

Bernard Thistlethwaite produced a remarkable book *The Thistlethwaite Family, a study in genealogy* which was printed for private circulation in 1910. In it he chronicled over 1800 descendants of William and Alice Thistlethwaite, who were married in 1705 and lived at Harborgill (now Harbergill) in Dent Dale. Note that, where the transcription refers to 'now', this is really 1910. The numbers in parentheses are Bernard Thistlethwaite's identification numbers, allocated to each person, in consecutive order, throughout the publication. Bernard's occasional use of the traditional Quaker style of writing dates, referring to the months by numbers, as in '8mo. 1872', has been changed to conventional style, as 'August 1872'.

There are several branches of the family with entries in the genealogy who have Ayton connections:

- Margaret Eastham (née Alderson), who lived with her husband James at Ayton House in the mid-nineteenth century.
- William Thistlethwaite from Wakefield, not closely related to Jeremiah Thistlethwaite, who appears in the 1881 census as a senior apprentice at the Ayton School. Another William Thistlethwaite, from Ackworth, also appears on the staff lists in the first Ayton School history.
- Jeremiah Thistlethwaite (1826-1910), by far the most significant Thistlethwaite in Ayton's history, who ran the grocery business, his wife Rachel and their five children.
- Margaret Thistlethwaite (1830-1917), Jeremiah's sister, who lived for a while in Ayton.
- Elizabeth Thistlethwaite (1833-1851) who taught at the Quaker Ayton School.
- Charles Webster and Mabel Tilzey, who married at the Ayton Friends' Meeting House in 1897.

### **Margaret Alderson and James Eastham**

The Aldersons came from the same part of north-west England as the Thistlethwaites, and there was intermarrying between the two families. Margaret Alderson (106), born 28<sup>th</sup> March 1806, at Stonehouse, in Dent Dale. At the age of seventeen she was married at Gretna Green, to James Eastham, an ironmonger of Burnley, Lancashire. He was very successful in business and lived for several years at Ayton House, Great Ayton, Yorkshire. They adopted a girl, but many years after their marriage they had three children on their own.

### **William Thistlethwaite**

William Thistlethwaite (122), born at Wakefield, 21<sup>st</sup> January 1862; apprenticed as teacher at Ayton Friends' School, and afterwards teacher in many Friends' Schools in England.

### **Jeremiah Thistlethwaite (1826-1910) and his children**

Jeremiah Thistlethwaite (1218), born on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1826 at Eugalas. His third cousin, Simon Thistlethwaite (159), a carrier at Hawes, took him to Rawdon School on horseback. He was apprenticed with Robert Clemesha, a grocer of Blackburn, and also spent some time as assistant to Anthony Carter (206), of Dent's Town, relieving officer and a tea dealer. He was later assistant to John Horniman, the far-famed tea merchant, in the Isle of Wight.

From here he went to Castleton in Cleveland, Yorkshire, and was assistant, as was William Anderson (1158), to Thomas Baker at the High Shop. When Thomas Baker retired, Jeremiah Thistlethwaite remained with William Anderson, who took over the shop. He lived with William Anderson, to whose housekeeper, Rachel Peacock, he became engaged. His third cousin, Charles Webster (1747), who had been with David Baker, a grocer in Guisborough, eight miles away, married Rachel Peacock's sister Esther at Guisborough Friends' Meeting House in September 1856, and Rachel went to stay with her at Halifax.

Jeremiah Thistlethwaite went there a little later, and was married on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1856, at Halifax Registry Office, to Rachel Peacock, born 24<sup>th</sup> August 1824, at Woodale Farm, about eight miles from Castleton, daughter of George Peacock (son of Benjamin Peacock by his wife Martha Esthill, of Stainton-dale), by his wife Elizabeth Hartas, daughter of George Hartas of Danby Dale, near Castleton, by his wife Rose Coning.

They returned to Castleton for a few months, and removed in May 1857 to the village of Great Ayton in Cleveland, eight miles from the young town of Middlesbrough. Here he began a grocery and drapery business which, on his decease, passed to his only son who had been virtually manager for a number of years. In the year 1891, he and

George Dixon of White House, Great Ayton, entered into partnership for the purpose of opening and working certain Whinstone Mines under royalties from Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease, Bart., and Jonathan Backhouse Hodgkin. About six years ago the partnership was dissolved and the mines became the sole property of Jeremiah Thistlethwaite, the management from that date resting in the hands of his son. George Dixon is Jeremiah Thistlethwaite's daughter's brother-in-law, and his daughter-in-law's uncle.

Jeremiah Thistlethwaite died 17<sup>th</sup> April 1910, in the house in which he had lived since 1857, and was buried on the 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Friends' Burial Ground, Great Ayton. His wife, Rachel Thistlethwaite, died 6<sup>th</sup> October 1902, at Great Ayton, and was buried in the Friends' Burial Ground there, aged seventy-eight years.

The children of Jeremiah and Rachel Thistlethwaite were:

i) Elizabeth Ann Thistlethwaite (1219), born July 1857 at Great Ayton. Educated at The Mount School, York, from August 1872 to June 1874. She married at Great Ayton Friends' Meeting House on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1878 to John Naughton. He was born 21<sup>st</sup> June 1846 at Maase North, Westport in the County of Mayo, Ireland, son of Denis Naughton, by his wife Bridgid Dolan, and great-nephew of the Most Reverend John Mchale, D.D., etc., Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, Co. Galway, an eminent man of letters, who is said to have had an excellent prospect of becoming pope, would be have accepted the cardinal's hat. John Naughton was assistant master at schools in Waterford, Jersey and the Midlands, and finally at the Friends' School at Great Ayton. He then began a private school at Carlton House, Halifax, whence he moved a few years after his marriage, and has been principal of Ellesmere School, Harrogate. There were no children from the marriage.

ii) Mary Margaret Thistlethwaite (1220), born 28<sup>th</sup> January 1860 at Great Ayton, educated at The Mount School, York, August 1875 to December 1876. She married, 21<sup>st</sup> January 1892, at Great Ayton, Samuel Newton, born January 1849 at Bank Foot, Todmorden, son of Thomas Newton, land agent, of Blackburn (son of Samuel Newton 1775-1861, by his wife Anne Ogden of Blackburn), by his wife Mary Hanson, daughter of Samuel Hanson of Todmorden, by his wife Martha Shackleton.

Samuel Newton was articled at the Borough Surveyor's Office, Blackburn, and afterwards lived with his widowed mother at Todmorden, Yorkshire until her death. He then entered the office of William Phillips Thompson, patent agent of Liverpool, and about 1885 he came to Great Ayton to live with his brother-in-law George Dixon, spending three years in surveying the local estate of Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease, baronet. A few months before his marriage he became Secretary to the Mildmay Mission to the Jews, Newington Green, London. He died 7<sup>th</sup> September 1896 at Plimsoll Road, Finsbury Park, London. Samuel and Mary had one daughter, Mary Hanson Thistlethwaite Newton (1221), born 5<sup>th</sup> April 1895 at Finsbury Park, now living with her mother in Great Ayton.

iii) Lucy Maria Thistlethwaite (1222), born 30<sup>th</sup> December 1861 at Great Ayton; educated at the Mount School, York, August 1877 to December 1878. She is unmarried and lived with her father until his decease.

iv) William Henry Thistlethwaite (1223), born 24<sup>th</sup> December 1863 at Great Ayton, educated at Ackworth, and by his brother-in-law, John Naughton, at Halifax. He entered the office of William Phillips Thompson, patent agent of Liverpool, for a few months, and then spent a year in the shop of Amos Hinton, grocer of Middlesbrough, before entering his father's business. He is now owner of this, and manager of his father's whinstone quarry. He married 29<sup>th</sup> July 1886, at Great Ayton, Alice Elizabeth Dixon, born 10<sup>th</sup> December 1861 at Great Ayton, second daughter of Ralph Dixon, superintendent of Ayton Friends' School (son of George Dixon, Sen., by his first wife Alice Swinburn) by his wife Elizabeth Fox, daughter of David Fox of Dewsbury by his second wife, Rebecca Payne, of Southwark, London.

William and Alice had two children:

- Bernard Thistlethwaite (1224), born 18<sup>th</sup> September 1888, Great Ayton, Yorkshire, educated at Leighton Park School, Reading, September 1904 to December 1905, compiler of this family history
- Helen Thistlethwaite (1225), born 20<sup>th</sup> March 1890, at Great Ayton, educated at Polam Hall, Darlington, now living at home, unmarried.

v) Rose Hannah Thistlethwaite (1226), born 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1866 at Great Ayton, educated at the Mount School, York, August 1882 to December 1883, married at St. Hilda's Parish Church, Middlesbrough, 7<sup>th</sup> January 1903 to Charles Frank Dodsworth, grocer and confectioner, of Great Ayton, born 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1880, at Great Ayton, grandson of Foster Dodsworth by his wife Margaret Hansell.

### **Margaret Thistlethwaite (1830-1917)**

Margaret Thistlethwaite (1230), born 5<sup>th</sup> February 1830 at Eugalas, in Dent. She kept a school at Cowgill in Dent and later at Askrigg; at the latter place she became governess with the Winn family. In March 1854 she was married at Bentham Church to William Cleminson, plumber of Bentham, Yorkshire, who was born February 1830 at Lancaster, son of William and Jane Cleminson. He died at Wakefield in 1873. In 1872, Margaret Cleminson and her family removed from Bentham to Great Ayton, Yorkshire, where they lived for some time at Leayat House, built for her by her brother Jeremiah. They later carried on a confectionery business, on retiring from which in 1899 they removed to Redcar, Yorkshire, where they still live.

One of her daughters, Margaret Thistlethwaite Cleminson (1232), born 6<sup>th</sup> September 1856, at Bentham, married 1<sup>st</sup> December 1883, at Great Ayton Church, to Frederick Miles, Inland Revenue Officer of Great Ayton. They removed about 1894 to Kirby Moorside, Yorkshire, where they lived until his death, which occurred while visiting Redcar 20<sup>th</sup> June 1907, at the age of sixty-one years. He was buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Great Ayton, and his widow now lives at that village. They had no children.

- Two of Margaret Cleminson's six children died while the family was at Great Ayton:
- Christiana Barbara Cleminson (1235), born at Bentham and died at Leayat House, Great Ayton, aged nine years.
- Thomas Thistlethwaite Cleminson (1236), born at Bentham and died at Leayat House, Great Ayton, aged three years.

### **Elizabeth Thistlethwaite (1833-1851)**

Elizabeth Thistlethwaite (1128), born 1<sup>st</sup> January 1833, at Warrington; became a teacher at Ayton Friends' School, where she died, unmarried, 7<sup>th</sup> May 1851, and is buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Great Ayton. She was the daughter of William Thistlethwaite, born 26<sup>th</sup> January 1808 in the town of Sankey and the parish of Prescott, Lancashire. He had a chemist's business at Warrington, and married Sophia Morris, who was apparently a Quaker, as her children were "born members". After his daughter, and shortly before his son, went to Ackworth School, he left England for New Orleans, USA, and appears to have died of yellow fever shortly after his arrival.

### **Charles Webster**

Charles Webster (1747), born 9<sup>th</sup> October at Halifax. He was for some years apprenticed with David baker, grocer of Guisborough, Yorkshire, and when there became acquainted with Esther Peacock, of Castleton. In September 1856, in Guisborough Meeting House, Charles Webster, grocer of Halifax, was married to Esther Peacock of Cstleton near Whitby, daughter of the late George Peacock of the said town, yeoman, and Elizabeth his wife, now surviving. One of their sons was Charles Edward Webster (1748), born 27<sup>th</sup> March 1868 at Halifax. He was married 1<sup>st</sup> September 1897, at Great Ayton Meeting House, to Mabel Tilzey, born 1875, daughter of the late Frederick Tilzey of Bolton, Lancashire, by his wife, Rachel Darbyshire (1909) now of Great Ayton, Yorkshire.