

5663. RILEY

It followed, from the wide acceptance of Abram Gawkroger as the father of the immigrant Mary (Gawrkoger alias Platts) Prescott,^[1] that Mary's mother would have been Abram's wife. He had married Martha Riley on 10 May 1605 in the parish of Halifax, West Riding of Yorkshire, England. Study of the parish registers had produced only one child with the correct name previously baptized in the parish: the daughter of "Thoms Ryley de Sourbi," 27 March 1580.^[2]

Early students of the Gawkroger family readily accepted this placement of Mary's mother, but made no attempt to extend the Riley line. It fell to Doris Cline Ward to make the first such attempts, but her works today appear neither to be widely distributed nor well regarded. She places Thomas as the son of Henry and Jane (Crosley) Riley of the same parish, who were married there in 1549.^[3] Unfortunately, she provides little more chronological data. There is no evident effort to rule out other possible placements of Thomas from the parish registers. It also does not appear that Ward attempted an identification of Martha's mother.

THREE THOMAS RILEYS OF SOWERBY

The Halifax parish registers through 1593 have been in print for a century, along with collections of epitaphs from the parish churchyard^[4] and of abstracts of wills in the Probate Registry at York and deanery of Pontefract.^[5] However, these ancillary sources appear to have no information of significance. Any study of Martha's family must therefore center upon the parish register entries in which a Thomas Riley appears as the head of a family.^[6] Records supporting specific points in the analysis are referenced by letters A through F.

Baptisms

- Alice filia Thomas Riley de Sourby xviii [Aug. 1552] (1:74).
Henrics filis Thome Riley de Sourby xx [Feb. 1554/5] (1:92).
Margareta filia Thome Riley [de Sourby p. 154] eod. Die [27 Jan. 1558/9] (1:117). [B]
Willms filis Thome Riley de Sourby xxix [Jan. 1558/9] (1:117). [C]

¹ Clarence A. Torrey and F. L. W. [probably Frederick Lewis Weis], "Gawkroger-Platts," unpublished MS, n. d., FHL microfilm 1,017,050, item 8; Mary Lovering Holman, *Ancestry of Colonel John Stevens Harrington and His Wife Frances Helen Miller*, 2 vols. (Concord, N. H.: Rumford Press, 1948-52), 1:61.

² Torrey and [Weis], "Gawkroger-Platts," 3. The quotation is from E. W. Crossley, transcr., *The Parish Registers of Halifax, Co. York*, 2 vols., Publications of the Yorkshire Parish Register Society, vols. 37, 45. ([Leeds:] Privately Printed for the Society, 1910-4), 1:262.

³ Doris Cline Ward, comp., *European Ancestry of the Prescott Family of America*, 2nd ed. (Allegan, Mich.: Ward Publishing Company, 1977), 154, contains no treatment of Martha beyond her baptismal date. The description of the family that follows is adapted from her subsequent publications, "The Riley Family (1549-ca. 1637) Sowerby, Yorkshire," excerpted in Donald Neil McMartin, *Ancestors of the Neil and Hazel McMartin Family*, 3rd ed. (1995), 63-4, and Joan S. Guilford, *The Ancestry of Dr. J. P. Guilford*, 2 vols. (Franklin, N. C.: Genealogy Publishing Service, 1990-2003), 1:645-8, which follows another of Ward's publications.

⁴ E. W. Crossley, ed., *The Monumental and Other Inscriptions in Halifax Parish Church* (Leeds, Eng.: John Whitehead & Son, 1909). The only Riley inscription, at 135, is dated 1736 or later, much too late for any of Martha's contemporaries.

⁵ J. W. Clay and E. W. Crossley, ed., *Halifax Wills: Being Abstracts and Translations of the Wills Registered at York from the Parish of Halifax*, 2 vols. (Leeds, Eng.: Privately printed for the editors, n. d.). The only reference to a Thomas Riley or Martha of either surname is at 2:141, where, on 22 Aug. 1557, Thomas Ryley and Thomas Ryley, yonger, both witnessed the will of Thomas Brokesbanke of Sowerby.

⁶ Crossley, *Parish Registers of Halifax*, 1:1-354 (baptisms), 2:1-130 (marriages), 131-359 (burials).

Gracia filia Thoms Rilei de Sourbi xxvj [Aug. 1562] (1:139).	[C]
Henrics filis Thoms Ryley de Warley tertio die [Mar. 1564/5] (1:155).	[B]
Johna filia Thoms Ryley de Sourebe xvj [Dec. 1565] (1:160).	[C]
Jane filia Thoms Ryley de Warley xxviii [Mar. 1568] (1:176).	[B]
Willm fil. Thomas Rylay de Sourbie viij [June 1572] (1:207).	[C]
Edward fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxvij [Mar. 1575] (1:225).	[C]
Grace fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie xvj [Sept. 1576] (1:236).	[C]
Jonas fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie first day of Januarii [1576/7] (1:238).	
Marye fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie ix [Feb. 1577/8] (1:246).	[F]
Marye fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxxj [Jan. 1579/80] (1:260).	[A, E]
Martha fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxvij [Mar. 1580] (1:262).	[A, F]
George fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie vij [Aug. 1580] (1:265).	[A, C']
Mychaell fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie viij [Oct. 1581] (1:274).	[D]
Thoms fil. Thomas Ryley de Sourbi xj [April 1582] (1:278).	
George fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxx [Sept. 1582] (1:282).	[C']
Mychaell fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxv [Oct. 1584] (1:297).	[D]
Effan fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbe xx [Dec. 1584] (1:298).	[C']
Effan fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi p ^{mo} Januarii [1584/5] (1:298).	[C']
Mary fil. Thome Ryley de Sourbi xxiiij [April 1587] (1:314).	
Samuell fil. Thoms Ryley de War. Xxj [May 1587] (1:314).	
Michaell fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie xj [Jan. 1589/90] (1:329).	[D]
Richard Tho. Rylve Sower. Xvj [May 1591] (1:337).	
Grace Thomas Ryley de Sourbye 29 [Oct. 1592] (1:348).	

Marriages

Thomas Riley & Agnes Ridihawghe xxiii [Aug. 1547] (2:22).	
Thomas Riley & Agnes Walkar xxiii [July 1558] (2:38).	[C]
Thomas Riley & Agnes Turner vi [Oct. 1560] (2:43).	[B]
Thoms Ryley et Annes Bates xiii [April 1562] (2:46).	[C]
Thoms Ryley et Margret Lome viii [July 1576] (2:82).	[F]
Thoms Ryley et Alyce Stanclyffe vi [July 1579] (2:93).	[E]
Thoms Ryley et Elysabeth Dicconson vi [Sept. 1579] (2:94).	[F]
Thoms Ryley et Margaret Mychell first day of August [1581] (2:103).	[D]

Burials

Isabella vx ^r Thome Ryley de Sourby xiii [Nov. 1555] (2:191).	
Margareta x ^r Thome Ryley de Warley ix [Aug. 1560] (2:211).	[B]
Johes filis Thome Ryley de ead. [Warley] xxi [Sept. 1561] (2:216).	[B]
Johaña filia Thoms Ryley xxii [Sept. 1562] (2:219).	
Johna filia Thoms Ryley de Sourby xiiii [Nov. 1563] (2:224).	
Henrics filis Thoms Ryley de Warley xv [Mar. 1564/5] (2:229).	[B]
Thoms Ryley de Sourbe xxv [April 1566] (2:233).	
October Jane fil. Thomas Ryley de Warlay first [day, 1572] (2:255).	[B]
Januarye Vx ^r Thomas Ryley de Sourbi iii [1575/6] (2:270).	
Vx ^r Thoms Ryley de Halyfax ix [June 1578] (2:281).	[F]
George filius Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxv [Nov. 1580] (2:290).	[C']
Elysabeth fil. Thoms Ryley de Halyfax xxi [June 1583] (2:300).	
Thoms Ryley de Sourbie xxiii [Jan. 1588/9] (2:335).	[C']
Thomas [Vtley written above Ryley struck out] de [blank] xxx [Mar. 1589] (2:336).	
Effan filiaē [sic] Thomæ Ryley de Sourbe 26 [Jan. 1591/2] (2:351).	
Richard Thomas Rylve de Sourbye primo die [Aug. 1592] (2:355).	

Martha's baptism was the second in a set of three children of Thomas Riley of Sowerby who all were baptized in a space of eight months [A]. The fathers of Mary, Martha, and George (1580)

clearly were three different men. Unfortunately, the registers characteristically make no effort to distinguish among them.

The entries relating to inhabitants of Warley are isolated with relative ease: Thomas of that village was the husband of Margaret, who was buried in 1560. This makes him the most probable candidate for the one who married Agnes Turner, later the same year, and father of Margaret (1558), Henry (1565), and Jane (1568), as well as a son named John for whom only a burial is recorded [B].

- [bp.] Margareta filia Thome Riley [de Sourby p. 154] eod. Die [27 Jan. 1558/9] (1:117).
- [bur.] Margareta x^r Thome Riley de Warley ix [Aug. 1560] (2:211).
- [m.] Thomas Riley & Agnes Turner vi [Oct. 1560] (2:43).
- [bur.] Johes filis Thome Riley de ead. [Warley] xxi [Sept. 1561] (2:216).
- [bp.] Henrics filis Thoms Ryley de Warley tertio die [Mar. 1564/5] (1:155).
- [bur.] Henrics filis Thoms Ryley de Warley xv [Mar. 1564/5] (2:229).
- [bp.] Jane filia Thoms Ryley de Warley xxviii [Mar. 1568] (1:176).
- [bur.] October Jane fil. Thomas Ryley de Warlay first [day, 1572] (2:255).

The man who married Agnes Walker in 1558, and possibly also Annes Bates in 1562, would then appear to account for the baptism of William (1559), and all later baptisms to Thomas of Sowerby through Grace (1576), only two months after the marriage of Margaret Lum [C].

The baptismal records present three boys named Thomas Riley who were baptized in the parish in time to marry for the first time by 1580, none of whom has a pre-1594 burial record.⁷

- Itm Thomas filis Georgii Rylay de Sow'by bap^t fuit eodm die et m . . . [14 April 1538] (1:4).
- Thomas filis Henrici Riley de eadem [Sourby] xi [Feb. 1552/3] (1:82).
- Thomas filis Edmudi Riley de Sourby xxx [Dec. 1560] (1:129).

These boys, having come of age, could all have married by 1581. Chronology favors only the first of these men to marry in 1558 or 1562. Onomastic and chronological considerations would further suggest that, in addition to the children born through 1576, this Thomas was also the father of George (1580), who was buried within six months after baptism; George (1582); and one child of the three baptized between October 1584 and January 1584/5—apparently one of the two girls named Effan. He appears to be the one who was buried in 1589 [C].

- [m.] Thomas Riley & Agnes Walkar xxiii [July 1558] (2:38).
- [bp.] Willms filis Thome Riley de Sourby xxix [Jan. 1558/9] (1:117).
- [m.] Thoms Riley et Annes Bates xiii [April 1562] (2:46).
- [bp.] Gracia filia Thoms Rilei de Sourbi xxvj [Aug. 1562] (1:139).
- [bp.] Johna filia Thoms Ryley de Sourebe xvj [Dec. 1565] (1:160).
- [bp.] Willm fil. Thomas Rylay de Sourbie viij [June 1572] (1:207).
- [bp.] Edward fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxvij [Mar. 1575] (1:225).
- [bp.] Grace fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie xvj [Sept. 1576] (1:236).
- [bp.] George fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie vij [Aug. 1580] (1:265).
- [bur.] George filius Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxv [Nov. 1580] (2:290).
- [bp.] George fil. Thoms Riley de Sourbi xxx [Sept. 1582] (1:282).
- [bp.] Effan fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbe xx [Dec. 1584] (1:298).
- [bp.] Effan fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi p^rmo Januarii [1584/5] (1:298).
- [bur.] Thoms Ryley de Sourbie xxiii [Jan. 1588/9] (2:335).

⁷ Only two other boys of this name are found through 1593. One was the son of Thomas, bp. 1582; the other was the son of William of "Halyfax," bp. 28 Dec. 1572 (*ibid.*, 1:210).

There are no fewer than four marriages of Thomas Riley in the years surrounding Martha's birth, and only two burials of a wife of Thomas Riley. If Margaret Lum was the one buried in 1578, this would leave her husband eligible to enter either of the 1579 marriages; and on the surface, each of these grooms could be either Edmund's son or Henry's son.

Neither of these men appears to be the one who married Margaret Mitchell in 1581, because no wife of Thomas Riley was buried between July 1579 and August 1581. The most convenient means of accounting for this marriage would be to postulate that this marriage involved the youngest Thomas, son of Edmund, who had not been married before. This also rules him out as the father of any one of the children baptized in 1579–80. His first child most likely would be Michael (1581), the first child baptized after the Mitchell marriage. Given that this name had not appeared in any other Riley family in the parish, we might expect this Thomas also to be the father of the other two boys named Michael Riley (1584, 1590), even though there are no burials to show that either of the two older boys had died as an infant [D].

[m.] Thoms Ryley et Margaret Mychell first day of August [1581] (2:103).

[bp.] Mychaell fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie viij [Oct. 1581] (1:274).

[bp.] Mychaell fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxv [Oct. 1584] (1:297).

[bp.] Michaell fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie xj [Jan. 1589/90] (1:329).

Chronological evidence also seems to support identifying the mothers of Martha and Mary (1580) from the sequence of the 1579 marriages. Alice Stancliff was *married* earlier, one full year after the burial of Margaret Lum, and Mary was *baptized* earlier, six months after Alice's marriage. Thus Alice is the most probable candidate for Mary's mother [E].

[m.] Thoms Ryley et Alyce Stancliffe vi [July 1579] (2:93).

[bp.] Marye fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxxj [Jan. 1579/80] (1:260).

Similarly, Martha was baptized six months after Elizabeth's marriage. For this reason, Elizabeth seems to be the best candidate for Martha's mother to emerge from a study of the parish registers. By the same reckoning, the man in the best position to be the father of Martha was Henry's son, baptized in 1553. Two marriages were "available" to him before 1580, and assigning him the wife named Margaret Lum *and* the wife who was buried in 1578 would allow him to enter both of these marriages [F].

[m.] Thoms Ryley et Margret Lome viii [July 1576] (2:82).

[bp.] Marye fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbie ix [Feb. 1577/8] (1:246).

[bur.] Vx^r Thoms Ryley de Halyfax ix [June 1578] (2:281).

[m.] Thoms Ryley et Elysabeth Dicconson vi [Sept. 1579] (2:94).

[bp.] Martha fil. Thoms Ryley de Sourbi xxvij [Mar. 1580] (1:262).

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. **Edmund^D Riley**, of Warley, died before 19 October 1534. On that day, administration on his estate was granted to **Agnes** ____, his relict, and Henry, John, and Margaret, his children.^[8] Children of Edmund^D and Agnes (____) Riley are:

2. i. HENRY^C RILEY, b. say 1525, bur. 17 Sept. 1591; m. (1) JANE CROSLY; m. (2) MARGARET BENTLEY.

⁸ *Halifax Wills*, 1:93, citing Reg. Test. xi. 114.

- ii. JOHN RILEY, b. say 1528.
- iii. MARGARET RILEY, b. say 1530.

2. **Henry^C Riley** (*Edmund^D*), of Sowerby, was born in say 1525, and was buried in Halifax on 17 September 1591 (2:349). He married first **Jane Crosley** on 7 November 1549 (2:25), and second **Margaret Bentley** on 15 May 1558 (2:38). Margaret, as “Vx^r Henry Ryley de Sourbie,” was buried on 21 Jan. 1587/8 (2:325).

Children of Henry^C and Jane (Crosley) Riley are:

- i. ELLEN RILEY, bp. 21 May 1550 (1:64).
- 3. ii. THOMAS^B RILEY, bp. 11 Feb. 1552/3 (1:82).
- iii. HENRY RILEY, bp. 20 Feb. 1555/6 (1:92), prob. m. 23 Jan. 1580/1 MARY WOOD (2:100); poss. m. (2) 16 Oct. 1583 ELIZABETH COCKCROFT (2:106) or 18 Nov. 1583 SEBBELL HANSON (2:108). Either of the latter could be the “Vx^r Henry Ryley de Warley” bur. 3 April 1588 (2:330).

Children of Henry^C and Margaret (Bentley) Riley are:

- iv. GRACE RILEY, bp. 18 Mar. 1560/1 (1:124).
- v. ELIZABETH RILEY, bp. 8 Feb. 1562/3 (1:137).

3. **Thomas^B Riley** (*Henry^C, Edmund^D*) was baptized 11 Feb. 1552/3 (1:82). He married first **Margaret Lum** on 8 July 1576 (2:82), and she was buried 9 June 1578 (2:281). He married second **Elizabeth Dickinson** on 6 September 1579 (2:94).

Child of Thomas^B and Margaret (Lum) Riley is:

- i. MARY RILEY, bp. 9 Feb. 1577/8 (1:246). This is the only baptismal record postdating the Lum marriage that does not conflict with another baptism of a child of Thomas in the parish register.

Children of Thomas^B and Elizabeth (Dickinson) Riley are:^[9]

- + ii. MARTHA^A RILEY, bp. 17 Mar. 1579/80 (1:262), bur. Halifax 12 April 1627, m. Halifax 10 May 1605 ABRAM GAWKROGER, son of James and Jenet (Fairbanks) Gawkroger alias Platts, bp. Halifax 21 Nov. 1574, bur. Halifax 15 May 1625.^[10]
- iii. THOMAS RILEY, bp. 11 April 1582 (1:278).
- iv. EFFAN RILEY, bp. 20 Dec. 1584 or 1 Jan. 1584/5 (1:298), possibly the one bur. 26 Jan. 1591/2 (2:351).
- v. SAMUEL RILEY, bp. 21 May 1587 (1:314).
- vi. GRACE RILEY, bp. 29 Oct. 1592 (1:348).

⁹ Samuel is assigned to this family based on the recurrent connection to Warley. Ward, “Riley Family,” 64, placed Michael (1581) in this family in place of Thomas (1582).

¹⁰ Torrey and [Weis], “Gawkroger–Platts,” 3.