

Copy by T.J. Fretwell

**Historical Memorials of the Family of Fretwell, of
Hooton Levett, from 1536 to 1750 descended from
the Barons Frescheville of Staveley near Chesterfield.**

Communicated by W^m Dickens Hoyle
Feby 1889

The Family of Fretwell, who lived at Hooton Levett, in the parish of Maltby, near Rotherham, from the year 1530 till about 1760, acquired the property by purchase. Roger Fretwell, who came from Oldcotes, in Heath, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire to Carr, near Hooton, bought it in 1530, and his descendants, a younger branch of whom settled at Hellaby Grange, in the neighbourhood, continued to live at Hooton till about the time above mentioned, when Barbara Fretwell, the only sister and heir of Thomas Fretwell, marrying of Mr. John Redfearne, an Attorney, living at Netherthorpe¹ House, Meadow Street, Sheffield, the property became his. His son John Redfearne dying unmarried in 1794, it came to his daughter Barbara Redfearne, who married Mr. William Hoyle, who came from Ovenden the parish of Halifax, and afterwards became a well known Solicitor, of Sheffield. He thus acquired the estate of Hooton Levitt, and the Netherthorpe House property of Mr. Redfearn Hoyle Street in Sheffield, which runs up to the fore-mentioned house, being named after him.

Mr. Hoyle married again after the death of his wife, the relict of Mr. Cutforthay, and became possessed of an estate and mansion, styled "Aughton Hall" near Rotherham, which still continues in the family.

Roger Fretwell belonged to a branch of the ancient and knightly family of Frescheville, who were lords of Stavely in Derbyshire, and belonged to the Old Nobility of this County, the Feudal Barons. The name became anglicised into "Fretwell" in the early part of the 16th Century as did many English names of Norman origin. The late Rev. John Hamilton Gray, Vicar of _____ near Mansfield, a learned antiquary, said, in a letter to Mr. Fretwell W. Hoyle, of Rotherham, "That the Freschevilles of Stavely were one of the really great families of the Northern divisions of Derbyshire. Renowned long before the Hardwicks, Cavendishes, or even Lacks had risen to eminence." A few descendants will show the early importance of the family. The first known to history was

Anker de Frechenville - Lord of Adwaldestone and Thurlstone temp: King John. He was one of the Barons in Arms on the part of King John. He died in 1219. "Frechenville" afterwards became spelled "Frescheville", Freschville" "Frecheville" and "Frechville".

The knightly family of Foljambe of the peak in Derbyshire _____, and afterwards for some hundreds of years, seated at Walton near Chesterfield, now represented by the Foljambes of Asberton, near Worksop, a member of whom in the part of the last century was a Mr. Moore of Kingston-upon-_____, " A merchant who married an heiress of Foljambe of Walton, and whose descendants took the name of Foljambe _____ a bow between 6 escallop shells or" _____ from the similarity of this coat to that of Frescheville, it is probable that both families belonged to the same stock. The name Foljambe sprung from a _____ family who were lords of "Follchamp".

Radulphus (Ralph) de Freschenville: Lord of Crick H. died in 1261 - His arms appear on the "Roll of Caerlaverock".

Ralph de Freschenville, Lord of Stavely, and Crick H. Summoned to Parliament as Baron. 25 EdI, died 19 EdII. His son spelled his name "Frecheville".

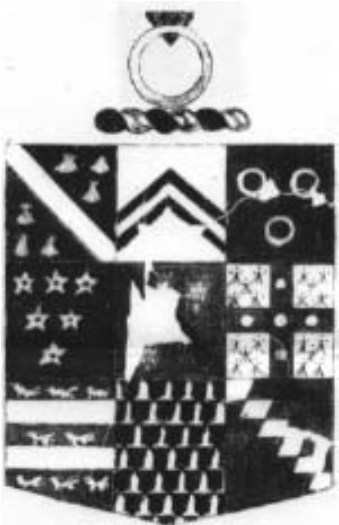
Juliana daughter and coheir of Hubert Fitz-Ralph, Baron of Crick, Derbys, and Lords of Scarcliffe and Palterton near Bolsover, which property descended with the Freschvilles. She died in 1222.

A member of the Fitz-Ralphs was Baron of Alfreton, and became the ancestor of the ancient family Claworth of Annersley, Notts.

Amicia, daughter and coheir of Ralph of Musard, Baron of Stavely, which had been held by them since temp. William the Conqueror.

Margaretta, daughter and heir of John de Beaufoy of Park Hall, near Chesterfield. Bore for arms "Argent on a bend azure, three cinque foils or (fold).

¹ Interesting to note that Margaret Frecheville, wife of Peter Frecheville I, was the co-founder of the Netherthorpe Free Grammar School.



Frecheville Coat of Arms

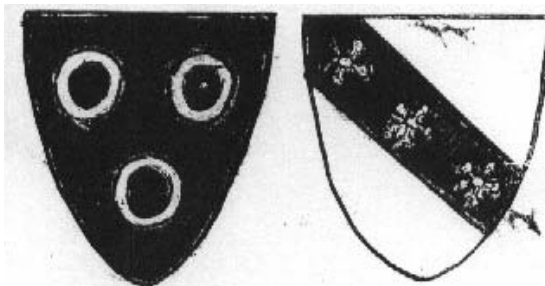


Arms of Fitz-Ralph

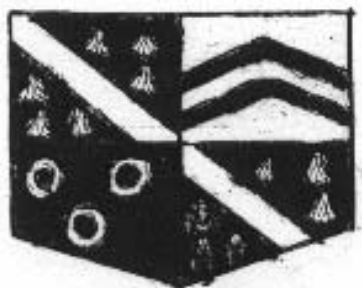
Arms of Fitz-Ralph



Coat of Arms - Radulphus de Freschenville



Coat of Arms - Amicia Freschenville (nee Musard)



Coat of Arms - Robert Frescheville



Coat of Arms - Thomas Bosville

From Ralph descended John Frecheville of Staveley, who had younger brothers Nicholas living 3 Hen 7 and Ralph of Brimington² near Chesterfield. Through John Frecheville, the elder line continued to Sir Peter Frecheville Knight. In Harleian MSS No 1394 his name is spelled "Peter Fretwell" and in the will of his nephew Neville of Blythe Abbey, it is also spelled "Fretwell". The grandson of this Sir Peter Fretwell of Staveley was John Frecheville, who was created "Lord Frecheville of Staveley" in 1664, for his services to King Charles I, but leaving no sons, the Title became extinct, his daughters and coheirs Christiana marrying Lord Charles St John of Basing, son and heir of John Marquis of Winchester and afterwards Duke of Bolton; and Elizabeth marrying 2^{ndly} Coniers D'Arcy of Aston near Rotherham, Earl of Holderness in 1684.

The Fretwells are said to descend from a younger branch of the family who were settled at Brimington and Heath. Roger Fretwell of Oldcotes in Heath, a nephew of Roger Fretwell of Hooton Levett, who died in 1608, in his will mentions his relatives Bartholomew and Ralph Fretwell of Brimington and James Fretwell his cousin of Hooton Levett. His tombstone is on the spot, where stood the parish church of Heath, now converted into a cemetery. It bears the following Inscription :

"1608. Heare doth Roger Fretwell of Owldcoates lie".

At Oldcotes was a Mansion built by the celebrated "Bess of Hardwick³" and Mr. F.W. Hoyle says that Roger Fretwell was her Steward.

Though we have no distinct link connecting the Fretwells of Heath, with the pedigree of the Frechevilles, which is found in the Heralds Visitations, and also in the "Frecheville Evidences" by Sir Charles Debick. Add: MSS Brit. Names: and Sir Francis Madden's History of the Family in Nicholls's "Topographics Genealogica et Heraldica", it is supposed that Roger Fretwell, who bought Hooton, was the grandson of Robert Frescheville or Fretwell of Brimington, the youngest son of John Frescheville of Staveley.⁴ Brimington is about 2 miles distant from Staveley. We have clear evidence that the name of Frecheville became, in course of time, changed to Fretwell, and also that the Fretwells of Oldcotes were known by the name of Frescheville, as, in the pedigree of Bosville of Ravenfield, Thomas Bosville of Doncaster and Stainton, who died in 1552, and was father to the first people of that name who settled at Warmsworth, Clifton, and Braithwell, married Ann, daughter of Roger Frescheville of Oldcotes. Possibly this marriage brought the Fretwells into Yorkshire.

The writer of these MSS has a copy of the Will of Roger Fretwell of Edlington, he made it in 1574, the year before he died, in which he leaves to his wife certain lands and tenements, and mentions lands and tenements in Hellaby, which he bought of his cousin Thomas Fretwell. Also a tenement in Braithwell called Common Hall and all the lands and tenements belonging thereto. He leaves to the poor box in Edlington 11/- and to every poor cottager in Edlington 1 peck of Wheat, and 1 peck of Malt, and he appoints Thomas Bosville of Warmsworth, Thomas Bosville of Exthorpe, and his brother Robert Fretwell his supervisors. There was conveyance, in 1572, from Roger Fretwell of Edlington to James Hardwick Esq of a Messuage and land in the villages and hamlets of Plesley and Houghton, Co. Derby. There was a recovery⁵ in 1576. Roger Fretwell Plt, and James Hardwick Dft concerning two tenements in Heath Co. Derby. In 1602 Savage had licence to alienate⁶ to Roger Fretwell, one tenement in Stainsby. The accompanying sketch from the maps of Derbys. And Notts. will show the locality of the villages where the Fretwells had interests and their distances from Staveley and Mansfield.

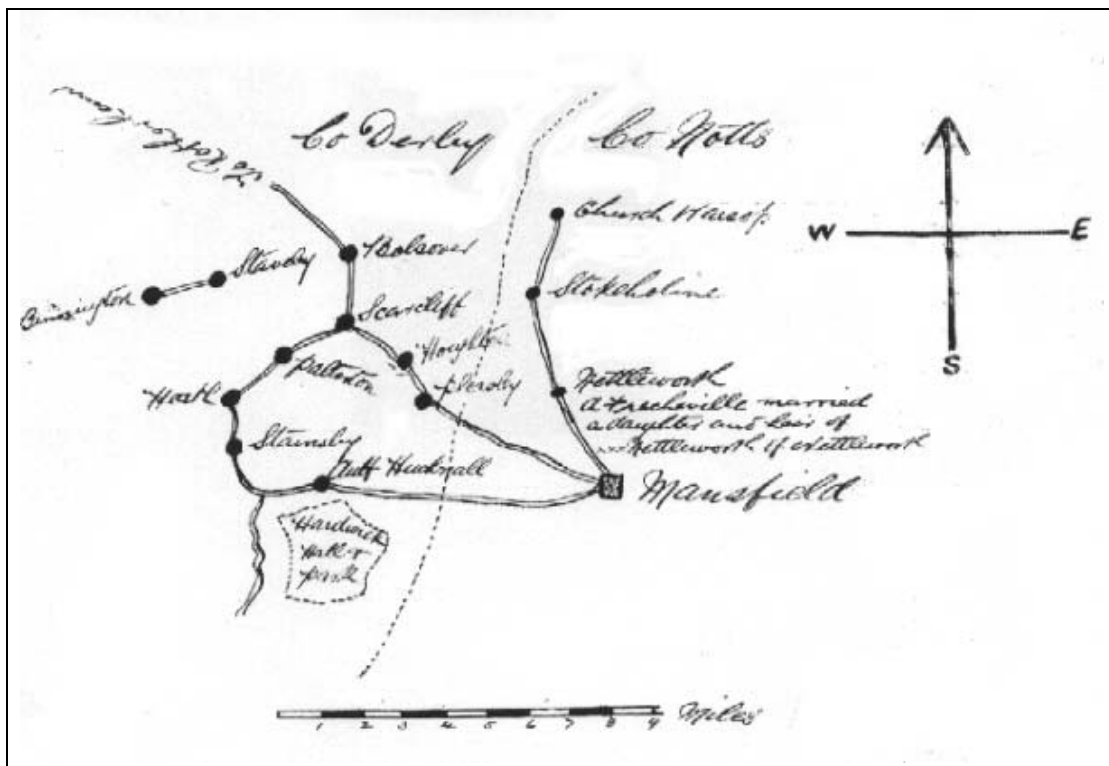
² This Ralph Frecheville as he is styled in his will, made in 1511, of Brimington, wished to be buried at Staveley. His executors were Anker Frecheville and Richard Durant. His only son, Arthur Frecheville died before his father and was buried in Chesterfield Church. His executors were the same as his father.

³ Now there was a lady to be reckoned with!!

⁴ Presumably brother to Sir Peter Frecheville?

⁵ Recovery – regaining control of land. Ptf = Plaintiff; Dft = Defendant.

⁶ Transfer ownership.



Roger Fretwell, the purchaser of Hooton, was brother to Ann Frescheville, who married Thomas Bosville of Doncaster. He had a son and heir Robert, who lived at Hooton Levett, whose oldest son was James Fretwell of Hooton Levett, who married Catherine daughter and heir of Adam Bonville, of Ivybridge Co. Devon, and their descendants ended, as to the possession of Hooton, with Barbara Fretwell mentioned at Folio 1.⁷ A relative of hers went and settled in Doncaster, where his descendants still reside. A second son of the purchaser of Hooton, John, who lived at Sokeholme or Stokeholme, in the parish of Church Warsop married the daughter and heir of Helabye of Helabye in the parish of Stainton, and his descendants were the Fretwells of Hellaby Grange, an ancient stone mansion, a conspicuous feature of the landscape, on the Rotherham and Tickhill Turnpike Road, within 2 miles of Maltby.

A Rev. William Fretwell, a member of this family, was Vicar of Stainton in the 17th Century, and some of them lived at Bramley Grange and Micklebring. This line ended in Ralph Fretwell, Gentleman of Hellaby, who was born in 1631. He went to Barbadoes, where he occupied several offices of Trust in the Island, and made his will there in 1701. When there he became a Quaker, and the two English executors named in his will, Thomas Aldam and John Stacye were of that persuasion. He is said to have built the front part of the house at Hellerby, and to have panelled the walls of the rooms with cedar brought from the Island of Barbadoes. Besides considerable legacies to other relations, he left £5000 each to his three daughters, having no male issue, who were his co-heirs, devising the estate at Hellerby to the elder one, who married Mr. Pyott of Strathay Hall, Staffordshire, thence the property went by the marriage of Mr. Pyott's daughter and heir, into the possession of Peter Johnson Esq., Recorder of York and finally by the marriage of Dorothy Johnson, his daughter and heir, Hellerby passed to the Edens, Baronets of West Auckland, in Durham, whose representatives still own it.

The family of Bonville mentioned at Folio 6 were descended from John Bonville, Lord of the Manor of Combraleigh, near Honiton, Devonshire, living in 1540. He was an illegitimate son of William Bonville, who belonged to an old Devonshire family, and who was created Lord Bonville of Chewton and who died in 1451. This John Bonville was

⁷ Barbara Fretwell who married John Redfearne.

entitled to use the name and arms of his father, which were "Sable, six mullets argent, pierced gules (3,2 & 1) debruised with the bar sinister across the shield, indicating illegitimacy. He married Alice, daughter and heiress of William Dennys, Lord of Combraleigh, which had descended through heiresses of the family of Raleigh and St. Aubyn, hence he became seated at Combraleigh. His grandson Humphrey Bonville settled at Ivybridge, where his 5th son Adam Bonville was born, whose daughter and heir, Catherine, married James Fretwell of Hooton Levett. Catherine Bonville was entitled to quarter on her shield of arms, those of the families of Dennys, St. Aubyn, the great Earl of Challons, the Barons Beauchamp of Haccke and Raleigh, of which family came the great Sir Walter Raleigh. These arms can also be used by the Fretwells and the Hoyles descended from the marriage of Barbara Fretwell.

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The following is from the 'Derbyshire Courier' Aug 4th 1866.

Staveley

"A Gentleman who claims to be a descendant of the Frechevilles, formerly Lords of the Baronies of Crick, and Staveley, gives notice in the "Times" that he has executed a Deed Poll, which has been duly registered in the High Court of Chancery, in which is set forth – among other things – how, in the lapse of time, the name of "Frecheville" has been changed into that of "Fretwell" and that by the same deed he has resumed and taken his old family name of "Frecheville" in addition to his name of "Robert Rowell Fretwell", and that he claims, from henceforth, to sign himself, and to be known, as "Robert Rowell Fretwell Frecheville". The person who thus claims to resume his old family name, describes himself as late of Manor Hill, near Halifax in Nova-Scotia, but now of Percy Lodge, East Sheen, Surry, Gentleman.

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We have no record that the Fretwells of Hooton and Hellerby, used, or knew of the existence of the old family Coat of Arms of the Frecheville; viz., "Azure a bend between six escallop shells argent".

Ralph Fretwell of Hellerby, Gentleman, when the Heralds visited him in 1612, on their rounds, for the purpose of entering in their books, Family pedigrees and Arms of Gentlemen, in Yorkshire, which volumes are now embodied in the "Harleian MSS", preserved in the British Museum, gave them the following coat viz "Argent, three fleur-de-lis gules" (red)(2.1) but no reason was given concerning it, and it may have been that of some heiress, possibly Hellaby of Hellaby. As the Fretwells of Oldcotes, and Edlington, in their Wills ranked as "Yeomen"⁸, they may have left the old parent stock before the time of John Frecheville, of Staveley, (as the main line held a high position in the society of their times, and owned large estates in the Counties of Derby and Notts, and had also lands in Leicestershire) and have sprung from the Frechevilles of Palterton, who were there in the 14th and 15th Centuries. In all pedigrees it is impossible to give every member of a family, in each generation, with their issues, so they are generally confined to the line of the eldest son and heir, and what brothers and sisters he may have had, without giving their descendants, unless the main line has failed.

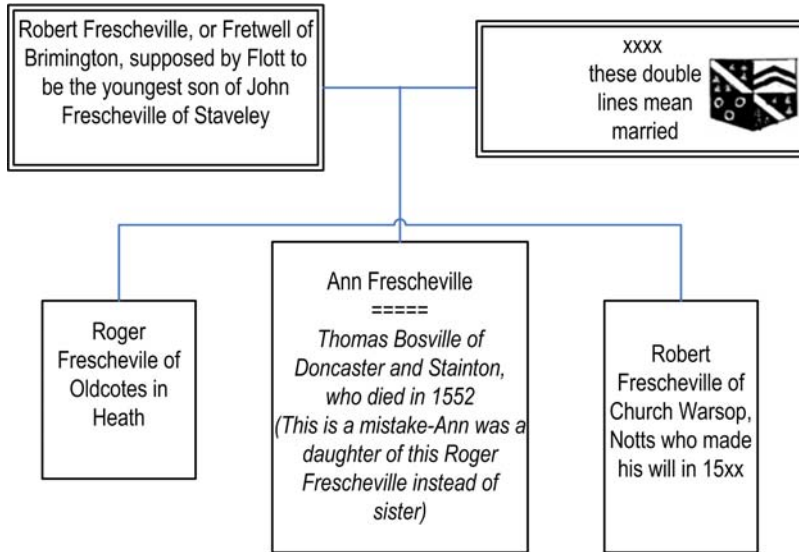
The following pedigree of Fretwell of Hooton⁹ may be taken as pretty correct, and most of it is to be found in "Fosters" "Pedigrees of Yorkshire families West Riding" :

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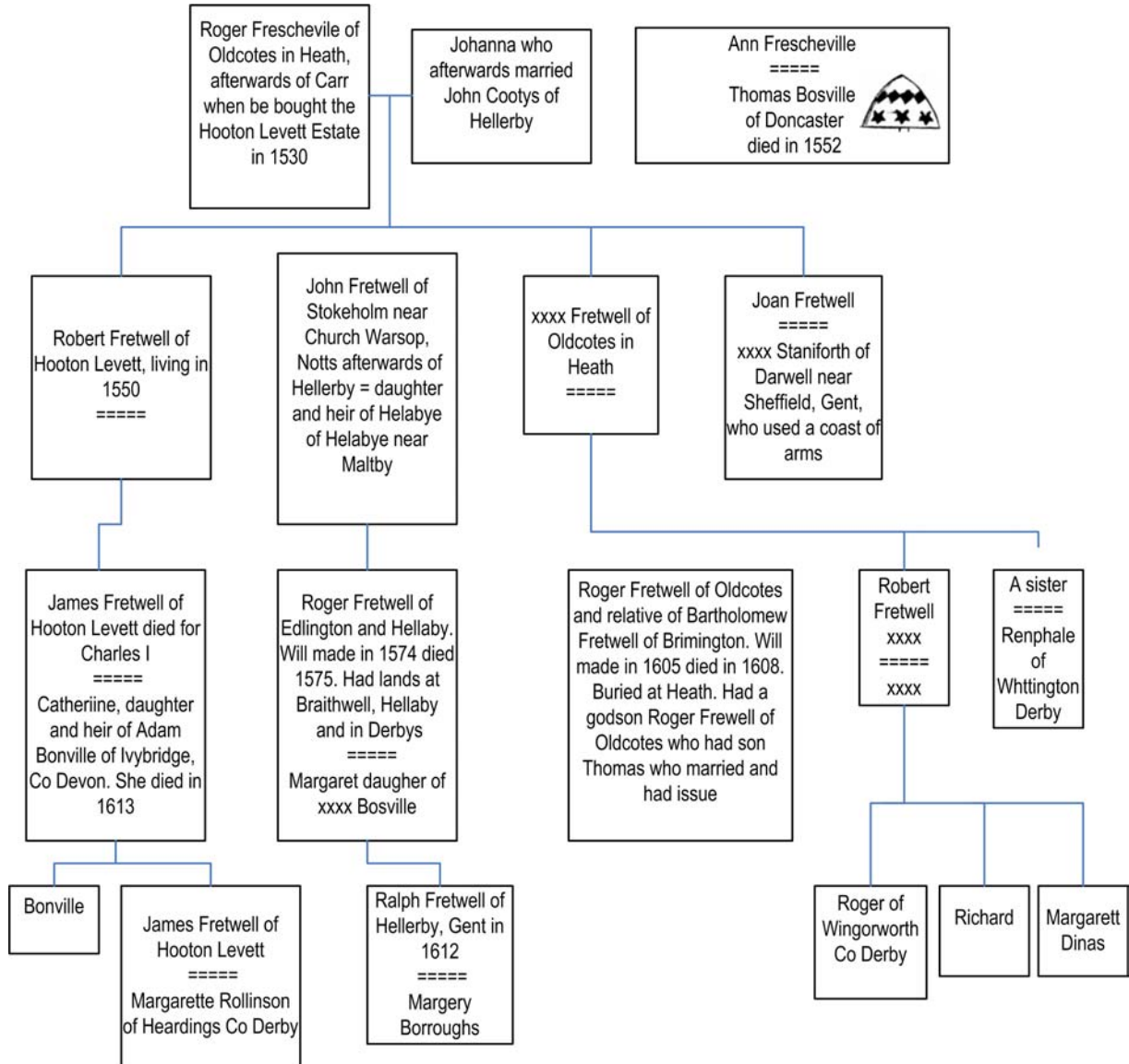
⁸ As was Johannes Fretwell, son of Peter Fretwell, of Cawthorne, the progenitor of 'my' side of the Fretwell family tree.

⁹ I have reproduced the pedigree, divided into a series of generations, in a family tree format.

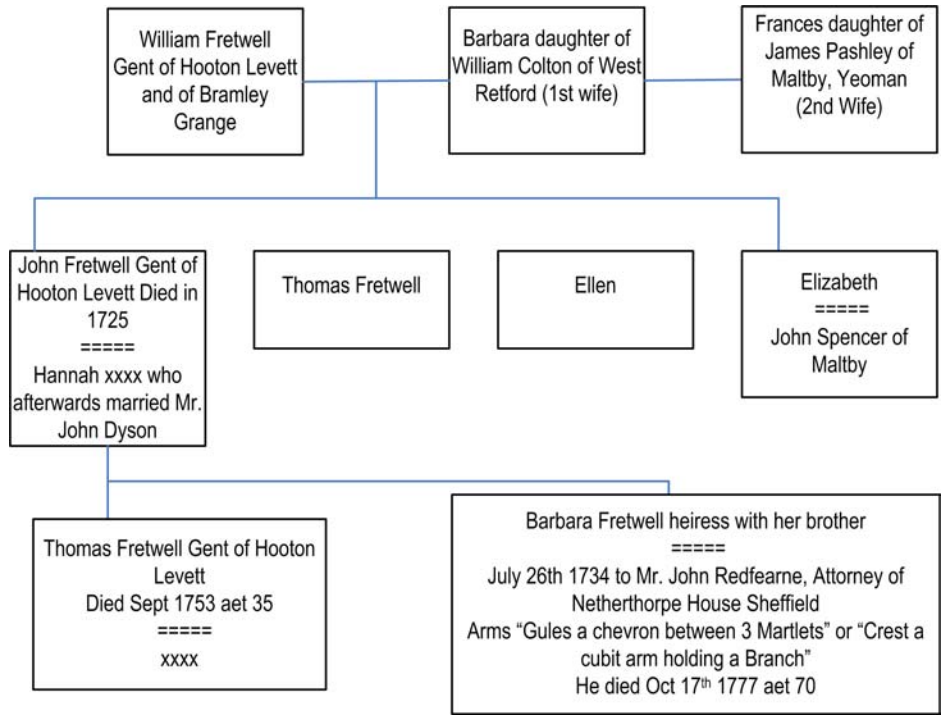
Generations 1 and 2



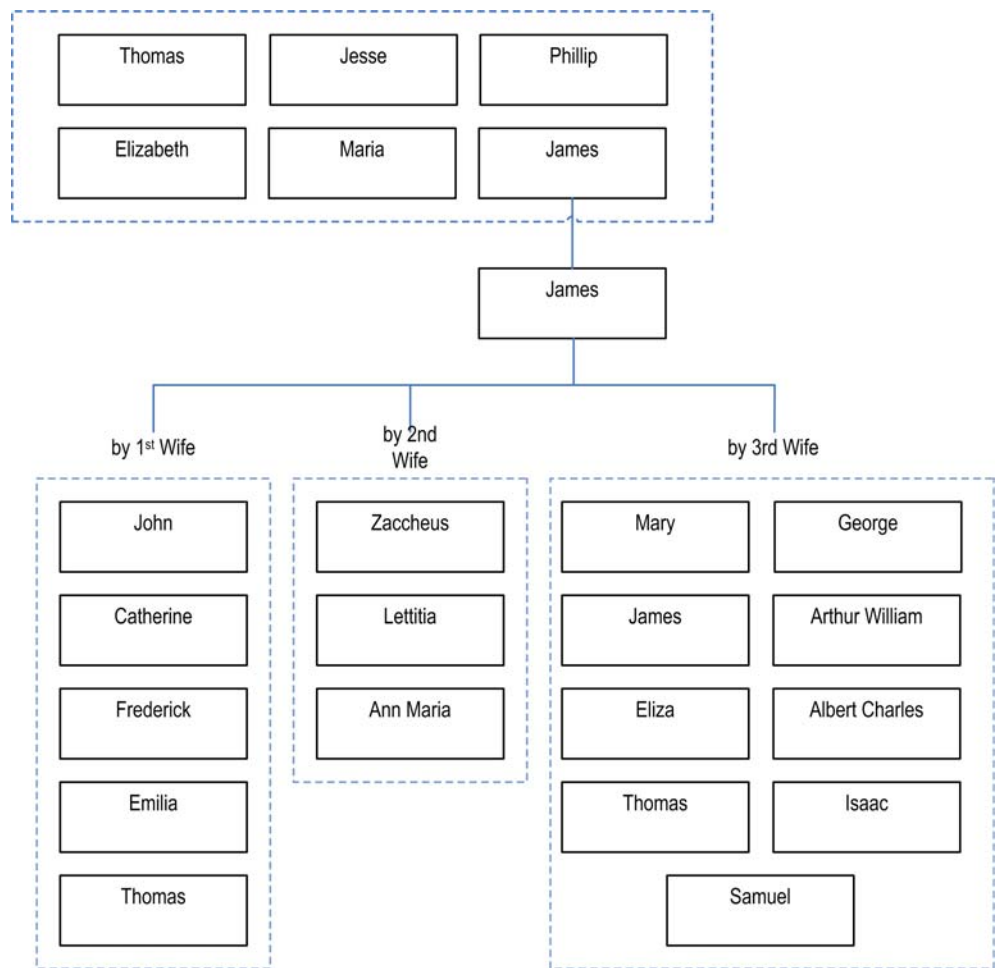
Generations 3 to 5



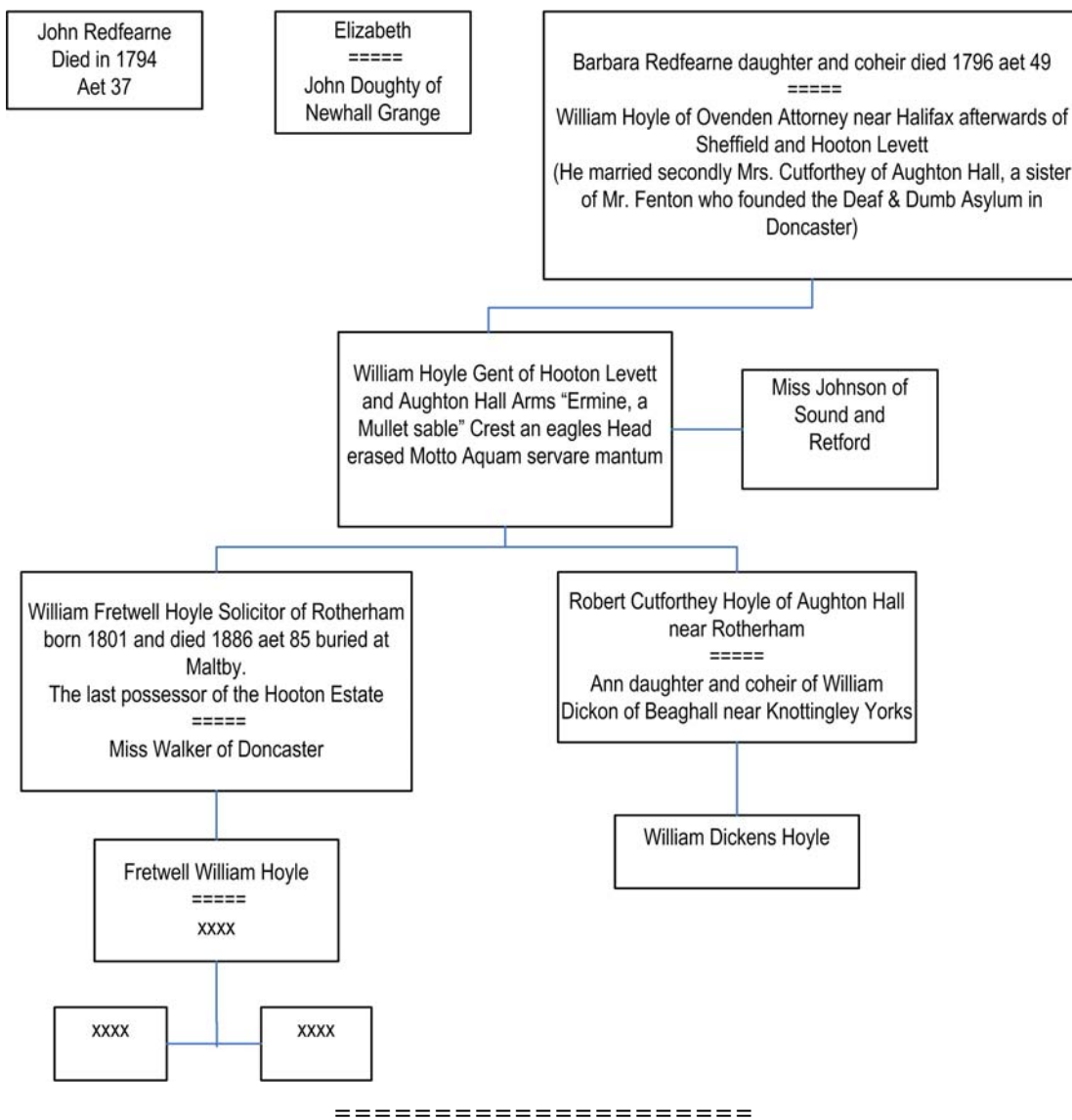
Generations 6-7



Generations 8-10 – Children of Thomas Fretwell



Generation 8-12 – Descendants of Barbara Redfearne (née Fretwell)



Roger Fretwell who bought Hooton was entitled to quarter with his own arms the ensigns of Fitz Ralph, Musard and Beaufey.

On a later page will be found emblazoned a Shield of Arms, to which the descendants of the Fretwells of Hooton Levett are entitled, and which is thus described :

Quarterly of crine

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Frecheville | "Azure, a bend between six escallop shells argent" |
| 2. Fitz Ralph | "Or chevrons azure" |
| 3. Musard | "Gules, three armlots or" |
| 4. Bonville | "Sable six mullets arg. pierced gules 3.2" |
| 5. Dennys | "Gules three leopards heads passant de lis or, a bend engraded azure" |
| 6. St Aubyn | "Ermine, on a cross gules five beyant" |
| 7. Challons | "Gules, two bars between eight martlets or" |
| 8. Beauchamp of Haach | "Bairé argent and azure" |
| 9. Raleigh | "gules, a bend lozengy argent" |

Crest A Gem Ring or, stoned gules

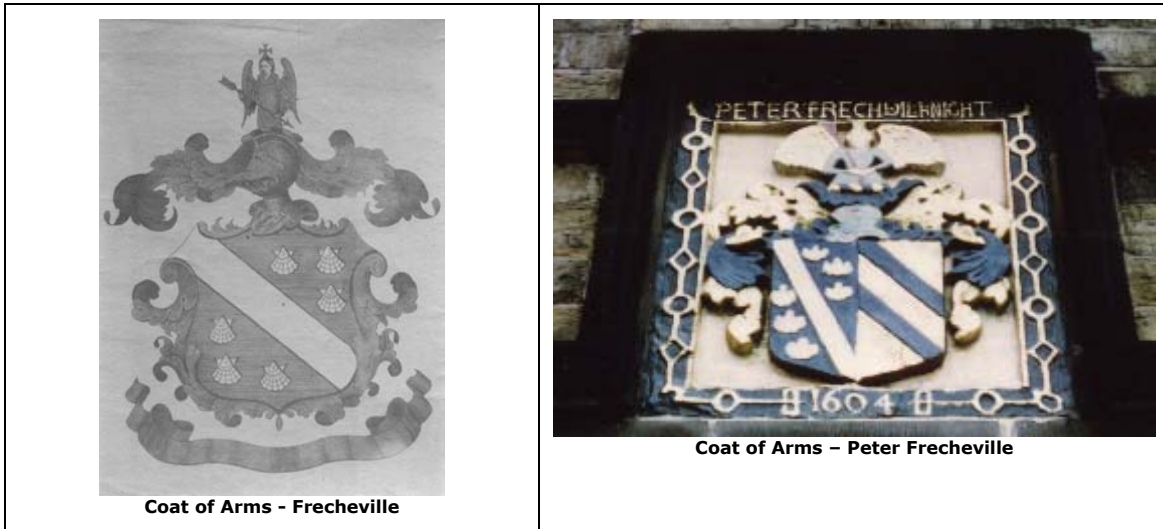
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A Quartered shield means that the Coats of Arms of all heiresses that marry into a family, and all the quarterings that the heiress may [be] entitled to, in the same way, can be incorporated with the arms of the Owner, according to the number of Quarterings (in a certain order, beginning with the earliest) in one Shield.

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John, Lord Frecheville, who was made a peer, by Charles I, used the crest of "A demi Angel in Armour, winged holding an arrow in hand", but he was the first to whom it was granted. I think that the Motto of the Frechevilles was "In Domino confido".

[The following images are the Frecheville Coats of Arms that I have on record. The coloured one is a photograph of the crest currently over the entrance of the Staveley Town Hall. LF]



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There is an Antiquary Society, in the North of England, called the "Surtees Society," and one of its publications is the "diary" of Mr. Thomas (?)¹⁰ Fretwell of Thorpe In Balm near Doncaster, who was living about 1730. I think he was in independent circumstances, and mixed much in the Society of the neighbourhood of Doncaster, and, it is a very interesting work¹¹, and throws much lights upon the habits of the period. He gives account of his forefathers, tracing up to a Fretwell of Maltby, who was a Timber Merchant, living in the 16th Century, but knew nothing of the earlier family name of Frecheville. His representative, who was living at the time when the Surtees Society issued this publication perhaps about 20 years ago, was I think a Rev. Robert Fretwell Newton, M.A.¹². living in the County of Durham, who no doubt had in his possession the MSS of Mr. Fretwell the Diarist, as he was styled, and caused it to be published by the learned Society named after the accomplished historian, who gave to the world, "Surtees History of Durham."

¹⁰ Actually James Fretwell - The transcription of the Diary is available on the Fretwell web site. (And not to be confused with the other diarist in the family, John Hobson).

¹¹ It is indeed!!

¹² Probably a descendant, one William Fretwell Newton, M.A., incumbent of St. Mark's Preston; born Sept. 19, 1826, at Wirksworth, co. Derby, and baptized in Nov. 1826. Living 1877, and has issue. He married, at Histon, co. Cambridge, Nov. 20 1862, Sophia Harris, daughter of Charles Pestall Harris, of Newnham, co. Cambridge, solicitor.