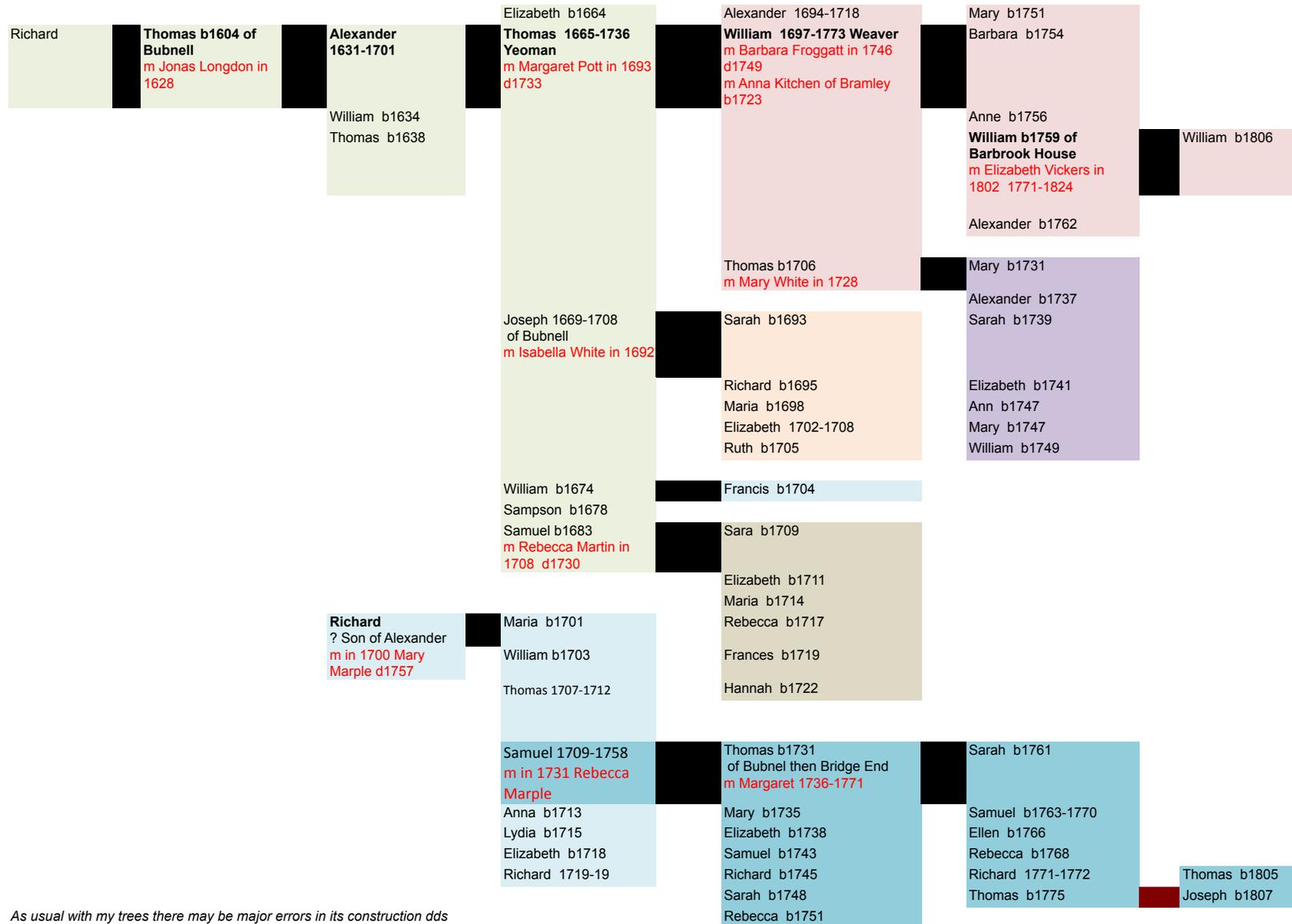


The JOHNSON TREE



As usual with my trees there may be major errors in its construction dds

Jul 2018

The Johnson Family and Barbrook Lodge

The Johnson family were long established residents of Bubnell (see my family tree). Richard was in the hamlet in the late 1500s. He was succeeded by his son Alexander b1604, then by his son Thomas 1665-1736 who was described in 1701 as a yeoman (wealthy farmer).

In 1701 the Eyre family of Hassop sold a small estate at Nether End in Baslow to two or three local residents one of whom was Thomas Johnson. Johnson's portion was a strip of land adjoining the west bank of the Barbrook - the houses opposite the Wheatsheaf Inn to old bridge including the Malt house, and 10 fields most in the area of the entrance to Chatsworth Park. He paid £140. Thomas left Bubnell for a house he built on his new freehold land. The rest of the family remained in the family home in Bubnell for a while, but dispersed from the village over the next generation. Richard (who married Mary Marple in 1700) may have been another son of Alexander. His descendants moved to Bridge End in Baslow and lived there until the early 1800s

Thomas died in 1736. He must have had financial problems as the house was mortgaged when he died. He was followed by his son William (1697-1773) a weaver by occupation. In 1737 William had to borrow £160 from William Kitchin of Bubnell, part of which was used to pay off the mortgage. Ten years later he had to borrow another £60. And about the same time he married Anna Kitchin, William Kitchin's sister !

William died in 1773 leaving his son William Johnson jun to repay the debt, which he did in 1776 by selling part of his property to William Kitchin.

William Johnson kept the stretch of land alongside the Barbrook opposite the Wheatsheaf Hotel and a few fields across the brook. The original Johnson homestead had been close to today's Thatched Cottage on land acquired by Kitchin so he needed a new home. It is likely that he had spare money after the sale to Kitchin, so he was able to build Barbrook House (opposite the Wheatsheaf), probably around 1776.

His fields were sold to the Duke of Devonshire in 1824 when the Park was enlarged. The family still owned Barbrook House in 1848 but the census suggested that they lived elsewhere.

William Kitchin's portion included land now occupied by the Devonshire Arms and adjoining houses, and property downstream on both sides of the brook. He built the Malt House (today's name), it may never have been used for malting) in 1782 and close to it a brewery. A later addition was a pub initially called The Barrel but which later was developed into the Devonshire Arms. Kitchin died in 1788 to be succeeded by his son, another William. The latter had financial problems in 1809 and had to borrow with the land as a surety. Ten years things got so much worse that he had to accept a loan of £1000 from a neighbour. Probably most of this was settled in 1824 when the Duke of Devonshire extended his park, buying most of Kitchin's property in the area. The Barrel Inn buildings and the Malt house were sold separately. The Barrel Inn was developed into the Devonshire Arms in the 1850s. The rest became a solid block of residential housing.

The strip of land – a long row of houses on the Baslow side of the Barbrook - was one of the few blocks of freehold land in the village. During the 1800s and early 1900s, there was extensive development of shops and hotels, making it the centre of Baslow's visitor and tourist activities. It still is.

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