

Table 32

Thornicroft of Astbury All bp,marr & bur at Astbury  
 Mathew (2) = Mary Moss 1723 except where stated  
 Joseph (1) = Sarah Booth 19.1.1745

Mathew	Elizabeth	Joseph (3)	Mathew (4)	John (4)	William	Thomas	Luke	Amey	Martha	
bp	17.6.1755	11.9.1757	2.12.1759	1762	20.4.65	18.8.67	10.9.69	10.9.75	15.6.77	20.6.79
bu		19.7.1836	16.1.1847	20.2.1823						
		farmer at Leicester	at Leicester	not bur Ast						
		will								
marr	Edward Piggot	unn	Kitty Stanway	Margaret Dawson						
	butcher of Astbury		at Barthomley							
	d. 1821		lic 29.11.1789							
			bur 28,11.1828	bur 21.1.1847						
	Thomas William Piggot	John Ann Piggot		will						
Hannah	Joseph(4)	Mathew(5)	Ellen Catherine	Thomas	Mary	Margaret	John(5)			
bp	24.5.1792	18.5.1796	30.5.98	9.4.1800	3.6.1802	18.5.1804	26.2.1806	17.10.1808		
bu	12.7.1827	17.4.1839						22.12.1887		
	at Coventry	of Upper Skills						at Habourne		
		Warks (late of Daisy Brook)								
marr ?	Wm Darby	Ann Lowdnes	-- Booth	Jane --	-- Mountford			Ann Sadler		
at Harbourne	Mary Ann	bu 4.4.1831						1881		
11.5.1820	lived at	at Prest 10.12.21						lived at		
Coventry	Coventry							Harbourne		

Table 33

Thornicroft of Astbury, Coventry, Burton on Trent (& Harbourne)

Mathew (4) = Kitty Stanway 1789 bp marr & bur Astbury A  
 Coventry C  
 Burton B

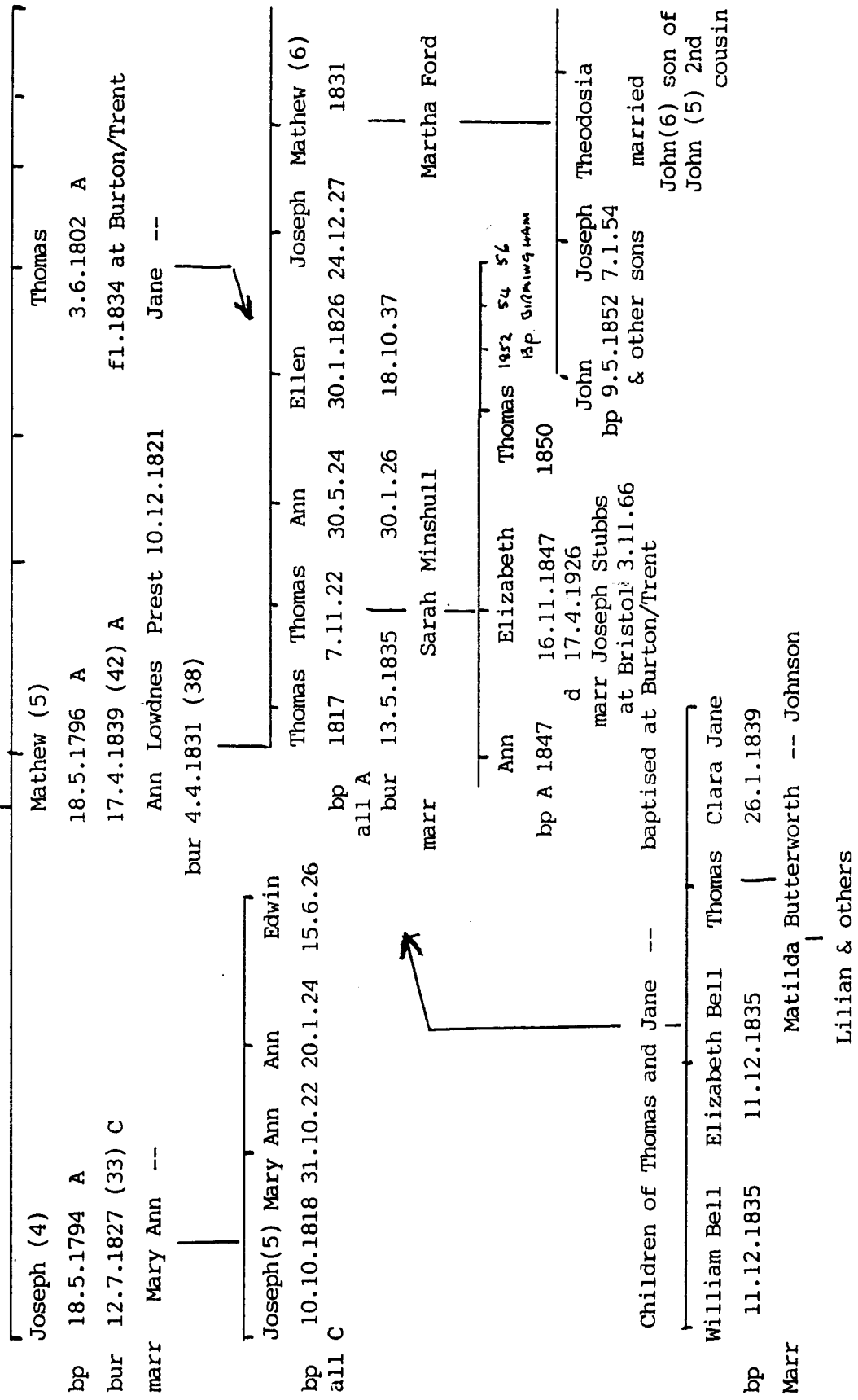
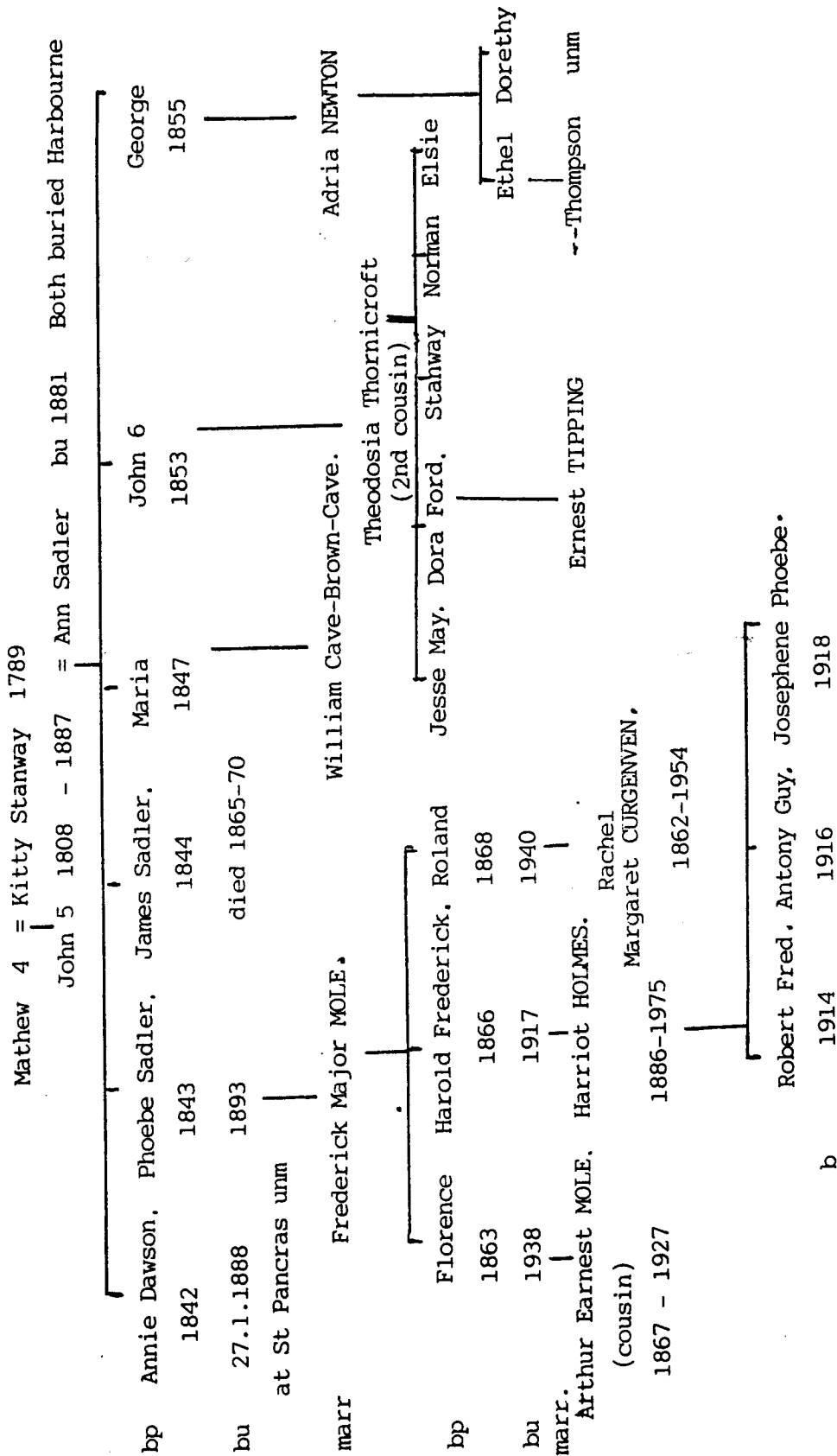


Table 34

THORNICROFT of Harbourne, Birmingham



The Thornicrofts of Astbury - showing migrants to the Midlands from 1760 to 1860 Code

b= born at  
 += buried at  
 A = Astbury  
 B = Burton/Trent  
 C Coventry  
 L Leicester  
 Bm Birmingham  
 plus location

Table 32 Joseph (1) = Sarah Booth 1745 (A)  
 + 1814 (A)

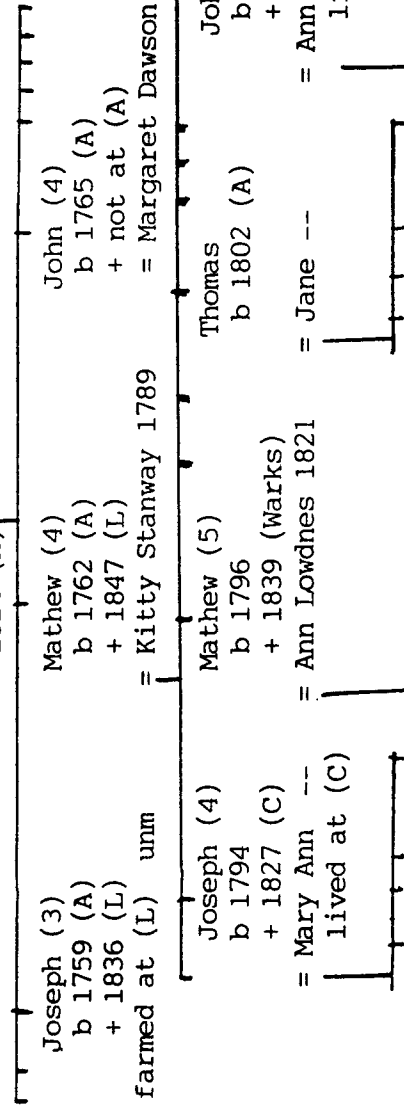


Table 33 4 children b.(C)

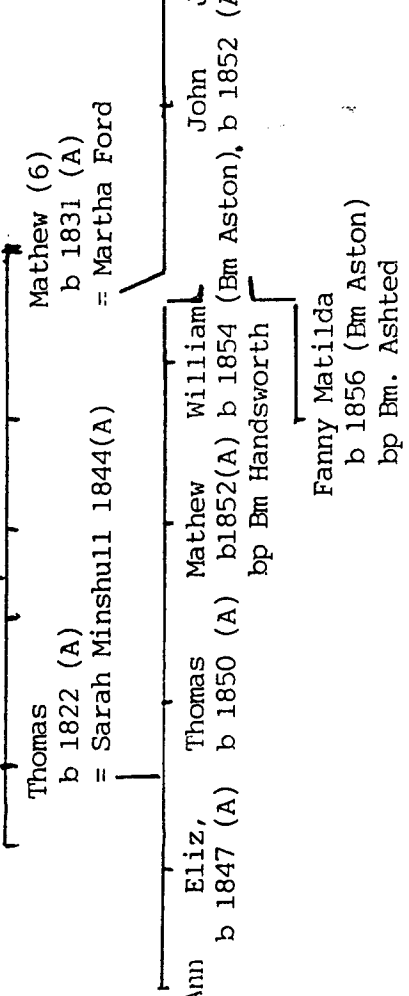
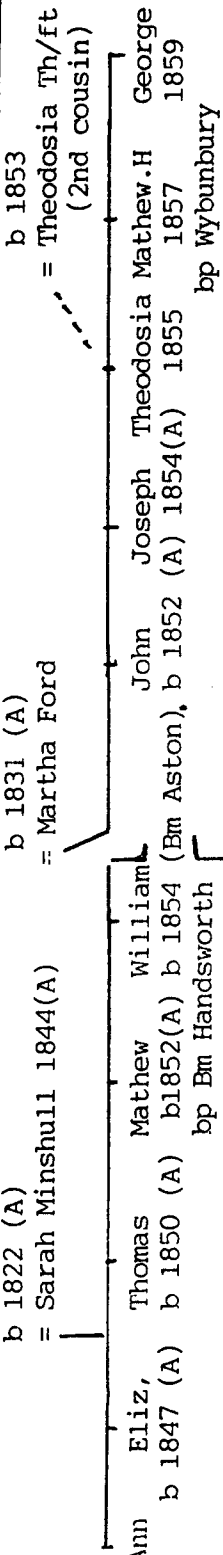


Table 34 John (6) b 1853 = Theodosia Th/ft (2nd cousin)



## Thornicroft of Astbury

Mathew (2) 1694 to 1758, who married Mary Moss at Astbury in 1723 had three three sons John (1) 1723 to 1788, who founded the Gawsorth branch of the family; Joseph (1) 1725 to 1814 who founded the Astbury branch and William (1) at Little Moreton Hall and had eleven children but no male heirs.

Joseph (1) bp at Astbury 20.9.1725 married Sarah Booth by licence at Astbury on 19.1.1745 and was buried at Astbury on 7.3.1814 leaving a will. He lived at Bent Farm, Astbury and names his wife and childre as Sarah, with Thomas, Joseph (3) John (4), Mathew (4) William and daughter Elizabeth married to Edward Piggot. The value of the estate is under £800 and Thomas, Luke, Aney and Martha had died before 1814. Bent Farm is sited about one mile from Astbury Church on a farm road opposite the Church sited on a bend in the farm frack. Sources suggest it is on the site of a Roman camp as there are remains of embankments. Nearby is Padgebury Lane, named by Joseph (3) in his will of 1834 although he farmed in Leicester.

### Children of Joseph (1)

Mathew bp 17.6.1755 had died prior to 1762. The date of his birth, 1755 is ten years after the marriage in 1745 but then there are a succession of births until 1779. Elizabeth bp 11.9.1757 married Edward Piggot, butcher at Astbury who died in 1821. The had four children who are named in the will of her brother Joseph (3) who died in 1836, but made his will on 22.5.1834. He leaves Elizabeth £500.

Joseph (3) did not marry and farmed in Leicestershire leaving freehold & leasehold messuages, land, and tenements situate in the borough of Leicester and gives the names of six occupiers of these.

He names two of his nephews, Thomas Piggot of Newbold Astbury, butcher and Thomas Thornicroft, book keeper of Burton on Trent as trustees for a period of 20 years to manage his estate and to pay his brother Mathew (4) an annuity of £30 for his support & maintenance, for his sole and separate use, not to be assigne

Any surplus income is to be divided equally between his five nephews, Mathew (5) Thornicroft, Thomas and John (5) Thornicroft and William and Thomas Piggot and his great niece Ann Thornicroft for her education. She is the daughter of his nephew Joseph (4) and Mary Ann living at Coventry, bp 20.1.1824.

If any of the beneficiaries die during the trusteeship their money is to go for the maintenance of their children.

After the expiry of the 20 years trusteeship (ie 1856) the estate is to be sold and the proceeds divided between the five nephews and great niece Ann or their children. He hold Government annuities and directs that the income from these shall provide £20 per year to his servant, Francis Booth and £10 per year to Harriet Booth and his great nephew Joseph (5) Thornicroft who is to have £100 at 21.

He leaves the following legacies:- To his sister Elizabeth Piggot £500.to niece Elizabeth Wood £ 500 To niece Ann Piggot £300, To nieces Catherine Booth and Mary Mountford ( children of Mathew(4) and Mary Wood & 200. Elizabeth and Mary Wood have not been identified.

The remainder of his estate is to be divided equally between his nephews Mathew(5), Thomas,and John(5) Thornicroft; William and Thomas Piggot and great niece Ann Thornicroft.

At Chester Record Office there are papers DCR/21/4 of birth,marriage and death certificates of the marriage of Mathew(4) age 27 butler to the Rev Crewe at Barthomley to Kitty Stanway 21 spinster on 29.11.89 and of the baptism at Astbury of Joseph (4),their son on 18.5.1794and his burial age 33 in the parish of Holy Trinity,Coventry on 12.7.1827

Others record the baptism of Joseph (5) his son,at Holy Trinity Coventry and the burial of Thomas Thornicroft,labourer age 18 of Daisy Brook Farm Astbury,on 13.5.1835 and also the burial of Mathew(4) age 84, on 16.1.1847 in the district of St George Leicester who lived in Rutland St. All of these relate to an amended declaration by Mary Merril dated 8 Feb 1860

Other declarations ref CRO 50/2/21 Crewe papers,concern the granting of a lease to Mathew (4) for a cottage & field called Church Field at Barthomley on 29.9.1829. This would be after the death of his wife Kitty in 1828.. Mathew (6) born 1831 vouched that John(5) who is resident at Ravenhurst Farm Harbourne was the person named in the lease of 29.9.1829. All of these papers of 1860 relate to the division of Joseph (3)'s estate 20 years after his death in 1836 but there is no indication of the nature of the nature of the problem.

Mathew(4) who married Kitty Stanway and is referred to above is named on a tomb in Astbury churchyard as buried there but the Church Register does not record this and he was buried at Leicester on 16.1.1847.

#### Children of Mathew (4)

Mathew & Kitty Stanway nine children all baptised at Astbury

Hannah bapt. 24.5.1792 who may be the Hannah who married Wm.Darby or Darley at Harbourne on 11.5.1820 Joseph (4) bp.18.5.1794 living at Coventry where he was buried at Holy Trinity on 12.7.1827 age33. He had four children,Joseph (5) bp 10.10.1818,Mary Ann bp 31.10.1822,Ann bp 20.1.1824 who is a beneficiary in the will of Joseph (3) her great uncle. Edwin bp 15.6.1826. All were baptised at Holy Trinity.

Mathew (5) bp.18.5.1796,dying at the age of 42 in 1839. His wife Ann -- has predeceased him in 1831 age 38. They farmed at Daisy Brook Farm near the village of Astbury,probably moving there after his father,Mathew(4) had moved to Barthomley in 1829. Mathew (5) combined farming with other occupations as in 1824 he is a 'silk throwster'

They had six children - Thomas born 1817 who was buried age 18 in 1835 'labourer of Daisy Brook' Thomas, born c 1823 who married Sarah -- and had three children 1847 to 1850. Mathew (6) the last child born 1831 married Martha Ford and had sons and a daughter Theodosia who married her 2nd cousin John(6) Thornicroft son of John (5) who farmed at Harbourne. They had five children.

Thomas bapt 3.6.1802 at Astbury. He was one of the trustees under the will of Joseph (3) and in 1834 was living at Burton on Trent being a book keeper. He married Jane -- and they had four children at Burton. Other children of Mathew(4) were Ellen bp 30.5.1798. Catherine bp 9.4.1800 who married -- Booth and is named in Joseph(3)'s will, Mary bp 18.5.1804 and married -- Mountford, also named in the will.

John (5) bapt 17.10.1808 farmed at Ravenhurst Farm at Harbourne, then near Birmingham and married Ann Sadler. They had six children whose descendants are in the district to the present day.

Annie Dawson bp 1842 who died unmarried 27.1.1888 at St Pancras

Phoebe b 1843 d 1893 who married Frederick Major Mole a sword dealer in Birmingham.

James Sadler b 1844 d 1865-70

Maria b 1847 married William Cave-Brown-Cave.

John (6) b 1853 who married his 2nd cousin Theodosia daughter of Mathew(6) referred to above.

George b 1855 who married Adria Newton

Phoebe who married Frederick Mole had three children; Florence, b 1863 d 1938; Harold Frederick 1866 to 1917 and had three children Robert b 1914, Antony Guy 1916 and Josephine Phoebe b 1918

Table 35

Thornicroft of Little Moreton Hall, Odd Rode.

All bp, marr & bur at  
Astbury except where stated

Mathew (2) = Mary Moss 1723

William(1) = Hannah Lowdnes at Prest. 23.4.1767

bp Ast 24.9.1739 b.1748

bu 7.2.1793 bu 2.6.1822

	Martha	Betty	Hannah	Thomas	Esther	Catherine	William
bp	25.6.1769	4.9.1771	2.9.1773	19.6.1774	5.11.1776	8.3.1778	10.5.1780
			marr John Hodkinson of Sandbach				
			bur, Ast 7.2.1804				
				Thomas	Frances	Martha	Ann
				bp 28.1.1789	19.8.1787	18.5.1786	10.11.1781

1871 census age 82  
born Moreton Hall  
living at Congleton



Thornicroft's of Little Moreton Hall, Odd Rode

William (1) who married Hannah Lowdnes at Prestbury on 23.4.1767 was the youngest son of Mathew(2) and Mary Moss was baptised at Astbury on 24.9.1739. He was buried there on 7.2.1793 age 54. He leased Little Moreton Hall and farmed there probably from 1774 until his death in 1793, after which his widow Hannah continued farming there until her death age 74 and was buried at Astbury on 2.6.1822. Their tomb in Astbury churchyard records that eight of their 11 children are buried as 'infants' and they had no male heir.

Little Moreton Hall which is now an outstanding property of the National Trust was built in 1559 and was the home of the Moretons. Lysom, in his book on Cheshire states that Sir William Moreton, the last of the male line died in 1763 and the inheritance passed to his nephew the Rev. Richard Moreton previously Taylor and that in 1810 the building was inhabited by Mrs Thornicroft, tenant of the estate who reserved a few rooms for the use of the Rev Moreton who usually resided there in the summer.

The Rev Richard Taylor was vicar of West Firle in Sussex and under the terms of his uncles' will assumed the name Moreton. He was father of the Rev William Moreton, owner in 1810 but living in Westerham, Kent and from 1792 to her death in 1822 there was correspondence between them largely concerning the state of repair of the Hall.

William Thornicroft left a will dated 19.1.1793 as yeoman of Moreton. He leaves £400 to his executors on trust, to be invested in public funds or real security, the interest to be paid to his wife Hannah as long as she remained unmarried. He leaves his leasehold interest in the farm, with implements of husbandry for the support of his wife. After the expiry of the lease all his personal estate to his children to be equally divided, subject to the payment of the interest on £400 to his widow.

The executors are Edward Lowdnes, Gent, of Old House Green and John Lowdnes, silk manufacturer, London. They corresponded with the Rev William Moreton on Mrs Thornicrofts behalf.

Letters between Mrs Thornicroft and the Rev William Moreton  
These are at Chester Record Office under ref DDX/185/1-35 & 36-50 and mainly deal with local matters which affect Moreton Hall and its maintenance and the general affairs of the period so the 50 letters cover the 30 years between the death of William in 1793 and her death in 1822. William died after a five weeks illness and after his burial in February the letters record that she paid rent at £1 per acre on the 117 acre farm. In 1800 she also rented the pool and the rent became £120

The letters record the continued concern with the need to make repairs to the Hall as its state of disrepair was causing the entry of rain to cause decay. On Feb 4th 1797 'the chimney blew down and damaged the roof' and Mrs Thornicroft 'was using every effort to prevent rain damage'. On July 21 1797 the letters record 'the decay of sealings and floors at Moreton Hall'.

There was an exchange of Cheshire cheeses and casks of Whitstable oysters between Mrs Thornicroft and the Rev Moreton Rents were paid on Lady Day and others accounts were, Land Tax £5.9.6. Window Tax £1.2.5., Coals 12.6 and the carriage of two cheeses at 5½d per pound was 8 shillings.

Letters cont

In 1804 Mrs Thornicroft pump failed and a new one was agreed and in April the same year she arranged to have the beds well aired for the Rev Moreton's visit

A dispute with aneighbouring land owner, Mr Wilbraham asserted that he 'was enclosing the wastes and would soon have the whole of it.'

Timber on the estate was felled and the Moreton timber was valued at £378.10s & that at Arclid at £525.19.11. Hundreds of new trees were planted.

In 1806 she thanks him for seven barrels of excellent oysters (from Whitstable)

Complaints about the lack of repair of the Hall continued and in 1812 £23 has been spent for the repair of 'Widow Mary's chamber & a new span for the roof which would have fallen in'

In 1814 a new turnpike from Nantwich through Arclid to Congleton is being cut through his land' It appears that Arclid is part of the Moreton estate (cutting of Turnpike) and in 1819 an attempt was made to sell Arclid but 'there were no bidders'

Trade was variable. In 1813 there were 'High spirits' as trade was reviving in the Potteries but in 1816 there was 'poor corn and many people out of employ'

The state of the repair of the house causes concern. In 1814 he says 'the house must be kept dry or the timber will go into decay' but still in 1816 he comments on the bad state of repair 'it must be done and cannot be delayed'. This appears to have had some effect as in the same year some 8000 bricks were used and nine new doors fitted, the privy and the cowhouses were rebuilt. In 1819 the Window Tax surveyor reduced the agreed number of windows from 18 to 14 subject to tax.

In 1825 the correspondence agrees to an expenditure of £100 to clean out the Pool which was 'let out' and the Corn Mill was not to be destroyed as corn mills were wanted and every stream is for either a silk or cotton mill'

The exchange of Cheshire cheese and oysters continued and the cost of transport of cheese at 5½d per lb. is close to its value of 6d.lb.