

The Newtons of Stagwood Hill



Stagwood Hill. Photo David Cockman

Introduction

Morehouse (1861) describes Stagwood or Stackwood Hill as a minor gentry estate. *It occupies a bold and prominent ridge on the eastern acclivity above Newmill, whence the ascent is very steep, but at the top it opens out into a wide and spacious flat, stretching out for a considerable distance, with a gentle descent towards the village of Fulstone, and possesses a south-easterly aspect. This estate comprises a number of farms of highly productive land; pleasingly wooded and belted with plantations.*

...

The house is situated on the verge of the hill, and although of ancient foundation, has been repeatedly altered and modernized. It is surrounded by a number of yew trees, some of a considerable size : an evident indication of its having been from a remote period the residence of a family of respectability.

...

The entrance hall, which was of moderate size, was fitted up with old-fashioned furniture, not so much of a choice or antique character as indicating its descent from "sire to son." The walls were hung with guns in their racks of various kinds, both of early and modern invention; with pistols, swords, halberts, crossbows, and various other weapons and instruments.

Its late occupant, William Newton, who renamed the property from Stackwood to Stagwood in the belief that that was the earlier form, matched its minor gentry nature: *His general business habits led him to take an active part in whatever was calculated to promote the prosperity of the district, and in all matters of public interest, whether political, civil, or ecclesiastical. In the midst of his varied occupations he had been a considerable reader, and possessing an excellent memory, his store of knowledge was not inconsiderable. His perception of character was remarkable.*

Notwithstanding his numerous engagements, he was a keen sportsman, and retained a lively interest in active sports long after advancing age precluded his further participating in them.

...

In this room [the entrance hall] he usually sat in his declining years, with a number of dogs at his feet like a true sportsman of "olden time." He died on the 24th September, 1834, aged 90 years.

Morehouse, himself a grandson of William Newton, had found evidence of early occupants, the de Stakwoods, a John who was a churchwarden of Kirkburton in 1490 and an Ellen, a widow, who in 12 Henry VIII, leased property in Holmehouse to a John Tynker with the rent reserved to a John Kay. Morehouse presumed she was the widow of the earlier John. This is uncertain as with a three decade gap she could have been of a later generation. He did not know how the property came to pass from the de Stakwoods to the Newtons.

Early history of Stackwood

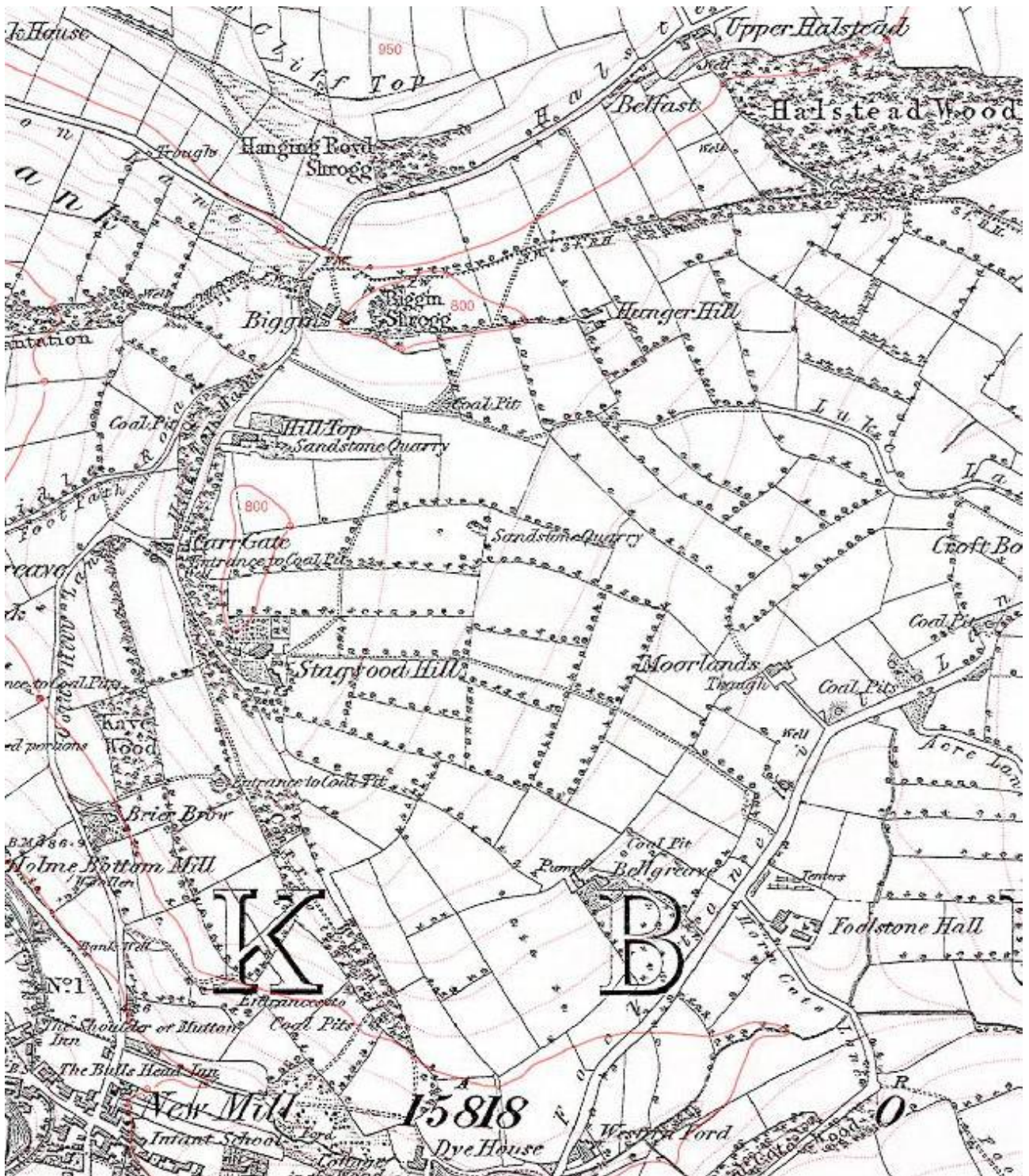
Stackwood seems to have been the original name. Land in Stackwodeker (ker means carr) was taken in from the manorial waste in 1307 (Baildon, 1906). The Manor of Wakefield seems to have been promoting intakes from the waste at this time. The English population was at its peak just before the famine of 1315-1321 and the Black Death a couple of decades later. Our area's turn came at the court on Aug 5th when nearly 70 permissions were given to take in land. These included, in Fulstone, Richard son of Matthew de Mora who paid 12d to take an acre in Stakwodeker at 6d rent, Adam the Waynwrith who paid 3s for 3 acres at Stakwodeker and Roghloweker at 18d rent and Thomas son of William de Butterley who paid 2s for 2 acres in Paulynbothehirst and Stackwodeker at 12d rent. Some of these places cannot now be identified but other places where enclosures took place were Breriker which may be Briar Brow and Moreker which might be Moorlands (see map).

Further intakes were authorised at a court on January 6th following (1308 by modern reckoning but 1307 old-style). ? Ferneoule (possibly the Adam Fernoule who had taken land near Butterleystiel and Underhorne in the August court) paid 3s 6d to take 3½ acres of new land on Elerenbank in Stackwode at 21d rent and on the 25th Adam the Waynewrith also paid 3s 6d to take another 3½ acres in Stakwode at 21d rent. On October 18th Richard son of Michael (who had taken 3 acres in Edmondleyker in Fulstone in the original August court) and Eva his wife paid 4s to take 4 acres on the road in Stacwode at 2s rent.

There were no further Stackwood intakes listed in this volume of the court rolls but at the following court, November 11th, it was found that Nicholas s. of Nicholas Keneward assaulted William the Forester in Stacwode and maliciously charged him with sundry offences committed in his bailiwick. William Hatfield was the forester¹ of Holne and had taken land in Wooldale. Nicholas and William both seem to have been associated with Wooldale so this might simply have been a neighbour's quarrel and a coincidence that they met at Stackwood.

There is nothing in published material to link these early references to the Stackwoods of the late C15th and early C16th. At the court of June 14 1352 William Wade and Robert de Stakwod admitted withholding a pledge of 10s from Robert Hayward 10s (Habberjam, O'Regan, Hale and Fraser, 1987). However there is no indication that this became a hereditary name at this time: there were no de Stakwods in the 1379 Lay Subsidy returns (Anon, 1881).

¹ The word 'forester' does not refer to the land being wooded; it means that it was an area for hunting, primarily deer. In Morehouse's view it was the successor to the free chase of Cartworth, a possession of Edward the Confessor. The forester was the official appointed to oversee it. We know from Domesday book that the manor of Wakefield was a royal possession before the Conquest and that Cartworth was part of it but there is no evidence as to its use.



Stackwood and its surroundings on the 1st ed OS 6" map

Stackwoods, Kayes, Bollands and Newtons

Morehouse mentioned John Kay. A heriot listed as 1519 in the manorial rolls (Gibbons, 1901) shows something of the relationship: *John Cay pays 40s. heriot on death of his aunt Ellena Stakwod.* There is some difficulty with the dating of this. Morehouse's date for the lease is 12 Henry VIII. 1 Henry starts 21 Apr 1509 so 12 Henry cannot be prior to 21 Apr 1520. This implies that she was still alive at the time when the heriot implies she was dead. Gibbons does not give the exact date of the court; it seems likely, therefore, that he is simply citing the start date of the court

year which would be Michaelmas 1519 and this would then extend into 1520. In any event the Stakwood surname died with Ellen.

John had already been living at Stackwood Hill some time earlier. Collins 1902 (Appendix 33 Bolland pp ccvii - ccviii) describes an indenture of 30 Apr 1514 signed in Shelley. William, John and James Goldthorpe, sons of a John Goldthorpe *for certain large sums of money paid by them, agree that George Catell, John Kay of Stakwood Hill, Peter Kay, Robert Palmer; Sir Ric. Palmer, chaplain, Thomas Blacker and Gilbert Savile shall recover against the said William Goldthorpe, &c.* It is unclear to whom "them" referred but it sounds like a mortgage extended to the Goldthorpes (lords of the manor of Shelley) as she then describes a fine of 25 Henry (1533) when George Castell, John Kay de Stackwodehill and Robert Palmer were plaintiffs against William Goldthorpe. The property was in Goldthorpe, Bolton on Dearne, Billyngley, Bamburgh and Shepley.

The Kay[e] family was descended from a John Kay, newly settled in Farnley Tyas at the time of the Richard II poll tax. Herald's visitations credit him with at least six and possibly seven legitimate sons and one illegitimate. Whatever the exact number it's clear that there were plenty of spare sons to be found homes for and by the C16th there were Kayes in Holme, Netherthong and widely spread over Fulstone, Hepworth and Wooldale. The latter are particularly difficult to analyse and John was one of them. He was also the last at Stackwood Hill (see below). Peter Cay is also mentioned in a number of actions involving John and they may have been brothers. The name of Kaye Wood below Stackwood Hill suggests a long association between the Kayes and this part of Fulstone. Possibly either de Stakwode was a by-name for a branch of the Kayes or else Ellen was a Kaye who had brought the property to the marriage.

At some point a Bolland family also came to be living at Stackwood Hill. Collins pegs her account of the Bollands on the notion that Stackwood Hill, on account of its position overlooking much of the former forest, was a hunting lodge and seat of the forester and that the Bollands or Bolands with a name derived from the forest of Bowland came to Stackwood Hill to take up the post of Chief Forester. William Bolland of Stackwood is mentioned several times in the manorial rolls without any indication that he was a forester so this suggestion seems somewhat fanciful and perhaps she was influenced by William Newton.

John Kaye (Cay) seems to have been at odds with a number of people. One of them was William Bolland as becomes clear from the court record (Weikel, 1993). On 12 Oct 1537 William Bolland sued John Cay of Stakwood Hill for taking and unjustly detaining draught animals. It appears that John had taken four cows and put them in Sandal Castle. A Peter Cay was one of his pledges. In the draft roll of the same court another entry shows them as being reconciled. On 15 Oct 1537 William Bolland was amerced 12d and John Cay of Stakwodhill 4s for making *an affray together and at the same affray John drew the blood of William with arms.*

Subsequently John Cay (probably the same) was amerced 5s on 08 May 1538 for making *an affray on John Chalesworth constable there [Wooldale] and drew the blood of the said John by force and arms contrary to the lord king's peace and the said John Cay (20d) made an affray on Thomas Rowley by force and arms contrary to the lord king's peace.* Ironically on 04 Oct 1538 *Thomas Littilwelwod and John Cay were elected graves and they substituted John Chalesworth,* presumably the same John Chalesworth (Charlesworth) who had been the victim of the previous affray in his role as constable.

Although we are not told the circumstances it appears that he could not stay out of trouble as on 31 Jan 1539 (note these rolls are calendared with new-style dates) *to this court came John Cay of Stakwoddhill in mercy to appear at the next court at Wakefeld after the feast of Easter before Thomas earl of Rutland steward of the court there or his deputy immediately in order to keep the peace against all men under pain of £20 to be raised from his lands and tenements to the King's use, agreed before Thomas Grene deputy of the said earl and Justice of the Peace.*

On 05 Dec 1539 John surrendered the reversion after his death *of one messuage called Stakwodhill with all buildings built thereon and all lands and meadows pertaining to the same messuage in Fulston now in the tenure of William Bolland: to the use of Alice, now the wife of William Newton daughter of the said John Cay, and the heirs of the body of the said Alice lawfully procreated between her and the said William Newton.* The rent was 9s but if it was overdue by 10 days it would be lawful for the aforesaid John and his heirs to re-enter, repossess and enjoy the 2 closes of land parcel of the said lands and tenements this surrender notwithstanding. There was an entry fine of 3s 4d.

At the same time he surrendered *the aforesaid annual rent of 10s issuing and to be taken from the said messuage called Stakwodhill with all lands and tenements pertaining to the same now in the occupation of Alice the wife of the said William Newton* to his bastard sons Edmund and Arthur with an entry fine of 20d. There appears to be a discrepancy of 1s in the rents; possibly the 'i' of 'ix' has been missed.

On 19 Jun 1540 he surrendered two more properties, a messuage and 16 acres and 3 roods of land and meadows and a messuage “not built on” or 15 acres of land and meadow in Fulstone with appurtenances after the completion of a lease to Ralph Morehous for a term of years (not stated) and the reversion after his death of the rent of 20s. Both of these properties were divided between Edmund and Arthur with the reversion to the other should they die without legitimate heirs and final reversion to a further bastard child, Ellen. There were entry fines of 5s for each of the sons.

In 1544 (Anon, 1881) Alice Newton paid 2d heriot on the death of her father, John Cay of Stakwodhill. Although the Kirkburton parish² registers go back to this time his burial is not registered. In 1548 Arthur died without issue and Edmund paid 8s heriot for Arthur's half of the 1540 properties.

Collins, 1901 continues the account of the Bolland family in her Appendix but the relevant parish register entries are in volume 1, Collins, 1887. The parish registers only start from 1540-1 so the baptisms of oldest of the Bolland children will not be included. Those who are are Johanna, 14 Sep 1541 (44)³ and John, 21 May 1544 (231). Annes (?Agnes) Bolland, wife of Vylm Bolland (the register was going through a phase of English entries with idiosyncratic spellings) was buried on 28 Feb 1572 new style (2859) and William (Guilielmus Bollaund) on 24 Jun 1578 (3372).

There are several marriages of Bollands who would probably have been children of William but the one who may have followed him in Stackwood was Richard. He married Annes Lokvod on 21 Apr 1571 (2756) and their son Jeorge was baptised on 03 May 1571 (2766). Their daughter Annes and another were baptised on 02 Feb 1572 new style (2854) and their daughter Susanna on 13 Mar 1575 new style (3159) when Richard was described as de Stackwood Hill. None of the succeeding records mention Stackwood Hill so it's not clear whether he stayed on there after the death of his father. Mary was baptised on 06 May 1579 (3463), Edward on 14 Mar 1582 new style (3710) His wife Agnes was buried on 14 Oct 1587⁴ (4423). Richard married Jennett Rowley on 13 Sep 1589 (4727) but was buried on 09 Feb 1591 (4898).

The Newtons of Netherthong

Morehouse's notes on Netherthong were published posthumously (1895). One short section is entitled *Newton of Moor Gate, in Nether Thong*. He describes the family as a branch of the Newtons of Stackwood Hill. The situation seems to have been a little more complex than that.

² Fulstone, which included Stackwood Hill, Wooldale, Thurstonland and New Mill all lay within Kirkburton parish. Netherthong, Meltham, Honley, Upperthong and Holme were in Almondbury parish. Holmfirth was a chapel of ease for Wooldale, Hepworth, Cartworth, Holme, Austonley and Upperthong, Honley for Netherthong. Both parishes have gaps in the record.

³ The numbers in parentheses are Collins's serial numbers

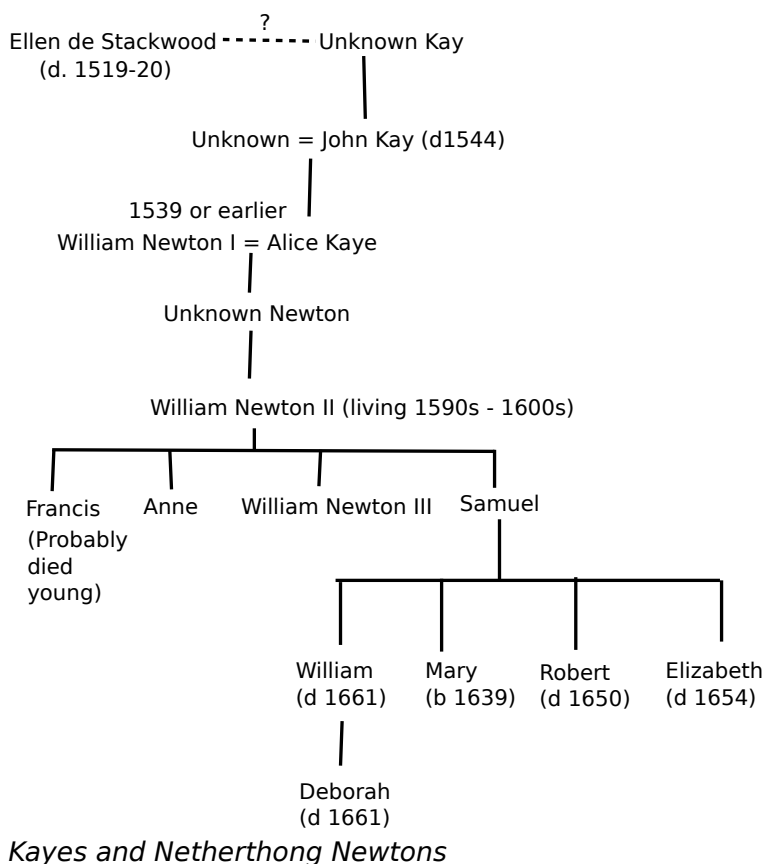
⁴ In Collins' Appendix this is printed as 1577

Although John Kaye made the Stackwood Hill property over to his daughter in 1539 it was tenanted by the Bollands for some years following. There is no evidence as to where William and Alice Newton lived nor to William's origins. There are no baptisms of Newtons recorded in the Kirkburton registers during the C16th to suggest they lived in that parish. The earliest recorded Newton baptisms in either Almondbury (Taylor, Harry, 1974 & 1975; Taylor, Harry & Jessica, 1984 & 1988; HDFHS, various) or Kirkburton are in the former and start in the 1590s which suggest that the father was a grandson of William and Alice born about the 1570s. The Almondbury register does, however, record the marriage of George Kaye to Joanne Newton of Glossop in 1570. The Newtons of Newton Hall, Mottram had medieval origins and extended into Glossopdale by the C16th. William may have been a member of that family.

There are indications of the Newton family being associated with Netherthong before living at Stackwood Hill.

The National Archives have a reference C3/131/49 for pleadings of William Newton and Alice Newton his wife, plaintiffs vs Peter Kaye and Thomas Kaye, defendants relating to property in Nether Thong, Almondbury. The case was from the Court of Chancery, Six Clerks Office for the period 1558-1579. The document has not been digitised so cannot be downloaded. Despite the broad dating of this document it's feasible that this are the same William and Alice Newton of the 1539 grant.

The baptisms alluded to above are of three children of a William Newton, Francis, 31 Dec 1592, Anna, baptised 02 Jul 1598 and Samuel, baptised 12 Apr 1606. These are the first Newton baptisms recorded in the Almondbury registers. Nothing further is heard of Francis. Anna is possibly the Anne mentioned below and, given the gaps between these dates, there are likely to have been other children.



The registers may not place this William Newton as resident of Netherthong but there was a connection. A William Newton was godfather to Mary, daughter of Thomas Woodhead of

Netherthong baptised 06 May 1593 at Almondbury and Samuel was described as being of Netherthong on the baptism of his daughter Maria on 15 Dec 1639 and the burial of his son Robert on 14 Jun 1650. An Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Newton was buried on 29 Oct 1654 but the abode given is Upperthong. A William Newton of Netherthong was buried on 08 Oct 1661 and Deborah, daughter of William Newton of Netherthong, on 01 Nov 1661. This is unlikely to have been either of the Williams so far encountered. It's not clear how he fits in to the family but he could have been a son of Samuel.

Morehouse (1895) also records purchases of land in Netherthong by William Newton of Stackwood Hill in 1619 and further purchases in 1649 and 1650. William's holdings, including those closes that Morehouse mentions and a messuage called Moorgate in Netherthong were sold by his son Jonas, also of Stackwood Hill to Henry Jackson of Totties in 1686. It's not clear whether this includes the property Samuel had occupied or not. It's not clear whether the father of Jonas was William II or William III, nor indeed, if the William who bought land in 1619 was the same one who made the later purchases.

There were no further entries in the Almondbury parish register for Newtons in Netherthong in the C17th. It seems that, at least *pro tem.*, the Newtons were no longer in Netherthong. However, in the following century they acquired new interests in Netherthong, specifically in Thongsbridge.

Newtons of Stackwood Hill part 1

There is no information as to who occupied Stackwood Hill after the Bollands, no Kirkburton parish records refer to the place for some decades. Morehouse, 1861, says *In 1607, William Newton, then of Stagwood Hill, appeared at the inquisition in that year; and produced his evidences concerning his copyhold lands in the graveship, wherein he furnished the boundary of his lands, together with the annual rents due to the Chief Lord the King.*

In the reign of Charles I. there was a William Newton of this place. He was probably the son of the aforesaid William. In the protectorate he had a law suit with Captain Richard Horsfall, Lord of the Manor of Thurstonland, respecting a right of stray and pasturage for his cattle, &c., upon the adjacent commons and waste lands in that lordship, which was confirmed to him by a decree from "the Upper Bench at Westminster." He died in 1673, and was succeeded by his son and heir, John Newton, who was interred at Kirkburton in 1704, and left two surviving sons-John, who succeeded him at Stagwood Hill; and Joshua, to whom he devised lands, &c., at Fulstone, Newmill, and Thurstonland.

It's still uncertain as to how the Newtons came to occupy Stackwood. Now, however, we have more information than Morehouse seems to have had at hand so we can suggest a few modifications and extensions to his account.

The information from the Manorial Rolls and Morehouse's Netherthong notes gives us an approximate chronology for this period:

- William I & Alice (daughter. of John Kay), married in or before 1539 and still living in 1558 or later have a son and heir born in the late 1530s to early 1540s.
- This son has a son, William II, born in the 1570s
- William II has children born in the 1590s to early 1600s including Francis, Anne, William III, Samuel and – possibly - John I (see below) although he could have been a younger brother of William II.
- William III's children could be born in the 1620s or 1630s.

William II is of the right age to have been Morehouse's William of 1607. Although Morehouse believed that a William Newton was resident at Stackwood in 1607 there is no reason to assume this

was the case. John Kaye had sublet the property to the Bollands; the Newtons, by their absence from the Kirkburton parochial register, seem to have done the same for more than half a century although after 1578 there are no indications in the parish registers of who the tenants were.

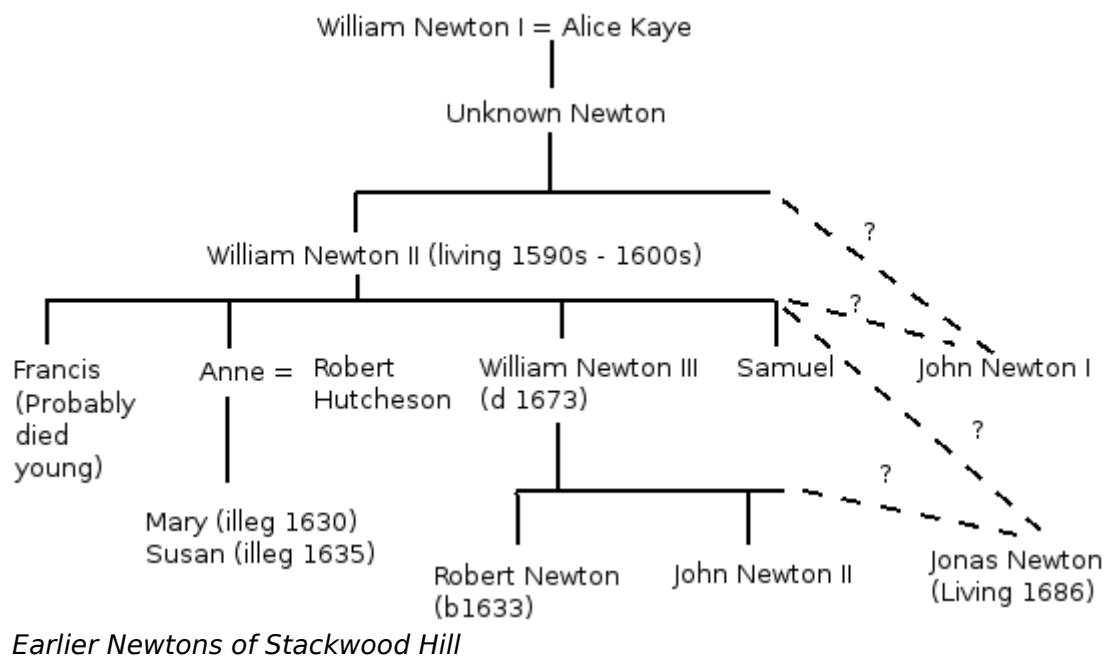
Eventually the senior branch of the Newtons settled at Stackwood, either William II himself or William III. William II's younger son, Samuel, was left to run the Netherthong property. Although the customary tenancy of Stackwood Hill would normally descend through the senior male line William may have had more freedom in disposing of the Netherthong property as, according to Morehouse, 1895, it would have been freehold.

Morehouse seems not to have had access to the detail Collins extracted from the Kirkburton registers⁵. We can now add to his account although, as the registers have considerable gaps for the first decades of the C17th, there are likely to have been some events which remain unrecorded.

The earliest item from the registers is the baptism of the first of two illegitimate children of an Anne Newton; Mary, baptised 14 Feb 1629-30, father John Marsden. The other was Susan baptised 14 Jun 1635, father Abraham Wilbie. An Ann Newton married Robert Hutcheson in Feb 1639 – 40. This may have been the Anna baptised in 1598.

The only recorded baptism of a child of William was Robert, baptised 18 Aug 1633. William's wife was buried on 09 Apr 1652 and William himself on 01 Mar 1673.

A John Newton was one of the churchwardens who signed the registers in March 1634-5. He may have been the same John Newton of Kirkburton who was buried on 14 Jan 1637-8 and his widow may have been the Widdow Newton buried on 05 Jun 1643. This John, John I, appears to have been of the same generation as William III and presumably a brother although he could have been a younger brother of William II.



Earlier Newtons of Stackwood Hill

Collins lists the signatories of a 1650 petition regarding the status of Holmfirth chapel. They include William Newton of Stackwood Hill. They also list John, Joshua B, Godfrey, Matthew and William Newton, all of New Mill. William of Stackwood Hill was William III and John of New Mill may have been John II (below) but the others must be children of William III or John I

⁵ Unfortunately Kirkburton has gaps in the first third of the C17th. About half the years are missing including a full 10 year span.

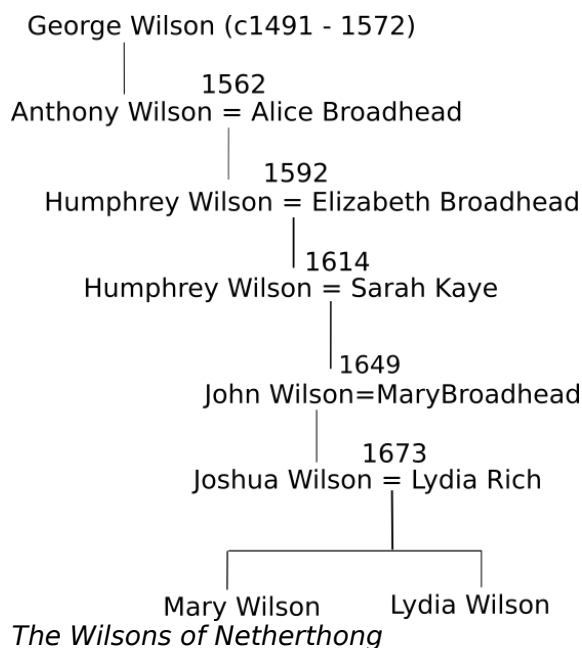
baptised during the intervals of the first third of the C7th for which the Kirkburton registers are missing.

Morehouse's account then proceeds to two generations of John Newton, Johns II and III and a fourth William, son of the second of these John Newtons. He then introduces the co-heiress of Joshua Wilson descended from a long line of Wilsons of Netherthong with whom he dealt separately in posthumously published notes on Netherthong.

The Wilsons of Netherthong

Morehouse, 1895, gives an account of the Wilsons. He traces the history of land holding back to the Bisset family of Elmsall who held land in Netherthong directly from the Honour of Pontefract and suggests that it was they who had the township divided from Meltham in the reign of Edward III. From them it passed by marriage to the Wentworths of North Elmsall. They sold it in 13 Elizabeth (1571-2) to the tenants in occupation of whom one was Anthony Wilson and his share was the Thongsbridge estate including corn and fulling mills.

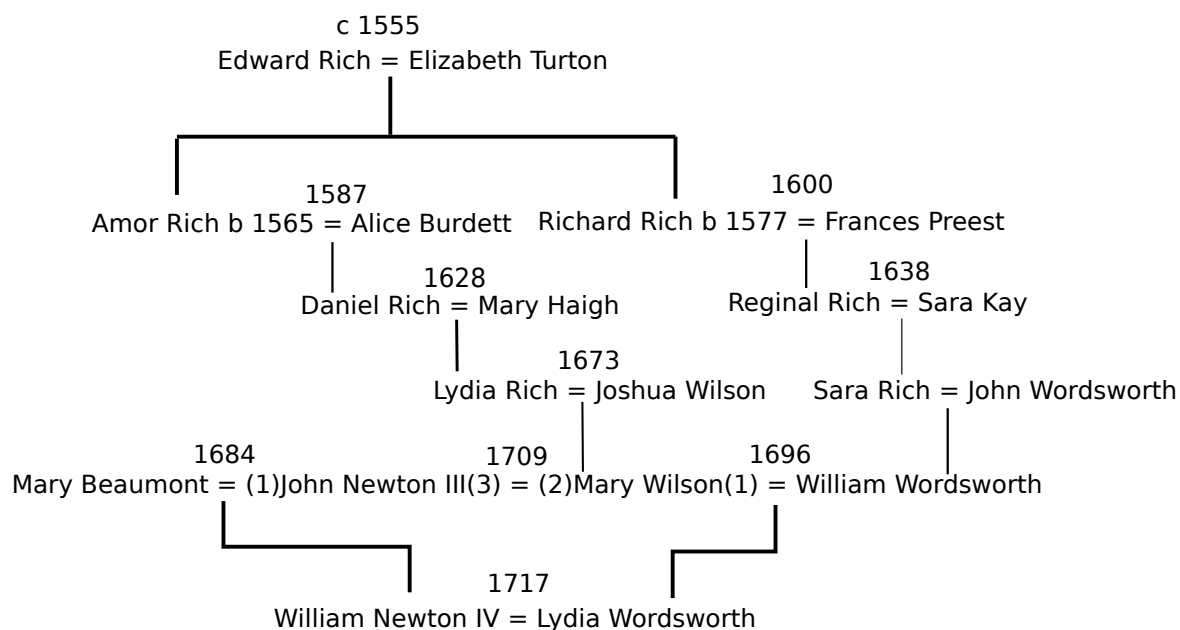
Morehouse's account includes a pedigree of the family, concentrating on those who owned the mill. Anthony's will gives his father's name as George and Morehouse adds that he was of Honley, buried at Almondbury 14 Feb 1572 aged 81. The family goes further back in Honley. Willelmus Willeson and Isabella his wife paid 4d tax in 1379. A Henry Wilson had goods to the value of 40s in 1524 (Cartwright, 1873). Anthony's wife was Alyce, surname unknown to Morehouse. Anthony was buried 05 Aug 1579. The mill descended to their son Humphry, buried 05 Aug 1603 who had married Elizabeth Broadhead at Kirkburton 13 Aug 1592. Their son was Humphry baptised 04 Sep 1593, buried Almondbury 26 Dec 1669. He married Sarah Kaye at Kirkburton 21 Feb 1613-4, buried 07 Oct 1684; Morehouse quotes the parish register which says that she had 20 children (the register comments that all were born alive). Their eldest surviving son was John, wife not given, who was succeeded by Joshua who married Lydia, surname not given, who had two daughters, Lydia and Mary.



The Almondbury and Penistone parish registers fill in more details. Anthony's wife was Alice Broadhead, married 28 Jun 1562 at Almondbury. Their abode at the time of their first three recorded children's baptisms was Upperthong, Mark Bottoms (Humphrey 11 Oct 1562) or Hill although he had moved to the mill by 1569. John also married a Broadhead, Mary, on 21 Jan 1649 at Almondbury. Joshua's wife was Lydia Rich, married at Penistone in 1673 and their daughter

Mary was baptised at Penistone on 20 Mar 1674 (new-style). Mary married William Wordsworth of Sofly or Softley, Thurlestone at Bradfield on 21 Sep 1696. His mother was Sarah Rich so they were cousins. The Wordsworths and Richs were both prominent families in Penistone. William and Mary had children Lydia, baptised 06 Jan 1698, Anna, baptised on 14 Oct 1700 and John, baptised on 02 Apr 1703. William was buried at Penistone on 27 Apr 1708. Mary then married John Newton at Penistone of 28 Aug 1709.

As Morehouse says in his account, John Newton and Mary Beaumont had a son, William, who married his step sister, Lydia Wordsworth in 1717. These marriages thus brought together at least four⁶ prominent families.



The Newton-Wilson-Wordsworth-Rich relationships

Newtons of Stackwood Hill part 2

Morehouse's narrative had introduced two sons of William II, John II and Joshua I, He continues: *John Newton, the elder son, baptised 23rd August, 1663, married Mary Beaumont, of the parish of Almonbury, in 1684. She died in 1689, leaving issue an only son, William, born in that year. He married to his second wife Mary, the daughter and co-heiress of Joshua Wilson, of Thongs bridge, and widow of William Wordsworth, of Sofley, in the parish of Penistone. He died in 1736, and was succeeded by his only son, William, who had married daughter of William Wordsworth, of Sofley (and the daughter of his stepmother), by whom he had issue, first, Joshua Newton, who died unmarried in 1762; Lydia, married to Benjamin Empson, of Goole Hall ; and John Newton, of Thongsbridge, who, by the death of his elder brother, became heir to the Stagwood Hill estate. He married Hannah , who died in 1759, leaving no surviving issue. He married, secondly, Woodhead, of Hullen-edge⁷, and had issue two daughters-Lydia and Elizabeth. He was engaged in commerce, and by unsuccessful speculations, and a general mismanagement of his affairs, he became a bankrupt, and his estates were ultimately offered for sale, when the Stagwood Hill estate was purchased by William Newton, the grandson of Joshua Newton, the younger son of the first John Newton in this pedigree.*

6 The Beaumont family also had some prominent branches but Mary's connection to them has not been researched yet. Note also a Kay and a Burdett in earlier generations.

7 Woodhead was, in fact, Hannah's surname.

John Newton III (Morehouse's "elder son of this pedigree") had married Mary Beaumont of Almondbury at Kirkburton on 05 May 1684. They had three children Phebe, baptised 21 Apr 1685, Abigall baptised at Kirkburton 05 Nov 1687 and William baptised Kirkburton 22 Jan 1690. Mary was buried four days after the baptism of William.

John then appears to have married a second wife, Anne. They had ten children, including three pairs of twins, between 1693 and 1705. Mary was baptised 21 Jun 1693, Martha 21 Dec 1694 and Sarah 09 Mar 1698. Elizabeth and Hannah were baptised on 15 Mar 1700, Hannah being buried three days later and Elizabeth on 29 Apr. Joshua I and Anne were baptised 01 Apr 1701. Rachel was baptised 21 Jun 1704 and buried 19 Jul. Benjamin and Joseph were baptised 20 Jun 1705. Benjamin and John's wife Anne were both buried on 22 Jun. Morehouse does not mention this marriage believing William to have been the only son. Joseph may also have survived as on 15 Nov 1731 Jessop's diary records that a Joseph Newton set out for London.

John's third marriage, to the widow Mary Wordsworth, was childless. He was buried on 15 Dec 1736 and she on 25 Dec 1740. Arthur Jessop (Whiting, 1952) records attending the latter funeral: *I returned with Mr Tinker & Mr Crosland. Dan Thorp fell into the pond on the top of Stocks moor and we were long hindered with him.*

Morehouse, 1895 says *in the rights of his wife [he] became entitled to a share of the Thongsbridge estate, and he ultimately became purchaser of the remaining interests.* One of those other interests would have been the half share inherited by Lydia Wilson who married John Roebuck of Hollinhouse. Presumably his brother-in-law, John Wordsworth would also have inherited a share but he seems to have been chronically short of funds, mortgaging the Softly property several times before selling it⁸ so an early purchase of that share seems likely. The first Softley mortgage, dated 06 Apr 1728, was to John Newton of Stackwoodhill and William Newton of Thongsbridge so John's son William had already settled there.

In 1693 John III and George Morehouse of Stoney Bank became the first trustees of the newly built New Mill school. The trusteeship descended in the family. (Cooksey, P., 2013)

William's first son, Joshua II, was baptised at Kirkburton on 25 Feb 1719. The next two children that Morehouse mentions cannot be found in the parish registers⁹ but there are three others in Almondbury parish registers, all the children of William Newton, yeoman of Netherthong which presumably meant Thongsbridge: William baptised 28 Jul 1727, buried 16 Oct 1728; Mary baptised 21 Sep 1729, buried 10 Apr 1731 and Betty (Morehouse's Elizabeth) baptised 23 Jul 1732. Almondbury registers failed to record any baptisms for the chapels of ease for some years so the missing Lydia and John were likely to have been born after William moved to Thongsbridge in Almondbury parish.

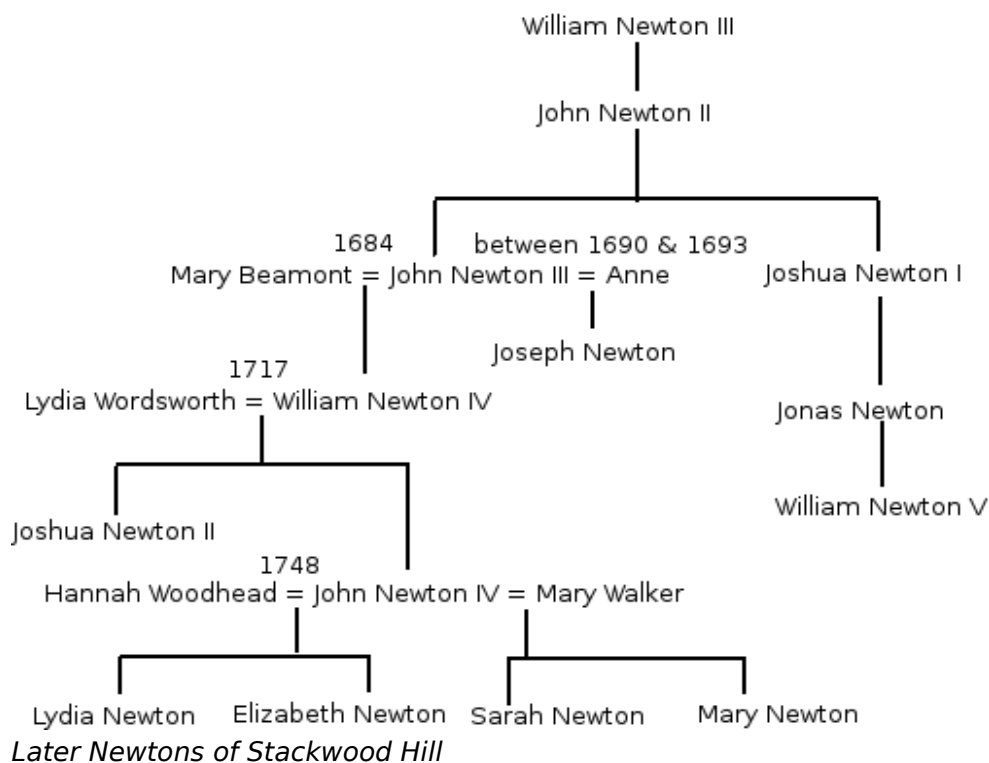
John Newton III was the second of William's surviving sons according to Morehouse. His marriage to Hannah Woodhead took place at Almondbury on 02 Jan 1748; he was described as a gentleman. There were eight children of this marriage of whom only the first, Lydia, baptised 03 Apr 1749 and third, Elizabeth, baptised 07 Mar 1752 survived. Hannah died 19 Jul 1759; Hulbert, 1882 records, in Part IV, a gravestone at Almondbury for her and all the rest of the children.

John then married Mary Walker of Honley, probably the daughter, baptised 25 Dec 1741 of Joseph Walker, victualler. Their child Hannah was baptised at Honley on 22 Jun 1765. John then disappeared from Thongsbridge. Although he would have succeeded to Stackwood Hill on Joshua's death there is no indication of his having moved there. His disappearance from Thongsbridge would have been due to his bankruptcy. He probably moved to Honley where Hannah, daughter of John Newton, innkeeper, was buried on 25 May 1769. There were further children: William, buried

⁸ Crewe muniments, CM/936, CM/946, CM/948-949, CM/961, CM/966-967, CM/968, CM/975-976, CM/977 and CM/986-987)

⁹ Chapel baptisms were not written up in the Almondbury registers for some years. These children would have been born during that period. Fortunately recording resumed with a change of incumbent.

11 Mar 1771 with probable twin George baptised the same day and buried 01 May, Sarah, baptised 10 Apr 1772 and posthumous Mary baptised 14 Jul 1776, John having been buried on 05 Feb. The four surviving daughters or their husbands became the trustees of the New Mill school.



A notice appeared in the London Gazette on or about 15 Jun 1765 summoning John Newton “now or late of Thongsbridge, Dealer and Chapman”, to hearings on the 10th and 11th of July and 3rd of August. The case clearly rumbled on for years: a notice in May 1786 referred to both William and Joshua, both described as “late of Stakwood-hill” and John, “heretofore of Thongsbridge”, all deceased and another of August 1787 promised payment of final dividend in September. Clearly John and Joshua had inherited debts from their father. William had borrowed money from Jessop who, apart from his trade as an apothecary, lent money, this being in the days before Holmfirth had banks: £100 in 1744 and the debt had increased to £200 including £14 1s 6d. of which he forgave the change and William gave him a hare.

Newtons of Stagwood Hill

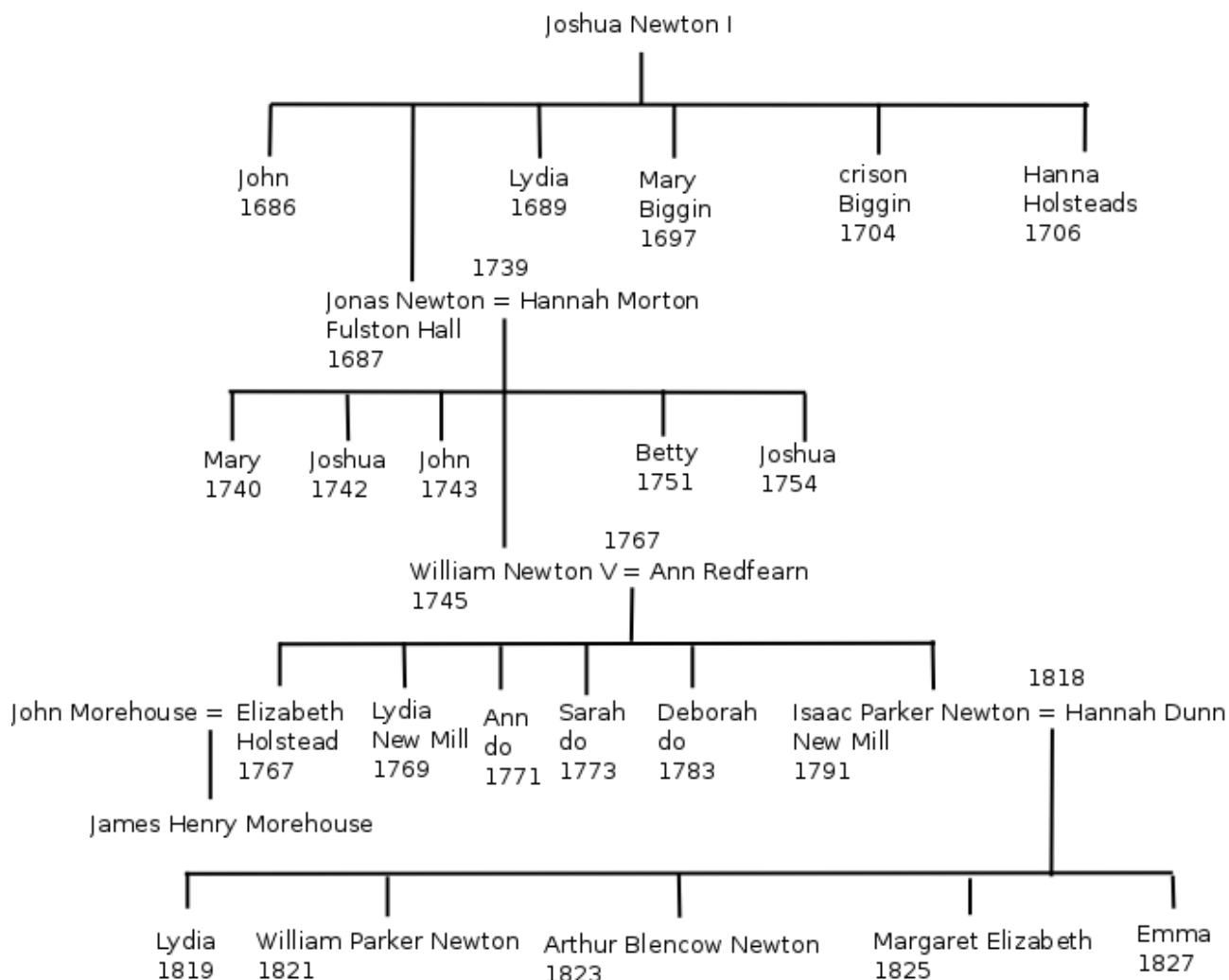
Whatever the circumstances, both the Thongsbridge property and Stackwood Hill passed out of the families hands, the former permanently and the latter until, as Morehouse recounts, a grandson of Joshua I's, William V, bought it and renamed it Stagwood Hill.

Joshua Newton I would have been the son of John Newton baptised at Kirkburton on 19 Nov 1665. He would have been the father of John, baptised 27 Dec 1686, Jonas, baptised 24 Dec 1687, Lydia, baptised 28 Apr 1689 and Joshua baptised 27 Mar 1691. Fulston Hall is given as the abode for Jonas's baptism. Subsequently there was a crism child of a Joshua Newton of Biggin buried on 09 Aug 1704 and Hanna, daughter of Joshua Newton of “Holsteads in Thurstiland” baptised on 25 Jan 1706. In between a daughter Mary of a Josias Newton of Biggin was baptised on 04 Feb 1697. Biggin is close to Halstead; Josias could well be a transcription error for Joshua.

Jonas married Hannah Morton at Kirkburton on 11 Jun 1739. She may have been the daughter of Joel Morton of Bankhouse, this being quite close to Halstead, in which case she was baptised on 13 Mar 1715 and about half the age of her husband, then in his 50s. Their children were Mary,

baptised 05 Mar 1740; Joshua, 19 Feb 1742; John, 16 Nov 1743; William, 18 Jan 1745 and then, after a long gap, Betty, baptised 22 Nov 1751 and Joshua, 04 Mar 1754, all of Halstage, Thurstonland. Jonas would be the Jonas Newton whose grave is listed by Morehouse with a date of death of 25 Feb 1755, aged 68 years.

Morehouse says that William V died, aged 90, in 1834 which is consistent with the 1745 baptism and also with the property in Fulstone and Thurstonland. William married Anne Redfearn at Kirkburton on 02 Feb 1767. They had several daughters. Elizabeth was baptised on 08 Jun 1767 at Almondbury. Lydia was baptised on 04 May 1769 at Kirkburton as were the other children, Ann, 02 Mar 1771; Sarah, 23 May 1773; Mary, 22 Mar 1777 and Deborah, 19 Oct 1783. Their son, Isaac Parker Newton, was baptised on 19 Feb 1791.



Newtons of Fulston, Halstead and Stagwood

At the time of Elizabeth’s baptism William was a drysalter of Holstead, he was living at New Mill when the rest of his children were baptised. A drysalter dealt in various products (wholesale chemist might be a modern equivalent) but especially dyes; the developing textile industry would have enabled him to prosper in this trade. Elizabeth married John Morehouse of Stoney Bank on 20 Aug 1792. Their son was James Henry Morehouse, the historian, born 09 Dec 1806 and baptised at Lydgate on 20 Jan 1807.

Morehouse records Anne and daughter Lydia buried in the chancel of Kirkburton Parish Church, Anne having died on 10 Jul 1812, aged 62 and Lydia on 11 Mar 1817, aged 48.

Morehouse says of the repurchase of Stackwood Hill that it was *about 80 years ago* which would make it about 1780. William was certainly in possession of it on 17 Dec 1790 when he was described in the Wakefield court roll of that date as *WILLIAM NEWTON of Stackwood Hill, once of Holsteads and once of New Mill, drysalter* and the following year when he was *William Newton of Stackwood Hill, gent.* (Brent, A, 1994). The first of these court references also mentions property devised to him and *Joshua Newton, dec, his brother; by Jonas Newton, their father; long since dec.*

The repurchase may have been inspired by notions of historicism. Collins's account of Stagwood in her appendix on the Bollands seems likely to have been based on his reasoning. Perhaps it was this reasoning that prompted William to give his son the middle name Parker, one of the terms used for a forester which office he may have thought his ancestors had held.

On 06 Apr 1818 Isaac Parker Newton married Hannah Maria Dunn, second daughter of Blencowe Dunn at Howden in the East Riding. Their sons were William Parker Newton, born 21 Nov 1821, baptised at Kirkburton on 31 Dec 1821 and Arthur Blencow Newton, baptised at Kirkburton on 20 Jul 1823. Their daughters were Lydia, baptised 22 Feb 1819; Margaret Elizabeth, baptised 13 Apr 1825 and Emma, baptised 15 Jul 1827. According to Morehouse Isaac Parker Newton died a few weeks after his father.

In the 1851 census he occupied Stagwood alone except for a housekeeper whilst William Parker Newton was living at Parade Place in St Helier, Jersey. William Parker died in 1855. By Morehouse's time Arthur occupied Stagwood and was *the only male representative* and he died in 1863, shortly after Morehouse published his history.

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