

The Harrisons of Under Whittle c. 1590 to 1561-1661 Abraham, Edmund Senior and Edmund Harrison Junior

Entrapment, destroying wills and more court cases.

Abraham Harrison b.circa 1572? - d 1637: Living at 'Whittle Bancke' from c. 1590 -1637

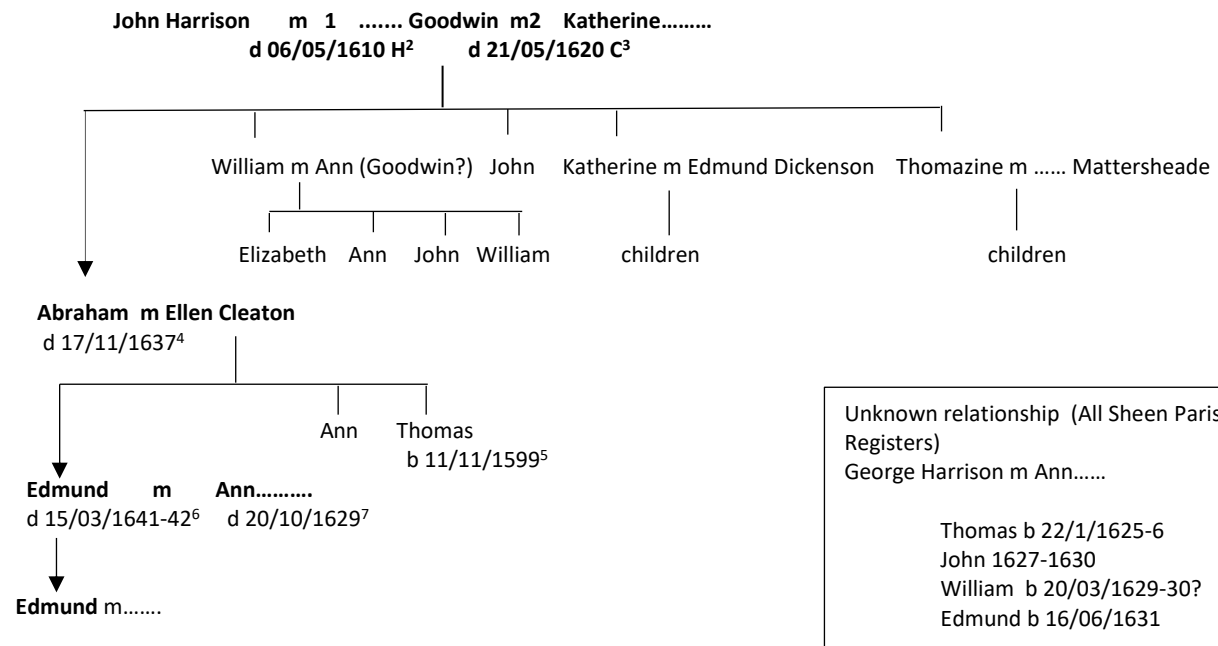
Abraham Harrison was the son of John Harrison of Hurdlow/Earl Sterndale, who was a comparatively yeoman wealthy farmer who had been actively involved in enclosing and expanding his lands and tenancies, including leasing Whytle Banke. Abraham was born around 1572 with his mother being John's first wife. He marries Ellen Cleaton in c. 1590. when he is only 18 much to his father annoyance, who felt her father and brother had entrapped him into marriage.

'Five years passed (c1590) Edward Cleaton of Buxton Yeoman and Anthony his son persuaded him (Abraham) to take to wife, Ellen Cleaton, daughter of Edward and sister of Anthony by whose subtle and contrived persuasions and importuning of Abraham who was 18 by then was allowed and overcome to accept as his wife.....'

According to John, an agreement was reached that Ellen would bring £100 with her and he would give Abraham £150 in stock. He would also give Abraham Whittle Bank and *'did affirm to Abraham a certain farm tenement called Whittle bank for his natural life'*. He also agreed the provision for Ellen if Abraham died before her. She would have a third part of the farm and £4 yearly as a widow.

John, however, claimed that as well as the £100 Edward and Anthony would give Abraham, he would also have other sums of money. Ellen would also have two suits of apparel and £10. When Edward died, they would also receive £40. But this hadn't happened. John also claimed that despite Edward making a will with Abraham as a witness, Antony Cleaton, Ellen's brother, concealed the will and testament and took administration of all the goods and cattle of his father, worth £400 for himself, as though he had died intestate.¹

Despite holding the lease John Harrison may have never lived at Whittle Bank though we do not know who lived here before the farm was given to Abraham and Ellen.



¹ The National Archives : C2/ELIZ/H10 Harrison v Cleaton 11 May 1595?

² Hartington St Giles Parish Registers (HPR) 'Sepult Johis Harrison Senioris de Earle Stearnedale' Maii 6 1610

³ HPR :May 21 1620 'Sep Katherineina Harrison quond ux Johis harrison apud Chelmorton'; Chelmorton St John the Baptist Parish Registers (C) '(illeg.) Harrison the wife of John Harrison of Earl Sternd(ale) (illeg) buried XXith day of Maye 1620'

⁴ Sheen Parish Registers (SPR) 1637: 'S Abrahami Harrison septendecimo die Novembris

⁵ SPR 1599 : 'B Thoma filij Abraha(illeg) Harrison & Hellena uxor eius 11 die Nov (illeg)'

⁶ SPR 1641/42 : 'S Edmundi Harrison quindecimo 2 die Martii'

⁷ SPR 1629 : 'S Anna uxoris Edmundi Harrison 29 die Octobris'

Abraham and Ellen had three children with the youngest (surviving) child, Thomas, being baptised at Sheen in 1599. (NB Sheen Parish Registers start in 1597).

Although his brother William becomes more involved with his father's disputes, Abraham also appears as a plaintiff in the case between John Frost and the Harrisons. Abraham and his brother were the defendants in a court case between 1603-25, regarding land rights in Earl Sterndale.⁸ The arguments about land become contentious including claims of theft and with Abraham's brother William being accused of poisoning Katherine Wardle.

In 1610 Abraham's father died leaving a will. (See Wills) Whitle Bancke isn't mentioned, probably because of the earlier agreement, but Abraham was given 1/3 part of Thurkulowe Pastures (west of Dowell, 162 acres in total)⁹. His name also appears, with his brother's and mother's, on Fullowe meadows in Senior's 1614 map.¹⁰ His father left Abraham's son, Thomas, £20 (very roughly equivalent to 2+ years wages for a farming labourer) and Ann £5 13s and 4d. Edmund was given half the lease of Buxton Mills, with his cousin William having the other half. However, this would lead to conflict between the two families as, in 1623, William Harrison takes Abraham and Edmund to court over property in Buxton and Fairfield, Derbyshire.¹¹

The 1632-3 Senior Survey done for the Harpers, showed Abraham had just over 28 acres at Whitle, which though not extensive, was similar to many.¹² Details of the Survey and leases can be found in Harris S. Peeling Back the Layers :Final Report

It is not known what happens to Abrahams' youngest children, but it seems that his son Edmund was living in live in Sheen, as Ann, wife of Edmund Harrison, is buried here on the 20th October 1629¹³. A George and Ann Harrison also appear in Sheen parish registers, between 1625 and 1631, and then disappear. There is no known connection between them, and no known record of them, either before the move to Sheen or after they have left. Though purely speculative, one possibility is that it is Edmund's son. Another Edmund Harrison, and 'wife', are having children baptised and buried between 1632-46 so it is possible that Edmund and his family moved to Sheen in the 1620s either because he had lost the case against his cousin William or to help with the family farm.

Abraham dies in 1637 and is buried at Sheen. It is not known when Ellen dies.

⁸ The National Archives (TNA) C 2/Jasl/F8/39 1603-28 John Frost v William Harrison, Thomas Harrison, Abraham Harrison and Robert Holmes. Subject: lands in Earl Sterndale held of manor of Hartington, Derbyshire. TNA DL 4/60/35 1613-14 Harrison. V Frost. Depositions concerning ten and a half acres of land in Earl Sterndale, Derbyshire.11 James I

⁹ Ron Weston, 'Hartington, A Landscape History' p113-5

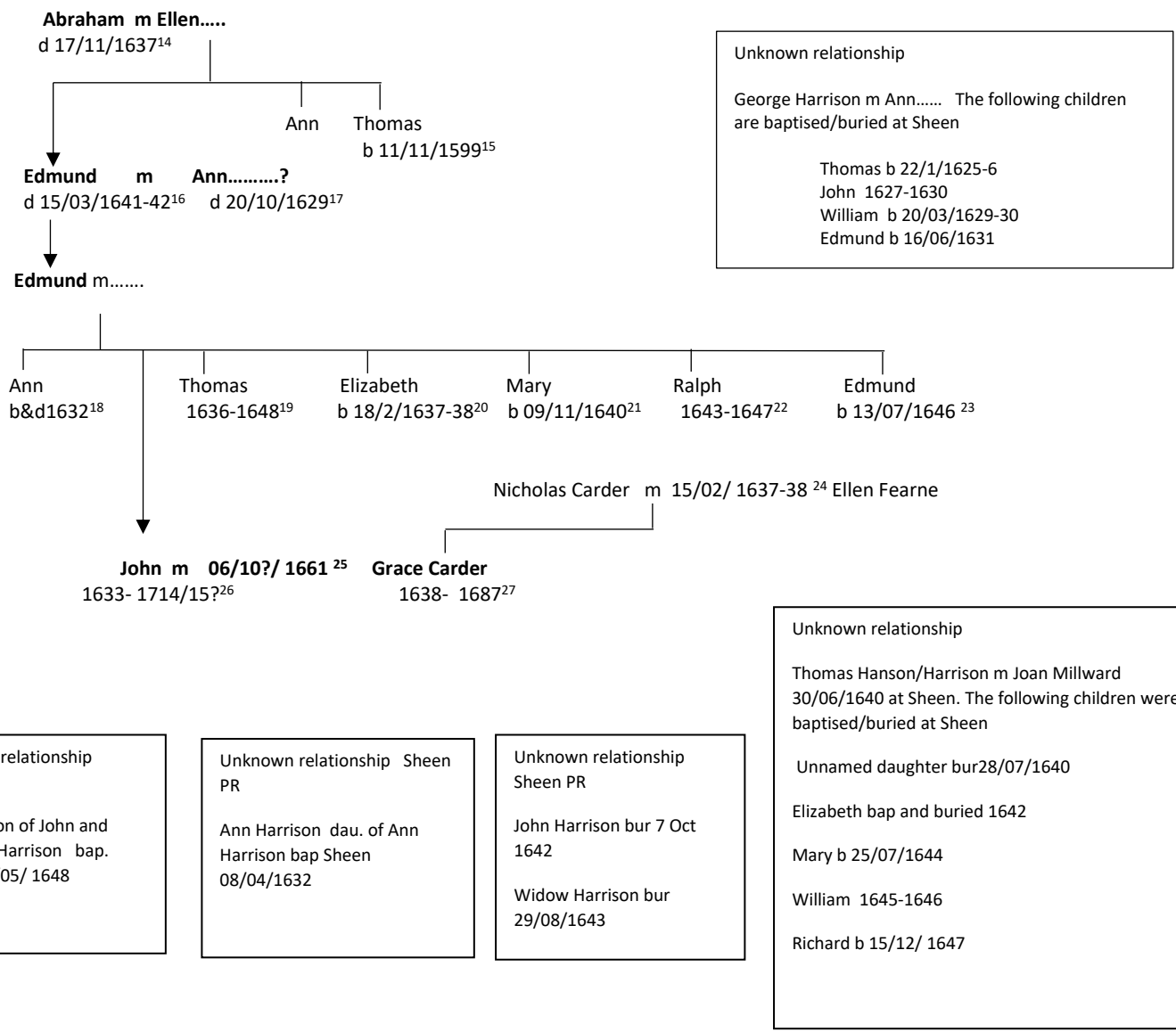
¹⁰ Ibid p 106

¹¹ TNA C 3/354/36

¹² Harris S. Peeling Back the Layers Final report

¹³ It is possible she could be Edmund Harrison junior's wife.

The Edmund Harrisons: Leaseholders 1637-1641 and 1641- after 1651



¹⁴ Sheen St Luke's Parish Registers (SPR) 1637: 'S Abrahami Harrison septendecimo die Novembris'

¹⁵ SPR 1599 : 'B Thoma filij Abraha(illeg) Harrison & Hellena uxor eius 11 die Nov (illeg)'

¹⁶ SPR 1641/42 : 'S Edmundi Harrison quindecimo 2 die Martii'

¹⁷ SPR 1629 : 'S Anna uxoris Edmundi Harrison 29 die Octobris'

¹⁸ SPR 1632 : 'B Anna filia Edmundi Harrison octo die Aprilis , S Eiusdem Anna decimo tertio Aprilis'

¹⁹ SPR 1635/36 : 'B Thoma filii Edmundi Harrison vicessimo quinto Augusti'; SR 1648 : 'S Thoma filii Edmundi Harrison quinto Aprilis'

²⁰ SPR 1637/38 : 'B Elizabetha filia Edmundi Harrison decimo octavo ffebrua(r)ii'

²¹ SPR 1640 : 'B Maria filia Edmundi Harrison nono die Novembris'

²² SPR 1643 : 'B Radulphi filii Edmundi Harrison decimo die Decembris'; SR 1647 : 'S Radulphi filii Edmundi Harrison vicessimo Junii'

²³ SPR 1646 : 'B Edmundi filii Edmundi Harrison decimo tertio Julii'

²⁴ Hartington, St Giles Parish Registers (HPR) 1637/38 : ' ffebr 15 Matr inter Nichola.. Carder de Ludwell et Elenam ffearne de heahcote istiu? poch'

²⁵ HPR 1661 : 'Oct? 6 Matr Inter Johnem Harrison de whitle in poch de Sheene et Gratia Carder ?st?? pochia'

²⁶ SPR 1633 : 'B Johan filii Edmundi Harrison vicessimo quinto Augusti'; SR 1714/15 : S Johannis Harrison de Whitle septimo die Martii'

²⁷ HPR 1638 : 'November 18 Bapt Gracia filia Nicolai Carder de Ludwell et Elena uxoe eius.'; SR 1687 : 'S Gracia Harrison decimo quarto die Aprilis'

Edmund Harrison (Senior): Tenant of Under Whitle 1637-1641

Edmund Harrison (senior) was the eldest son of Abraham Harrison. Not only would he take over Whitle Bank after his father's death, he had been given half of Buxton / Fairfield Mills tenancy by his grandfather with his cousin William Harrison holding the other half. By 1623 this had caused a dispute in the family, with Edmund and his father Abraham defending themselves against William Harrison's claims.²⁸ Interestingly a dispute about these mills arises 80 years later in 1708-1709 involving a William Harrison and referring to his great uncle another William Harrison.²⁹

There are no known records of his marriage or any children but 'Ann, wife of Edmund Harrison,' was buried at Sheen in 1629. It is possible that he married and had his children baptised elsewhere, possibly related to his tenancy of Buxton Mills, but moved to Whitle as the tenancy ended, or due to losing the case in 1623, or because his father was becoming older and needed more help with the farm, which would be passed to him according to the lease. (Though Ann has been placed as his wife in the family tree as the more likely scenario, it is feasible that she was Edmund Harrison Junior's first wife.)

Though there is no known link it is probable that the Edmund Harrison, who had children baptised at Sheen from 1632 was his (eldest?) son – an Edmund Harrison was renting Whitle, in 1651, ten years after Edmund Harrison senior's death.

During the 30 year period, 1620 to 1650, there are a number of Harrison families who seem to live in Sheen for a period of time then disappear from the records. One possibility is that Edmund and Ann had other children, who came to Sheen with them. Intriguingly, a George Harrison, (and unnamed wife) have a daughter Ellen baptised at Chelmorton in 1624/25³⁰ but then disappears from the records and the George and Ann Harrison name their (known) youngest son Edmund. However, there are, so far, no indications if these families are near, or distant, relatives or are no relation at all.

Edmund dies in 1641

Edmund Harrison (Junior): Tenant of Under Whitle 1641- ?

Though there isn't any evidence it is most likely that Edmund was the eldest son of Edmund senior and was either helping to run the farm with his father, or even with his grandfather, from the late 1620s or early 1630s. He probably married around 1631, but there is no known record of his marriage and the baptism records for his children simply state his name.

Edmund would have taken over the messuage after his father's death but this was coinciding with the start of the civil war.

Records are limited, but there was genuine anger locally about King Charles' rule. Leek, and the Staffordshire Moorlands generally, were parliamentarian. King Charles 1 had ruled without parliament from 1629-40 and was attempting to raise money through various schemes including 'ship money'. This tax was usually collected from coastal towns when the country was at war. Charles altered the demand to collect ship money off every area. This could be extortionate eg Tideswell was made responsible for the entire cost of running a 350-ton ship, down to weapons, food and wages. So many local men were summoned for military service that the townsfolk protested. Although only paid by people with a certain level of wealth, and at first, generally collected as it turned into an annual tax resistance against it developed. In Feb 1637, Sheriff Littleton of Staffordshire commented though he been very 'rough' with many, he had only collected a quarter and 'weare I to suffer death for my neglect I weare not doe more.'³¹ By 1642, skirmishes were occurring in the wider locality, and these would continue during the following year. In February 1643 a band of Moorlanders mounted an unsuccessful attack on Stafford. By May a parliamentary garrison had been set up at Leek, and by March 1644, a parliamentary committee had been established there. In February 1645, townships in Totmonslow hundred (including Sheen) were ordered to send armed watchmen to guard Leek. In 1648 part of the defeated Scottish army made its way to Leek. Even if the family were not involved in skirmishes or the Moorlanders, money, requisition of horses, other animals and food, together with additional taxes put considerable burdens on the local population.

Edmund and his wife had at least seven children but only three were to survive to adulthood: John, Mary and Edmund. Nothing further is known about the last two children.

²⁸ The National Archive (TNA) C 3/354/36 William Harrison v Abraham Harrison Edmund Harrison re property in Buxton and Fairfield, Derbyshire

²⁹ TNA E 134/7Anne/Mich20 James Carrington v. Rowland Swan, Willm. Harrison.: Right and title to mills called Fairfield or Buxton Mills, situate on the river Wye, in the county of Derby, &c., &c. [The names of Edward Swan (defendant's father), William Harrison (defendant's great uncle), and John Carrington (plaintiff's father), are mentioned.]: Chester; Derby. 7 Anne (8 March 1708 7 March 1709)

³⁰ Chelmorton Parish Registers : 'Bapt helen Harrison daughter of George Harrison ..flagg husbandman was baptised the tenth day of march an dom 1624'

³¹ Langelüddecke, Henrik. "'I Finde All Men & My Officers All Soe Unwilling': The Collection of Ship Money, 1635–1640." *Journal of British Studies*, vol. 46, no. 3, 2007, pp. 509–542. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/515442.

Though the 1646 Harpur Crew rent rolls show William Horobin paying 15s and 2 capons there is no reference to either an Edmund or a widow Harrison.³² However an Edmund Harrison is shown on the 1651 rent rolls, with William Howrobin , both paying 15s at Lady Day 1651.³³

Edmund probably dies between 1651 and 1666 as it is his son's John's name that appears on the 1666 Hearth Tax.³⁴ There is no known record of his burial.

³² Derbyshire Record Office DRO D 2375/E/Q/2/3/2 (D2375/M/174/5/17) March 15th 1646 Account of rents and other payments received by William Wardle within the parish of Alstonefield

³³ DRO D2375/E/R/5/8 (D2375/M/103/3) 1651-54 Rental of estates at Alstonefield and elsewhere in Staffordshire

³⁴ Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 1925, pp. 155-242, 'Lay Subsidy 256/31 Hearth Tax. Totmonslow Hundred', and for the Sheen section, see pp. 203-4. The tax registers the presence of William Horobin and John Harrison, and also several families who have links with Whitle.