

# THE LILLEY FAMILY

Research on the Lilley family began on the basis of the following information:

Margaret Lilley was the wife of John Harrop (1628–1682: see our history of the Harrop family under reference 6340), a clothmaker of Ashton-under-Lyne, which lies a short distance to the east of Manchester in Lancashire. The couple married at Manchester on 1 January 1654/5,<sup>1</sup> during the Commonwealth;<sup>2</sup> the event was recorded in the Ashton-under-Lyne parish registers. The witnesses were John Clegg, John Turner, Henry Harrop and Henry Cocke and the register described Margaret as the daughter of Nicholas Lilley, husbandman of Hartshead in the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne. Margaret was buried at Ashton on 22 May 1685, no age being given.

We first consulted the parish registers of Ashton-under-Lyne (since these are very large we used the Lancashire Parish Register Society transcript, which is generally reliable) and made a search for the baptism of Margaret, daughter of Nicholas Lilley, from March 1615 to March 1635. We found four baptisms of children of Nicholas Lilley, but none for his daughter Margaret:

**Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire**  
*Transcript of Parish Registers*  
Baptisms March 1615 to March 1635

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 14 Mar 1626/7 | Ellen d. Nicholas Lillie de Hartsheade   |
| 29 Jul 1632   | Raph s. Nicholas Lyllie de Lyley lanes   |
| 22 Mar 1634/5 | Ellen d. Nicholas Lyllie de Lillie Lanes |
| 23 Sep 1638   | Elizabeth d. Nicholas Lyllie             |

As we would expect at this period, the surname was spelled in a variety of ways, and the name of the mother was not given. It was interesting to see that in the 1630s the family lived

---

<sup>1</sup> Before 1752 the New Year officially began on 25 March (Lady Day); so dates between 1 January and 24 March were technically part of the ‘old year’. Thus 1 January of what we would now call 1750 was officially regarded as 1749. To avoid ambiguity, pre-1752 dates falling within this period are shown ‘double-dated’.

<sup>2</sup> Many ministers with royalist tendencies were ejected from their livings in 1643 and 1645 and royalist couples might travel to a different location rather than be married by the ‘intruded’ Puritan minister who had been imposed on the parish. The Commonwealth authorities, in a general attempt to remove power from ecclesiastical to the civil authorities, also instituted a system of civil registry. This meant that a couple would be married by a civil ceremony (sometimes by the incumbent, but sometimes by a Justice of the Peace or other official) in the nearest town.

in ‘Lillie Lanes’; this street name is still in use<sup>3</sup> and presumably derives from the family’s tenancy of land there. The first Ellen, baptised in 1627, probably died in infancy, since another child was given her name in 1635, although at this period of high infant mortality it was not unheard of to give two living children the same name. We searched the burial registers, which confirmed that the first Ellen died in 1629, and we found that another, unnamed, child died in 1639:

**Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire**  
*Transcript of Parish Registers*  
Burials

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 22 Nov 1629 | Ellen d. Nicholas Lyllies           |
| 14 Aug 1639 | A Child of Nicholas Lyllies de Lane |

‘Lane’ probably refers to Lilley Lanes. There was a gap of more than five years between the baptisms of the first Ellen in 1627 and of Raph in 1632, during which Margaret might have been born.

We hoped that Nicholas Lilley might have left a will. The probate jurisdiction for this part of Lancashire was the diocese of Chester, and the indexes to this court showed the following entry:

|      |  |          |
|------|--|----------|
| 1669 | Nicholas Lilley of Ashton under Lyne, yeoman | WCW/1669 |
|------|--|----------|

We ordered a copy of this document, which includes an inventory and renunciation. Because the will is relatively brief we have made a full transcription. More than half of the content was of a religious nature:

**Will of Nicholas Lilley of Ashton-under-Lyne, yeoman**  
*Chester 1669*

In the name of God Amen the Two and Twentieth day of Aprill in the one and twentieth yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Kinge defender of the faith vizt Anno Dmni 1669

I Nicholas Lilley the Elder of Hartshead within the p[ar]ish of Asheton under lyne in the Countie of Lancaster yeoman, being Aged sicke and weake in body, but of sound and perfect mynde & memory (prayse bee therefore given to Almightye God) and Callinge to remembraunce the uncertayne estate of this transitory life, & that all flesh must yeild unto death, when it shall please God to Call, And beinge desirous to settle things in order doe make Constitute ordaine & declare this my last Will & Testament in manner & forme following, revoakinge & adnullinge by these presents, all & every Testement & Testaments, Will & Wills heretofore by mee made & declared either by word or writing,

---

<sup>3</sup> The name refers to a narrow lane leading north west from the B6194, north west of Ashton.

And this to bee taken only for my last Will & Testament and none other, And first & principally (being penitent & sorry from the bottome of my heart for my sinnes past humbly desireinge forgiveness for the same) I give & Comitt my soule unto Almighty God nothing doubting, but that for his infinite mercies sett forth in the precious blod of his dearely beloved sonne Jesus Christ our onely Saviour & redeemer, hee will receive my soule into his glorie & place it in the Companie of his heavenly Angels & blessed Saints, And as Concerninge my body even with good will & free heart I give it over Com[m]ending it to the earth, whereof it Came, to be buried in the p[ar]ish Church or Church yeard of Asheton under lyne in such decent manner as my Executor hereafter named my Children & other of my friends and relations shall thinke fit: Nothing doubting but att the great day of the generall resurrection when wee shall appeare before the Judgment seate of Christe I shall receive the same againe by the mightie power of God wherewith hee is able to subdue all things to himself, not a Corruptible mortall weake & vile body, as it is now, but an uncorruptible immortall stronge & perfect body like unto the glorious body of my Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ And as touching the disposition of such Temporall estate as it hath pleased Almighty God to beestowe upon mee I give leave & dispose thereof as followeth,  
First it is my will & mynde that my debts herriott<sup>4</sup> shalbee taken up my funerall expences and all necessaries about the same; probate of my will exhibiteinge of an Inventory payd and discharged out of my whole goods  
And now it is my will and mynde and I hereby give leave and bequeath to Nicholas Lilley my sonne the great Arke standing on the lower floore the dish boards in the house and all the stone troughs in or aboute the house, to remayne to him as heire loomes  
Item I give leave and bequeath to John Harrope my sonne in Lawe Margrett his wife and their five Children every one Twelve pence apiece,  
Item I give leave and bequeath to my son[n]e in Lawe Daniell Bardsley and Elizabeth his wife Twelve pence apiece.  
Item I give leave and bequeath to Ellen Lilley my daughter, Twelve pence,  
And all the rest residue and remainder of my personall estate, Goods and Chattels whatsoever I doe hereby give leave and bequeath the same unto my deere and loveinge wife Margrett Lilley:  
Lastly I ordayne and make my sayd deere and loving wife Margrett Lilley & Nicholas Lilley my sonne Executrix & executor of this my last Will and Testament  
And I desire my neighbours Richard Kinder and Raph Wild to bee overseers of the same, to see the same executed as my trust is in them, In wittnesse whereof I the sayd Nicholas Lilley have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written

Nicholas Lilley his Marke (N)

Sealed

Witnesses: William Stopford his Marke  
Richard Kinder  
Henry Cocke

### **Inventory**

A true and perfect Inventory of the goods Chattel & Chattells of Nicklass Lilly of the parish of Ashton under line and Countey of Lancaster yemon deceased prised [appraised] by William Stophortt: Robortt houltt: Robort Knott [&] Richartt bookly the twenty fort day of August in the yeare of our lord god 1669

---

<sup>4</sup> These were charges due to the Lord of the Manor on the death of a copyhold or freehold tenant, and were either in cash or in the form of a best beast or other chattel.

Imprimes his Chattell five Cowes: £12  
Itam one Little heifer one sterke<sup>5</sup> 2 Cavels [calves]: £4  
Itam one mare and 2 Coultres: £6  
Itam his heay and Courne: £7  
Ita his Carts and wheels and Cart geares ploos [harness, ploughs] and harrowess: £1  
Itam one Little frome [?frame] : 10s  
Itam 2 bedstids and bedinge: £1 10s  
Itam in lininnes: £1  
Itam his arks and Cofors [chests and coffers]: 13s 4d  
Itam one Table: 5s  
Itam his puter [pewter] and brass: £1  
Itam in Treane [wooden] ware: 10s  
Itam Chearss Stwoos & quishins [chairs, stools and cushions]: 6s 8d  
Itam in oyrne [iron] ware: 5s  
Itam in Cheese meale baken [meal and bacon]: £1 10s  
Itam erthen pots: 1s 6d  
Itam all other ode huslements [odd things]: 5s  
Itam his Clothess an purse: 1 10s

The Sume is £39 6s 6d

### **Renunciation**

I Nicholas Lilley doe utterly renounce all claims to the Executorship of the last will & Test[ament] of Nicholas my father as witnesse my hand this 4 December (69)  
Signed: Nicholas Lilley (witness Francis Wood)

The will confirmed very clearly that Margaret Harrop was the daughter of Nicholas Lilley of Hartshead, who referred to ‘John Harrope my sonne in lawe, Margrett his wife and their five children’. One of the witnesses to the will was Henry Cocke, who had also witnessed the marriage of John and Margaret Harrop in Manchester in 1655. We learned that Nicholas’s wife was also named Margaret and that they had a son Nicholas, whose baptism we had not found at Ashton-under-Lyne. There was no mention of a son Ra(l)ph, but the second daughter named Ellen (baptised 1635) was still living and unmarried in 1669. Her younger sister Elizabeth had married Daniel Bardsley.

Nicholas mentioned no real estate in his will but referred to his debts ‘heriot’, which indicates that he was a tenant of the manor; whether freehold or copyhold we do not know. We gain a glimpse of the interior of his house through his reference to the ‘great ark’ or chest that stood on the lower floor and the ‘dish boards’ and stone troughs that were to go to his son Nicholas as heirlooms. Further insight into his domestic life is provided by the inventory; this, and the small monetary bequests he left, indicates a humble household

---

<sup>5</sup> A sterke was a bullock or heifer aged one or two years old.

typical of a yeoman of modest means, the largest items of value being the animals. Nicholas was in his seventies when he made the will and referred to himself as ‘aged’.

We went on to search for the marriage of Nicholas Lilley and Margaret, whose maiden name was unknown. They did not apparently marry at Ashton-under-Lyne, and so we consulted the following:

W F Irvine, ed, *Marriage licences granted within the archdeaconry of Chester in the diocese of Chester* Vol. I: 1606–1616 Vol. II: 1616–1624 and Vol. III: 1624–32 Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society, 53 (1907), 56 (1908) and 57 (1909)

Boyd’s Marriage Index for Lancashire (Males) 1601–1625; 1626–1650

This search produced no marriage for Nicholas Lilley although we noted from Boyd’s Marriage Index that a William Lilly and Ann Powell married at Prestwich (a few miles north of Manchester) in 1627. We followed this up by looking at a transcript of the parish registers of Prestwich, which confirmed that this marriage took place on 27 December 1627, but we found no further Lilley entries here.

We also consulted Boyd’s Marriage Index for Lancashire (Females), looking for any Lilley brides, in order to get an idea of where the family might have been based in the 1620s and before. We found several female Lilley marriages:

**Boyd’s Marriage Index for Lancashire (Females) 1601–1625**

|      |                               |                   |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1607 | Margaret Lilly and James Moor | Didsbury          |
| 1615 | Ellen Lilly and Rafe Thorp    | Ashton-under-Lyne |

**Boyd’s Marriage Index for Lancashire (Females) 1626–1650**

|      |                                    |            |
|------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1635 | Elizabeth Lilley and Henry Hardman | Rochdale   |
| 1641 | Mary Lilly and James Beswick       | Manchester |
| 1650 | Ann Lilly and Thomas Hall          | Manchester |

As mentioned above, couples did not necessarily marry in their home parish during the Civil War and Commonwealth periods, and the latter results are probably distorted by this fact. It was interesting to see that an Ellen Lilly married at Ashton in 1615, and we were later to identify this bride as Nicholas’s sister. We followed up the Didsbury marriage (1607) by looking at a transcript of the parish registers, and found here a few further Lilley entries, including the baptism of another Margaret Lilley in the 1630s, but she was the daughter of John Lilly:

**Didsbury, Lancashire**  
*Transcript of Parish Registers*

14 Apr 1632 Margerit d. John Lilly

Didsbury lies a few miles south of Manchester.

Since there now seemed a reasonable chance that the yeoman Nicholas Lilley was born in Ashton, although we had not found the record of his marriage or the baptisms of two of his children, we returned to the registers there to look for his baptism. The registers for Ashton date from 1594. In the very earliest section we found what is undoubtedly Nicholas's baptism and those of five siblings, whose names were very similar to those given to Nicholas's own children.

**Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire**  
*Transcript of Parish Registers*  
Baptisms 1594 (commencement) –1615

|             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 22 Aug 1596 | Ellyn d. Raphe Lilly      |
| 29 Aug 1598 | Nicholas s. Raphe Lillie  |
| 12 Oct 1600 | Elizabeth d. Raphe Lillie |
| 10 Jul 1603 | Joane d. Raphe Lillie     |
| 15 Dec 1605 | Jane d. Raphe Lillie      |
| 10 Jul 1608 | Margaret d. Raphe Lillie  |

We also found the marriage of Nicholas's parents, Raphe Lilley and his wife Jane Hill or Hyll, which took place in 1596:

**Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire**  
*Transcript of Parish Registers*  
Marriage

8 Feb 1595/6 Raphe Lilly and Jane Hyll

This took us into the reign of Queen Elizabeth (who died in 1603). We searched forwards from 1608 for the burial of Raph(e) Lilly and found one possibility:

**Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire**  
*Transcript of Parish Registers*  
Burial

9 Mar 1609/10 Raphe Lillie

We returned to the Chester probate indexes and found the following reference:

|      |  |          |
|------|--|----------|
| 1610 | Ralph Lillie of Ashton under Lyne, Maltman | WCW/23/3 |
|------|--|----------|

We ordered a copy of this will and inventory, which confirmed that this was the ancestor, for he refers to his wife Jane. We made a full transcript of the will:

**Will of Raphe Lillie, maltman of Ashton-under-Lyne**  
*Chester 1610*

In dei nomine Amen, the 5<sup>th</sup> daie of Marche, in the seventhe yeare of the Reigne of our Soveraigne lord James by the grace of god of England France and Ireland, Kinge defender of the faith etc, And of Scotland the three and Forttitithe, 1609

I Raphe Lillie of the parishe of Ashton under lyne, in the Countie of Lancaster, maltman, visited wth sicknes, yet in good and p[er]fecte remembrance praised bee god, doe Constitute, ordayne & make this my laste will and testament, in man[n]er and forme following,

Firste & principallie I give & commend my soule into the hands of almightie god my Creator, trusting assuredly by faithe in Jesus Christe my Saviour and redeemer to receve free remission of al my sinnes, and to bee made p[ar]taker of everelastinge liffe together w[i]th the Companie of the faithfull, and my bodie I Com[m]end to the earthe from whence itt came to bee buryed in the Churchyard of Asheton under lyne aforesaid, or in Christian burial where god shall appoynte,

Itm for my temporall goods my will is they shalbee disposed as followethe

Firste itt is my will that, my debts bee paid out of my whole goodes

Itm my will is that after my debts bee paid, my goodes shalbee devyded iinto three equall parts or portions, one whereof I give to Jane now my wife, the second pte I give to all my Children to be devyded equallie amongst them, and the third pte I reserve to my selffe for my funeral expences and forthebringinge,<sup>6</sup> and to bee bestowed as followethe, and after my funeral expences and forthbringinge bee discharged I give to everie one of my daughters Forttie shillings, out of my said pte, and the Reste of myne to bee devyded amonge my Children,

And itt is my will and mynd that my Executors shall sell the land w[hi]ch belongeth to mee wch lyeth in Yorke shire, and I doe by this my last will and testament putt them in full estate to make sale of the same, and to devyde the money wch they shall take for the same, equallie amongst all my Children, w[th] the advyse of myne Overseers,

And it is my will that the new ground in Hartshead, belonging to mee, to bee made into money, and that the money shall goe towards the taking of this my Farme after my decease, In Consideration that all my Children maie bee kept upon this my Farme till the youngest bee Fifteen years of age, if they bee not better p[ro]vyded for by the discretion of their friends and also that if it please god that my sonne decease before hee come to lawfull age, and that my eldest daughter then lyving enjoye after him this my tenement, that shee shall give unto her sisters evrie of them £10 apeece, always provided that my wife have and enjoy her part according to the Custome of the lordshippe

Item I Constitute and make John Taylior and John Mosse Executors of this my last will & testament, and I appoint Thomas Ashton my brother in lawe, and Jane my wife, to bee overseers of this my last will and testament to see the same truly Executed as my trust is in them

Witnesses: Thomas Asheton, John Taylior, William Lees with others

---

<sup>6</sup> 'Forthbringing': the bringing forth of a body for burial.

**Debts inward due to the testator**

George Maken, Witness Raphe Marler: £11 14s  
Mr Adarton his steward: 20s  
Thomas Cowdas: 10s  
William Sale: £3  
Adam Milner: £11 16s  
William Longworthe: 44s  
Mr George Proudhouse: £10 6s 6d  
Edmund Heywood milner [miller] at the horse milne in Manchester: £6 8s  
Roger Seddon: 19s  
Richard Gregorie de Hashenden: 14s  
Mrs Asheton de Heyrod: 7s  
Thomas Hasheygreave: 7s 6d  
Richard Knott: 50s  
Edward Tumblingson: 18s 8d  
Thomas Smithe: 18s  
William Ridge of Heyfield: £3 9s  
Thomas Goddard in Mellor: 14s  
Robt Lees de Smalshawe: 10d  
Jane Lillie: 10s  
John Mosse: 10s  
vx[?] Edward Marler de Manchester: 20d  
Peeter Blackley: 12s  
Issabell Kirshawe: 12s  
Anthonie Travesse: 20s  
Roger Chadwicke: 12s  
John Knott: 20d  
James Brodbent: 5s  
Richard Lee: 4s 4d  
Raph Cocke de Fatts 'one Chiste or els in money': 5s  
Mr Edward Vokenfield his wife: 32s  
Edward Mellor: 5s  
[?]Ottmell Stafford: 5s  
Robert Collier: 25s  
George Knott: 14s 4d  
Henrie Cooke: 10s  
my unckle Henrie Lillies wiffe: £4  
Raphe Wild: 13s  
John Stansfield: 3s 3d  
Thomas Goddard in Mellor suretie for one bushel of malt: 23s 4d  
Gyles [?]Oreitte: 7s  
John Heywood de Mossley suretie Edmund Hall: 13s 4d  
John Heywood ageane [again]: 12s 6d  
[Total]: £77 8s 11d

**Debts owtward owing by the testator**

to Thomas Asheton: £10  
to Henrie Taylior: 27s  
to Raphe Soundiforthe: 20s  
to hoope wiffe in Manchester: 20s [see footnote 8 below]  
to Nicholas Walker de Asheton: 40s  
to Christopher Champion: 20s

to William Billet: 25s  
to Anne Billeymay: 16s  
to Richard Betney: £27  
to the same Richard Betney 'more as will appeare in his note what hath beene delivered since I was at Maunsfield'  
[Total]: £50 3s beside the summe not agreed upon)

### **Inventory**

A true Inventorie of the goods and cattell of Raphe Lillie late of the paryshe of Asheton under Lyne in the Countie of Lancs maltman deceased and prysed the xiiiith daye of Marche 1609 [regnal date follows] by these fowre neighbours, Willm Cocke, Rycharde Wynterbotham, Edmonde Burkley and Thomas Asheton.

Imprimis three horses and one mare with fowere saddles and Implements: £8  
Itm fowre kyne [cows] & one calfe: £10  
Itm in corne: £12 6s 8d  
Itm in haye: 46s 8d  
Itm in carte sheeles and carte gayres [equipment], plowes and plowe geares wth harrowes and some cart tymber and plowe tymber: 16s  
Itm in meale and malte and some greates:<sup>7</sup> 26s 8d  
Itm in beefe and bacon: 20s  
Itm one quicke [living] swine: 10s  
Itm xxxii hoopes of barlie malte in Manchester, and viii hoopes at Myles Marlands and ix hoopes in an Arke at home, wch all is xii bushel and one hoope<sup>8</sup>: £11  
Itm in sakes: 13s  
Itm one bedstedde twoo tables wth arkes chests & some bordes: £4 5s  
Itm in brasse and pewter and one fryinge panne: 35s 4d  
Itm a leade [leaden brewing vat]: 5s  
Itm worke loomes: 13s 6d  
Itm in greene hempen yearne: 22s  
Itm in woollyn yearne: 10s  
Itm in wooden ware and earthen potts: 6s  
Itm in butter and cheese: 6s  
Itm in bedding: £5 6s 8d  
Itm more in lynnens: 6s 8d  
Itm in Lymestone & fuell: 26s 8d  
Itm in wheele tymber and one gryndlestone: 10s  
Itm his Apparell: £3 8s

Total £69 19s 10d

Ralph Lilley was a maltman or maltster, so his main business was to manufacture malt from barley or corn; but he also described his home as a farm and tenement, and he was anxious that his wife and children should be brought up there. This tenement was evidently held copyhold, since he refers to the custom of the manor. He requested that land he owned in

---

<sup>7</sup> Greats or groats: hulled, or hulled and crushed grain, usually oats.

<sup>8</sup> A hoop was a measurement of grain, which varied but in this context was probably a quarter of a bushel; however, the figures do not quite add up. The name hoop was also given to the vessel which held and measured the grain: the list of Ralph Lilley's debts includes 20 shillings to the 'hoop wiffe of Manchester'.

Yorkshire and his 'new ground in Hartshead' should be sold, to consolidate the estate. Since we know that his only son Nicholas farmed at Hartshead, these instructions may not have been strictly adhered to.

The inventory gives a detailed picture of his stock, and it will be seen that the items of highest value were grain. Eight bushels of barley malt was held at Manchester and another two bushels 'at Myles Marlands', Myles being presumably a merchant or tradesman. The grain was steeped in a cistern or 'leade' as it appears here, and after germination was roasted in a kiln, which would require the limestone and fuel listed in the inventory. Ralph would have supplied malt to local brewers, publicans and the many families who brewed their own beer, and he owned four horses and carts. He owned looms on which wool and hemp were woven for family use.

A large number of people owed Ralph money: the sum of the debts owed to him was greater than the value of his possessions. His debtors included Jane Lillie and the wife of his uncle Henry Lillie, and so we have here a glimpse of an earlier generation. At the top of the list of debtors is George Maken, who was probably the Lord of the Manor, since he is listed first and he had a steward (who also owed Ralph money), and he owed the substantial sum of £11 14s. Ralph owed more than £50 to his creditors: half of this was due to Richard Betney, who was evidently a supplier of a significant commodity (probably barley) since the testator refers to a quantity 'delivered since I was at Maunfield'. Whether this refers to the town of Mansfield, Derbyshire, or somewhere more local, we do not know.

Ralph was not an old man when he died: his will was drawn up on 5 March 1608/9 and he was buried four days later, so he was evidently struck by a sudden illness. He left a wife, an only son and five daughters, the youngest of whom was under two years old. We learn that his brother in law was Thomas Ashton, who was one of the men who appraised his goods, and we may assume that Thomas was the husband of Ralph's sister, since his wife was Jane Hyll. Ralph owed Thomas the sum of £10.

His domestic possessions were few and he possessed only one bedstead; the inventory is not divided by room and so we do not learn anything of the layout of Ralph's house but the furniture was sparse, even by the standards of the time.

We looked now for other wills of possible relevance. We could find no other Lilley items from Ashton-under-Lyne, but noted the following:

1592 Margaret Lillie of Heaton Norris  
1602 John Lillie of Heaton Norris  
1606 Nicholas Lillie of Lymm

Heaton Norris lies just north of Stockport; Lymm is farther to the south-west but it was interesting to see the name Nicholas appearing here. We ordered copies of the two items from Heaton Norris and made abstracts of the contents:

**Will of Margaret Lillie of Heaton Norris**

1592

dated 11 March 1592 (34 Elizabeth I)

I Margaret Lyllie of Heaton Norris, sick in body

... to Cicely ['Sislie'] Williamson 33s 4d; if she dies before the age of 20, the money to be divided amongst all the children which I was grandmother to  
... unto Margret Lylli and Sislie Williamson a mark each  
... also to Sislie Williamson my best petticoat  
... to my sister Elyn my best gown and a hat  
... to the wife of William Norris ...  
... to the wife of John Richarson one hat ...  
... [to] the wife of Antonie B..aker one old coat  
... to Margret Charlton ...  
... [to] the wife of John Lyllie one cow and a lamb  
... to Margret Lylli younger one Silver pin, one petticoat one kerchief and a neckerchief ['necerchaffe']  
... to the said wife [of] John Richarson one sheet  
... to my son John Lylli [?]11s which I gave to my son in law James Williamson  
... after payment of heriot and legacies, residue to be divided equally among my grandchildren  
... my son John Lylli shall be Executor  
... Overseers to be Olyver Hulme, Robert Jacson, John Lylli younger and Thomas Charlton

X The mark of Margret Lyllie

Witnesses: William Norris, Olyver Hullme and Robart Jacson

**Inventory**

Total £6 4s 4d

**Will of John Lillye of Heaton Norris**

1602

dated 11 March 44 Elizabeth I (1602)

I John Lyllie of Heaton Norres, husbandman, weak in body

... debts & funeral expenses to be paid  
... unto John Lillye my son, all such bedding, linens, furniture, pewter, brass and all other household stuff & implements as Anne now wife of my said son brought with her for her bride cart  
... residue of my bedding, linens, etc, I give to Margaret my wife and Margaret my daughter equally to be divided  
... to Cicely Williamson £4 and to her brother John Williamson 40s

... to each of my godchildren 12d  
... residue of personal estate to be divided into three equal parts, whereof the said Margaret my wife shall have one; the second part to my said son John and the third to my said daughter Margaret  
... if my daughter is unmarried when both her parents die, then son John shall allow her a convenient bedstead & houseroom within my now dwelling house situate in Heaton Norres aforesaid, and also liberty to the fire as necessary until her marriage or death, notwithstanding any clause in the assignment of my tenement to the contrary  
... I appoint my wife Margaret and my son John Lilley Executors  
Witnesses: Henrie Partington, Robte Norres

List of debts owing by and to the testator  
Lengthy Inventory dated 18 March 1602: total £150 16s 2d

These two testators were evidently mother and son, but they mentioned only their close family circle in their wills. Margaret, who was a widow (and had a sister named Elyn) had a son John and a daughter who married James Williamson and was the mother of Cicely and John Williamson, and she had other grandchildren who were not named in her will. Her son John's wife was also named Margaret and he too had a son John and a daughter Margaret. His son (who was also mentioned in the earlier will as John Lilley younger) married a wife named Anne. The testator of the later will was a husbandman; both mother and son probably held property copyhold from the Lord of the Manor, and Margaret mentioned the heriot ('harrat') that had to be paid after her death. There is nothing that points to a connection between this family group and the family of Ralph Lilley of Ashton, although this remains a possibility.

At this stage research had to come to a halt. We have been able to establish two generations prior to Margaret Lilley who married John Harrop, and we have glimpsed a third in the person of Raphe Lilley's uncle Henry Lilley. Raphe Lilley was possibly the first of his family to settle at Hartshead (since he refers to 'new land' there in his will) and it is possible that the family came from Yorkshire, where Raphe owned land. It would certainly be possible to continue research by looking for other early wills, from Yorkshire and Cheshire as well as Lancashire, and other records such as tax returns, but the prospects for discovering further generations, given the sparseness of surviving records for this period, would be uncertain.