

## VIII.—FENWICK AND RAMSAY.

BY C. ROY HUDLESTON.

The Rev. John Hodgson, the historian of Northumberland, had in his possession the folio family Bible of Roger Fenwick of Stanton, in which he entered the births and baptisms of his children and their godparents. When Elizabeth his first child was christened in 1695 Roger Fenwick recorded that the godmothers were "my mother Ramsay and Aunt Collingwood", and "my mother Ramsay" acted in the same capacity in 1696 and 1700.

The lady was either Roger's mother Elizabeth Fenwick, or his mother-in-law, and Hodgson assumed that she was the former, and that after the death of William Fenwick, her husband, she married William Ramsay of Newcastle, by whom she had two sons George and William. These sons, Hodgson says, were mentioned in the entail of Brinkburn, made by her daughter-in-law, Roger's wife, the heiress of the Fenwicks of Brinkburn. In his pedigree of the Ellison family (pt. ii, vol. iii, 347) Hodgson shows Elizabeth Fenwick as eldest daughter of Robert Ellison of Newcastle, and baptized 19 February 1637. He adds that she married first, 1 March 1660, William Fenwick of Stanton, by whom she had two sons, Roger and Robert Fenwick, and secondly William Ramsay of Newcastle, "by whom also she had two sons, George Ramsay and William Ramsay, both of whom, I suppose, died without issue. Mr. Ramsay was an alderman of Newcastle, and married secondly Barbara, sister of Thomas and Calverley Bewick of Close house and Urpeth." At page 113 of pt. ii, vol. ii, Hodgson showed that William Fenwick died in 1675, at which date William Ramsay, who,

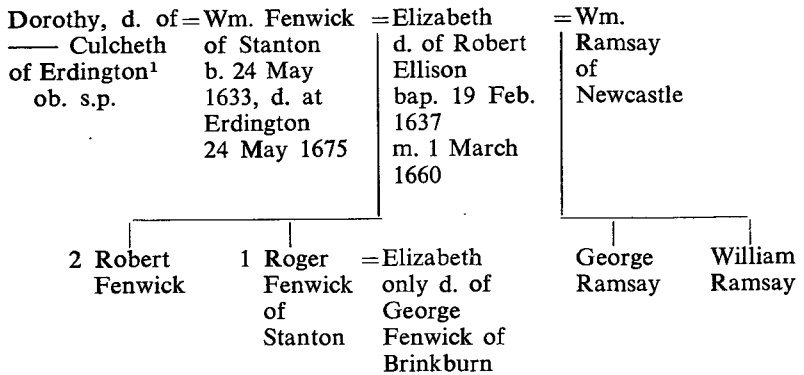
if we accept Hodgson's statement, was Mrs. Fenwick's second husband, was 14 or 15 years old.

In his valuable paper on Newcastle goldsmiths in *Arch. Ael.* 3S xi Mr. J. C. Hodgson was inclined to accept his namesake's statement, for, writing of William Ramsay the younger who died in 1716, he says: "He was probably the Alderman William Ramsay who married Elizabeth widow of William Fenwick, of Stanton, daughter of Robert Ellison of Newcastle and Hebburn. If this be so, she was his first wife; his widow being Barbara, daughter of Thomas Bewick of Newcastle."

The *County History of Northumberland* iv, 370, goes further than this. In the account of the demesne called Countess park in Chollerton, where in 1727 the heirs of William Ramsay of Newcastle held the herbage, we are told in a footnote that this William Ramsay was second husband of Elizabeth, widow of William Fenwick, of Stanton. The account goes on to say that Ramsay seems to have been residing at Brinkburn on 2 October 1701, and therefore could not be the "Mr. Ramsha of Countess park" who was buried at Chollerton on 4 January 1696/7. The writer seems to have been unaware that William Ramsay of Newcastle did not die until 1716. In *Surtees Society* vol. 118, p. 84, footnote 81, commenting on a diary entry of 1717 Mr. J. C. Hodgson said: "There were two Mrs. Ramsay's of the period viz. Elizabeth, d. of Robert Ellison of Hebburn who married (as his 2nd wife) on 1 March 1660 William Fenwick of Stanton and secondly William Ramsay, alderman of Newcastle, and Margaret, daughter of John Forster of Cornhill, who married first George Fenwick, of Brinkburn, and secondly Major William Ramsay: she died on 29 September 1723 aged 73."

If Mr. J. C. Hodgson was right this would be a remarkable coincidence—that Roger Fenwick's mother married for her second husband Alderman William Ramsay, and that his wife's mother married for her second husband Major William Ramsay. At this point it will be convenient to

summarize the Rev. John Hodgson's statements in tabular form as follows:



Turning first to Elizabeth Ellison, who married William Fenwick in 1659-60, she is put down by Hodgson as eldest daughter of Robert Ellison, whose will he says is dated 11 January 1678. I have examined this will of which the date is 11 January 1677/8, and an abstract will be found in an appendix to this paper. It will be seen that he mentions eight of the ten children whom Hodgson enumerates. The children not mentioned are Cuthbert who died an infant, and Elizabeth Fenwick. The testator, it will be seen, gives legacies to his two grandchildren Roger and Robert Fenwick, and he mentions, too, his late son-in-law William Fenwick.

It is a reasonable supposition, therefore, that Elizabeth Fenwick was dead in 1677/8, and the legacies which would have been given to her were diverted to her two children. The supposition becomes certainty when we find that on 10 June 1665 Elizabeth wife of Mr. William Fenwick of Stanton was buried at St. Nicholas, Newcastle.

<sup>1</sup> in Cumberland, *recte* Irthington.

This entry effectively disposes of the statement that she became a widow in 1675 and later married Alderman William Ramsay, the goldsmith. "My mother Ramsay", the godmother of Roger Fenwick's children, must therefore have been his wife's mother, whose name was unknown to Hodgson, but whose identity is perfectly clear. As the pedigree in N.C.H.N. vii, 474, shows she was Margaret, daughter of John Forster of Cornhill and she married first in 1673—the marriage bond is dated 23 October—George Fenwick, by whom she had an only child and heiress Elizabeth, who was baptized at Felton 7 September 1675. George Fenwick died 24 January 1677/8 and was buried at Felton on 5 February following. On 28 November 1681 Mr. William Ramsay and Mrs. Margaret Fenwick were married at Morpeth. In the marriage bond of 28 October the bridegroom is described as of Morpeth. There were at least two sons of the marriage—George, born on 29 June 1691, and baptized at Long Framlington on 1 July 1691, and William. Both died before their mother, who mentions them in her will, an abstract of which will be found in an appendix to this paper. From this will it will be seen that Margaret's husband was Major Ramsay, and he cannot therefore have been the Newcastle goldsmith.

Margaret's sons George and William Ramsay were half brothers, therefore, of Elizabeth Fenwick, the heiress of Brinkburn, and not, as the Rev. John Hodgson stated, half brothers of her husband Roger Fenwick.

At page 114 of part ii of vol. ii, Hodgson gave details of the settlement made on 2 October 1701 by Elizabeth Fenwick of Brinkburn in her widowhood. He said that she settled Brinkburn and other property on Robert Ellison of Hebburne and William Ramsay of Brinkburne in trust for her own use for her life and then to her sons John and Roger and their heirs successively and failing them to William Fenwick of Halnaby and his heirs male, "remainder to George and William, sons of alderman Ramsay; remainder

to her right heirs", giving as his reference his MS. volume U p. 90.

Reference to vol. U (now at Blackgate) however, reveals that Hodgson's printed version of the 1701 settlement differs from his manuscript note of it, which is as follows:

Indenture 2 October 1701 between 1 Elizabeth Fenwicke of Stanton widow and relict of Roger Fenwicke and only daughter of George Fenwicke late of Brenkburne dd. 2 Robert Ellison of Hebburn and William Ramsay of Brenkburne afsd gent. In consideration of a yearly jointure of £300 made by sd Roger Fenwicke and a settlement of lands &c of £600 on the issue of the sd Elizabeth and Roger and other cons, she the sd Elizabeth hath granted to sd Robert Ellison and William Ramsay the scite of the monastery of Brenkburne and all lands &c to hold to the use of sd Elizabeth for her life and then to John Fenwick eldest son of sd Roger and Elizabeth and heirs and failing them to Roger 2nd son and heir, and the premises at Nether Framlington to Elizabeth daughter of sd Roger and Elizabeth and failing heirs of her all the premises to the heirs of William Fenwick of Halnaby and heirs male and failing them to the use of 1st George 2nd William, sons of sd William Ramsay and failing them to right heirs of sd Elizabeth, &c all in trust for 599 years.

It will be seen that there is no mention of "Alderman" Ramsay, and the provisions of the settlement become intelligible.

I hope at some future date to publish accurate pedigrees of the Fenwicks of Stanton and Brinkburn, for the printed pedigrees contain many other errors.

Turning to the Ramsays who were goldsmiths in Newcastle, wills in Durham Probate Registry add some facts to those given in Mr. J. C. Hodgson's paper in *Arch. Ael.* 3S xi.

The will of William Ramsay I, though dated 19 October 1698, the day before his death, was not proved until 15 June 1734. He describes himself as one of the aldermen of Newcastle. An abstract of his will is as follows:

"To my daughter Margaret £300 my daughter Hannah £225

to my grandchild Jane Sutton £25 at 21 to my sister Margaret Emerson £5 to my servant Ann Noble 20s per annum if she abides in the family of my executor and in case she does not £4 per annum. To my daughter Margaret £5. To my daughter Hannah £5. To my son Coatsworth and wife £10 to buy them my said daughters and sons and wife's mourning. £10 for poor housekeepers. Residue to my son William Ramsay, he sole executor. To my daughter Elizabeth a chesnutt collred mare."

On 15 June 1734 administration was granted to Henry Ellison Esq. husband of (blank in original) Ellison, niece. Henry Ellison's wife was Hannah Cotesworth, granddaughter of William Ramsay I. Presumably she is called niece in the grant of probate because she was representative of her uncle William Ramsay II, sole executor of William Ramsay I's will.

An abstract of the will of William Ramsay II is printed in *Arch. Ael.* 3S xi 102 and it may be useful to give here a summary of the will of his widow Barbara<sup>2</sup> which runs as follows:

Barbara Ramsay of the town and country of Newcastle upon Tyne widow, being often out of health and ill in my body. My body to be decently buried in the church of All Hallows in the burial place there where Mr. Ramsay my deced. husband lyes buried, if his executor will thereunto consent. If not my desire is that my Body does lye among my Ancestors in the Bewickes Buriall place in the church of St. Nicholas. To my brother Benjamin and his wife £10 a piece to buy them mourning. To my nephew Robert Bewicke and his wife £10 a piece to buy them mourning. To my nephew Calverley Bewicke £100 to Barbara daughter of my niece Dorothy Lambton who is my goddaughter £150 and to Dorothy one other daughter of my sd niece £50 to be paid them when they attain 17 years and in the meantime the interest arising to be applied towards their education, my niece's husband not to intermeddle therewith.

<sup>2</sup> N.C.N.N. xiii shows that Barbara was twin daughter of Thomas Bewicke of Newcastle and Close House. She was bap. at St. Nicholas, Newcastle, on 15 February 1659-60. I have not discovered when she married William Ramsay. No marriage bond appears to exist and the marriage did not take place in Newcastle. Barbara was unmarried as late as 6 June 1701 when her brother Robert Bewicke made his will.

Residue to my brother Calverley Bewicke Esq. 10 Aug. 1722.  
Witnesses Mark Browell, Wm Sutton, William Wilson.

The will was proved in 1723.

There was a third William Ramsay, a Newcastle goldsmith, styled by J. C. Hodgson (*Arch. Ael.* 3S xi 103) William Ramsay III whose relationship to the other two William Ramsays has not been ascertained. Unfortunately J. C. Hodgson has further confused the issue by saying that this William "may be identified with much probability with the person of that name who married Margaret, widow of George Fenwick of Brinkburn and daughter of John Forster of Cornhill".

This William did have a wife named Margaret, but as I have shown she was certainly not the widow of George Fenwick of Brinkburn.

J. C. Hodgson has printed an abstract of the will (dated 13 June 1701) of the third William Ramsay, but he has omitted to give a copy of an interesting undated document which is with the will in Durham Probate Registry. This runs as follows:

"Right worship Mr. Deane and the Rest of your brethren your humble petitioner is not able to prove a will for her late husband deceased laid sick in your petitioner's hands sixtene week and had not where with all to Releave him with but what God and good neighbours helped him with all and I had nothing for to burie him with all till I borrowed it at neighbours therefore I desire your Worship to take your petitioners case into consideration as your humble petitioner shall dayly pray for your health and welfare."

The will at Durham of Margaret Ramsay, a daughter of William Ramsay I, adds a little to our knowledge of the family genealogy. An abstract is as follows:

Margaret Ramsay of Gateshead, spinster 2 April 1717. £100 and no more for my funeral. To the five children of my brother-in-law Robert Sutton by my late sister Ann Sutton decd viz Robert Sutton John Sutton William Sutton Jane Sutton and Elizabeth Sutton £100, all under 21. To poor of Gateshead

£20. To poor of four parishes or chapelries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne—St. Nicholas, All Saints, St. John's and St. Andrew's—£20 apiece. To my brother-in-law William Cottesworth Esq., all my plate linen pewter and household goods. To my niece Elizabeth Cottesworth, daughter of my said brother-in-law William Cottesworth Esq., my gold watch and chain. To Margaret Nicholson, daughter of John Nicholson of Hawksdale co Cumberland Esq. my gold chain for the neck consisting of five rows or links of gold and also a gold locket with my hair at the end of it. £4 per annum to my cousin Mary Ridley daughter of Hugh Ramsey decd. and now wife of John Ridley of Haltwhistle, my brother in law Robert Cottesforth of Unthank co Northumberland Esq. and my sister Elizabeth his now wife<sup>3</sup> sole exors and residuary legatees. Witnesses: Edward Mewson, Thos Sissons, Thos Coulson. Seal, a chevron or between three goats heads.

Proved 10 April 1721.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Registrar and his staff at Durham Probate Registry and to the Librarian and his staff at the Public Library, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, for their help and never failing courtesy.

#### APPENDIX I

##### Will of Robert Ellison in Durham Probate Registry.

Robert Ellison of Newcastle-upon-Tyne merchant—To be buried in the church of St. Nicholas in this town of Newcastle in the burial place of my ancestors if it please God to call me by death in this town or any place near it and if at a further distance to be interred in the parish church where it shall please God to call. The settlement made on the marriage of my son Cuthbert Ellison with his new wife. My sons Samuel Ellison, Joseph Ellison and Robert Ellison. My son Nathaniel Ellison whom I commit and his education to my good friend Thomas Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. To my grandchild Roger Fenwicke 40s for a token and the tapestry hangings which are in the room next to the dining room. To my grandchild Robert Fenwicke £140 and the use due to me for the same upon seven bonds due from my late son-in-law William Fenwicke and taken in trust for me in the

<sup>3</sup> They were married at St. Nicholas, Newcastle, 22 January 1694/5.



name of Robert Carr merchant tailer deceased and by him assigned unto me to my said grandchild Robert Fenwicke the further sum of £100. My son Henry Rawling and Alice his wife. My son William Jenison and Mary his wife. My sister Isabell Ellison. The children of my late brother Benjamin Ellison, Robert Ile, William Rutter and his wife and my sister Margaret Grey and my late wife's children Katherine Thorowgood, Thomas Briggs, Robert Briggs and Margaret Briggs, my brother Matfen and his wife, my sister Ellinor Harle, Bulmer Ile, my cousin Edward Harle, Elizabeth Cape and Jane Bates.

Robert Fenwicke and Ralph Heath who were my apprentices. My good friend Mr William Pell, Mr Wilson of Lamesley, Widdow Bewicke, Mrs Woolfall, Mr Naylor vicar of Newcastle, Mr John March my friends Mr Carthwaite and Mr Francis Burton. Executors my sons Samuel, Joseph, John and Nathaniel. Supervisors my son Cuthbert and my good friends Thomas Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry Sir James Clavering Bt. Sir Ralph Jenison Kt. William Lilburne Esq., William Huntley merchant, George Johnson gent.

11 January 1677. seal: chevron between three eagles' heads erased.  
marked: "1677 Will of Robert Ellison decd".

## APPENDIX II

Will of Margaret Ramsay of Stanton, Northumberland widow in Durham Probate Registry 12 November 1722.

My estate and lands in Earle als Erdhill co Northumberland in possession of Mrs Frances Selby which I purchased of her late husband Mr Robert Selby decd to my sister Katherine Wilkinson for her life and then to Mr Ephraim Selby eldest son of the sd Frances Selby and his heirs for ever charged with £500 to be paid by the said Ephraim Selby to my executrix immediately after the death of my sd sister Wilkinson. I give to my sd sister Wilkinson two blew beds in my own room, a coffy pott and cream pott both of silver. To my cousin Mr Edward Ord son of my late uncle Henry Orde of West Orde co Pal. of Durham Esq. £50 and all my stock of sheep which shall be depasturing upon Brenckburne Bankhead in afsd county with all the corn or grain that then shall be growing or standing in the field or close there unto adjoining called Burdy Flatt or standing or being in the Stack Garth or Barn upon the Bankhead afsd together with two milch cows as likewise £10 yearly for his life and in case his present wife Ann Orde shall survive him I give to her after his death £5 a year for

her life. To my cousin Mr Thomas Ogle late of Old Felton £3 a year for life to his sister Mrs Katherine Ogle £3 a year for life. All my lands and estates in Wadhouse co Northumberland to my cousin Elizabeth Hewes wife to Peter Hewes of Midleton Hall co Northumberland gen. and her heirs for ever charged with 40s. a year to be paid her nephew John Davison of Stanton afsd for seven years after my death.

To my dear grandson John Fenwicke of Stanton £10 to buy mourning £5 to my granddaughter his wife to buy her mourning. To my sd grandson a £5 piece of gold which belonged to my late dear husband Major Ramsay<sup>4</sup> and his silver watch, as also two other pieces of gold, the one belonging to my late son George and the other to my late son William, the oring coulered bed in the high middle room at Stanton with feather bed blancketts and quilts upon the same as also a crimson coulered bed lined with white in the next room as likewise the large racks in the kitchen and large copper in the brewhouse at Stanton To my great grandson William Fenwick £100 to be paid within one year after the death of Mr Edward Orde and his wife, Mr Thomas Ogle and his sister To my great granddaughter Elizabeth Fenwick £200 to be paid at the same time that my abovesaid great grandson's legacy is hereby made due and payable. To my sister Charleton £20 To William Selby eldest son of my nephew Prideaux Selby £10 To my cousin and servant Elizabeth Orde of Stanton £10 and all my wearing apparel in case she shall live with me at the date of my death To my very good and kind neighbour Mrs Thornton wife to John Thornton of Nether Witton co Northumberland Esq. out of the true respect I have for her a diamond ring as a token to remember me<sup>5</sup> To Hannah Fenwick widow and relict of the late Robert Fenwick £3 To poor of Brenckburne parish £3 and to poor of Stanton Liberty 40s To my brother Collingwood and sister Collingwood and to my nephews Forster Charleton and John Charleton

<sup>4</sup> Cal. S.P. Dom. 1703-4, pp. 504-5, contains a reference to Joseph Heron, servant to Capt. Ramsay of Brenckburn, "who is a captain in Col. Collyer's regiment that lies at Bergen app Zoom", 22 January 1704. Col. Collyer or Colyear commanded a regiment of the Scots Brigade in the Dutch service, and William Ramsay is mentioned as a captain in the regiment on 20 July 1695. The head of the Ramsay family, George Earl of Dalhousie, was also a captain in the regiment, as was John Ramsay.

<sup>5</sup> This bequest is a little surprising, for on 23 November 1716 the testator deposed that she had in her custody two beds, chairs mirrors and other goods late the property of Mr. Thornton, of which she prayed to have a fourth part for revealing the information to the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates. On 13 March 1718, learning that the goods had been sold for £27 15s., she asked for a fourth part of the money (Records of English Catholics of 1715, p. 142). The author, however, has gone astray in suggesting that Margaret Ramsay was very likely "some servant of dependant of Mr. Thornton's".

and to my nieces Elizabeth Charleton, Margaret Shaftoe, Martha Storrow and Margaret Murton and to my neighbours Joseph Bilton and his wife a gold ring of the value of a guinea and to my sister Wilkinson and to my niece Selby a ring also of the value aforesaid.

My granddaughter Elizabeth Fenwicke sole executrix.

Witnesses:

William Hills

William Bleket

Elezabeth Hunter

Mar. Ramsay

Seal — an eagle displayed

Codicil. Since I made my will I have sold the estate in Erle als Erdhill to Mr Ephraim Selby of Bywell. My exix to pay to my sister Wilkinson £25 a year for her life. The £100 which I gave to my great grandson William Fenwick I now give to his sister my great granddaughter Margaret Fenwick who was born after the making of my said will. The £10 a year given to my cousin Mr Edward Ord shall cease as soon as he shall receive the money due to him from Sr William Blackett Bt. and I revoke his legacy of £50.

20 August 1723. Mark

Witnesses:

Tho: Cooper Wm: Cooper John Jopling

Seal — lion  
passant