

The Darwents of Sheffield and Rotherham

A1. James Darwen (d. 1578), husbandman, of Nether Hallam, Sheffield parish. Will proved at York, 5 August 1578.

Married Ellen, who was alive 8 February 1577/8 and buried at Sheffield on 8 February 1596/7. They had the following children:

B1. Thomas Darwen (b. c. 1550 d. 1614) of Nether Hallam, Sheffield parish. Buried Sheffield 16 June 1614. He contributed to a levy for Sheffield Grammar School in 1606.

Married Jane Morton, 3 August 1578 at Sheffield Parish Church. She was probably the daughter of John Morton of Brightholmelee in the parish of Bradfield by his wife, Margaret.

B2. Anne

B3. Dorothy

B4. Alice, married Christopher Johnson 19 February 1588 at Sheffield Parish Church.

B5. Elizabeth, baptized 18 July 1563 at Sheffield Parish Church, married Thomas Ryles there on 11 July 1596.

Thomas Darwen (B1) and his wife Jane Morton had the following children:

C1. James Darwen of Storth Farm, Nether Hallam, Sheffield Parish, bpt. 28 June 1579 at Sheffield Parish Church and buried on 30 April 1656, also at Sheffield. Married Anne Oxspring on 11 September 1611 at Sheffield Parish Church. She was the daughter of George Oxspring and was herself bpt. At Sheffield on 11 October 1582. Anne was buried on 7 April 1654 at Sheffield.

C2. Thomas Darwen, bpt. 15 July 1582. He married Helen Hancock at Sheffield Parish Church on 16 September 1612 and they had offspring including Jane Darwen, bpt. 4 June 1615 at Sheffield Parish Church.

C3. Francis Darwen, bpt. 12 October 1585 at Sheffield.

C4. John Darwen, bpt. 18 October 1589 at Sheffield.

C5. Philip Darwen, bpt 9 December 1593 at Sheffield (NB Philip was a popular Christian name in the Morton family – see Thomas Darwen B1 above).

James Darwen (C1) and his wife Anne Oxpring had the following children:

D1. George Darwin bpt. 30 April 1612 at Sheffield Parish Church and buried there on 13 June 1628.

D2. Oxspring Darwent of Hallam, gentleman, bpt. 11 September 1614 and buried 3 January 1647/8, both events at Sheffield Parish

Church. His will, proved at York, describes him as a gentleman and I suspect he was a lawyer like his son, but his name does not appear on the admission lists of any of the Inns of Court. He married around 1639, possibly at Aston, near Rotherham, or even Cold Aston across the border in Derbyshire, Alice Byron, daughter of Originall Byron, gentleman, of Aston.

D3. James Darwent, bpt. 22 February 1618/19 at Sheffield Parish Church, married Katherine Machon there on 1 June 1640. Their daughter Helen Darwent was baptized on 9 May 1641 at Sheffield parish Church and may possibly have married George Lord there on 11 May 1665.

D4. Mary Darwent, bpt. 11 November 1621 at Sheffield Parish Church.

D5. Isaac Darwent, bpt. 8 February 1624 at Sheffield Parish Church. He was possibly the Isaac Darwent who was minister of Stannington Chapel from 1657 to 1662 and whose name appears in Calamy's List of Ejected Ministers.

D6. Anna Darwent bpt. 18 February 1627 at Sheffield Parish Church.

Oxspring Darwent died before his father James, and it is clear that James was responsible for the education and welfare of his grandchildren. Oxspring Darwent and his wife Alice Byron had the following children:

E1. Charles Darwent of Rotherham, gentleman and attorney at law, Steward of the manors of Laughton –en-le-Morthen, Dinnington and Worsbrough Dale, Greave of the Feofees of Rotherham etc. Baptised at Sheffield Parish Church on 2 February 1640. Will dated 16 October 1690 and proved at York in September 1692. Charles married Anne Rawson, daughter of Revd. Thomas Rawson MA, Rector of Ledsham and later of Whiston and a member of the family of [Rawson](#) of Uppertorpe, leading Sheffield tanners and businessmen, by his wife, Mary Sotheby, of a gentry family of Birdsall and Pocklington near York. (Through the Sothebys, the Darwents were descended from King Edward I Longshanks and his wife, Eleanor of Castile, via their daughter Joan of Acre, Countess of Gloucester and, following through a different line, via Anne, Duchess of Exeter (sister of Edward IV and Richard III) from King Edward III and his wife, Philippa of Hainault).

E2. Henry Darwent, who married Helena Ratcliffe at Sheffield Parish Church on 8 June 1666 and who had four children, viz. Isaac (bpt. 3 Sept. 1674); Charles (bpt. 11 September 1677; Anne and James, all at Sheffield Parish Church.

E3. Margaret Darwent, bpt. 1 November 1642 and buried 27 February 1647/8 both events at Sheffield Parish Church.

E4. Elizabeth Darwent, baptized 3 November 1644 at Sheffield Parish Church.

Charles Darwent and his wife Anne Rawson (who married as her second husband Revd. John Bovill, Vicar of Rotherham, on 30 November 1692 at Rotherham Parish Church) the following children:

F1. Robert Darwent of Rotherham, gentleman, attorney at law, Greave of the Feoffees of Rotherham and Feoffee of Dame Troth Mallory's Charity in 1702. Educated at Rotherham Grammar School. Admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge, on 23 April 1685. Matriculated 1685. Robert Darwent married firstly Medicis Jackson of Wallingwells, Nottinghamshire, on 20 October 1693 and by her had a son, Charles Darwent, bapt. 15 July 1694 at Rotherham and buried there on 21 July the same year. Medicis died and was buried at Rotherham on 20 January 1695/6. Robert Darwent married as his second wife, **Sarah Moreau**, neice and heiress of Revd. James Greenhalgh, Rector of Hooton Roberts near Rotherham, circa 1700. Sarah was the daughter of Captain James Moreau of Brockhall (or Brockholes) Co. Lancs. By his wife, Anne Greenhalgh, daughter of the Revd. John Greenhalgh, Vicar of Bury. She descended from a Huguenot family attached to the household of the Earl of Derby and the Greenhalghs were a family of Lancashire gentry with their own royal descent from King Henry I.

F2. Charles Darwent, d. inf. and buried in Rotherham Parish Church on 28 September 1670 (Monumental Inscription).

F3. Anne Darwent, d. inf. (Monumental Inscription)

F4. Thomas Darwent, bpt. 17 January 1675 at Rotherham Parish Church.

F5. Samuel Darwent, bpt. 16 December 1680 at Rotherham Parish Church.

F6. James Darwent, bpt. 22 August 1678 at Rotherham.

Robert Darwent tried hard to expand his business interests, buying and selling land around Rotherham and investing, possibly in the South Sea Company in the 1720s. He went spectacularly bankrupt around this time and was imprisoned in The Fleet Prison, London for debt. He was buried on 28 September 1749 at St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London, a parish where some of his wife's relatives lived.

Robert Darwent and his wife Sarah Moreau had the following children:

G1. Emilia (or Amelia) Darwent, baptized 18 October 1700 at Rotherham parish Church. Married John Peirson, gentleman, of Broome in the parish of Whiston near Rotherham on 5 June 1718 at North Wingfield, Derbyshire.

G2. Charles Darwent of Ulley, farmer, trained as an attorney with the lawyers John and Robert Heron of Newark, Nottinghamshire, his apprenticeship (5 years) starting in November 1719). Baptised Rotherham on 21 May 1702. Married Rebecca _____ ?

G3. Anne Darwent, baptized 31 August 1704 at Rotherham parish Church.

G4. John Darwent, bapt. 18 September 1706 at Rotherham Parish Church. He was buried on 13 January 1733 at St. Paul's Covent Garden, London. (NB a John Darwent married a Sarah Tawney at St. Agnes's Church, Aldersgate, London, on 22 June 1732 – could this be him?) This John Darwent was a peruke maker and his will is in the PCC (online at the National Archive website)

G5 Revd. Thomas Darwent, Curate of Finchingfield and Rector of West Itchenor, Sussex. Baptised on 17 June 1709 at Rotherham Parish Church. Attended Rotherham Grammar School and admitted as sizar (aged 18 years) at St. John's College, Cambridge, on 6 April 1726.

G6. Robert Darwent, bapt. ----1711 at Rotherham.

G7. William Darwent mercer, of Ludgate Street, London, mentioned in his brother John's Will.

G2. Charles Darwent abandoned his career as a lawyer when his father went bankrupt and was settled on a farm in the parish of Ulley, owned by some of his relatives. I have not yet found the surname of his wife Rebecca, who is only mentioned by this name in the parish registers of Aston (which takes in Ulley). Charles and Rebecca's daughter, Rebecca, married John Booth of Wales, farmer, West Riding of Yorkshire, on 03 FEB 1761 at the parish church of Throapham St. John near Laughton-en-le-Morthen and it is from them that I descend. Charles and Rebecca Darwent had the following children:

H1. John Darwent m Martha

H1a Edward Darwent bpt 1 April 1782

H1b Mary bpt 30 Sept 1792 m Nathaniel Brookfield on 8 March 1814

H1c Martha bpt 1 August 1790

H1d Elizabeth bpt 25 March 1790

H1e Charles Darwent bpt 8 March 1795

H1f George Darwent bpt 14 April 1797

H2. Thomas Darwent, m. Elizabeth Hardy, niece of John Booth, farmer, of Wales.

H3. Mary m. 5 January 1757 John Smith

H4. Rebecca (b. 1738) m. 1761 John Booth, farmer of Wales as his second wife. Previously, John Booth was married to Rachel [Homfray](#) by whom he had a son, Captain Homfray Booth of the Heavy Dragoons, killed in America according to Joseph Hunter.

Thomas Darwent of Ulley and his wife, Elizabeth Hardy, had the following children:

I1. Charles Darwent of Ulley, bpt. 7 June 1761, married Hannah [Handley](#) at Aston on 26th March 1795

I2. Richard Darwent, bpt. 8 April 1765 at Aston, married Ann Newbould of Handsworth at Handsworth 3 February 1789.

I3. Elizabeth bpt. 20 April 1767 at Aston

I4. Edee (or Edy, or Edetha) bpt. 6 or 26th May 1771, married William [Handley](#) at Aston on 31st October, 1796.

I5. Robert Darwent, bpt. 4 October 1772 at Aston.