed at the local Pateley Bridge Dramatic Society.]

Some time elapses before the second daughter Catherine marries Sir George Wandesforde, son of Sir Christopher Wandesforde and *Elizabeth Bowes*, in August 1591. Ralph Hansby briefly held George's wardship while George was underage, quite possibly for the express purpose of marrying him to his daughter. George and Catherine go on to have four children; the eldest of these is Christopher, born 24 Sept 1592. This Christopher Wandesforde goes on to become Lord Deputy of Ireland, and the family moves to Castlecomer in county Kilkenny, which becomes the seat for the family. All of the family's records were moved here and kept, and represent a magnificent archive of the family's history. [The English records from this collection have now been re-housed at the North Yorkshire Archive at Northallerton.] In 1904, these were collated into a book: "Story of the family of Wandesforde of Kirklington and Castlecomer" ed. H.B. McCall, which is an intriguing account of the family's affairs. It makes reference to the Hansby family at the time of Catherine's marriage, and some original documents by the hand of Ralph (3) are held in their manuscript collection. I shall make further discussion later in this chapter regarding issues arising from this work, which I refer to hereafter as the 'Wandesforde History'. It would seem that Catherine dies around 1597, and that her financially intemperate husband is more-or-less bankrupt at this point. He remarries to a Mary Pamplyn (the sister of his brother William's wife Margaret Pamplyn) and they have a further two children - William, in 1605, and Margaret. He is knighted by James I in 1607. Sir George Wandesforde then dies in 1612, and it would seem that grandpa Ralph (3) takes steps to care for his now-orphaned grandchildren. In particular, he buys the wardship of Christopher Wandesforde, his grandson (just as he previously held his son-in-law George's Wandesforde's wardship...) and sees his young ward married off to the eligible Alice Osborne. That couple's descendants can thence be followed through to the present-day Queen Mother, who is, in a further twist of fate, *Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon*. In fact, that Bowes family connection crosses the centuries by more than one path...

The third daughter Elizabeth marries Michael Warton, who became High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1616, and was knighted by James I at Ripon on 16 Apr 1617. They have one son, Michael Warton, born in 1593, but Elizabeth dies on 3 Aug 1596. It would seem the

heir is then raised by his father. Michael Warton of Beverley Park does make an appearance at the wedding of Christopher Wandesforde above. Not until 1619 does Michael Snr. re-marry - his second wife is Evereld Maltby, a widow with three adolescent daughters. The eldest of these is Catherine, and the following year, Catherine Maltby marries the younger Michael Warton – and so again, a marriage between step-siblings. This unusual union yields nine children; the eldest is, unsurprisingly, also named Michael Warton, and all the others seem also to take family names from either side. Michael (b. 1593) goes on to become an MP for Beverley in 1640, and his death is notably recorded in 1645: ‘slain by a cannon bullet at the siege of Scarborough Castle, a Royalist garrison.’ He predeceases his father, who dies in 1655. [The initials 'd.v.p.' - 'died with a living father', or 'died in his father's lifetime' – appear commonly in the Visitation books, especially in times of war.]

The final daughter Isabel married Sir William Hildyard (spelled also as Hildiard and Hildierd), and they had 3 daughters Ann, Elizabeth and Mary. Sir William Hildyard’s memorial at St. Edith’s, Bishop Wilton mentions his father-in-law Ralph Hansby.

***“...for fyndynge of the said Ralfe without any accompte makinge...”***

With this caustic assessment, Thomas Hawtcliffe quarantines Ralph’s inheritance until he reaches the age of 21 years. Ultimately, Thomas’s opinion of Ralph was unfounded, but perhaps this pointy gybe spurred Ralph to his eventual lofty heights.

It is not exactly clear in what fashion Ralph (3) accrued his substantial fortune. His beginnings are certainly modest, and the bequest from his uncle Thomas Hawtcliffe in 1553 is small in comparison to the fortune disbursed in Ralph (3)’s will in 1619. One must infer that he is a temporizer in the matter of religion - while his forbears are certainly Catholic, and his brother-in-law is martyred in 1586, and his eldest daughter and her husband are imprisoned and fined for their religious sedition, Ralph (3) himself is clearly never involved in any Catholic insurrection.

He is evidently loyal to Queen Elizabeth, and proudly purchased ‘of her majestie...some woods in Bishop Wilton’ – which were eventually bequeathed to Isabel and William Hildyard. In the Wandesforde History is recorded a ‘loan’ of fifty pounds made by Ralph (3) to the Crown, and when the Queen eventually repays this loan in full, Ralph (3) is reported as being so happy that it was as if the Queen had given him the money as a gift. Perhaps his religious flexibility was ultimately a source of friction between himself and his other more dyed-in-the-wool contemporaries. It would seem that his uncle Thomas Hawtcliffe’s success had come from his religious adaptability, and so perhaps the precedent lay here.

Ralph’s arc follows fairly closely that of Queen Elizabeth. He is only a little younger than her, and for both, the stars have aligned to bring them to places where they might prosper. Elizabeth ascends in 1558 at age 25; it is only because of Henry’s Reformation that she

exists at all, let alone sits on the throne, so she is as fundamentally Protestant by birth as any soul in the country.

Ralph was likely raised in a Catholic household, and his father Richard likely never renounced his Catholic beliefs in his lifetime. Ralph was perhaps not so fundamentally Catholic as many other long-established northern families, and as noted, his uncle Thomas's temporizing may have proven a fortuitous example. Indeed, if Ralph's birth was around 1540, he would never have known England as a Catholic country.

In marrying Isabel Daniel at a young age in 1565, he is hopefully doing the groundwork for having some heirs to perpetuate the Hansby name, noting the extinction of the Hawtcliffe line. But his four girls are moderately spaced, and the price of marrying four daughters into good families will be high. Perhaps this prohibitive burden 'puts paid' to Ralph's dream of a son, and by 1580, he has ceased expanding his own family, and commences marrying off his daughters. [Indeed, this gentle but pervasive tendency over the centuries for Hansbys to father more daughters than sons could quite reasonably be implicated as the root cause for the Hansby surname not being more widely extant....]

With Queen Bessie now 45 and unmarried, the nation's attention is turning to the growing prospect of a return to Catholicism. Ralph thus marries off his eldest daughter Julyan to John Yorke, the presumptive heir at Gowthwaite, with her as young as 12 years at the time. The Yorkes have family ties to the Inglebys at Ripley; both families are long established and staunchly Catholic. Presumably the dowry sets Ralph back a pretty penny, and it is another ten years before he marries off his next daughter. Conspicuously, of course, John and Julyan Yorke do not have any children over this time either. The 1580's are the height of the persecution of Catholics, and one can only guess at the true reasons why this couple does not bear any grandchildren for the dotting would-be grandpa Ralph...

For Ralph (3) Hansby, the 1580's *does* see his acquisition of the Hansby Coat of Arms, his entry into Glover's 1584 Visitation book, and the birth of his namesake nephew Ralph (4) Hansby to his mild-mannered younger brother John. There is also the martyring of certain staunch family recusants: his brother-in-law Richard Langley, Richard's pregnant daughter Isabel Forster, and William Ingleby's younger brother Francis Ingleby. The nation also witnesses the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, and the victory over the Spanish Armada, Surely Catholicism is now on its way out in England, and during the 1590's Ralph marries off his remaining three daughters. While Julyan has borne no children, Catherine has four and Isabel has three. Elizabeth dies after the birth of only one child, and by the end of the 1590's, Ralph's daughter Catherine and wife Isabel have died also.

Thus, by 1600, Ralph (3) is a rich widower with time on his hands. From here it seems he spends much of his time in London. It is likely he secures the position of Surveyor of the Stables for his aging Queen – indeed, he may have held this position since the 1580's – and he is admitted to Gray's Inn in 1601. It is quite possible he actually resides at Gray's

Inn during these years – in his will he describes himself as 'of Grayes' Inn'. His brother John dies in 1607, and so it now falls to Ralph (3) to rear his young protégé nephew.

The elder Ralph almost certainly secures the lease for Tickhill Castle in 1611. It is unclear how much the elder Ralph contributes to the construction of the new manor house at Tickhill in his twilight years. He almost certainly plays a role in securing the marriage of the younger Ralph to Jane Vavasour - a very eligible match. The wily uncle is also almost certainly coaching his nephew during his hasty re-marriage following Jane's premature death, and also during the machinations that would eventually bring down Francis Bacon as Lord Chancellor and yield the Hansbys their only Knighthood.

### Is Ralph (3) Hansby 'King Lear'?

The great dilemma for Ralph of Beverley is that he has no male heir. Ordinarily, all his wealth would pass to his sons, but his daughters and their husbands end up squabbling over their would-be inheritance. It is this notion of daughters campaigning for their father's attention and favour where the comparison to the character of 'King Lear' is drawn. In "Shakespeare's Tragic Justice" by Charles Jasper Sisson (published London Methuen 1963), p.80, the following is recorded:

"What we cannot do, is to deny the evidence of recorded contemporary events that such actions, not by kings certainly, but by men of great estate, were of frequent occurrence in Shakespeare's time. Some bear unexpected resemblances to the story of Lear as Shakespeare tells it. There was, for example, the example of the Yorkshireman Ralph Hansby, who divided his great estates among his three (sic) daughters upon their marriage. He had no son, and he abdicated his greatness to continue it only in the advancement of his daughters. Two of them were ungrateful, but the third was his Cordelia, who married Sir John Yorke. The career of Lady Julian Yorke, a steadfast, loyal, obstinate soul, may be followed in state records up to her long imprisonment by King James for recusancy."

This detailed reference relates unambiguously to Ralph of Beverley. While Ralph Hansby had four daughters who married not three, the marriage of Julyan Hansby to Sir John Yorke is accurately recorded. [And ultimately, of course, Ralph bequeaths the bulk of his fortune to his nephew rather than to his daughters.] Sadly, Sisson does not provide a reference for this material - he reports in a footnote that it is "unpublished." I have located no other commentaries that make the same reference to Ralph of Beverley as a source for the character of King Lear. Sisson was not a widely known Shakespearean commentator, and he is not widely quoted in other commentaries. How he specifically came across material pertaining to Ralph Hansby, in state records or elsewhere, and then made a link to Shakespeare's character of King Lear is unclear, as I have not yet located any material that draws this inference anywhere else. However, further investigation reveals that this observation by Sisson may indeed have some basis.

The Biography of Sir John Yorke of Nidderdale (1565-1634) was written by Christopher Howard and published in 1939, so this text would certainly have been available to Sisson

in 1963. This biography would have contained the details of the illegal staging of a Catholic play by Sir John Yorke at Gouthwaite Hall in 1609, which led to the imprisonments of Sir John and Lady Julian Yorke. It would seem that the play that was 'intended' to be presented was Shakespeare's 'King Lear', but that in the "interval" the Catholic play 'St. Christopher' was performed, for the benefit of the large pro-Catholic audience, which included Sir William Ingleby and his wife Catherine. A spy betrayed this deception, and the Yorkes were imprisoned and fined. It is possible that this reference to the play 'King Lear' in the Yorke biography led Sisson to discover the identity of Ralph Hansby.

Upon reading the text of 'King Lear', it is this author's opinion that beyond the abovementioned reference to a man dividing his favour between his daughters, there is no other aspect of the character or story of King Lear that necessarily bears any specific similarity to the life or person of Ralph of Beverley, and that if Shakespeare truly drew from contemporary knowledge of the affairs of Ralph Hansby for the character of King Lear, then this was the extent of it. Indeed, two of Ralph's daughters long pre-decease him, and the eldest Julyan has no heir. It might further be reasonably inferred that the persistent recusant activity of Julyan and John Yorke was more likely a source of embarrassment to Ralph(3) rather than a source of pride. In that sense, his youngest daughter Isabel is more likely to have been his 'Cordelia', just as in the play Cordelia was Lear's youngest daughter. The question would still remain as to how the London-based William Shakespeare might have come to know of the Yorkshireman Ralph Hansby. The link possibly lies in Gray's Inn.

Gray's Inn was one of four 'Inns of Court' in London in Elizabethan times. These may be essentially regarded as barrister's clubs - they held the examinations for barristers, and decided who would be admitted to the bar. Gray's Inn, in particular, was rather more than this, however - it was as much a high society club as a lawyer's club. Many of its members were lawyers who were not barristers, and there were some high society members who were not lawyers at all. Ralph of Beverley was not admitted to the bar, and it is not clear whether he was officially a lawyer, or simply well-versed in legal process by way of his extensive business dealings.

Records at Gray's Inn confirm that Ralph Hansby of Bishop Burton, Yorkshire was admitted to Gray's Inn on March 10, 1601. This was not long after the death of his wife Isabel, and one wonders whether he was kicking up his heels at this time and mixing with London society, or perhaps sharpening his legal skills to deal with the various claims on his fortune.

It is elsewhere clear that the playwright of the age William Shakespeare was also making his mark in London in the first years of the seventeenth century, and it is recorded that on at least one occasion Shakespeare and his players actually performed at Gray's Inn in this time. 'King Lear' was first played around 1608-10, certainly coincident with the time that Ralph Hansby might have been 'in the news' for his conflicts with his daughters. One can therefore only speculate whether there may have been any direct personal relationship between Ralph Hansby and William Shakespeare which might have led to the reference,

or whether they were simply moving in the same circles, and that Ralph's story might have been conspicuous enough at the time for Shakespeare's theatre-goers to recognize the reference.

If one were so bold as to conjecture that such a direct relationship existed between the 'four score and upward' Ralph (3) Hansby – certainly a boisterous and belligerent enough character in the same vein as Lear – and the playwright of the age, which led to the crystallisation of the play 'King Lear' from the Bard's pen, and if that relationship was known of by Julyan Yorke, possibly the progenitor of the character of the evil eldest daughter 'Goneril', would it not then be poetic of her to choose that same play to stage at Gowthwaite, then 'interrupt' it with the Catholic-themed 'St. Christopher'? And if she happened to be caught in the act and publicly pilloried, would not that be suitable vengeance brought upon her hated father, for his abandoning of Yorkshire and of Catholicism??

In fairness, though, this reference by Sisson is the only contemporary analysis of Shakespeare that I can identify that seems to cite Ralph Hansby in this fashion. How exactly the author has identified the Ralph Hansby material, and then drawn a link to the character of King Lear is ultimately unclear, and may indeed reflect pure speculation on his part.

#### The Will of Ralph (3) Hansby.

The will of Ralph Hansby of Beverley is a magnificent old document. It is written on a single large sheet of parchment approximately 3'x2' with quill pens of differing sizes. The first line is in large broad-quill characters, profusely embellished with artistic flourishes and doodlings. Various points within the body of the will are indicated with medium script, and the majority is with a fine quill. It is beautifully written, and quite easily readable to the modern eye.

Much as this author might wish or imagine that Ralph fashioned this will in his own hand, it is likely that the documents held at Hull were written by scribes. The main will is dated 1616, with a codicil dated February 1618. The reader gains a strong sense of the personality of Ralph (3) from these documents: bellicose, verbose, meticulous and quite deliberate from the first; the codicil is more peaceable and generous, perhaps as his final demise approaches.

I include the text in full, not only for its historical value, but for the delightful idiosyncratic spellings of the age, and for the unmistakable similarity to any modern will. I have added line numbers to locate references. Underlined are a small number of words of which I am not confident of the translation; xx's at the end of lines close blank spaces.

The text of the Will provides a useful basis for discussing various aspects of Ralph's life and relationships, and a detailed discussion follows the text of the Will.

#### The Last Will and Testament of Ralph Hansby of Beverley.

1. **In the name of god. Amen. The Nyneth day of Julie in the fowertenth yeare of the Reigne**
2. of Sovereigne Lord James by the Grace of God Kinge of England, Franse and Ireland, Defendor of the faith Er: and of Scotland the nyne and fortieth. I Ralph Hansbie of Grayes Inne within the County of Middlesex Esq being god be praysed of good and xx
3. perfit remembrance do make my last will and testament in maner and forme following. *First* I give and bequeath my Soule to god Almighty my Saviour and Redemer, through whose merits and passions I verily and fully believe to be saved. And do give
4. my body to the Earth to be buried in South-burton Church as neare as conveniently may be to my late wife Isabell Hansby deceased if it so please god I dy in Yorkshire. And if it please god I dy in London then to be buried in St. Clements Church
5. as neare as conveniently may be to the place where Thomas Hautcliffe my uncle late of Grimthorpe in the County of York deceased was buried as appeareth by a blew stone in the said Church wherein is mentoned an inscription of his name xxx
6. and tyme of his death. And by these present I do fully absolutely and clearly revoake renounce frustrate and utterly make void to all intents constructions and purposes all former wills and testaments whatsoever heretofore by me made. And whereas
7. by my deed Indented bearing date the fifteenth day of August in the year of our Lord god One thousand Six Hundreth and in the two and fortieth year of the Reigne of our late Sovereigne Lady Queen Elizabeth and by me subscribed sealed and delivered in the
8. presence of three credible and substantiall witnesses I have already published and declared and by the same deed particularly signified to Sir Willm Ingleby knight and John Hansbie my brother lately deceased my purpose and intention to frustrate and make voide
9. all the guift grant and estate by me made to Sir Willm Ingleby knight by the name of William Ingleby Esquire, Thomas Doweman Esquire, deceased, William Hildierd of the Citty of York Esquire deceased; William Daniell xx
10. Esquire deceased and John Hansby my brother lately deceased, in and by one writing Indented made between me the said Ralph Hansbie on the one party and the said Sir William Ingleby by the name of William Ingleby Esquire xx

11. Thomas Doweman, Willm Hildierd, William Daniell and John Hansbie on the other party. And all estate and estates, deeds and deeds of gift, grants and assurances whatsoever before the date of these present by me made, wherein x
12. William Hildierd aforesaid is named either by himselfe or wherein he with others is named by what name soever concerning the bestowing giving or disposing of any of my possessions, lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever or of any of
13. my leases, goods Chattels plate household stuffs Corne or Cattells or any other goods estate deed or deeds and writings whatsoever. **Now** for the further declaration and manifestation of my said purpose and intention therein, I do by these present fully clearly and xxx
14. absolutely frustrate and make void and declare and publish to be frustrate and void to all intents and purposes all and every the same guifts grants estaits assurances, deed or deeds or writings whatsoever heretofore by me made wherein the said Willm Hildierd is named
15. either by himselfe or with any other concerning the giving or disposing of any of my said possessions lands tenements or hereditaments or of any of my leases goods or Chattels or of other mine estate whatsoever. And as concerning the disposition of those goods and
16. Chattells wch the Lord of his great mercy hath bestowed upon me. **First** I give to the poore of Bishopburton within the said county of York twenty pounds of lawfull English mony to be distributed amongst them the said poore by mine executor hereafter xxx
17. named, upon the day of my funeral if it please god I dy in Yorkshire, And if I dy els-where the same to be distributed amongst them within three months next after my decease. And if I dy elsewhere than in Yorkshire then I give also tenne pounds to
18. be distributed on the day of my funerall amongst the poore of that parish where I shall be buried. **Item** I give to the repair of Bishopburton Church five pounds. **To** the poore in Lairgate in Beverley fourty shillings. **To** the rest of the poore in Beverley
19. towne three pounds. **To** the mending of the high wayes in Beverley westward towards Bishopburton three poundes. **Towards** the amendment of the high wayes betwene Hulbridge and Tyckton, where most need is other three pounds. And five pounds



20. towards the repairing of Kexby Lane. All which said severall Summs my will and mind is shalbe paid within one yeare next after my death. **Item** I give to my grandchilde Anne Wandesford the full Summe of One thousand marks of lawfull English
21. money, which, my will and minde is shall, within three years' next after my decease be by my Executor with the consent and allowance of my Supervisors or the Survivors or Survivor of them put forth and imployed to and for the use and benefit
22. of the said Anne Wandesford upon good security for repaymt thereof, and not above seaven pounds in the hundred to be taken for the lone and forbearance thereof for one yeare. And in any case speciall care to be taken for good security for the same. And x
23. the same Sum of one thousand marks, with the increase and profit thereof to be paid to the said Anne Wandesford within forty dayes next after her day of marriage or age of one and twenty yeares, which shall first happen, and after reasonable request
24. in that behalfe made. **Item** I give to my grandchildren John Wandesford, Michael Wandesford, and William Wandesford to each of them one hundred marks wch my will is shall by mine executor with the like allowance and concern
25. of my ... [hidden by crease]... within three yeares next after my decease upon good security for repayment thereof. And I will that there be not taken for the lone
26. or forbearance thereof above the rate of seaven pounds for one hundred for one year and aspeciall care to be taken for good and safe security. And when they shall severally accomplish the age of twenty and five yeares, then my will and minde x
27. is that their said severall portions with the increase and profit thereof shalbe severally paid unto them within forty days next after reasonable request in that behalfe made. And if the said John, Michael and William Wandesford or any
28. of them shall happen to dy, before they or any of them shall severally accomplish the said age of twenty and five yeares, then I will that the part and portion of the said partye or partyes so deceasing together with the increase thereof shalbe
29. and remayne unto the said Anne Wandesford. **Also** I give to the said John Wandesford, Michael Wandesford and William Wandesford to each of them ten pounds to be paid within six months next after my decease therewith to provide them bookes and

30. other necessaries. **Also** I give to my grandchildren Anne Hildierd and Elizabeth Hildierd and Mary Hildierd to each of them fower hundreth pounds to be paid unto them within three yeares after my decease. **Item** I give to my daughter xx
31. Dame Isabell Hildierd my Coatch together with my Coatch-horses and all furniture therunto belonging. **And I will** that every of the foresaid sums of mony before herein given or bequeathed by me to any of my grandchildren shall be paid
32. afor in the South porch of the parish Church of Bishopburton aforesaid. **Also** I give and bequeath to my loving Cosin Thomas Hungate of Bulmer within the said county of York the full sum of fower hundreth pounds of lawfull
33. mony of England to be paid within three yeares next after my decease, at or in the South-porch of the parish Church of Bishop-burton aforesaid. **Also** I give and bequeath unto my servants John Clarke and Margret his wife
34. and to the survivor of them, the full sum of three hundreth pounds of lawfull mony of England to be paid unto them or the survivor of them within one year next after my decease at or in the Comon Dyning hall of Grayes Inne aforesaid. **And**
35. I give unto my Cosins William Hansbie and Ralph Hansbie sons of my brother Edward Hansbie deceased either of them fifty pounds to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Item** I give to my Cosin Isabell Richardson x
36. twenty pounds. To the children of my Cosin Katherine Conyers deceased twenty pounds to be equally divided amongst them. To my Cosins Audree Hogge, Maud Smith, John Constable, Francis Constable, Richard Leven the younger, Richard Langley, Anne xx
37. Hodgson, Maud Bayne, and Margret Longley, to every of them three pounds of lawfull English mony. **To** Ralph Constable twenty pounds, **To** Beatrice the wife of my Cosin Herbert Davie of York fifty pounds. **To** my nephew Thomas xx
38. Hansbie fifty pounds. To the threshers at Bishopburton Parsonage amongst them ten shillings. To my sister Audree Hansbie twenty shillings. *Item* I give to Ralph Briggs my old servant twenty pounds of lawfull money of England. All and every
39. the said sums of mony for which no tyme of payment is before herein particularly lymitted to be paid within twelve months next after my decease. **Item** I will and devise all my lease interest estait and tearme of yeares of and in the Crofts in Beverley x
40. comonly called St. Hollies Crofts unto my daughter Dame Julian Yorke and to my grandchilde Christopher Wandesford to be equally divided betwene them. *Item* I

will and bequeath to and amongst all my servants (John Clarke and Margret his wife

41. only excepted) which shall dwell with me at the time of my decease equally to be divided amongst them the full sum of twenty pounds, the same to be paid within twenty dayes next after my decease. **Also I do** give and bequeath unto Raphe xxx
42. Hansbie my nephew, sonne and heire of my brother John Hansby deceased whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testamt. All my mony, plate jewells, household stufte goods Chattells Leases and other my Estate whatsoever, not xx
43. otherwise before in these presents given or bequeathed, upon Conditon that he the said Raphe Hansbie my nephew within fowerscore days next after my death upon reasonable request in that behalfe made become bound to Thomas Sothebie of Birdsall als
44. Bridesall within the County of York Esquire Marmaduke Constable of Kexby within the same county Esq and to the said Thomas Hungate gen or to the survivors or survivor of them, or to the executors and administrators of the survivor of them, in
45. and by one writing obligatory in the nature of a Statute Staple in the full sum of Ten thousand pounds with a defeazance thereupon to be made that he the said Raphe Hansby my nephew his heirs executors or administrators shall well and truly satisfie and pay
46. according to the purport and true meaning of this my last will and testament all and singular the guifts legacies and bequests given or bequeathed by me unto any of my grandchildren or to the said Thomas Hungaite or to John Clarke and Margret his wife. And
47. I do will and require my said Executor that he will not after my decease give or bestow any blacke cloth or other mourning apparrell but shall only provide for my burial in Decent and comly maner without pompe or show, with that respect to the xx
48. poore which I have Before set downe in this my last will. **And I do make** the said Thomas Sothebie and Marmaduke Constable Esquires and Thomas Hungaite gent supervisors of this my last will and testament requiring them according
49. to my speciall trust and confidence reposed in them to see this my last will and testament in all points to be performed according to my true intent and meaning therein declared. And I do give to the said Thomas Sotheby and Marmaduke Constable to each

50. of them twenty pounds to buy them goldrings withall for their pains to be taken therein. **Item** I do give unto the said Raphe Hansbie myne executor all my copiehold lands and tenements wheresoever within this Realme of England, to have
51. and to hold to him his heirs and assignes forever. **In witness** whereof I have hereunto set my hand, seale, and do publish this my last will and testament the day and yeare first abovewritten. 1616. Raphe Hansbie. Signed sealed and
52. published in the presence of. Edw Masley, Walt. Daniell. John Wright. Rowland Brograve. J Holman. Roger Richardson. Wil Hookeridge. Tho. Brograve Robert Moore. John Clarke.

\* \* \* \* \*

1. **Memorandum that this xxiii th of February 1618. My xx**
2. further will and pleasure is that this Codicill shalbe annexed to this my last will and testament, before written and subscribed with my owne hand bearing Date the Nyneth day of xx
3. Julie in the xiiii th yeare of his ma'ties Reigne that now is, and to stand as a part of my last will and testament. And whereas by the said will I have given all my copiehold lands
4. within the Realme of England to Ralph Hansby therein named my Executor, now my will is that my copie hold lands in Southburton ats Bishop-burton vizt all my capitall mesuage
5. and fine exegauge of land arrable, and certaine land called outfall Land Crofts with all and singular their appurtenants in Southburton als Bishop-burton aforesaid shalbe and xxx
6. remayne to the use of my servant Ralph Briggs and his sonne John Briggs and their assignes for tearme of their Lives naturall Propriety, and the said Ralph Briggs to
7. have it first for his life, wch lands are passed by surrender to Sir Willm Gee knight, Lord of the said Manor by copie, bearing date the second of May in the fowerth xx

8. year of his ma'ties reigne that now is, to such uses as shalbe expressed in my last will, wch my mynde and will is to these uses before set downe in this Codicill. And after x
9. their decease, to the right heires of me the said Ralph Hansby for ever. **Item** I further give and bequeath to my daughter Dame Isabell Hildierd wife to Sir Willm xx
10. Hildierd and her heirs for ever my woods at Bishopwilton and my pastures there with their appurtents called the mountaines, which I bought of her ma'tie. *Item* I x
11. give to John Wilson my servant five pounds in money. **Item** I give to Thomas Foster and John Mayson my servants ether of them five pounds. **Item** I give to x
12. Margret my servant wife of John Clarke the bed I lye in with all the furniture also one brasse pott and one gowne lyned with brown furre. *Item* I give to my
13. grandchilde Anne Hildierd all my plate. *Item* I give to my Cosin Mr Francis Cobb my chaize that runns upon wheelles. **Item** I give to Honour Surte my xxxx
14. servant iii L vi s viii d, and to Thomas Thorpe my footman iii L vi s viii d, and to the kitchen boy called Thomas Walker xl s. And to Aennet Cowsden iii L vi s viii d. *Item* to
15. John
16. Clarke my servant one bay mare with a bald face. **Item** I give to Thomas Holter more one gray nagge called preasto. *Item* I give more to my servant John Mason
17. the suit of cloths I weare. **Item** more to John Wilson one old gowne. *Item* to John Clarke my servant more 6 pewther dishes. And my minde is that if god move
18. me at any tyme hereafter to revoke this will, Codicill and otherwise to dispose of any thing here given, that then the guifts herein given, not shalbe otherwise disposed of x
19. shalbe void, and to stand as I shall after this give the same. **I further** give to John Levens xl s. **Item** more I give to Julian the wife of Ralph Briggs v L (5 pounds) and
20. one great brasse pott. *Item* I give to John Wilsons wife xx s. *Item* to Leonard Robinson iii L. And I do ratifie and confirme this additon or Codicill written this xxx

21. xxxiii th of February, 1618 as part of my former will written the nyneth of Julie aforesaid, which together I do publish and deliver as my last will and testament.  
In
22. witnes whereof I have subscribed my hand the said xxiii th of February In the pnce of Laurence Stephenson Robert Johnson. Willm Moore and Thomas Lacy Ser.

Ralph Hansbie.

### **Commentary on the Will of Ralph (3) Hansby.**

This extraordinarily detailed, and indeed verbose document, is probably the single best source of contemporaneous information clarifying and confirming Hansby relationships at the time of Ralph's death, which seems to have occurred in 1619. I shall now discuss, point by point, some of the relationships illustrated in this document, using line numbers as references.

Line 5. His 'uncle Thomas Hautcliffe.' The discovery of Thomas Hawtcliffe's will gives a fascinating insight into the likely scenario that a bequest from a rich heirless uncle was the catalyst for the stellar career of Ralph (3) Hansby. In turn, Ralph (3)'s will tells us that the Yorkshireman Thomas Hawtcliffe was finally buried in St. Clement's Church in London, presumably a reward for his service to the Church of England. That Ralph (3) still contemplates interment next to his uncle more than sixty years after his death is perhaps testimony to the esteem in which he held his late uncle – whom he can barely have known in life. It might well be that this Protestant man's grave in a Church of England church in London became to Ralph a shrine or a touchstone of sorts.

7. The 'deed of 1600' is presumably the 'first draft' of Ralph's will in which he distributes his fortune to the listed beneficiaries, all of whom are now dead, except William Ingleby, who is heirless and nearly dead. This present will is clearly to redirect his bequests to younger living beneficiaries. One infers that the marrying of Ralph's first daughter Julian to John Yorke was the original step in the grand succession plan, and that William Ingleby had been a key ally in the deal. However, John Yorke and William Ingleby were now demonstrably heirless, and remained dyed-in-the-wool recusants long after that cause was lost, and a new plan must herewith be drawn.

8. Sir William Ingleby: Sir John Yorke's mother is Elizabeth Ingleby, and Sir William Ingleby is her eldest brother. He would be the heir to the Ingilby castle at Ripley, but in spite of having had two rich heiress wives, his death is recorded in January 1618, without any heir, and 2 months after his wife's death. Poetically, Sir William's large estate also passes to *his* nephew, the son of his younger brother (Sampson Ingleby), who *also* happens to share his uncle's name, and who was *also* possibly so-named in the anticipation of the estate descending to him... One wonders if the gentler tone of Ralph's memorandum dated February 1618, is in response to this event.

9. Thomas Doweman (Dowman, likely also Dolman) was another nephew of Thomas Hawtcliffe, and the main executor of his will, and he held Ralph's bequest on trust until he attained the age of 21.

“William Hildierd of the City of York Esquire deceased” - William Hildierd the husband of Ralph's daughter Isabel, is recorded as dying on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1632, and so we must infer that Ralph also had a dispute with William's father, who is indeed also named William. A pedigree in Dugdale's visitation suggests he was a Recorder in York in 1581-2, and an MP in 1586, and that he died in August 1608.

William Daniell is Ralph's late wife's brother, whose death is recorded at August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1600 at St. Crux, York, which curiously is only two days after the written deed referred to in the will. This William Daniel's second son is named Ingleby Daniel, and Ingleby's second son is the Yorkshire Cavalier poet George Daniel. This George Daniel's sister Catherine Daniel married John Yorke, the nephew of Julyan Hansby's husband Sir John Yorke....

The mother of William Daniel above (and Ralph (3)'s wife Isabel Daniel) is Elizabeth Smethley. Elizabeth Smethley is the aunt of Catherine Smethley: Catherine is the daughter of Elizabeth's brother Anthony. Catherine Smethley becomes the second wife of Sir William Ingleby in 1570, and both William and Catherine stand as heirs to their respective families' fortunes. We assume therefore, that William Daniel is *also* aligning his son with a possible windfall when he names him Ingleby Daniel...

Over time, the Inglebys and the Yorkes would become more vigorously recusant, while Ralph Hansby continues to temporise – we presume this is the basis for Ralph's progressive falling out with his in-laws.

It may already be evident, but Ralph (3) has outlived nearly everybody - his wife, two of his daughters, one of his sons-in-law, all of his sons'-in-laws' fathers, all of his siblings and most of their spouses, and many of his friends, and indeed, enemies. In short, he is running out of people to give things to...

10. Ralph (3)'s brother John died in 1607, leaving a modest estate. In John's will, he specifically leaves his son Ralph (4) “to the care of his uncle”.

12. The lingering venom towards Isabel's husband William Hildierd is clear. It would appear Sir William continued to contest this will after Ralph (3)'s death. It is interesting to note that Sir William Hildyard had three daughters but no male heir, and so seems to have inherited the same dilemma as his father-in-law.

20-29. The Wandesfordes. As mentioned earlier, their family history is intricately recorded in the ‘Wandesforde History’, and so I will endeavour not to recapitulate this work. I will seek only to address certain points it raises in relation to the Hansby history.

Catherine Hansby married George Wandesforde in 1591; he was heir to the family manor at Kirklington. By their biographer's account, this George lacked the business and personal acumen possessed by his father Sir Christopher, and eventually by his son Christopher. Around the time of Catherine's death in 1597, George writes his own will, in which he leaves his affairs entirely in the hands of his younger brother William, to whom he is substantially in debt. George further indicates he intends imminently - and in obvious disregard of his four young children now motherless - to sail to Spain with the equally intemperate Earl of Essex [Edward Devereux, a favourite great-nephew of Queen Elizabeth's, but whom she ultimately had to have executed for treason]. It is unclear whether George joins this precipitous expedition or not, but by 1605, he has re-married, to Mary Pamplyn, the sister of his brother William's wife Margaret Pamplyn. George and Mary have two further children, curiously also named William and Margaret for their uncle and aunt. It should be noted here, then, that William Wandesforde, whom Ralph describes as one of his grandchildren, is *not* the son of Catherine, but is a 'step-grandson.' No mention seems to be made of the young Margaret Wandesforde in the will.

Sir George Wandesforde is recorded as dying in September 1612, aged 40, and so he, too, has predeceased Ralph. As noted, Ralph's four Wandesforde grandchildren are now orphans, and their father has essentially bankrupted their estate. While the Hansbys were prominent in the 'Wandesforde History' at the time of George and Catherine's marriage, they more-or-less 'disappear' until after George's death. There is no direct record of Catherine's death in the 'Wandesforde History.' The will of George Wandesforde proven in 1612 is the same one he wrote in 1597, and so there has been no improvement in his personal fortunes since that time - even in spite of his knighthood from King James in 1607. Although heir-apparent Christopher is nearly 20 years old at his father's death, he is still a 'minor' until he turns 21, and so under a standard law of the time, the estate of a minor defaults to the Crown - he becomes a 'ward' - and the Crown may choose to 'marry off' the ward to whomever the Crown pleases. [Of interest, the Wandesforde History records that the father died whilst the heir was still a minor in six consecutive generations of Wandesfordes, including Sir Christopher, Sir George, and Christopher.] In the 'Wandesforde History', it is recorded that Ralph Hansby paid £900 in November 1612 to 'buy' the wardship of his grandson Christopher Wandesforde. Further, in 1613, the widow Mary Pamplyn renounces her share of the estate to her step-son Christopher Wandesforde.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1614, Christopher Wandesforde marries Alice Osborne - obviously difficult to tell if this was a "love match," or whether it was set up by doting grandpa Ralph. Either way, the couple had six children, of whom the eventual heir Christopher would be counted amongst the antecedents of Queen Elizabeth II. As mentioned, Ralph's grandson Christopher would restore the fortunes of the Wandesforde family, eventually becoming Lord Deputy of Ireland, and retaining the manors at Kirklington and Castlecomer. We assume he does not receive any bequest in Ralph's will as he has already in effect received it, and now stands heir to the Wandesforde titles.

Anne Wandesforde is the only daughter of Ralph's daughter Catherine, and presumably Ralph's eldest and most favoured granddaughter. One assumes her large bequest is for



her marriage portion, as she is a female orphan at this time. In 1621, she marries Mauger Norton, from another prominent local family. Their daughter Mary will go on to marry John Yorke, the grand-nephew of Sir John Yorke of Gowthwaite...

Conspicuous at this point is the absence of any mention of the name Warton. In documents recorded in the Wandesforde History, Ralph mentions 'his grandson Michael Warton', at exactly the time his will was written, but this grandson is not mentioned at all in his will. Clearly Michael's father is still alive (and indeed, the current High Sheriff of Yorkshire, and shortly to be knighted by James I), and the son would stand heir to the estate at Beverley, but in view of the token amounts given to so many others by Ralph, surely his grandson might receive something?

30-31. Ralph seems to remain in some way on good terms with his daughter Isabel and her 3 daughters in spite of the falling out with Sir William Hildyard. Of note is Ralph's eventual bequest to Isabel of 'his woods at Bishop Wilton..' - Sir William's memorial is at St. Edith's, Bishop Wilton, as are the memorials of his two elder daughters and their families. Sir William proudly records his wife as the daughter and co-heir of Ralph Hansby, and so this bequest has still set up the Hildyard heirs for generations in spite of their previous enmity.

32. His 'loving Cosin Thomas Hungate' is almost certainly the son of Isabella and Anthony Hungate, as mentioned above, and therefore a nephew. He is mentioned in the lawsuit to which Thomas Hawtcliffe's will is connected.

34. That Ralph stipulates these two servants be paid in the dining hall at Gray's Inn seems to suggest they are based in London, and therefore that he may have had a house in London as well as in Bishop Burton. [Indeed this 'house' may have been within Grayes' Inn itself.]

35. Edward Hansby's death is recorded at March 1585. William and Ralph are his two younger sons, and so the fates of the elder children - two sons and a daughter, are unclear. Their father died leaving a young family, but as Edward chose a career as a Protestant, he may well have been out of favour with the rest of his Catholic family. Ralph (3)'s inconsistencies in the use of relationship terms makes assigning relationships difficult throughout the will - clearly William and Ralph are his nephews. That Ralph (3) remains 'sympathetic' to these Protestant relatives, while cutting out others, further suggests that he himself is not a staunch Catholic. Indeed, Edward's son Ralph becomes Vicar of St. Mary's Church of England Cathedral in Nottingham from 1617 to his death in 1635, and it is most unlikely that Ralph (3) is unaware of this. William similarly has become a Church of England priest, ordained in 1612, and a priest at Peterborough in 1616.

36. Isabel Richardson is his sister Isabel (Hansby) Hungate's daughter Isabel, who married a Richardson. She is therefore a niece.

36-37. Richard Langley and Margaret Longley are likely Ralph's sister Agnes's grandchildren via their son Christopher. Beatrice is John (3)'s daughter, recorded as

marrying Herbert Davy in 1606. Thomas Hansby is John (3)'s son. He may have living descendants. Ann Hodgson is a descendant of the Inglebys. The Bayne family are from Nidderdale.

38. "To my sister Audree Hansbie twenty shillings." This is almost certainly the widow of Ralph's brother John. As indicated earlier, there is a marriage recorded between Thomas Sotheby and Audree Hansbie in November 1619, and it is strongly suspected that this marriage is between Audree Hansby the widow of John Hansby and Thomas Sotheby of Birdsall, who is also the supervisor of this will mentioned at line 43.

40. 'St. Hollies' Crofts'. These are elsewhere referred to as Molescroft, and it would seem they were sold off not long after Ralph's passing. The shared title between Julyan Hansby and Christopher Wandesforde was presumably unworkable. Sir John and Lady Julyan Yorke were quite comfortable at Gowthwaite Hall, and had no children, so it is perhaps not surprising that they did not figure prominently in Ralph's will. Their persisting recusancy may have been a source of embarrassment to Ralph as he sought to curry favour from James I. Molescroft is now a residential area to the north of Beverley.

44. Marmaduke Constable of Kexby. Married Audrey Hungate, the daughter of Anthony Hungate and Isabel Hansby, so he is a relation by marriage. Their 3 children John (1585-1637) Francis and Ralph are mentioned as beneficiaries. Tudor Place mentions two further children - Marmaduke b.1579, the eldest, who marries Catherine Teal (daughter of Anthony Teal Snr.). It is this Catherine Constable (Teal) who is in the lawsuit which contains Thomas Hautcliffe's Will. The youngest child of Marmaduke and Audrey is another Catherine Constable who marries Anthony Teal Jnr (b. 1585) on April 6<sup>th</sup> 1604.

52. Roger Richardson may be the son of Thomas Richardson of Stamford Bridge and Isabel Hungate.

### **Further Analysis of the Will.**

Vexingly, the Wandesforde History contains a deed (number 148 in their calendar of documents) apparently written by Ralph (3), which states the following:

"He (Ralph the elder) made diverse deeds... wherein he was induced by the wickedness of Ralph Hansby the younger, his nephew, whom he trusted to have such deeds drawn by competent advice, but who had thought fit to have inserted in each deed a clause whereby the estate would fall not as intended, but to the said Ralph Hansby the younger himself..."

This deed seems to make reference to Ralph (3)'s will above. As this will above is the proven will, and seems still to convey the lion's share of Ralph (3)'s estate to his nephew, as well as appointing him executor, it would seem that if such a document were discovered to be fraudulent or tampered with by Ralph the elder whilst he was still alive, that he would destroy the document and replace it. One might also assume that such a

breach of trust would see Ralph the younger excised from the will, and yet this is clearly not the case. One can only wonder whether somehow the other family members, especially the Wandesfordes, had gotten wind of Ralph's intention to bequeath his fortune to his nephew, and Ralph has had to douse the speculation in some fashion, even if by some 'white-lying'.

Even more sensationally, the book 'History of Richmondshire' by Thomas Dunham Whitaker, published in 1823, contains the following (vol. 2, p.154):

"Sir Robert Hansby (sic) determined to divide up (his estate) among his four daughters, reserving £100 per annum for Ralph Hansby, a nephew whom he had brought up. The uncle was now nearly blind, and the nephew... procured the foul copy of a deed of settlement, which was read to the old man and approved... the young man substituted an absolute conveyance to himself in the place of the intended settlement... this bad man threatened to turn his uncle out of his own house... the poor knight withdrew to the houses of his daughters..."

This reference also seems to draw from material derived from the house of Wandesforde, and the insinuations that the elder Ralph was nearly blind, and that the younger Ralph evicted him from his own home seem to be rather fantastical embellishments to the Wandesforde version of history.

It is this author's opinion that Ralph Hansby of Beverley would not be so ill-astute as to allow his nephew to create fraudulent documents in his name. That the proven will of Ralph Hansby of Beverley directs that the majority of his estate fall to his nephew indicates that this was his intention. I can only presume that the documents held in the Wandesforde collection were used as some form of challenge to the will, presumably after Ralph (3)'s death. Quite possibly the Wandesfordes were expecting that Ralph might bequeath his fortune to Christopher, his eldest grandson, even though he did not carry the Hansby name.

Ralph (3)'s death was presumably not long after the date of the codicil in 1618. The import of his will remains the transfer of the majority of his lands and assets to his nephew Ralph, whom he makes his executor. One might presume this will was kept secret from other family members until after Ralph (3)'s death, and one can only imagine the surprise at the proving of the will. Or perhaps not - after all the campaigns for munificence from his daughters, their husbands, and possibly his grandchildren, perhaps Ralph (3) bequeathing his fortune to his nephew was inevitable, either in accordance with contemporary practice of bequeathing assets to male lineage family members where they existed, or as a final posthumous 'poke in the eye' from an old man who was weary of his squabbling family. One also cannot fail to notice the precedent of uncle Thomas Hawtcliffe, whose bequest to his young nephew Ralph Hansby was likely the seed for the latter's great success. Surely the now 'heirless' uncle Ralph (3) might wish to carry forward the tradition by nurturing his Hansby nephew? Either way, law suits quickly ensued between the young Ralph (4) as executor, and his disenfranchised cousins, following the proving of the will. Indeed, the shelves of the National Archives are loaded

with property disputes under the name Hansby for a full century following the great man's demise.

We are led then to the final question of what was the nature of the relationship between uncle and nephew in the early years of the seventeenth century. One certainly infers that the young Ralph (4) Hansby, as the heir apparent to the Hansby name, is taken under his namesake uncle's wing early, and introduced to the big league in London society. A succession plan may well have long been in train for the protégé nephew Ralph to take the reins for the Hansby family, with its culmination being the transfer of all the eggs into the basket of the young Ralph at the elder one's passing. Indeed, by 1587, the year of Ralph (4)'s birth, Ralph (3) had already had all his daughters, his Coat of Arms, and was considerably well off. That Ralph (3)'s brother John named his first-born son Ralph and not John may well have been the first deliberate step in this process.

Before we explore the destiny of the young Ralph (4) Hansby, from whom all living Hansbys are descended, we will have a look at the ancestry of Ralph (4)'s mother Audrey, and her 'contribution' to the genetics and history of all living Hansbys.

### 3. The Ancestry of Audrey Lovell: Little Orphan Audrey.

As noted, Audrey Lovell was almost certainly an orphan at the time she married John Hansby. The Lovells of Skelton are not conspicuously related to other more prominent Lovell families in England. The process of a youngest Hansby son taking a young wife relatively late in his life in order to shore up the stock of Hansby heirs for the future recurs at intervals in the coming history of the Hansby family. Though nominally an insignificant orphan, and presumably with little or no dowry, the young Audrey Lovell brings with her a rich tapestry of the heritage of northern England in her bloodline, which is passed through to her descendants - all living modern Hansbys.

Audrey's parents are **Thomas Lovell** and **Jane Hungate**.

#### Paternal Line.

**Thomas Lovell's** parents are **Phillip Lovell** of Skelton, and **Bridget Pennington** of Muncaster.

**Phillip Lovell's** parents are **Robert Lovell** of Skelton and **Anne Beaumont** of Whitley Beaumont.

**Bridget Pennington's** parents are **Sir William Pennington** and **Frances Palgrave**.

**Anne Beaumont's** parents are **Thomas Beaumont** of Whitley Beaumont, and **Elizabeth Neville** of Liversedge.

Whitley Beaumont was an estate in West Yorkshire near Huddersfield.

The family of **Neville of Liversedge** are descended from the **Nevilles of Raby Castle**. In the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, **Geoffrey Neville of Raby Castle** married **Joan Monmouth**. From their younger son **Geoffrey** are descended the **Nevilles of Hornby and of Liversedge**. From their eldest son Robert are descended the Nevilles of Raby, Westmorland, and Salisbury, who played conspicuous roles in the Wars of the Roses. The previous misattribution of the attachment of the **Nevilles of Liversedge** to the main Neville family line gave the erroneous connection to William the Conqueror.

**Sir William Pennington** is from the Pennington family of Muncaster Castle in Cumbria. He was knighted at Valenciennes on 3 Dec 1523 by the Earl of Suffolk, **Charles Brandon**. William's wife **Frances Palgrave** is first-cousin-once-removed from **Charles Brandon**.

**Charles Brandon** was a very close friend of King Henry VIII, and he married Henry's sister Mary. Charles Brandon's father was **Sir William Brandon**, who in 1485 was Standard Bearer at the Battle of Bosworth for Henry Tudor [soon to become King Henry VII, and father of Henry VIII]. **Sir William Brandon** was purportedly killed by the hand

of King Richard III during this battle. Richard III was himself killed soon after, and Henry VII was crowned following his victory.

**Sir William Pennington's** father was **William Pennington of Hundiston**. William Pennington of Hundiston's parents were **John Pennington II** and **Elizabeth Radcliffe**. This couple's eldest son was John Pennington III, who was the nominal heir of Muncaster Castle, but his line eventually failed, and possession of Muncaster returned to the descendants of **Sir William Pennington**.

**Elizabeth Radcliffe's** parents were **Sir Nicholas Radcliffe** and **Elizabeth Derwentwater**. The Radcliffes are a very large family from co. Lancaster; Sir Nicholas Radcliffe is from the Wymersley branch, and was knighted after serving at Agincourt in 1415 under King Henry V. **Elizabeth Derwentwater** was an heiress of the Derwentwater family of Cumberland. As a result, Nicholas and Elizabeth's son Thomas Radcliffe became the head of the Radcliffes of Derwentwater. A son of Thomas Radcliffe of Derwentwater was **Sir Richard Radcliffe**. This Sir Richard Radcliffe became a very close advisor to King Richard III, and **Sir Richard Radcliffe** was also killed at the Battle of Bosworth. This link gives us the origin of the Penningtons' affiliation to the House of Lancaster, and the basis for them sheltering Henry VI in 1464, and receiving the 'Luck of Muncaster' as a memento.

Both **Sir Richard Radcliffe** and **Sir William Brandon** are characters in Shakespeare's play *Richard the Third*. When **Sir William Pennington** married **Frances Palgrave** about 1515, the first-cousin-once-removed of **Sir Richard Radcliffe** married the great-niece of **Sir William Brandon** - thus uniting the opposing sides of the Battle of Bosworth.

The grandfather of **John Pennington II** was **Alan Pennington**. Alan Pennington married **Katherine Preston**, the daughter of **Richard Preston**, from another large and ancient Lancastrian family. Through this marriage, the estate known as 'Preston Richard' came to be in the possession of the Penningtons.

The grandfather of **Frances Palgrave** was **John Palgrave**, of Little Palgrave, Norfolk. He married **Margaret Yelverton**. The father of Margaret Yelverton was **Sir William Yelverton**, a Justice of the King's Bench under Henry VI, and made a Knight of the Bath by Edward IV. In the Shakespearean plays of Henry IV Parts 1&2, 'Falstaff' is a semi-fictional character who is the fat, drunken friend of the young Prince Hal. One of the inspirations for this character is Sir John Fastolfe, a very wealthy man who really did own the Boar's Head Tavern in Eastcheap. **Sir William Yelverton** was an executor to the will of this Sir John Fastolfe.

**Sir William Yelverton's** wife was **Ela Brewes**. **Ela Brewes'** grandfather was **Sir John Brewes/ Braose**, who was present at the siege of Calais in 1346. He would go on to become sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and keeper of Norwich Castle.

Maternal Line.

Jane Hungate's parents are **William Hungate** and **Audrey Saltmarsh**.

**William Hungate's** parents are **William Hungate of Saxton** and **Alice Gower**.

**Audrey Saltmarsh's** parents are **John Saltmarsh** and **Margaret Burgh**.

The Hungates are an ancient family from around York. 'Hungate' is one of the gates in the city wall of York. The Hungates of Saxton are descended from the Hungates of Burnby.

The Gowers are from Stittenham. The Saltmarshes are from Saltmarsh. The Burghs originate from Brough Catterick. **Margaret Burgh's** parents are **William Burgh** and **Elizabeth Conyers**.

**Elizabeth Conyers's** parents are **Christopher Conyers** and **Eleanor Rolleston**.

The Conyers are another large and long-established Yorkshire family. **Christopher Conyers** had a total of 25 children by two wives, ensuring that much of Yorkshire would ultimately find him in their family tree.

As these are all ancestors and relations of **Audrey Lovell**, all modern Hansbys can lay claim to these antecedents. This may be taken as some consolation for losing claim to descent from William the Conqueror...

#### **4. Sir Ralph (4) Hansby of Tickhill: “An obscure hanger-on to the skirts of pages and bedchambermen?” c. 1610-1650.**

“The Story of Lord Bacon’s Life” is a detailed biography of the life of the great Sir Francis Bacon, written by W. Hepworth Dixon in 1862. In 1618, Bacon had ‘got the Seals’ to become Lord Chancellor to King James I. Like many great men, Bacon’s path to attaining this high post had been chequered, and he had made powerful enemies along the way, who now sought to unseat him. On page 372 of the biography, the following appears:

“Seeking fresh accusers in the kennels and the jails, among those underlings of the royal household whom a word from Buckingham (The Duke of Buckingham - George Villiers, James I’s right-hand man) might blast, they found two, Ralph Hansby and Sir George Reynell, who might be of use to them.... Hansby, Surveyor of the Stables, an obscure hanger-on to the skirts of pages and bedchambermen, had by thrift and cunning grown rich. Soon after Bacon got the Seals, he (Hansby) filed a bill in Chancery on the disputed title to an estate, and, the court having pronounced a judgment in his favour, he paid to Tobie Mathews, son of the Archbishop of York and the proper officer of court, his fee. That fee was now to make Hansby’s fortune... Hansby not only obtained from the Crown, with others, a grant of the several royal and lucrative offices of Constable and Porter of Nottingham Castle, and those of Steward and Guardian of Sherwood Forest, but was introduced by his new patrons to the King, and to add dignity to virtue, was dubbed Sir Ralph.”

It would appear that the bill filed in Chancery pertained to Ralph (4)’s inheritance from his uncle. According to Dixon, the fee paid to the agent of the court was proper. Perhaps predictably, the Wandesforde History gives the alternate account - it reports that Ralph (4) had indeed paid a five hundred pound bribe to Bacon, and Wandesforde was then propositioned by Bacon’s men to ‘up the offer.’ Wandesforde declined, and so the decision went to Hansby.

Bacon’s enemies sought to make the case that Bacon was routinely in the habit of accepting fees from litigants *pendente lite* - essentially as bribes to come to a certain finding. It would seem that Ralph (4) Hansby now became a willing participant in the unseating of Francis Bacon as Lord Chancellor, presumably by testifying that he had indeed paid the 500 pound fee as a bribe to receive a favourable hearing, and in return for this, received favour from Bacon’s enemies. It is elsewhere recorded that “Ralph Hansby of County Lincoln (Tickhill Castle, Yorkshire)” was knighted by James I on August 12, 1619 at Nottingham. It is further recorded that on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1620, George Manners, Thomas Savage and Ralph Hansby were jointly granted the offices of Constable and Porter of Nottingham Castle and Steward and Guardian of Sherwood Forest &c, county Notts, for life. (Ralph’s first wife Jane’s grandfather Sir Thomas Manners had previously held this office around 1580.) Ultimately, Sir Francis Bacon was unseated as Lord Chancellor in 1621, and died heirless and in ignominy in 1626. King James I died in 1625, and was succeeded by his son King Charles I.



This reference from Dixon gives a fascinating insight into the path by which the first-born son of John (3) Hansby, born in November 1587, and named Ralph presumably in honor of his wealthy uncle, rose from obscurity to become knighted by King James I at the age of 31. As noted earlier, though, his actions and deeds must be regarded in the context of the prevailing ethos of the times. The later years of the reign of James I were a very corrupt time, with the king gratuitously using public assets and knighthoods to reward his allies. Historians certainly equivocate on the character of Francis Bacon: while Dixon stands squarely in Bacon's court, insisting that payments from litigants were part-and-parcel of the income stream attached to these high offices, it is clear enough that dirty dealings were no less prevalent in the corridors of power then as today.

The will of Ralph (4)'s father John, written and proven in 1607, gives some clue as to relationships at this time. John was not a wealthy man by any measure, and while he leaves his house to his son Ralph (4), he stipulates that his widow Audrey shall have the use of it. Further, the following clause is clearly stated: "Also I give my son Raphe Hansby unto my brother Raphe Hansby with his person until he come to the age of xxiii yeares." This would seem to confirm the 'succession plan' for the Hansby name. As Audrey was about 20 years younger than John, she might well be occupying the house for a long time (and she does not marry Thomas Sotheby until after Ralph (3)'s death in 1619) and so a young heir apparent will surely need his own pad in which to propagate the family line. Perhaps a rich uncle and his protégé nephew go 'house-hunting'...?

On February 13, 1611, lease of honour of Tickhill Castle for 41 years was granted by King James I to Ralph Hansby Esq. The use of the title Esq. suggests the lease was to the elder Ralph, but ultimately the castle came into the younger Ralph's possession. The newly-granted Hansby coat of arms can still be found carved into the stonework at Tickhill castle, and so although the castle site dates to pre-Norman times, it is likely that the new young tenant added this feature.

#### Tickhill Castle.

No history of the Hansby family would be complete without an account of Tickhill Castle. Roger de Builli fought under the standard of the Duke of Normandy at the Norman conquest. Builli, or Busli is near Rouen. At that time, the Honour of Tickhill encompassed a large area, spreading over present-day York, Nottingham, Lincoln, Derby, and Leicester. Tickhill Castle was approximately at the centre of this, and became the capital mansion of the fief.

De Builli divided his extensive estates in two: firstly the demesne, for his own use and for his sochmen (copyholders). The rest was parceled out in knight's fees, to his retinue, who then could sub-let these. The Honour of Tickhill was divided administratively into five Bailiwicks. De Builli was also given the manor of Sandford in Devonshire. Roger died in 1098, his son died heirless in 1102. The estate passed to his brother Arnaldus, and daughtered out with Idonea, who married Robert de Vipont; she died 1235.

At Domesday, Roger held in demesne 7 carucates; there were 54 villeins and 12 boardmen holding 24 carucates, and 31 burgesses (burgenses), one church and one priest. This church was 'All Hallows', and located north of Tickhill.

The name Tickhill means 'hill of the kid.' Roger built fortifications on this natural elevation, probably on the site of previous Anglo-Saxon fortifications. The design is different from Richmond Castle, which has a *square* keep *adjacent to* its gate; Tickhill's keep is *11-sided*, and *remote from* the gate.

In 1102, Robert de Belesme (Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel) bought the Honour of Tickhill, and garrisoned Shrewsbury, Arundel and Tickhill Castles against Henry I to place Robert, son of the Conqueror, on the throne. The rebellion was put down, Belesme was exiled, and his properties forfeit to the Crown. The warden in 1129 was Eustace FitzJohn, lord of Alnwick and Malton. At the Battle of Lincoln in 1141, William Clairfait held the castle in part, and used it as a base to harass King Stephen and Randolph Earl of Chester. The holders at this time were the ancestors of Fitzwilliam of Sprotborough, which might explain their later interest in it.

In 1154, Eleanor, Henry II's Queen, founded a chapel within the walls of Tickhill Castle, which she dedicated to St. Nicholas. This chapel was later gifted to the Canons of St. Mary of Rouens by King John. This chapel was repossessed by the Crown during the wars with France; Cardinal Beaufort was its warden in the 1390's. Henry VII granted it to the Abbot and Convent of Westminster. In 1 Edward VI, it was granted to Mary Countess of Northumberland, with the remainder to Francis Earl of Shrewsbury. It became vested in the Duke of Norfolk.

The old name for Tickhill castle was 'Blida', giving rise to the modern locality name 'Blyth.' Henry II received Tickhill in the succession deal with Stephen, and it probably formed part of the jointure with Eleanor of Aquitaine, hence her founding a Chapel inside. The Lacis, Lords of Pontefract, were tenants-in-chief at this time. While Richard I was off on Crusade, he 'reserved' the use of Tickhill castle from his brother John, but John did not necessarily respect this. With Richard I imminently to return, Hugh Pudsey, Bishop of Durham gathered an army to lay siege to Tickhill and restore it to Richard I. When Richard I went to visit, he was most impressed by Sherwood Forest. Pudsey actually wanted to go on Crusade with Richard I, but instead was put in charge of half of England while Richard was away. Pudsey contributed heavily to Richard's crusade costs, and later, to his ransom. At the death of Richard I, John succeeded.

In 6 John I (1205), Robert de Vipont was Constable, and repairs were commissioned. Wine and grain were stored at the castle. Robert and his wife Idonea de Builli 'took over' the castle by the time of the ascent of Henry III. In 4 Henry III, Alice Countess of Eu won control of Tickhill, but she left England in 1225.

In 1254, the castle was given in dower to Eleanor, wife of Edward I. In 1290, the descendants of Eu sued for the castle's return, but it was not granted, as they were French...

In 1322, during the trial of the rebel Thomas Earl of Lancaster, another siege occurred, but the Earl was still beheaded, and became Saint Thomas. The castle reverted to Edward II, and Edward III gave them to John of Gaunt in 1372, and thence to Catherine Swynford. It is here that they become part of the Duchy of Lancaster as separate from the Crown.

The Priory of St. Augustine (Austin Friars) near Tickhill is where some of the Fitzwilliam's were interred. Crown lessees of the Castle following the Civil War were Hansby, Fitzwilliam, then Lumley. Captain Bower was the tenant at the time of the book 'The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Blyth.' Its most recent tenants were the Moss family, who restored it extensively. They usually hold an Open Day annually in June on the weekend of the Queen's Birthday holiday in the UK. In 2022 it was sold for two million pounds.

This author conjectures that the manor house as it presently stands may have been built *after* the Civil War. The castle will have been required to have been kept in a state of military readiness prior to the Civil War. There is evidence of conspicuous improvements to the gatehouse structure which likely date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century – including the large east-facing window, and a fireplace visible at the level of the 'third floor', but these are now destroyed. The original Norman keep would no longer have been present in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and this author conjectures that Sir Ralph Hansby and his family may have lived in the renovated gatehouse building prior to the Civil War, as a *fortified structure*. After being handed over to the Parliamentarians, the castle was sleighted in 1648 (put beyond military use) – this likely included the knocking down of the south wall and the destruction of the *fortified* gatehouse buildings. This author again conjectures that the present-day manor house was possibly built partly from the salvageable remains of the wall and the gatehouse, as a *non-fortified structure*, by Ralph (5) following the return of the 'castle' to the possession of the Hansby family after the Civil War. Ralph Hansby was assessed for 24 hearths in the 1672 Hearth Tax – it is possible these were all at Tickhill Castle.

#### The Rise of Sir Ralph Hansby.

At the time of the Bacon incident, Ralph (4) held the position of Surveyor of the King's Stables, and so while not a glamorous position necessarily, one might also infer the influence of uncle Ralph in the little-known young Ralph being assigned this royal role. Curiously, the Wandesforde History contains a record of the deed of Commission of Ralph Hansby as the Surveyor of the Queen's Stables, which appears to date to 1602. Here, too, it is unclear which Ralph Hansby was commissioned - the elder, looking for a retirement career in the Palace, or the younger, as a lush first job, conjured via his uncle's connections. Here, too, it is possible that the elder received the commission initially, and then passed it to his protégé.

Furthermore, around this time, the young Ralph marries Jane Vavasour, daughter of William Vavasour, from the prominent Yorkshire family based at Hazlewood Castle. A connection is already noted above between Ralph (3)'s family and the Vavasours, and one certainly wonders if this match, too, may have been overseen by uncle Ralph. We have seen earlier how close the family came to being united with the Greystokes, and the wish for a link to the prodigious house of Vavasour would similarly come to nought: Jane's death is recorded on 22 July 1617, at the age of 23, with a monument at the south side of the chancel of St. Leonard's church in Shoreditch. (Jane's afore-mentioned maternal grandfather Sir Thomas Manners is also interred at this church.) Jane's monument records the following quote: "to whose blessed memory her deare husband has dedicated this sad monument, to signifie that with her his joy lies here interred."

Regardless of how much joy he may have interred with his first wife, the young Ralph wastes no time in locating a new one. In May 1618, in the same church, he marries the seventeen-year old Etheldred Gerrard, daughter of the late William Gerrard of Somerset. It seems noteworthy that in spite of his nominal residence being in Tickhill in Yorkshire, Ralph both buries his first wife and then finds his second wife in London – clearly his principal activity is still being Surveyor of the Stables. It is also difficult to ascertain how much contact the younger Ralph continued to have with his uncle, who was presumably declining in health by this time. One might infer that Ralph (4)'s haste in re-marrying at this time was to fulfil his dying uncle's expectation that he would continue the Hansby name by having heirs, and there may have been a silent understanding that his large inheritance might depend entirely upon this matter.

Either way, by the time of his uncle's death in 1619, the young Ralph is remarried. This, his 32<sup>nd</sup> year, is surely the zenith of Ralph's arc, with a new bride, his large inheritance, his fixer-upper castle, and his knighthood. History will surely equivocate on the character of the young Sir Ralph, and the degree of treachery that he may have employed to attain these things. Doubtless the new couple set about fashioning new habitations at Tickhill castle, and making Hansby heirs, but it emerges that Sir Ralph's quest for male heirs will be no less perilous than his late uncle's.

The first three new Hansbys to appear seem to be female: Mary, Ann and Frances Hansby seem to be born in the early years of the marriage. Perhaps by now Ralph is sweating on the prospect of male-heir-lessness as faced by his uncle. Tantalisingly, there is a single record of the death of a Raph Hansby, son of Raph Hansby, on June 17, 1630, at Tickhill, St. Mary, though there is no record of the age of this child. Perhaps this death spurred the couple into a renewed effort at baby-making, and so finally, Sir Ralph's son and heir was born around September 1632. Unsurprisingly, he too was named Ralph, but it had taken fourteen years from the date of the marriage to the eventual birth of the male heir. Surely Sir Ralph had spent much of this protracted interval fearing he had also inherited the curse of heirlessness from his uncle Ralph, in addition to his generous estates.

The tide of the nation's history was certainly turning by this time: the nefertistic court of James I had given way to the autocratic court of his son Charles I. Charles' standoff with

Parliament led to the Eleven Years' Tyranny of the King's Personal Rule. Poverty and misery had enveloped the country in the prelude to the English Civil War.

Further tragedy would strike the Hansby family in these troubled times, with the death of Etheldred Gerrard recorded at Tickhill Castle on Jan 30, 1635, leaving their infant son barely 2 years old. The death of daughter Mary also occurs around this time. Etheldred's mother Mary Gerrard also dies shortly before her daughter, and she bequeathes some jewels to 'her daughter, the Lady Hansby.' Her will names the children as Mary, Ann, Frances, and Rayphe. Sir Ralph's sister Beatrix has also died in 1634, and bequeathed items to this family.

Sir Ralph takes his third wife soon after - Elizabeth Bulkeley was the widow of George Shillito. George was the son of Francis Shillito (Shellitoe), an attorney of the Star Chamber, and he purchased the estate of Seacroft near Leeds. He had no children, and so the estate passed to Elizabeth. A record of local gentry compiled at the time by Walter Vavasour (Jane's great-nephew; documented in Cartwright's History of Yorkshire) describes Sir Ralph Hansby as the 'owner' of Seacroft, but it is presumed Elizabeth moved into Tickhill Castle to help with raising Sir Ralph's children.

In and around this time, the activities of Sir Ralph Hansby are well documented in the local history of Tickhill. In 1636, Sir Ralph notoriously drains the fish ponds of Tickhill and converts the area into a coney (rabbit) warren - much to the dismay of the townsfolk. In light of the tragedies befalling his personal life, it is perhaps understandable that the aging Sir Ralph might be taking a devil-may-care attitude towards his constituency.

Furthermore, the 'Eleven Years' Tyranny' of the personal rule of Charles I, in which he ruled the country by his own hand, without summoning Parliament, was in full swing. As a Royalist and Catholic, Sir Ralph Hansby was likely taking his autocratic lead from the monarch at the time. On Nov 4, 1640, Sir Ralph is granted lease on 'the tolls, piccages and stallages of the markets of Tick Hill...etc etc', worth 18s6d per year, and so his loyalty to the King is clear. One source states that in 1639-1641, Sir Ralph is a member of King Charles I's Parliament, however, Parliamentary records do not seem to confirm this. These are ominous times, and in 1641, it is recorded that the "...gathering of horses and fodder for the Civil War threatens the milling and malting economy at Tickhill."

In 1642, the Civil war between the Royalists of Charles I and the Parliamentary Army erupts, and on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1643, the death of Sir Ralph Hansby of Tickhill is recorded. The exact circumstances of his death are not known, but in time Major Monckton is set in charge of Tickhill Castle. Eventually, the castle is surrendered to the Earl of Manchester 'without the loss of one drop of blood', and it is sleighted (put beyond use) soon afterwards.

Family legend whispers that the Royalist Sir Ralph was hung from the gates of Tick Hill Castle by the advancing Parliamentary forces, but the recent discovery of Sir Ralph's probate finally puts that fable to rest.

Probate of Sir Ralph Hansby of Tick Hill Castle.

In the name of God Amen: the first day of December one thousand six hundred forty three./ I Sr Ralph Hansby of Tickhill Castle in the County of Yorke Knight sick in body but as perfect in remembrance thanked be God do briefly declare this my last will and testament following. And first I bequeath my soul into the hands of God my Creator and Saviour. And my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of mine executors. And as touching my personall Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to endow me Leaving my lands and reall Estate to descend to my son Ralph Hansby I give and bequeath it as followeth. And first I give and bequeath unto my welbeloved wife Elizabeth one full third part thereof in full satisfaction of what she may clayme out of my said goods. And the other two parts my other Legacies and funerall expenses deducted I give and bequeath to Frances Hansby my youngest daughter in part of her filiall portion. And it is my firm intent and meaning that if the said two parts of my personall Estate shall not amount to the full sum of fifteen hundred pounds that my said executors shall receive and take so much of the rents and proffitts of my lands during my said son's minoritie as shall make up the full sum of fifteen hundred pounds for my said daughter's portion. Item. I give to my daughter Ann now wife of Mr. John Cansfeild the sum of one hundred pounds. And I do now constitute and apoint my loving freinds Mr. William Saunderson and his sonn Robert Saunderson Executors of this my last will and testament onely and ? in trust and confidence for the use and benefitt of my said son Ralph Hansby during his minority. Witnesses hereof F Lound 11.1.41. Math Feneson. Lawrence Hanson.

\* \* \* \* \*

Firstly, it should be noted that this version of the probate was located at Canterbury, and not at York as might be expected. It was also dated 1648, suggesting a considerable delay in lodging the document, perhaps on account of the intervening Parliamentary War, or, possibly more likely, that this version arose after some challenge to the Will. The date at the top of the document is considered to be that of the initial proving of the will, shortly after the death of Sir Ralph, and the date of the witnesses in 1641 is considered to be the likely date of the will itself.

Compared to the loquacious and flamboyant will of Ralph of Beverley, this document is far briefer and more modest. The seemingly enormous bequest to Sir Ralph would appear to have diminished over the course of his lifetime, and the beneficiaries now extend only to Sir Ralph's immediate family. Crucially, Sir Ralph describes himself as sick in body, and so it would seem he is putting his affairs in order on the basis of his failing health, rather than the advancing Parliamentary armies. His chief purpose seems to be setting aside fifteen hundred pounds for his daughter Frances' filial portion. His wife Elizabeth presumably has considerable assets from her first marriage, and his daughter Ann is already married. This document would appear to definitively resolve the standing issue of which Hansby female was married to John Cansfield - the Barradale documents seem to contain a degree of error and embellishment in both this and the next generation of

Hansbys. Finally, provision is made for the administration of Sir Ralph's estate for his young son during his minority.

The eventual marriage of Frances Hansby to Richard Gerard of Ince, co. Lancaster is well-recorded, and this Will would seem to date it at somewhere during or soon after 1641. Sadly, the deaths of Frances and her infant son are recorded not long after that. Richard Gerard then goes on to marry Judith Stewart. There does not appear to be an immediate family connection between the Gerrards of Somerset and the Gerards of Lancashire.

Thus, Sir Ralph's son Ralph (5) is orphaned at age 11 and presumably cared for by his stepmother Elizabeth. One account states that the young Ralph (5) fought in the defence of Tickhill castle, though only a boy of 13. In 1648, the Journal of the House of Commons records the '...taking off the Sequestration of Sir Ralph Hansby, Knight, and that Commissary Lyonell Copley Esq enjoy.. the lands of Ralph Hansby, son and heir of Sir Ralph, during his Minority...' This date appears to coincide with the date of the Canterbury probate, but is just short of the original 41 year lease.

In 1649, King Charles I is executed, and Parliamentary rule under Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector commences. It is not clear where Lady Elizabeth Bulkeley raised her stepson, whether still at Tickhill Castle, or possibly at her previous family home Seacroft Hall. She sold that estate to the Nelthorpes around 1656, and her will in 1673 was written at Camberwell, Surrey. It seems the relationship with her stepson was lost, as there are property disputes between her and Ralph, and she leaves him nothing in her will. Ralph (5) evidently regains Tickhill upon his majority, and marries at around the same time, to continue the very tenuous line of the Hansby name.

## **5. Ancestry of Etheldred Gerrard: "...maiden aged 17 yeares or there aboute..."**

From the tenor of the wording of the marriage licence of Ralph Hansby to Etheldred Gerrard, one might infer that Ralph's choice of a new bride had been rather impetuous - perhaps some bawdy strumpet he had met at the local alehouse the previous night. Examination of this young lady's forbears and relations, however, reveals a family with connections that run deep into the unraveling Catholic fabric of their country.

**Etheldred Gerrard's parents are William Gerrard and Mary Allen.**

William and Mary appear on Recusancy Rolls in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Their other daughter Mary Gerrard marries Anthony Roper - a lineal great-great grandson of Sir Thomas More - yes, the one who was executed by Henry VIII, and canonized by Pope Pius in 1935 as a martyr and saint.

### Paternal line.

**William Gerrard's parents are Thomas Gerrard and Isabel Willoughby.**

**Thomas Gerrard** originates from Trent, Somerset, where his family seems to have come into the manor of Trent. As noted earlier, I find no evidence that the Gerrards of Somerset are connected to the Gerards of Bryn or Ince in co. Lancaster.

**Isabel Willoughby's parents are Leonard Willoughby and Mary Turberville.** Leonard Willoughby was elected to the first Parliament of the Catholic Queen Mary in October 1553. That his wife's brother James Turberville was a close associate of Stephen Gardiner, the Bishop of Winchester, may have been a factor in his election.

**Leonard Willoughby's parents are Nicholas Willoughby and Robegia Satchfield.**

**Nicholas Willoughby** inherited the family estate of Turner's Puddle, Dorset, in 1513.

**Nicholas Willoughby's father is almost certainly Sir William Willoughby**, who is second son of **Sir John Willoughby, de jure 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Latimer**, and **Anne Cheyne**.

**Sir William Willoughby** was knighted by King Henry VII on 25 August 1485, following the Battle of Bosworth, and so we find another Hansby ancestor present at that Battle. He and his elder brother Robert were key protagonists in 'Buckingham's Rebellion' in September 1483, and they fled to France with Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond. They returned to fight at Bosworth. As second son, William inherited the modest lands of Turner's Puddle in Dorset. These lands had possibly trickled into the Willoughby portfolio via wives along the way.

**Sir John Willoughby, de jure 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Latimer's parents are Sir John Willoughby and Jane Welby.**



**Sir John Willoughby's** parents are **Sir Thomas Willoughby** and **Elizabeth Neville (m. 1396.)**

**Sir Thomas Willoughby's** parents are **Robert Willoughby, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Willoughby of Eresby**, and **Margery Zouche**.

As Sir Thomas Willoughby was the younger son of Robert Willoughby, he did not inherit the title of Lord of Eresby. The title of Lord of Eresby descends through the Willoughbys to Katherine Willoughby, the suo jure 12<sup>th</sup> Baroness Willoughby of Eresby. In 1533, this Katherine marries **Charles Brandon, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Suffolk**, as his fourth wife, following the death of Mary Tudor, Henry VIII's sister, as mentioned above in Chapter 3. At this marriage, Charles Brandon is 49 and Katherine Willoughby is 14. Charles Brandon has no legitimate male heirs at this point, and so faces exactly the same dilemma as his friend King Henry VIII. The BBC drama series 'Wolf Hall' makes specific reference to this marriage. The very young Katherine bears Charles two sons, but they both die young. After Charles' death in 1545, Katherine re-marries, to Richard Bertie, MP, and the title of 13<sup>th</sup> Baron Willoughby de Eresby falls to Peregrine Bertie, their son, who is born in exile in Germany, while his parents are hiding from Bloody Queen Mary. Hence the name Peregrine, meaning 'wanderer.'

**Elizabeth Neville's** parents are **Sir John Neville, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Neville of Raby**, and **Elizabeth Latimer**. [It is through this marriage that the title of **Lord Latimer** came briefly to the house of Neville. As noted above, it returned to the Willoughbys.] Sir John Neville is the thrice-great grandson of **Geoffrey Neville** and **Joan Monmouth** (mentioned in Chapter 3 above), but down the main line of descent of the Neville family.

**Elizabeth Latimer** and **Robert Willoughby, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Willoughby of Eresby**, marry in 1391, as each of their third marriages, following the deaths of their second spouses. Thus, when **Elizabeth Neville** and **Sir Thomas Willoughby** marry in 1396, they are step-siblings.

**Anne Cheyne** is the daughter of **Sir Edmund Cheney** and **Alice Stafford**. The Cheneys are from Wiltshire and Devon. **Alice Stafford** is the daughter of **Sir Humphrey Stafford** 'of the Silver Hand'.

#### Maternal Line.

Mary Allen's parents are **Sir Christopher Allen** and **Etheldreda Paget**.

Sir Christopher Allen was the eldest, and illegitimate son of **John Allen**.

Sir Christopher Allen was knighted by Queen Mary in 1553.

John Allen rose from humble origins to become a successful London mercer. He became Sheriff of London in 1518, and was twice Lord Mayor of London, and a privy counselor. He did not marry, but had three illegitimate children, to whom he left substantial legacies.

**Etheldreda Paget's** parents were **Sir William Paget, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Paget of Beaudesert**, and **Anne Preston**.

Sir William Paget, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Paget of Beaudesert was the son of a London sergeant-at-mace. He found favour with Henry VIII, and was on the council for Edward VI during his minority. He was a signatory to the settlement of the crown on Lady Jane Grey, and was Lord Privy Seal to Queen Mary in 1556. His son Charles was a conspirator in the Babington plot of 1580.

**Anne Preston** was the daughter and heiress of **Henry Preston**, who married **Miss Butler**.

**Henry Preston** was the son of **Lawrence Preston**.

**Lawrence Preston's** parents were **Thomas Preston** and **Miss Redmayne of Twistleton**.

**Thomas Preston's** parents were **Richard Preston** and **Jacobina Middleton**.

**Richard Preston's** father was **John Preston**, who was a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas under Henrys IV and V.

This John Preston received the estate of Preston Patrick; his brother **Sir Richard Preston** inherited Preston Richard, which found its way to the Penningtons as noted in Chapter 3.

## 6. Ralphs (5) and (6): The Recusants c.1650- 1720.

Through the turbulent times of the English Civil War, our entire cohort remains Catholic and Royalist ('Cavalier'). Christopher Wandesforde, mentioned above, briefly attains the role of Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1640, when his friend and predecessor Thomas Wentworth, the First Earl of Strafford, is summoned back to England by Charles I. Strafford has become one of Charles' most trusted advisors, but for this he is impeached by the Parliament, and eventually executed. Wandesford is left to deal with the rising discontent in Ireland, and his health rapidly fails; he dies in December 1640.

As mentioned, Michael Warton, son of Sir Michael Warton and Elizabeth Hansby was slain by a cannon shot at Scarborough Castle in 1645 while fighting for the king. Richard Gerard of Ince, who first married Frances Hansby, Sir Ralph's daughter, fought with King Charles at Oxford in 1642, and then apparently attended the exiled Queen Henrietta Maria in France, and was her cup-bearer upon the Restoration in 1660. By the same account, John Cansfield, presumed husband of Anne Hansby, fought valouriously for the King at the Second Battle of Newbury. George Daniel was the Cavalier poet, and the Inglebys held Oliver Cromwell briefly 'at bay' at Ripley Castle.

One would therefore infer that times would have been difficult for these families during the rule of the Puritan Oliver Cromwell, but upon Cromwell's death in 1658, and the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, a period of relative calm for our Catholic family ensued.

Records pertaining to the Hansbys are sparse over this time. It seems fairly clear Ralph (5) married a lady named Winifred during the 1650's, and her maiden name was likely Morgan. The Barradale documents claim a link to the Morgans of Llantarnum and Tredegar, but I have not found confirmation of this. Indeed, the Winifred Morgan of that family is recorded as marrying a Percy Enderby, rather than a Hansby. The pedigree in 'Hunter's Deanery' indicates that Ralph (5) married the 'daughter of Sir John Cansfield', but assuming this is the same John Cansfield as married his aunt Ann, the inference would be that he married his cousin. [Hunter's seems to perpetuate the error in ODNB in this regard, just as it perpetuates 'Hugh Hansby' from Wainwright.]

There is a record of a law suit between Ralph Hansby and a Sanderson in 1654, and it is presumed this is Ralph (5) seeking to regain control of Tickhill Castle, having attained his Majority. ('Sanderson' is almost certainly William Saunderson, named as executor by Sir Ralph in his will.) The family remained stoically Catholic, even as the tides of history ebbed and flowed, and the most conspicuous record of this family is in the List of Suspected Popish Recusants, published in 1680, shortly after the Popish plot, showing:

"Tick Hill - Ralph Hansby Esq and his wife, his son Ralph 20 years of age, Frances above 16 years, Walter about 9 years."

This gives us the birth of the eldest son Ralph (6) at about 1660, and there are various records of the other children. It is possible that the couple had up to ten children. Some of the births are recorded at Tickhill, and it is presumed that Ralph (5) has regained the use of the castle that he perhaps fought to defend as a boy. The Hearth Tax records of 1672 indicate that Ralph Hansby Esq of Tickhill Town had 24 hearths at this time.

Gray's Inn records the admission of another Ralph Hansby in 1671. It is uncertain whether this is the father, pursuing a late-life legal career, or the son being enrolled at the tender age of 10 or 11 for legal training.

The eldest son Ralph (6) appears to marry twice, firstly to Elizabeth Eason in 1688, then to Catherine Stockham in 1699. Both marriages are in London, and so it is possible that the younger Ralph is at Gray's Inn. Both Ralph (6) and Catherine die around 1714; there seems to be no children from either marriage.

Frances' birth is documented early in 1660; she is recorded as a spinster, and dies in York in 1740.

There are possibly a further 3 daughters who go on to become Nuns in Brussels - Margaret, Isabella and Mary, but it is hard to tell which are real names and which are names assumed by the nuns. Further births recorded include William in 1666, Catherine in 1669, and possibly Walter around 1671 as above.

Morgan Hansby (almost certainly receiving his mother's maiden name) was born in 1673 and became a Father in the Dominican Order. An early edition of ODNB names his mother as 'Winifred Cansfield', possibly related to the above-mentioned uncertainty re Winifred's maiden name. Morgan was professed in the Dominican Convent at Bornhem near Antwerp 1696. Ordained priest 1698. Chaplain to the Dominican nuns at Brussels 1708. Created D.D. 1721, then sent to mission at Tickhill Castle. Stationed at London 1734 as Provincial. Vicar-provincial in England 1738-42. An intriguing report of his discovery whilst concealed with a family (the dowager Lady Petre) at Lower Cheam, Surrey is recorded in the London Evening Post of Dec 1745. 'He was an ardent Jacobite, and the house was searched for arms.. two pairs of pistols were found. Taken before the magistrate at Croydon, he was freed on bail, and allowed to live at Cheam. He was Vicar-General of England 1747; he died in 1750. He wrote several theological works.

Michael Hansby appears to be the youngest child of Ralph (5) and Winifred. The following record of him appears in 'Hunter's Deanery': 'Born in 1674, and brother of Frances H... His brother Ralph of Tick Hill Castle, by will dated 1712, bequeathed to him "100 guineas, which are behind the books in the press in the lobby, and also the books.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

Ralph Hansby of Tickhill is instructed to appear at Wakefield for recusancy in 1678. Ralph (5) Hansby is elsewhere referred to as a Roman Catholic Justice as at 1688, and so

it may well be he who was the 1671 admission to Gray's Inn. The fleeting zenith of his career seems to have occurred in 1688, during the final throes of King James II's brief reign. John Wainwright, in his 1829 work 'Yorkshire: An Historical and Topographical Introduction to a knowledge of the Ancient State of the Wapentake of Strafford and Tick Hill', records the following: "The King, however, resolute and imperious and indiscreet, punished their arrogance by removing the mayor from his office, and appointing in his stead, Ralph Hansby Esq of Tick Hill.\*"

With the changing tide of the 'Glorious Revolution', the Catholic insert was quickly removed from this office, and John Elleker was elected mayor on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1688, with Ralph (5) holding the position for only 4 months.

[As an aside, the asterisk above refers to a footnote by Wainwright which mentions a 'Hugh Hansby' ostensibly referred to in the Wilson manuscript collection held at Leeds Library. Examination of this manuscript reveals this 'Hugh Hansby' to be a mis-transcription of the name Ralph Hansby, and there is thus no such person as 'Hugh Hansby'. Hunter in particular, re-cites this misquote. Such are the vagaries of genealogical research. The quintessence of genealogy may indeed be regarded as the correction of ancient typographical errors...]

The country was now firmly Protestant, and it was no longer a good place to be Catholic. It was presumably about this time that several of Ralph (5)'s elder children, now young adults, fled to Europe to join convents and monasteries. Ralph (5)'s death is recorded in London in January 1696. His address at the time was 'over against ye George Tavern, Whitefriars North, Fleet St' and he is buried in St. Bride's, Fleet Street (in the north gle) on 21 Jan 1696.

In 1699 Ralph (6) marries his second wife Catherine Stockham at St. Anne's in Soho, Westminster, and it seems they move back to Tickhill Castle. In 1700 a permit is issued for 'Ralph Hansby Esq., of Tick Hill Castle, to travel with his 6 horses.. about 5 miles to his habitation, about his necessary affairs', so Catholics need a permit to own horses at this time... Winifred Morgan's death is recorded at October 1704 at Tickhill. In 1708, the lease of Tickhill castle and land is sold by Ralph (6) to George Saunderson (Viscount Castleton) for 5000 pounds. (Unclear again whether this is a relation to the Saundersons who were executors of Ralph (4)'s will.) Further, in an article in the Saturday Magazine dated August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1844, upon the history of Tickhill Castle, 'the castle and its demesne lands were leased in 1719 for fourteen years to William Lord Fitz-William..', possibly continuing the Fitzwilliams' historical association to the castle.

Various payments are made by Ralph (6) for the keeping of the 'exiled' Catholic Hansbys in European convents. Somewhere around 1714 is the death of Ralph (6) in York. He has had no children, and has ultimately had to sell off all the family's holdings, presumably as Catholics remain out of favour. The Tickhill and District Local History Society website makes reference to the will of Catherine Hansby (nee Stockham), written in February 1714, two years before her death, and which declares her to be already the widow of Ralph (6) Hansby. It appears to record the only items conveyed by her to

Michael Hansby was some furniture ‘in the room up two pairs of stairs in my house at Tick Hill where (he) lived.’

It would therefore seem that to this point, the youngest son Michael Hansby had been staying with his eldest brother Ralph (6), and then following his death, at the grace of his sister-in-law until to her death, presumably in 1716. With his eldest brother now dead and heirless, and all his elder siblings practicing as devoted Catholic Fathers and nuns, and he now 42 years old, with only a handful of chattels to his name, it would seem that the gravity of his awareness became that the future of the Hansby name lay solely with him, and so he goes swiftly about finding himself a wife....

## **7. Ralph (7) Hansby and the journey to Ireland. c1720-1760**

Barradale records Michael's new wife as Judith, daughter of John Calvert, and descended from the Lords of Baltimore in Ireland. Inspection of the history of George Calvert, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Baltimore, however, suggests there were almost certainly no local descendants of any of his thirteen children. Further investigation of the (numerous) Calverts of north Yorkshire shows the birth of a family of Calverts at least six in number - including a Judith around 1700 - in Aldborough, to a John Calvert, and so again, Barradale's attributions would seem to be somewhat embellished. This John Calvert's father appears to be Francis Calvert, once a bailiff in the town of Boroughbridge. Francis would seem to have had his origins in the area of Aysgarth/ Askrigg in North Yorkshire, and by 1650 was married to Anne and their children were born in Aldborough. He was also a recusant around 1680. Francis' will of 1694 details his extensive assets, including leases on property and bridge and ferry tolls, which he distributes chiefly to his sons James and John. The will lists no children of John as at 1694, but from 1696 he has possibly 9 children with his wife Anne. The first six are recorded in Aldborough up to 1702, but the next three have no birth record. In 1701, John has begun selling the assets of his inheritance, in a trajectory that will lead to his eventual bankruptcy.

The register of names of Roman Catholics who refused to take oaths to the late King George, dated 1715, records Michael Hansbie as the owner of an estate in Thixendale or Burdall valued at 165 pounds per annum, of which 40 pounds goes to his brother Morgan (who is recorded as living at St. James co. Middlesex in the same register - see Morgan's biography above) Edgar Estcourt and John O. Payne published a volume of genealogical notes pertaining to all these 'nonjurors' in 1885, and it describes Michael Hansbie as 'of Givendale, Esq.' In the same register is a John Calvert of Givendale, and we wonder if the husband-to-be and the father of the bride are already somehow acquainted. John Calvert's only recorded asset here is a cottage in Aysgarth - likely a vestige of his inheritance - with the modest annual value of 3 pounds. Considering the very substantial legacy left to him by his father barely 20 years before, it would seem fortune has not favoured our John Calvert. Whether the persisting national animosity towards Catholics has been the cause of his downfall, or a tragedy of a more personal nature, he is completely bankrupt and alone at his death around 1722.

Therefore, one can only conjecture whether the meeting between Michael and Judith was a conspiracy between recusant Catholic families, or whether Judith was compelled to marry out of financial hardship. Either way, the couple's first son Ralph (7) is born in 1720, and they appear to have several more children, some of whose burials are recorded in Bishophill in York. Eventually, all their children either die young or are female and die childless. Once again, the continuation of the Hansby name falls to a single member of the family - the eldest son.

For reasons which are unclear, Ralph (7) has relocated to Ireland in 1737: Barradale records Ralph (7) as apprenticed to a man named Marlin in Dublin at this time. In 1743 Ralph (7) marries Penelope Bellew in county Meath, and in 1745 their daughter Anna is

born. It seems this Anna remains in Ireland, and marries a Patrick D'Arcy in 1776. Ralph (7) and Penelope have two sons who die in infancy, and it seems that Penelope also dies in childbirth at this time. Ralph's second marriage, to Catherine McCarthy, is in Loganstown, Tipperary in 1748, and on April 21, 1750, Michael Joseph Hansby is born in Dublin, Ireland. He is baptized on 25 Apr 1750 at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, and his god-parents are Richard Ferrall and Clare McCarthy. It is here that the fashion of the middle name appears to commence.

On 3 July 1751 Charles Zaverius Hansby is baptized in Dublin; his godparents are Capt. Richard Bellue (possibly a relation of Penelope above) and Elizabeth Carny. There seems also to be a Ralph (8) born in 1753, but both of these boys die in infancy. There seems to be a Clare or Clarinda Hansby born around 1755, who dies unmarried in Bristol in 1817. But in June 1761, the death of Ralph (7) Hansby is recorded in St. Bartholomew's in London, and it would seem that the care of the young Michael Joseph and his sister Clare falls to their mother Catherine, and again the future of the Hansby name hangs in the balance. Ralph's uncle Morgan died in London in 1750, but left his possessions to his 'godly friends' rather than his distant relations.

Michael (6) Hansby's will is dated 1753 and his decease seems to be in 1754. His will only mentions wife Judith and his 3 living daughters, and it describes him as living in York. It would seem therefore that contact between father and son had been lost by that time. There is also no evidence that the family ever traveled with Ralph (7) to Ireland, or that Ralph (7) had any pre-existing connections in Ireland with "Irish Baltimore Calverts."

Michael (6)'s three living daughters received 400 pounds each in his will, and Judith received the residue of his estate including the furniture of his house, but the ownership of the house is not ascertained. They all survive a further 35 years or so and are buried in churches in York around 1790. Frances lived at Grape Lane in York prior to her death in 1788, aged 67.

Noting the apparent prominence of Father Morgan Hansby in the remnants of the Catholic Church in London as at 1750, I can only assume that a dying Ralph (7) Hansby moves from Ireland to London with his family about 1760. This presumes no other family support remains for them in Ireland. His estranged father is dead in York, and his estate distributed. With his own death imminent, he places his family in the care of the Catholic Church, based only on his connection in name to his deceased uncle Morgan. He is thus buried in St. Barts in London, and the Reformation has all but extinguished the Catholic Hansbys.



## 8. The Golden years in Abergavenny c.1800-1870.

The next trace of Michael Joseph Hansby is two letters to the 3rd Duke of Portland in April 1783. MJH's address at that time was 26 Greek St, Soho Square, London, and he was applying for the position of Comptroller of the island of Montserrat in the West Indies, newly re-acquired from France in the Treaty of Versailles. Perhaps fortunately for the future generations of Hansbys, he did not receive this posting.

The next reference is the marriage of Michael Joseph Hansby to Catherine James, daughter of Edward James of Bristol, at St. Augustine's the Less in Bristol on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1795. The death of MJH's mother is not recorded, nor how Michael came to Bristol. His sister Clare/ Clarinda died in Bristol in 1817, so it is unclear who followed who to Bristol.

Thus, in the same vein as his grandfather whose name he shares, Michael (8) found himself in his forties with the future of the Hansby name resting upon his shoulders alone. His new wife Catherine shares his mother's name, and she is not young either - she seems to be 36 years old at their marriage. It seems they move to Westcombe in Somerset, to the south-west of Bristol. Their first son Ralph (9) is born in 1799, then Michael William in 1802, and then a daughter Eliza Anne in 1803. After generations of the Hansby name being kept alive down a single thread, this family would be the nidus of the greatest Hansby expansion since Yorkshire in the 1500's.

In 1816, Ralph commences his Articles in Law under Robert Welsh in Wells, Somerset. His father is signatory to his Articles of Clerkship, and is living at Shepton Mallet in Somerset at this time. Hot on his brother's heels in the career stakes, Michael William Hansby is to be found at Guy's Hospital in London as a medical graduate in 1823. A short distance from Guy's Hospital in Camberwell, Southwark, Mary Anne Sharp is growing up, the eldest daughter of a well-to-do shipwright, George Sharp.

In 1805, George Sharp has married Mary Powditch, and in September 1807, their first son George William Sharp is born. They then have two daughters, Mary Anne, born in March 1809, and Rosa Anne born in 1810, and another son John, born in May 1811. Tragedy then strikes, and the eldest son George dies in June 1812. To mark the tragedy, the parents commission a local portrait artist, possibly Thomas Lawrence, to paint a nearly full-sized portrait of the mother Mary Sharp with her infant son John, now the Sharp heir. The tale of this painting will be pursued in a later chapter of this work.

Skip forward now to July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1828, and the wedding of Dr. Michael William Hansby to Mary Anne Sharp. It is presumed they have met in London, but they have now found their way to Raglan in Monmouthshire, Wales - just across the Bristol Channel from Bristol and Somerset. They must have two weddings - one to be recognized, in a Church of England, and a separate one in a Catholic church, for their faith. In 1830, their first daughter is born in Raglan, and is named Eliza Rose, presumably Eliza for Michael's sister, and Rose for Mary's sister. Eliza Anne Hansby has married a fellow named Thomas Davies in Abergavenny, Wales in 1822, and so it is quite possibly she who has blazed the trail to Monmouthshire for her family.

Sure enough, in September 1830, Ralph Hansby marries Rosa Anne Sharp, and so now the two brothers have married two sisters. In October 1831, Ralph (9) has a son Ralph (10) in Abergavenny, and in July 1832 Michael William has a daughter Mary Isabel in Abergavenny, so it would seem all three siblings have moved here by this time. Michael Joseph Hansby was buried in Abergavenny in November 1829, aged 79, and even George Sharp seemed to have moved here prior to his death and burial in Abergavenny in April 1834, aged 57. Catherine Hansby (nee James) dies here in 1844.

Eliza Anne Hansby does not have any children, and it would seem Thomas Davies dies around 1836, and Eliza Anne now marries George Overton, ten years her junior. He will go on to be a prominent local figure, later becoming Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant and Coroner, but they do not have any children either. Instead, it seems, Eliza Anne goes on to be the caring aunty for her two brothers' expanding broods.

In 1836 Michael William Hansby, surgeon, is appointed to the position of Medical officer to the Vale District of the Abergavenny Union, a position he holds for the remainder of his career. The 1834 Poor Laws Act decreed that recipients of charity must now be housed in 'workhouses', and so the new district workhouse, or Union House, was built at Abergavenny in 1837-8, and Dr. Hansby was the visiting doctor appointed to this site. His exploits regularly appear in the local paper, the Hereford Journal/ Times, and they make reference to his patients at the Union House. Around this time, he is living at the 'Castle' in Abergavenny - a relatively modern building built in 1818 as a 'hunting lodge', adjacent to the ruins of the former Norman castle at Abergavenny. His initials 'MH' appear carved into a stone pathway near a door to this building. It is not clear whether this prestigious address came with the role of Union medical officer, or whether he acquired the property in his own right. Meanwhile, his brother Ralph works as the town's solicitor, and his name regularly appears in the legal affairs of the townsfolk.

Both brothers are breeding prolifically - Michael and Mary Anne have 12 children between 1830 and 1852, and Ralph and Rosa have 10 over a similar time frame. However, in spite of Michael William being the town doctor, four of his children die in infancy, and then tragically, his wife Mary Anne dies also shortly after the birth of their 12<sup>th</sup> child in 1852. At this time, Michael William is left with the care of Eliza Rose, now 22, Mary Isabel, 20, Catherine, 14, Louisa 12, Clara 10, Florence 7, Ralph Joseph 5, and William Michael Joseph, aged 4.

Conspicuously, the eldest six are daughters, and presumably the elder ones assist with caring for the younger children. Eliza Rose never marries, and her role is unclear. On the 1861 census she appears both at her aunt Eliza Anne's farm at Ty Mawr, and also on her father's entry, which is now no longer at the Castle but in more modest Frogmore St. Her father lists her 'out of order' - not at the head of her sisters but as the last entry, even below the household servants, although she is now 31 years old. One cannot help but feel that she may be an invalid in some fashion.

The next daughters successively reach marrying age, and marry off to prominent local men. Mary Isabel marries Richard Wyndham Williams in 1855, Catherine marries George Russell, the town doctor from nearby Merthyr Tydfil in 1857, and Louisa marries John Maund, the High Sheriff of Breconshire, in 1860. Each of these families has an interesting tale in their own right, and these will be pursued in the next chapter. Clara and Florence never marry; they will take up domestic roles in other households.

And so, in Michael William's family, the role of carrying the Hansby name forward will fall to the two young boys, Ralph Joseph and Michael William Joseph. However, for reasons unknown, the two boys will end up leaving the family home. Ralph Joseph has left by 1861 - he is not recorded at the family home in the census of that year. He will take up a life at sea, and the first record of him on a seafaring vessel is in 1862, on the barque 'Dragon', headed for Sydney, Australia, as an able seaman. While only a boy of 15 at best, his age is falsely recorded as '30' on the crew list of this ship. He discards the name Ralph early on, and goes only by the name of Joseph Hansby for the remainder of his life. His brother William Michael Joseph soon follows in his footsteps, leaving Wales in 1869. The exploits of these two in carrying the Hansby name to the Antipodes will also be followed in a later chapter.

Returning now to the family of Ralph (9) and Rosa, of their 10 children, five will die before reaching childrearing age. By 1861, they have moved from Abergavenny to Salford in Lancashire for reasons unclear, and over the years, much of their family follows them here. Their eldest son Ralph (10) becomes a land surveyor and never marries. He dies in Lancashire in 1906. Their daughter Rosa Anne dies in Salford in 1861 aged 25. Another daughter Monica dies here in 1863 aged 13.

The only child of 10 to have any children is the next son Dominic. He marries Catherine Lynch in Ireland in 1865, then they have 2 children in Ireland, then migrate to Lancashire, where they have a further six children. Of their eight children, six die in infancy, a son Edward migrates to the USA and has no children, and the youngest daughter Agnes marries James Patterson. They have four children, and the youngest son born in 1923 is given the name Ralph Hansby Patterson, presumably also in realization that the name Hansby was all but extinct in the United Kingdom. This Ralph Hansby-Patterson gave the hyphenated surname to his children, creating a number of present day Hansby-Pattersons, mostly around Norfolk.

Ralph and Rosa's other 3 adult daughters remained single or childless. Ralph (9) dies in 1870, and Rosa in 1884, both in Lancashire. Back in Abergavenny, Michael William Hansby dies in August 1869, his eldest daughter Eliza Rose dies in 1870, aged 40 and unmarried. The Williams' have moved to Parc, Llanishen in Wales. George Russell, husband of Catherine Hansby, has died in Merthyr Tydfil in 1867, leaving Catherine with five small children. Louisa has had 5 children with John Maund, but in 1871 they are separated, and John is living in London with the younger 3 children, and Louisa is staying with her aunt Eliza Anne, with the elder 2 daughters.

Thus, by 1871, there is no-one left in Abergavenny who will directly carry the name Hansby. From the golden days of the 1830's with the three siblings living there and married, and in spite of the prolific breeding of the 1840's, fate slowly undoes the dynasty of the Hansbys of Abergavenny.

## **9. Branches from Abergavenny:**

With the Hansby women, the stories of the families they marry into are often just as interesting as the story of the Hansby paternal line. In this chapter we will explore the families of three of the daughters of Michael William Hansby, and follow the trail of a lost painting.

### **9a. Mary Isabel Hansby and Richard Williams.**

As indicated above, in July 1855, Mary Isabel Hansby wed Richard Wyndham Williams, a solicitor from Parc, Llanishen in Glamorganshire, and moved there. They had two sons: Lawrence Gardner Williams, born in 1861, and Wyndham Ivor Williams, born in 1865.

MIH died in 1874, aged 42, and left the care of their 2 young sons, aged 13 and 9, to their father. The relatively short life spans of many of the Welsh Hansbys remains conspicuous. LGW also became a solicitor, and married Harriet Edmoudes (?Edmondess) in 1895. They had two sons: Charles Lawrence Wyndham Williams b. 1896 and Herbert Wyndham Williams b. 1897. CLWW was killed on active naval service in 1916. I have no further information on HWW.

WIW died of typhoid fever in St. George, Queensland, Australia in 1900.

### **9b. Catherine Hansby and George Russell - doctors, lawyers and sailors.**

In 1851, Merthyr Tydfil was the most populous town in Wales, as it was home to a very productive ironworks. A surgeon of that town was named George Russell, and in 1832, his first son was born, also to be named George Russell, and who would also go on to become a doctor in the town.

In July 1857, then, Catherine Hansby, the daughter of the town surgeon of Abergavenny married the son of the town surgeon of Merthyr Tydfil, George Russell. For reasons unknown, it seems this couple moved to the town of Bawtry, near Doncaster in Yorkshire, and a stone's throw from Tickhill. George's brother John and sister Frances were also present here with them at the 1861 census, at 2 South Parade. George Russell Senior had died in 1840, leaving the three children fatherless, and so this may be the basis for them sticking together. It is unknown whether any ancient Hansby connection had led them all specifically to this place. [ Conceivably, the publication in the 1820's of historical information relating to the Hansby family, in works such as Hunter and Wainwright may have 'enlightened' the contemporary Hansbys as to their famous forbears' exploits, in just the same way as the Barradale documents have enlightened present-day Hansby descendants.] They stayed here for a small number of years and had two sons and a daughter. George Hansby Russell was born in 1859, Michael William Russell was born in 1860, and Clara Emily in 1862. It would seem the family then moved back to Wales, to Aberdare, a small town near Merthyr Tydfil. A daughter Catherine is born in 1864; she dies in 1868, and is buried in the same plot as Dr. Michael William

Hansby at Abergavenny. Florence Russell was born at Aberdare in 1865, and Mary Frances in 1867, then tragically their father died in September 1867, leaving Catherine Hansby with 6 small children. They appear to be in Abergavenny in April 1868 where occurs the death of daughter Catherine aged 4; Dr. Michael William is then the next addition to the family grave in September 1869.

It is not clear where the Russell family went after this time - while Louisa and her daughters were with their aunt Eliza in 1871, Catherine was not here. Catherine's death is recorded in 1878 in Merthyr Tydfil, and again, while premature death was a fact of life in these difficult times, one cannot help but feel that growing up in the shadow of the dark satanic iron works may have inadvertently shortened the lives of these Merthyr Tydfil residents.

It is not clear where the three young orphan Russell girls, Clara Emily aged 16, Florence aged 14 and Mary aged 12, went following this time. In his will of 1883, their great uncle George Overton bequeathes to 'the children of my niece Catherine Russell, deceased, one hundred pounds per annum', so they are not wholly without resources. We will return to Clara Emily and Florence's stories shortly; Mary Frances Russell never marries.

The lives of the two sons are highly interesting. George Hansby Russell went to South Africa and fought in several of the wars there. By 1894 he was blinded, and seems to have returned to Devon to become an author, writing several novels set mainly in South Africa. In 1903 he marries Alice Lockwood - she 43 years old and he 44, and they have one son George Lockwood Hansby Russell born later that same year. In a fascinating recapitulation of history he becomes a Catholic monk in the Benedictine Order, and takes the name 'Ralph'. Details such as this rather seem to suggest that the family may well have been in possession of some form of pedigree which had been either handed down from earlier generations, or arrived in a Victorian-era antiquarian work.

Michael William Russell has received the name of his maternal grandfather, and in his footsteps, as well as those of his father and his paternal grandfather, he studies Medicine. In 1881 he is a medical student in London, in 1882 he gains his MRCS (Eng.), and in 1884 he is RMO at Royal United Hospital in Bristol. He joins the Army in 1885, and is posted to Soudan in 1885-6. In the time from 1889 to 1893, he was stationed in India, mostly in Bengal. In 1892 he marries Mary Augusta Julia Plowden, the daughter of a former Colonel in the Indian Army. The marriage, and the births of his two children seem to have occurred overseas, and records of these have proved elusive. His son Oswald also became a soldier, and he was killed in an heroic firefight at a railway siding in Iraq in 1920. It seems he may have been recommended for a posthumous Victoria Cross, but was not awarded one. The fate of daughter Dorothy is not known.

Michael William Russell went on to serve in South Africa in 1899-1902, and Malta in 1914. He rose to the rank of Major General, and was Surgeon General of the British Army from 1914-17. He was retired at this time per age regulations; in 1918, he was knighted, becoming KCMG, CB. He lived until the splendid age of 89. It is highly likely

he was the keeper of the Hansby history as it then was, before passing it on to JAC Barradale below.

Clara Emily Russell astonishingly reappears at St. Mary's Cathedral in Dublin in 1890, the place where her great-grandfather was baptised 140 years before. Here she marries Irish-born Dr. Montague John Griffin; they go on to have six children. The first is in Dublin in 1891; by 1894, they have moved to Plymouth in Devon where their latter four children are born. Two of their children die young at Plymouth; Clara Emily dies here in 1918.

Florence Russell is also inconspicuous until her marriage to George Louis Atkinson in 1898. He is also a doctor, and seems also to have been in the Royal Army Medical Corps, so one assumes they met through Michael William Russell in some fashion. Florence and George were married in Plymouth in Devon, so three siblings George H., Clara E. and Florence are now in Devon at this time. Florence and George Atkinson then had their three children in fairly quick time - Gerald, Geoffrey and Joyce in 1899, 1900 and 1901 respectively. Gerald has no children, Geoffrey has a daughter Helen, and Joyce becomes a prominent English equestrienne. As a result, she marries quite late, marrying John Alfred Crease Barradale in 1940. Nonetheless, they have two children, Sonia born in 1941 and Christopher born in 1943. JAC Barradale is a London solicitor, and he has been married twice already, but had no children by either previous marriage. As it was he who brought the Hansby history to Australia, I will take the liberty of exploring his own history and family tree briefly, particularly as the line through his mother is quite interesting.

JAC Barradale was born on January 14<sup>th</sup> 1903, the son of Alfred William Barradale and Dorothy Melita Mary Crease. AWB was also a solicitor, based in Dudley, Worcestershire, which is more or less a suburb of Birmingham. He was born in 1857, the son of William Barradale, a legal clerk from Birmingham. AWB appears also to have left marriage and fatherhood rather late: he marries DMMC in August 1901, he 44 years old, his bride half his age at 22.

DMMC was the daughter of John Frederick Crease and Frances Mary Domville. They were married in 1877, and were also relatively late-in-life parents. JFC was at least 40 years old, and FMD had already had 3 children by her first marriage; when DMMC was born in 1879, her mother was 38 years old, and when their next child Marjorie Henry Gordon Crease was born in 1885, she was 44. Both of these parents came from families with conspicuous naval and legal forbears.

JFC was a naval officer who rose to the rank of Major General of the Royal Marine Artillery, and also received the title of Knight Commander, Order of the Bath in 1902. His father Captain Henry Crease was a naval captain in the times of the Napoleonic wars, and his brother Henry Pelling Perrew Crease was a barrister who traveled to Vancouver Island in British Columbia to become the colony's first practicing barrister, and he rose to be a judge in the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The family's ancestral home is Ince Castle in Saltash, Cornwall.

Frances Mary Domvile's father Henry Barry Domvile was also a barrister, her brother Sir Compton Edward Domvile was an Admiral, and her brother Barry Francis Domvile was a Lieutenant Colonel. Presumably Frances met her second husband through these naval connections.

The strong tradition of maintaining family names in both families is apparent. Dorothy and her sister Marjorie were both born on Portsea Island in Hampshire, presumably close to naval headquarters. One could speculate that Marjorie was given two boys' names as middle names in her father's vain wish she were a boy, but John Frederick Crease would have no male heir. One can also only speculate how a middle-aged Birmingham solicitor came to meet and marry the young daughter of a naval major general, but history tells us that it happened. In a further twist of history and fate, Dorothy Melita Mary Crease died shortly after the birth of their only son, and so this middle-aged Birmingham solicitor was now left with the care of his tiny infant son.

The Census of 1911 shows the eight-year-old JAC Barradale living with the Perowne family - the mother Helena is the eldest of FMD's three children by her first marriage. She has married Arthur Perowne, a Church of England clergyman, and they have three sons who might be playmates for the young JACB. He attends Haileybury Boarding School with the Perowne boys, then studies Law at Cambridge in the early 1920's. Notably in 1924 he is President of the Cambridge Footlights - the University's amateur dramatic society, and a springboard for many luminaries of the British entertainment industry. This same year he marries his first wife, with a name very similar to his late mother's - Dorothy M. Barker.

In 1931, he remarries, to a singer named Esme Marshall, and in 1932, they travel to Portugal on the 'Flandria' - presumably a holiday. By 1940, he has met and married Joyce Atkinson. He works as a private solicitor in London in partnership with H. McDouall Small. During the 1950's he travels extensively, including to New York at least four times, and obviously to Sydney in 1955. In 1958 he dissolves his partnership with Small, and his marriage to Joyce Atkinson also breaks down. He dies in 1970.

In keeping with their family's heritage, daughter Sonia is a judge of international sailing races, and son Christopher is a lawyer.

### **9c. Louise Clifford Hansby and John Maund - the Mexican and French connections.**

Louisa Clifford Hansby (b. 1840) was the fifth daughter of Michael William Hansby, and in April 1860, she married John Maund (b. 1831). This John Maund is at least the third in a line of John Maunds, and as there are many John Maunds around, it is quite difficult to track any individual one. Our ones live in Ty Mawr, which is their family estate in Breconshire, Wales. They are fairly entrepreneurial, selling their cattle at cattle sales, renting properties; they appear to be attached to a fanciful venture around 1845 called the



Great Eastern and Western Railway, intended to stretch from Swansea in Wales to Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, but this does not come to anything.

John Maund (b. 1831) is the son of John Maund (b. 1796) and Mary Monkhouse. He attends Winchester College for his schooling, and then Brasenose College at Oxford. He holds the titles of Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant (J.P., D.L.). At the seemingly young age of 28, he is appointed High Sheriff of Breconshire in the year 1859. In April 1860, he marries Louisa.

This is certainly the 'best of times' for John Maund. In the census of 1861, he is proudly recorded as "J.P., D.L., Captain of the Volunteers, and farmer of 200 acres, employing 9 men and five boys." They live on a farm next to George and Eliza Anne Overton's, and both families have several maids and servants. The birth of his first daughter Mary is also recorded here.

The first 3 children of John Maund and LCH are clear enough: Mary, or May as she became known, born Feb 1861, Louisa (b. Apr 1862) and John Hansby Maund (b. Sept 1863). The next two are a little less clear: Elizabeth (b. 1864) and William (b. 1866). William is recorded as born in Weston Super Mare, Somerset, not in Wales, and this seems to mark the change in the tide for the Maunds. Previously, they had appeared frequently in the Hereford Times with their activities, but by the late 1860's, references to them are few. In 1867, John Maund is recorded as agent to Mr. Charles Gibson, wine merchant.

Tellingly, in the 1871 Census, John and Louisa are recorded at separate addresses. John is at 3 Crescent Road, South Norwood Park, Croydon, Surrey. His profession is more humbly 'J.P. and wine merchant', and with him are John (7) Elizabeth (6) and William (5). Louisa is at Watton Mount, the home of George and Eliza Overton, in Brecon, with Mary (10) and Louisa (8).

Intriguingly, the next we hear of John Maund is a bankruptcy notice for wine merchants John Maund and CC Shirreff in Oct 1871, and then the death of John Maund, not in England, but at 16 Rue de Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer in France, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1876, aged just 45. Louise is listed as his widow and executor, and is also listed at this same address, so it does not appear that he has run off with another woman, but perhaps been the victim of what we might nowadays call a 'mid-life crisis.' His assets are less than one thousand pounds.

And so against this sad episode, we follow now the courses of his children and their descendents, each with their own unique story.

May's is arguably the most interesting. In 1889 she marries Nicholas Wiseman Lonergan (b. 1856). His lineage is mixed - his mother Selina is Belgian, his father's father is Irish, and his father's mother is Spanish. His father James is recorded as a merchant to Mexico in the 1881 Census, and his own occupation is as a commercial clerk. In this census,

James (64), Selina (62), Nicholas (25, unmarried) and his sister Ismena (28, unmarried) are all staying at a boarding house in Kensington.

May and NWL marry at Paddington, London. The next we see of them is on a passenger list in New York in October 1892. NWL (35) is an accountant, and Mary (30) are mysteriously accompanied by 'R.S. Lonergan, 3 years old, female' and 'Harry Lonergan, 10 months, male.' All are destined for the port of Vera Cruz in Mexico. I have found no further convincing records for Harry.

R.S. Lonergan is Ronald Stanley, and so is not female. He enlisted for the British Army in 1916. In 1929 he was living in Trinidad as a merchant, but returns to live in England. He dies in London in 1962, apparently single.

Their further children are born in Mexico: Hilda Mary (4 Dec 1892), Carmen (11 Oct 1896) Louisa Mary (b.1899) and Anthony (b.1900). We will follow each of these now.

Hilda apparently marries an Ernest Harker in 1916 in Mexico. She then marries Frederick Stanley Stevens (b. 12 Nov 1888 in Quebec, Canada - presumably went south looking for warmer weather) in the early 1920's. They had 3 sons: Alexander Charles (1924-1992), William Frederick (1926-2012), and Paul Stanley (1928-2007). Alex and Paul apparently lived and died in Mexico, William died recently in Alabama. A census in Mexico in 1930 shows this family living in Guadalajara, along with May (Mary Lonergan, 69). F.S. Stevens is recorded as 'Agente - Seguro de Vida', which I assume is life insurance agent.

Shortly after this, May dies in Guadalajara in 1931. NWL's death is recorded in Mexico in 1913. I have no record of NWL ever returning to England between 1892 and 1913. The shipping records give us the clues as to what the rest of their children did.

In July 1905, May returns to England with Hilda (13) Carmen (8) Louisa (6) and Anthony (3). In June 1909, May is again returning to England, but only with Louisa (9) and Anthony (7). Presumably the elder two were left at Boarding School. In 1911, Carmen is at Boarding School in London, aged 14.

In 1916, Carmen is now Carmen Palmer: she has married Sydney Charles Palmer (b. 1880). He is variously listed as an accountant and an oil operator for the Anglo Mexican Petroleum Company. I am not certain whether they met/married in England or Mexico, but in 1916, they travel from Mexico to England. The contact address on the shipping list for Mary Lonergan looks like 3a Dinamaria 50, Mexico City.

In October 1920, the following travel from England to Mexico: SCP (40), CP (24), Joan May Palmer (2 ½), Victoria Hilda Palmer (1), and Louisa Lonergan (21).

In June 1923, the following travel from Cuba to England: SCP (43), CP (27), JMP (6), VHP (4), and Peter Charles Palmer (2).

In Dec 1926, Mary Lonergan (65) travels alone from Mexico to England to visit 'Mrs. Palmer. 7 Highcroft Gardens, Golders Green, London.' and she returns alone to Mexico in Nov 1927. This is her last trip to England.

SCP dies in Golders Green in 1941, CP dies in Middlesex in 1979. I have no further information on the Palmer children.

Louisa Mary Lonergan marries Thomas Francis Reilly on 29 May 1923 in Mexico. TFR is an Irishman, b. 2 Aug 1892, from a large family in Cavan. I presume he also went looking for warmer weather. They have 3 children: Nicholas John Reilly (1925-1996), Frank Myles Reilly (1927-1962) - he married Sheila Taylor in London in 1947 and had 2 children, but died in Queensland, Australia. The third is a daughter who married John Bufton. TFR died in London in 1946 and LML died in London in 1965, so some or all of the family had returned to England over time. There is a Reilly family tree on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

Anthony Lonergan apparently died in Mexico in 1942, I have no further information on him.

\* \* \* \* \*

The next of the Maund children is Louisa. She appears to stay on in Boulogne-Sur-Mer, and marries there Ferdinand Louis Adolphe D'Or in 1880. He is the son of Joseph Charles D'Or (b.1800 Geneva, Switzerland) and Virginie de Rheims (b. 1814 Benicarlo, Spain). This couple seem to meet in Calais, and their first child Henri is born here. They then move to Mascara in Algeria, where Joseph seems to be working in a military hospital. Here their next two children are born, before Joseph dies here in 1850, leaving their 3 young children fatherless. Ferdinand joins the military, and by his marriage he is Captain of an Infantry regiment. At their wedding, he is 35, she is 18; they go on to have four children.

John Hansby Maund followed in his maternal grandfather's footsteps and became a doctor. In 1890 he was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons. He lived in Newmarket, Cambridgeshire. In 1898 in London he married Clare Antonia Noding (b. 1866 in Port of Spain, Trinidad, a British subject - I presume she had returned to England). Their four children are recorded in the censuses: John Anthony Hansby Maund (b. 30 Dec 1898), Frances Edward Hansby Maund (b. 1901), Ruth Clare Hansby Maund (b. Apr 1902) and Gwynith Iseult Maund (b. 1905). Although the first 3 all receive Hansby as a middle name, all seem to go by the surname Maund only. JHM dies in St. Albans, Hertfordshire in 1944, CAN dies in Uxbridge in 1951.

JAHM is recorded as a civil servant. He married Sheila Julia Dillon (b. 1918 Ireland) in 1940, and had 2 sons: John Hansby Maund (b. 1945 London) and Roger Hansby Maund (b. 1946 London). JHM (1945) married Miss Garratty in 1973 in London and Roger married Miss Moran in London in 1968. I am not sure whether either had children, or

how many, but there are some people listed at present officially using the surname Hansby-Maund, and I believe it is the children of either of these brothers.

FEHM traveled to South Africa in 1927. His address is recorded as Heath Cottage, Newmarket, he is traveling to Durban as a 'sugar planter', and he states his intended future permanent residence as Natal. He is married in 1948 in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, to Mildred Mary Heron Heathcote Castle (1912-1999) and dies in Bridport, Dorset in 1961. I do not believe he had children.

RCHM marries Mr. Henderson in London in 1928; I know no further of her. GIM is variously reported as marrying an Evans, a Gelling, and a Harper; she dies in Essex in 1993.

The last two of the Maund children are a mystery. As with John Maunds, there are a lot of Elizabeth Maunds and William Maunds about, so it is hard to track them. William Maund is specifically mentioned as a beneficiary in George Overton's will, to receive several hundred pounds when he turns 21. There seems to be some legal contest about this in the late 1880's. There is a single reference to a William Hansby Maund in a legal document about 1914, but I have no further evidence that a person of this name existed.

The last thread of the tale is Louisa Clifford Maund. She dies 7 Sep 1891 in Lyme Regis, Dorset, and leaves her probate of 1100 pounds to Richard Baker Gabb, a solicitor in Abergavenny. Why Louisa does not leave her assets to her children, but to a distant childhood connection, is not clear. This time apparently coincides with the departure of May for Mexico, and of JHM's registration as a doctor; Louisa is presumably in France, and William and Elizabeth are not to be found.

In 1911, George Hansby Russell is in Lyme Regis, but this is 20 years apart, and a mere coincidence I presume. On reflection, I have yet to find any specific document that puts Louisa Clifford Maund in the same place as any of her children between John Maund's death in 1876, and her own death in 1891.

#### **9d. On the trail of a painting.**

Earlier I described a portrait of Mary Sharp holding her infant son John, painted in about 1812. In Barradale's letter of 1955, he indicated he had a photograph this painting. As part of my research, I was able to make contact with his daughter Sonia, who was fortunately still able to locate this photograph. As indicated in her father's letter, this photograph has a Mexican address stamped on the back: 'La Rochester, Mexico D.F.' This La Rochester was a photographic studio operating in Mexico City around 1910, which would seem to suggest that the original painting had gone to Mexico with May Maund, and that May had had photographs taken of it to distribute to other family members.

This in turn would seem to suggest that at MWH's death in 1869, the painting came into Louisa Clifford Maund's possession. In 1871, she was staying with George and Eliza Anne Overton at Watton Mount in Brecon, and perhaps the painting is kept there. Mary (May) is also there at this time. Louisa has likely been close with Eliza Anne - they lived on adjacent properties in 1861, and their husbands presumably worked together as J.P., D.L.'s. In 1883, the year both Eliza Anne and George die, either Louisa or Mary must have taken possession of the painting that had remained at Watton Mount. Perhaps Mary, as the namesake of Mary Sharp (nee Powditch) had a special tie to the painting. By 1883, Mary Isabel and Catherine have died, so the two elder sisters who might have laid claim to the painting are no longer with us. It is unclear at this time where Louisa Clifford Maund was - she may still have been in France with her daughter Louisa, she may have returned to Wales, or she may be in self-imposed exile in Devon. May Maund was now 22, and she may well have remained in contact with Eliza Anne Overton, particularly in the few months between George Overton's death and Eliza Anne's, during which time she might have been conveyed custody of the painting. One would have to assume that no-one else in the family had an especial interest in the painting, and so when May Maund emigrated to Mexico in 1892, the painting had nowhere else to go but with her.

Presumably, then, May had the photographs taken of the original painting, and brought a photograph copy back to England on one of her return visits, possibly making contact with her cousin Florence Atkinson (nee Russell) in London to convey the copy now held by Sonia Mayes (nee Barradale).

Intriguingly, a further photograph copy has been located in the United States. Hansby descendant and researcher Bob Sweeney made contact with Rose Stevens, the widow of William Frederick Stevens, the son of Hilda Mary Lonergan.

Rose writes in an email: "Bob, I have a black and white photograph of that painting framed and hanging on the staircase in my house. On the back is a note written in Hilda Lonergan Stevens' handwriting that says: 'Copy of the painting in our family. May have been painted by Lawrence in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. She is my mother's great, great, great aunt, Mrs. Sharpe, the boy John.'"

This collateral discovery of a copy of the photograph in the Americas would seem to add weight to the notion that the painting went to Mexico. The 1930 census for Guadalajara in Mexico places Mary Lonergan (nee Maund) with Hilda Mary Stevens (nee Lonergan) a year prior to her death, so one would think that Mary died with her daughter Hilda. As Hilda appears only to hold a photograph of the painting, this would seem to suggest that she is not the custodian of the painting, and that Rose does not know its whereabouts, would seem to indicate that it did not pass to the Stevens branch of the family.

In terms of the location of the painting, then, there would seem to be three possibilities. Firstly, that the painting is still held by a descendant of Mary Lonergan (Maund), presumably somewhere in Mexico. Secondly, that the painting was returned to England during one of Mary Lonergan's return voyages, and passed on to one of her descendants in England (including her children Ronald Stanley, Carmen or Louisa) or to another

Hansby descendant. And thirdly, of course, that the painting might be lost to the family altogether.

The information on the back of Rose Stevens' copy of the photograph is certain the best clue as to the nature of the painting, but it does raise some queries as to the exact identity of the subjects. My presumption is that the subjects are Mary Sharp (nee Powditch) and her infant son John, mainly because I have proof that both these people existed, and that they were mother and son, and if the infant John were 1-2 years old, as would seem to be the case from the photo, that would date the painting to about 1812. Further, the death in June 1812 of the young George William Sharp, would seem to give a basis for the painting of the portrait with the young John Sharp as the new Sharp heir apparent.

However, the note on the back suggests the painting was from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, rather than the early 19<sup>th</sup>, and the relationship to Hilda Lonergan Stevens is also incorrect - Mary Sharp (nee Powditch) is her mother's great grandmother, not her thrice great aunt. Therefore, there is still the possibility that the painting is of a different family from an earlier generation, indeed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Thomas Lawrence was one of the pre-eminent portrait artists of his generation. He held the post of President of the Royal Academy, and was the preferred painter of King George IV. His works extend from approximately 1790 to 1830. Stylistically there are certainly similarities between the work depicted in the photograph and some of the known works of Thomas Lawrence. By 1812, however, Thomas Lawrence was in very high demand, including by the King, and so one wonders if he would have found time to have done a sitting for a Southwark shipwright's family. In regard to the quality of the work, it is this author's opinion that the quality of the 'Mrs. Sharp' painting is inferior to the general quality of the works of Thomas Lawrence from a similar timeframe.

Barradale opines in his documents that the work might have been painted by Angelika Kauffmann, but contact with Bettina Baumgartel of the Angelika Kauffmann Research Project indicates that the work is not typical of a Kauffmann, and that the work likely dates to 1790-1800, which is after the period Kauffmann was painting in (approximately 1760-1790).

Possibilities for the work therefore include that the subjects are earlier than Mary Sharp (nee Powditch) and her son John, and may have been painted by Thomas Lawrence as an early work. If the subjects are indeed Mary Sharp (nee Powditch) and her son John, painted in 1812, then they may be by another artist, or possibly by a 'studio assistant' of Thomas Lawrence. If this painting were a genuine Thomas Lawrence, it would surely be a valuable work indeed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just as the most valuable Hansby family heirloom had left the shores of Great Britain, so, too, had the only two Hansby sons who would carry the Hansby line to the present day.

The two little brothers of the six elder Hansby sisters would take the centre of gravity of the Hansby family to the southern hemisphere.

## 10. Two young boys travel to New Zealand - the spread of the Hansbys to the Antipodes c. 1860-1900.

In the previous chapter, we have followed the lives of Michael William Hansby's daughters and their families. Now we return again to the perilous trail of the Hansby patrilineage. As noted already, certain Hansby descendants seem to have identified the Hansby patrilineage as extinct in the United Kingdom, with some incorporating the surname into hybrid names in order to perpetuate the name.

When William Michael Joseph Hansby followed in his seafaring brother's footsteps, then, and left South Wales in 1869, he took from Great Britain the last known remnant of the Hansby patrilineage that would continue to the present day.

WMJ Hansby arrived in Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, Australia on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1870, aboard the *Ilione*. He then made his way to New Zealand, presumably on the recommendation of his brother. Just as their father Michael William and his brother Ralph had found their way together to Abergavenny in Wales to revive the Hansby fortunes, so these two brothers now held the future of the Hansby patrilineage between them. However, whilst both would have reasonable broods, they would not maintain quite as close ties as their father and uncle had, and they did not marry sisters.

As mentioned already, Ralph Joseph had chosen a life at sea, and had left the family home as early as age 14. He discards the name Ralph early on, and uses only the name Joseph Hansby, and so he will be referred to as Joseph Hansby from here on. Our family is in possession of his Testimonial Record, which documents his seafaring career.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Route</u>
1864-65	Midshipman	Cassipore	London - NZ - Java - London
1865-70	Third Officer	Golden Sea	London - Australia route

(Receives his Second Mate's Certificate from the English Board of Trade in 1868.)

1870-71	Second Officer	s.s. Kangaroo	Laying cable Singapore to Hong Kong
1871-72	"	"	London - India - London
1873	Third Officer	s.s. Victoria	London - Sydney
1873	Second Mate	Golden Sea	Sydney - London - Quebec - London

(First Mate's Certificate January 1874.)

1874	Chief Officer	Mera	London - Melbourne
1875-77	Chief Officer	s.s. Easby	Australia - New Zealand route.

(Master's Certificate, Wellington NZ, s.s. Easby, January 1877.)

1878-80	Chief Officer	s.s. Hawea	Union Steamship Company of NZ.
1881-88	Master	(various ships of the Union Steamship Co.)	



What is clear enough is that the life of a seaman is not terribly conducive to family life. Whilst WMJH may have traveled to Australia at his brother's suggestion, he did not travel there on his brother's ship, and once there, his brother would not have been around very much for companionship. I am not certain at what point WMJH moved to New Zealand, nor where he lived exactly from 1870-1876.

In Sydney on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1874, Joseph Hansby marries Eliza Annie Read. She had come to Sydney from Warwickshire with her family in 1853; possibly Joseph had met her on his visit to Sydney in 1873. At this point, he switches to the more 'local' New Zealand route, presumably to have less time away from his new wife. His wife shares his great aunt's name, and when they have their first daughter in 1877, he gives her the name of his next eldest sister - Florence. Sadly, this little girl dies in her first year. Her burial record remembers her by her second name Ida. By the time their second daughter is born in 1879, the family has moved to Port Chalmers near Dunedin in New Zealand. This is the base of the Union Steamship Company, and presumably the company has offered Captain Hansby local coastal routes around New Zealand, so that he can be less distant from his young family. Their daughter receives another of her aunt's names - Louise Clifford. Violet Maud is born there in 1881, and William George Hoskins in 1883.

As testament to the dangerous nature of seafaring, a letter is recorded amongst Captain Hansby's testimonials in June 1883 of a gale between Napier and Wellington in which a passenger is lost. The letter absolves the captain of any blame, and is signed by a number of the passengers.

Joseph and Eliza's last child Cyril Joseph was born on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1885 at Port Chalmers. From here, Captain Hansby's fortunes turn ill. As captain of the s.s. Hawea, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1888, having completed a voyage from Manukau to New Plymouth, the vessel struck an uncharted rock whilst docking at New Plymouth, and sank. All the passengers and their luggage were safely landed, but under the company's policy, a captain who loses a ship must be dismissed.

It was at this time, in order to secure a new position as a captain with another company, that Captain Hansby had his Testimonials typed up and bound into a small booklet. This booklet also contains letters from the company and from other passengers which record that the loss of the Hawea was not his fault. The decision to return to Sydney is obviously made at this point, and the arrival of Mrs. Hansby and her four children in Sydney from Wellington on the s.s. Waihora is recorded in July 1888. Captain Hansby seems to have secured a position sailing the coastal routes from Sydney, and he obtains his Pilot's Certificates for Sydney, Newcastle and for Port Phillip Bay (Melbourne) in October 1888.

The following appears in a Sydney newspaper on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1889: "At 10 minutes after 10 o'clock (last night), Captain Hansby of the steamer Jubilee, attempted to jump onto a Paddington tram just as it had crossed King Street. He missed his footing and fell

between the two cars. He then rolled under the footboard and was severely crushed... the unfortunate man died... from a hemorrhage of the lungs. ”

Yet again in the Hansby family history, the tragic and untimely death of a parent would leave a young family to be cared for by the single remaining parent. Their four surviving children, aged from ten down to four years would be cared for by their mother Eliza Annie, possibly with the assistance of her mother Eliza, now a widow in her sixties. We will follow their tale in the next chapter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Let us return now to William Michael Joseph Hansby. When his elder brother left the family home to go to sea, possibly as early as 1861, WMJH is the only remaining male child in the household. The three of his sisters who will marry are already married, and his father is nearly 60 years old. Perhaps spurred by the departure of his elder son, Dr. Michael William Hansby makes as great an investment in his youngest son as he will make for any of his children, and sends WMJ for Pharmacy training in Belgium. While the dates that he was on the Continent are not known, it would seem that he had completed his training by the time of his father's death in August 1869, and we must infer that he left for Australia very soon after learning of his father's death. He has surely only had minimal contact with his seafaring brother since Joseph's exodus eight years ago, and yet he follows in his trail directly, to arrive in Australia in early 1870. Possibly around the time that his brother picks up the New Zealand route, WMJH migrates to New Zealand, and by 1876 he has arrived in Greymouth, which is a small town on the South Island. It is on the northwest coast of the island, quite literally on the opposite side of the island to Dunedin, where Joseph Hansby moves to. It is possible that the brothers might have met up if Joseph was in port at Greymouth.

In 1876 he is working as a chemist in Greymouth. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1877, WMJ Hansby marries Annie Courtney in Reefton, a small gold mining town inland from Greymouth. She is the daughter of John and Mary Courtney, who seem to have originated from Kyneton, a town in country Victoria. They seem to have been living in New Zealand for some years prior to their daughter's marriage, and I find no evidence that they had met WMJH in Victoria before they all moved to New Zealand.

Annie is ten years younger than WMJ Hansby, and they start their family quickly. There is no delay in his having a son and heir - Joseph Patrick Hansby is born on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1878. Perhaps he is named for WMJ's brother who goes by the name of Joseph, just as Joseph names his first son William a few years later. It may well be that there is still good blood between these two brothers, even though they have been mostly separated over the recent years.

Over the next 22 years, WMJ and Annie Hansby will complete the largest Hansby family in history, eclipsing WMJ's own family of 12 offspring. They will have no less than 17 children, of whom 16 will reach adulthood. Twelve, including the first six, are boys, surely guaranteeing the continuation of the Hansby patrilineage. The first five are born in

Greymouth up to 1883, and then the family moves to Reefton for the remainder. WMJ, a doctor's son, works as a chemist for his entire career.

To write the stories of the descendant families of all of these offspring would constitute a separate volume in itself, and I will not attempt this here. I include only a brief summary of the 17 known children.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Brief Summary</u>
Joseph Patrick	1878	Moved to Sydney, had 3 boys and a girl.
William Charles John ('Bill')	1879	Survived by 3 boys, 3 girls, moved to Melbourne.
Leo John	1880	Painter. Married Catherine Hughes. ?no children.
Alva Mary Stephen	1882	Rugby player. Unmarried. Died Westport 1913.
Ignatius Courtney ('Nash')	1883	Served WW1. Unmarried. Died Gisborne 1940.
Francis McHugh ('Frank')	1884	Served WW1. Married Mary Rogan, ?no kids.
Marie Joseph	1885	Died Reefton aged 7 weeks.
Ralph Hillary	1887	Tailor. Married Teresa Shaw. 5 girls, 3 boys.
Mary Joseph ('Molly')	1888	Married Walter Winkleman. Died 1914, no kids.
Aloysius John ('Jack')	1889	WW1: KIA at Passchendale October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1917.
Ellen Ann ('Nell')	1890	Married Bernard Hughes, 6 children. Wellington.
Clara Florence	1892	Married Patrick Ryan, 2 children, died 1925.
Louis Joseph	1893	Hairdresser. Married Annie Coley. 3 girls.
Michael Joseph ('Mick')	1894	Married Agnes Hughes, had 4 boys and a girl.
Cyril Thomas	1896	Barber. Married Muriel Boyce. 2 children.
Anthony Basil	1898	Married Daisy Fox. 2 boys, 4 girls.
Alice Bernadine ("Bernie")	1900	Married Tame Patete, ? 7 children.

It is notable that Leo, Nell and Mick all marry Hughes's - they are indeed 3 siblings. (The remaining two Hughes girls become nuns.) WMJ and Annie move to Wellington in 1919 to live with daughter Nell. Their golden anniversary is announced in the Wellington papers in February 1927. Around this time, the Duke and Duchess of York (later to become King George VI and the Queen Mother) visit Wellington, and although WMJ and Annie were living only a few minutes' walk from the port at Wellington, there is no official record of any meeting taking place between the Royals and the golden anniversary couple. Had they met, WMJH might well have been able to point out to the Duchess their shared ancestor Ralph Hansby of Beverley...

Annie dies shortly after, in August 1927, and WMJ in November 1930. Their prodigious brood has surely gone on to create hundreds of present day descendants, including all the New Zealand Hansbys. It is notable that WMJH retains his Catholic faith throughout his life, whereas his brother Joseph converts to Church of England.

As my own branch of the Hansby tree is Joseph's, I will explore this in my final chapter. For me, the irony lies in Joseph Hansby being born in old South Wales, and dying in New South Wales.

## 11. The Hansbys of Sydney c. 1890- 1950.

When Captain Joseph Hansby missed his footing stepping onto a moving tram at the corner of King and Elizabeth Streets in Sydney late one winter's night in 1889, he was just shy of 42 years old, and had barely been living in Sydney a year since having to relocate from New Zealand in some disgrace. Perhaps he had just returned to port, and was hurrying to catch the last tram home, perhaps the tramcar was slippery with winter rain, but the inescapable ignominy was that a ship's captain, who had sailed and survived the stormy oceans of the world for the last quarter of a century, should meet his worldly end under a Sydney tramcar.

As noted, he left four young children of ages four through ten, to the care of his widow Eliza Annie. Newspaper reports of the captain were that he was very much liked and respected, and that his untimely passing was much grieved on both sides of the Tasman.

Louise Clifford Hansby became a secretary in Sydney, and retired to a convent in Ashfield.

Violet Maud Hansby married Herbert Cummins, and they had 2 girls and a boy.

William George Hoskins Hansby married relatively late, firstly to an Edith MacCann at age 37, then to Millie Edna Belfield at age 47. She was 18 years his junior, and they had 3 daughters. Both William and their middle daughter Barbara died in 1940.

The only one of Joseph's children to perpetuate the Hansby line in New South Wales was his youngest Cyril Joseph. In 1911, he married Jessie Cluny Brooks in Rockdale, in Sydney's inner south. Jessie was the elder daughter of Thomas David Brooks and Kate Jessie Whittle. This young family had travelled to Australia on the sailing vessel 'Cluny Castle' in December 1886, and they evidently found the voyage so agreeable they named their daughter for the boat. TD Brooks was an orphan when he arrived in Australia, and it seems he found some commonality with the younger Cyril Hansby, who had lost his own father at the age of four. By 1908, TD Brooks had named Cyril Hansby as an executor of his will, even before Cyril's marriage to Jessie.

Cyril and Jessie had 3 children - Thomas Cyril Hoskin in 1912, Frank Sydney in 1915, and Amy in 1917. The family then moved to Manly, a seaside suburb to the north of Sydney, and Cyril Joseph bought a hardware shop here. Perhaps he had some premonition of his health failing, because he sold this shop prior to his premature death in 1925, aged just 39, and once again, a Hansby widow would have to take the reins of her young family.

Thomas Cyril Hoskin would go on to become a bank manager. He marries Ellen Grace Cates in Manly in 1937, and they raise their 3 children there.

Frank Sydney marries Joyce Maie Brewer in 1943. Amy is less fortunate – she falls pregnant out of wedlock, and tragically dies from septicaemia following an abortion on 29 Feb 1936, aged only 18.

