

Table 17		THORNICROFT of North Rode	
Leases & Gawsorth Registers		Margaret Thornicroft bur.9.4.1578	
Lease 1.12.1589		Robert bu.19.6.1605	= Ellen bu 20.12.99
Chester R.O.		William (1)	Margery Nicholas
		bp 22.7.1569	
Rent Roll 20.12.1629		bu	5.10.1593 2.5.1600
Lease 4.3.1630		marr	Margaret Smallwood 30.6.1589 Prest.
		ux. d 2.6.1617	
Will William (2)		bp William (2)	Edward inf Elizabeth inf Margaret
Chester R.O. missing		11.4.1600	24.3.1604/5 4.3.1612/3
Will Edward 5.6.1669		bu 13.6.1684	5.6.1669 27.11.08 24.7.1615 17.3.1618/9
		marr Elizabeth	at Marton Will unm
Lease 9.10.1668		inf bp. William (3)	
		2.6.1639	
		bu.11.3.1633	19.5.1687(sen)
named in lease 1668		marr Isabell	(bu.28.12.1670)
Lease 4.1.1704		bp William (4)	John Hannah (Mathew)
Mathew not bp.Named as			6.7.1661
witness to 1704 lease		bu 23.12.1730 (sen)	20.11.1681 15.2.1742
of Wm(4) on 2 lives		marr Mary Smallwood of Rode	bu. Astbury 'of Eaton'
on Cromwell for lives		at Prestbury 12.1.1686/7	(bu.14.11.1731)
of Wm(4) & Wm(5) and			
Wm & Richard Smallwood of Cromwell			

William (of Rode)=Sarah
 dau Mary bp.2.6.1667
 at Burslem,Burslem
 Register

Table 18

	THORNICROFT of North Rod	bp & bur.at Gawsorth except
Lease of 4.Jan.1704	William (4) = Mary Smallwood 12.1.1687	where stated
surrendered 4.10.1729	bu 23.12.1730 / 14.11.1731	name in () not found
Lease 20.11.1731	bp William (5) John John	in Register but from other sources
John Crew to	bu by 1755 18.10.1689 16.12.1698	
Henshaw Stubbs for	Marr Elizabeth Dawson	
Thornicroft Tenements	2.2.1724 at Prestbury	
'previously held by	bu 'widow' 10.12.1755 of Wm Thornicroft late of N.R.	
William (4) decd.	bp William 7.12.1725 Thomas 15.12.1726 Elizabeth 15.1.1728 Mary 4.3.1730 c 1734 (John) (1) at Bosley 27.10.1809 (William) (6) c 1736 bu 23.1.1736 20.1.1736 marr brothers'of Cromwell' John Leech 29.4.1755 Ann Slater bu 2.6.1785 4.9.1760 of Rainow Thomas 26.1.1762	
	bp William John (2) Thomas William (7)	
	3.3.1757 27.5.1759	
	bu 20.7.1761 26.1.1834 2.1.1767	
	age 75 'of Congleton'	
	marr Mary --	
	bu 7.4.1846 age 85	
	both bur, grave 9 Gawsorth	

THORNICROFT of North Rode (to Congleton)

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Table 20

THORNICROFT of North Rodde & Congleton

John (1)	=	Ann Slater	bp & bu Gawsorth	G
Thomas	=	Ann Norbury	4.1.1802	North Rode NR
bp 7.4.1779		25.10.1780	or as stated	
bu 15.2.1824		Mar 1843		
William		Thomas		
20.1.1811		19.6.1817		
1.5.1887		25.8.1852		
Mary Bayley bpl3.12.1813 Gaws		Mary Ann Holland		
21.9.1835 bu 2.12.1871 Cong'tn		13.6.1842 Astbury		
Sarah		Charlotte Alice	Mary Ann	William Thomas
1836		1839	24.4.1841	16.1.1846
		bp Bosley 16.5.1841		
Wm.Piggot		John Barnett	Elizabeth Steele	
31.12.1855		16.12.1860	21.5.1870	
		to USA fl 1900	18.9.1848	12.10.1934
			Cong'tn	
Mary Ann		William	Arthur	Samuel Leonard
				Frederick
				Edith Ann. Gertrude Steele. Mabel
				1871 1873 6.7.1876 1882
				^
				Nantwich ^
				^
				Cong'tn

Table 21

THORNICROFT of Congleton etc.

	William	=	Mary Bayley	21.9.1835	b &	as stated
	William Thomas	=	Elizabeth Steele	21.5.1870		
	b 16.1.1846		16.5.1845	Congleton		
	12.10.1934		8.5.1917	Congleton		
b	Frederick 1871	Edith Ann 1873	Gertrude Steele 6.7.1876	Mabel 1882	all bp	
	18.10.1950	30.4.1932	28.1.1967	6.7.1955	Congleton	
	Congleton	Congleton	Worcester	Biddulph		
marr	Evelyn M.D.Smith	Walter Carter	William James Bulgin	Frederick Saml. Peake		
	Feb.1905	27.12.1899	10.6.1905	3.10.1908		
	Congleton	Congleton	Congleton	Congleton		
b	1877	Cong' tn	20.1.1876	Kensington		
	23.7.1958	14.9.1954	31.12.1958	Worcester		Biddulph
b	Elizabeth 1906	Evelyn Mary 1908	Douglas 10.9.1907	Margaret Thornicroft 12.1.1910	Cecil Frederick 6.1.1912	
	6.5.1968	f1 1988		25.10.1956	30.3.1973	
	Congleton	Congleton	Winifred Martha Morris	Bicester	Worcester	
marr		Donald Clarke	31.8.1935	John Borrie Harris	Edna Mary Crampton	
				20.11.1937	22.7.1950	
b			Irene Margaret 27.1.1946	Pamela Borrie 2.2.1942	David Christopher 10.12 1952	
				Ian George William 8.6.1944		

Thornicrofts of North Rode

North Rode is a small area in the south of the parish of Prestbury, adjacent to Gawsworth on the north and Buglawton & Congleton on the south. Historically as part of Prestbury it used Gawsworth for baptisms and burials and also the church at Bosley but records are incomplete, possibly due to the distance from either church and also to loss of Bosley records. North Rode did not have a church until 1846 after which it has its own registers. Adjoining it on the west is the equally small parish of Eaton, again without a church, which is part of the parish of Astbury. This therefore results in baptisms, marriages and burial from Eaton being performed at the historic church of Astbury situate about four miles to the south of Eaton.

Prior to 1588 the manor of North Rode was owned by Robert ffulehurst, who for several years had been disposing of parts of the manor. In 1589 Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor of England purchased North Rode from him and granted new leases there. He retained the manor until 1627 when he fell from favour and sold the manor to the historic Crew family of Crewe Green. Their papers, now at Chester Record Office preserve the leases which Hatton and later the Crewe's granted to their tenants. These were granted for a term, usually for two or three lives (generations) of the family and name the leasee, his wife, sons and their wives and grandchildren so providing a valuable source of data to be correlated with the Parish Registers. Leases commence in 1589 and in 1629 a rent roll names nineteen tenants in the manor. Of these there are four named Smallwood, two each of Pass, Stubbs, Lowdnes and Thornicroft and one each of Davenport, Wilkinson, Burgess, Gandy, Parkington & Parnell.

These established families, particularly those with more than one lease show that they have been at North Rode for a considerable period and their established tenure is shown by the dates of renewal of leases.

Thornicroft	Stubbs	Smallwood	Gandy	Pass	Parnell
1589 (2)	1629	1578	1629	1629	1625
1630	1648	1659	1659	1647	1629
1668	1659	1673	1703	1698	1705
1704	1696	1698	(to Swain)	1709	
1729	1708	1704 (2)		1729	
1731	1717 (2)				
(to Stubbs)	1729				
	1731				

At the renewal of the Thornicroft leases in 1589 they were granted 'upon the surrender of former leases' indicating earlier settlement at North Rode and therefore it is probable that they are descended from a branch of the original Siddington family although no documentation has been found.

Thornicroft of North Rode. When Sir Christopher Hatton took possession of the Manor of North Rode in 1589 he renewed the leases to the tenant farmers which earlier had been granted by Robert ffulehurst and some by Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth. These however are not at Chester Record Office and their collection of leases comes from the papers of the Crewe family who purchased the Manor in 1627.

Lease 1.12.1589 'to Robert Thornicroft,husbandman, in consideration of the surrender of a lease with a term of years to run and in one messuage,certain lands tenements & herediments,for a fine of £40,£20 to be paid before and £20 after signing.' The lease is for 80 years,with Ellen,wife of said Robert,William (son bp.1569) and Nicholas,sons of said Robert or anyone of them shall be long lived. The rent was 21/10 per year,herriot was best of goods & chattells. Suite was to be paid to the Mill of Sir Chris. Hatton by grinding corn there
It was lawful to grub shrubs and rid all shrubs,gorse, byres, brambles broom,sloes and brutte now growing,also to make a marl pit.

Robert was bur. 19.6.1605 and Ellen on 20.12.1599. William (1) was bp 22.7.1569 and married Margaret Smallwood on 30.6.1589 at Prestbury. His brother Nicholas was bur. 2.5.1600 and sister Margery on 5.10.1593. Margaret died on 2.6.1617.

A similar lease of the same date was signed with Edward Thornicroft,son of Nicholas who was buried on 5.4.1578, with Frances,wife of Edward and Margery,widow of Nicholas. The fine was £28 and the annual rent 10/-,the term being for 80 years The terms are similar to the lease to Robert and a covenant forbad 'taking any inmate to dwell or abide in the said messuage' by Robert,his wife their child or children without 'the special consent' of Sir Christopher Hatton. Edward was buried 11.3.1625 and his widow Frances on 2.9.1646.

There are no children of Edward & Frances recorded.
Children of William Thornicroft (1) bp. 22.7.1569

William (1) & Margaret (Smallwood) had six children bp & bur.at Gawsworth

William (2) bp 11.4.1600 & bur. 13.6.1684. He married Elizabeth -- c 1632 (not found).
Edward bp 24.3.1604 bur 5.6.1669 at Marton. He left a will in which he leaves 5/- to Isabell Thornicroft (the wife of his nephew William (3), who died 28.12.1670). 20/- to Sarah Thornicroft. She has not been identified. An entry in the Burslem Registers reads:-

' William (of Rode) & Sarah, daughter Mary baptised 2.6.1667 at Burslem.'
Sarah cannot be a second wife of William (2) since his wife Elizabeth is named in a lease of 1668 and in the same lease William (3) wife is named as Isabell (bur 28.12.1670).
He leaves William (2), his brother 5/-. His house at Marton together with its contents is left to his nephew, William (3). He leaves 4/- each to the four children of William (3).
William (2) bur 1684, left a will which is recorded at Chester Record Office but is missing

William (1) cont.

Infant bur. 27.11.1608. Infant bur. 24.7.1615

Dau. Elizabeth bapt 4.3.1612. Dau. Margaret bur. 17.3.1618

On 4.3.1630 William (1) yeoman, & William (2) surrendered 'the former lease of 1589' of 'William the elder & father of the said William' & presumably a new lease was taken.
On 9.10.1668 the lease of 1630 was surrendered and a new lease signed for the lives of William (2) his wife Elizabeth, his son William (3) & Isabell his wife and grandson William (4) 'son of the last mentioned William'

Children of William (2) & Elizabeth

Infant bur 11.3.1633

William (4) bapt. 2.6.1639 & buried (senior) 19.5.1687. He married Isabell -- buried 28.12.1670

No further children found in the registers.

Children of William (3) & Isabell

William (4) is named in the lease of 1668 but bapt. not found He married Mary Smallwood at Prest.
12.1.1686/7 and was buried on 23.12.1730. Mary buried 14.11.1731.

John bapt. 6.7.1661. Bur. not found.

Hannah Bp not found bur. 20.11.1681.

Under the terms of the will of William (2)'s brother Edward who did not marry and died 5.6.1669, his house at Marton and its contents are left to his nephew, William (3) and 4/- each to the four children of William (3). The fourth child 's baptism has not been found but he is Mathew who was a witness to the signature of his brother William (4) when he signed a new lease in 1704. In 1708 Mathew is the tenant of property in Eaton which is being sold by Henshaw of Henshaw Hall, Siddington. Mathew is significant as the progenitor of the Thornicrofts of Gawsforth and elsewhere in the 18th to 20th centuries,

Lease of 4.1.1704. between Anne Crewe Offley and William (4) surrendered the lease of 1668 'whereon two lives are yet in being' These are William (4) and Mathew. It was to William (4) and his son William (5) and also to William & Richard Smallwood, presumably relatives of his wife Mary Smallwood.

It was for a location known as 'Cromwell' near a bend on the River Dane in N. Rode with a fine of £90 at a rental of 36/8 per year. This is the rent in a lease for Cromwell in 1629 to Humphrey Smallwood and may indicate the the Thornicroft's had moved to Cromwell.

Children of William (4) & Mary.

William (5) baptism not found but c 1687/8. He married Elizabeth Dawson at Prestbury on 2.2.1724 and had died by 1755 but place not known. Elizabeth is buried on 10.12.1755 'Widow of Wm Thornicroft John bur. 18.10.1689. John bur. 16.12.1698

The lease of 1704 was surrendered by William (4) on 4.10.1729 a year before his death on 23.12.1730 and on 21.10.1729 a new lease to William (5) 'the younger' at a rent of £25 per year. is signed.

On 29.10 1731 a lease was signed between John Crewe and Henshaw Stubbs for 'that messuage commonly called Thornicroft tenements late in the holding of William Thornicroft deceased' at a rent of £20 year.

William (4) is named in the Poll list of 1722 as a freeholder on N. Rode and this may be land which is named in 1805 and in the possession of Thornicroft's of N. Rode.

Children of William (5) & Elizabeth.

William . bp. 7.12.1725 bur 23.1.1736

Thomas bp 15.12.1725 bur 20.1.1736

Elizabeth bp 15.1.1728. Married John Leech of Rainow 29.4.1755

Mary bapt Bosley 4.3.1730

There are probably two further sons, William whose baptism, marriage & burial have not been found He could be the father of four children baptised in 1757, 1759 & 1762 and one buried 1767.

John (1) baptism not found, married Ann Slater on 4.9.1670 and had nine children

The established farming life of the Thornicrofts of North Rode from pre 1560 to the mid 18th cent. with the succession of five Williams as heads of the families begins to disrupt about 1730 with the lease of the Thornicroft tenements out of the family & their association with 'Cromwell'. William (5) after an apparently normal life to 1730 suffers the loss of two sons in January 1736/7 is not found in the registers or his burial (before 1755). In June 1767, Thomas Thornicroft, a wheelwright living at North Rode, but of the Macclesfield branch of the Thornicrofts died intestate and his estate was administered by his sister Elizabeth Johnson of Macclesfield (see page 57). An inventory of 10.7.1737 includes "Apparell to Thomas Dawson (probably the brother of Elizabeth, wife of William (5)) value £1.4.4. & goods to value £6.3.2½ for William Thornicrofts children" This gift probably indicates the needs of the five surviving young children of William (5)

Children of William (6) presumed son of Wm (5) born c 1732

William bapt 3.3.1757, bur. 20.7.1761
John (2) bapt. 27.5.1759, buried 26.1.1834 'of Congleton' age 75. Married Mary -----, buried 7.4.1846 age 85. Both buried at Gawsorth in grave 9. Memorial stone.
Thomas bur. 2.1.1767
William (7) bap. 26.1.1762

Children of John (1) presumed son of William (5) born c 1734/5. Married Ann Slater 4.9.1760.

Ann Slater bp 29.9.1734 at Siddington. Bur 2.6.1785. John bur. 27.10.1809.
Betty bp 1.1.1761
Mary bp 14.4.1763
Ann bp 22.1.1768 bur 2.4.1773
JOHN bp 26.7.1772 bur 16.11.1776
Thomas bp 18.12.1774 bur 21.12.1778
John bp 23.2.1777 bur 27.10.1809. Marr Amy.
Children Margaret bp 17.11.1805 Jane bp 31.5.1807 John bp 4.6.1809, bur 19.1.1818
Thomas bp 7.4.1779 bur 15.2.1824 Married Ann Norbury 4.1.1802 at Collegiate Church, Manchester
Ann bp 25.10.1780 bur March 1843.
William bp 20.5.1781 Joseph bur. 24.5.1784.

Thomas, married 4.1.1802 after banns, described as 'wheelwright', Ann Norbury also in Manchester at marr. but both bp of North Rode. and returned there children baptised at Gawsorth.

Children of Thomas & Ann Norbury marr 1802

John bp 4.7.1802 at Macclesfield. bur. 27.1.1803
Mary bp 25.3.1804
John bp 27.7.1806 Bur. March 1880 Marr (1) Hannah bu 9.3.1842 St Peters Congleton Marr (2)
Elizabeth bp 24.9.1808 fl 1861 age 54. Sarah bu Mar 1877 (60)
William bp 20.1.1811 bur 1.5.1887 at Congleton, married Mary Bayley on 21.9.1835
Hannah bp 4.3.1813
Thomas bp 19.6.1817 bur 25.8.1852. Married Mary Ann Holland 13.6.1842 at Astbury
Ann bp 2.7.1820

Child of John bp 1806 & Hannah bu 1842. Jane b. Manchester 1837 (1871 24, Waitress unm

Children of Thomas & Mary Ann Holland (dau of Jacob & Hannah Holland

Charles b.1843 fl 1861 (17) at Smithy House with Jacob Holland
John bp 28.2.1847 at North Rode bur N.R. 31.10.1871 (24)
Hannah bp 25.5.1849 bur 12.11.1869 (20)
Ann bp 27.7.1851

Of the children of William (5) William (6) had a son John (2) bapt 1759 who married and lived at Congleton but no children are recorded.

John (1) who married Ann Slater 1760 had nine children but only two had children and Thomas bp.1779 is the only one to have surviving children. Of his eight children, William bp 1811 who married Mary Bayley in 1835 had four children .William died 1.5.1887 & Mary 2.12.1871.
Children of William & Mary Bayley

Sarah bp 1836 married William Piggot 31.12.1855 Five children

Charlotte Alice bp 1839 (bp at Bosley 16.5.1841) married John Barnett 16.12.1860 (miner)
Emigrated to USA flourishing 1900

Mary Ann bp 16.4.1841 Bosley bur 18.9.1848 Congleton

William Thomas bp 16.1.1846 Married Elizabeth Steele 21.5.1870 Buried Congleton 12.10.1934

William Thomas was my grandfather became a school teacher at Walsall, Manchester & Nantwich and returned to Congleton to become headmaster at Brook st & then Waggy St Schools, He retired in July 1895 and in 1900 became a Liberal Councillor on the Town Council dealing with education & was Chairman of the Common Land Trust. He spent nearly 30 years in retirement with interests in collecting books and art, living during this period at 'Woodland View' in Brook St.

Children of William Thomas & Elizabeth

Frederick bp 1871, married 1.3.1905 Evelyn M. Dickenson Smith. Three daughters Elizabeth 1906 to 1968 unm. Evelyn Mary born 1908, married Donald Clarke, no children fl 1989. Freda 1911 to 1940.

Edith Ann bp 1873 married 27.12.1899, Walter Carter. Died 30.4.1932 No children.

Gertrude Steele, born 6.7.1876 at Nantwich, Married 10.6.1905, William James Bulgin. Died 28.1.1967 at Worcester. Three children see below.

Mabel born 1882, married Frederick Samuel Peake 3.10.1908. No children Died 6.7.1955.

William & Mary, William Thomas & Elizabeth and Frederick & Evelyn are all buried at St Peters, Congleton

Children of William James Bulgin & Gertrude

Douglas born 10.9.1907, married Winifred Martha Morris 31.8.1935, Both fl. 1989

Margaret Thornicroft born 12.1.1910, married John Borrie Harris 20.11 1937 Died 25.10.1956.

Two children Pamela Borrie & Ian George William.

Cecil Frederick, born 6.1.1912, married Edna Mary Crampton 22.7.1950 Died 30.3.1973 One son David Christopher.