

Bennett-Hardesty

Summer Vacation 2018, by Paul Bennett

Have you ever wondered whether you had a familial connection to some old castle in England? Perhaps one of your ancestors had been put in charge of watching the wild forests that guarded the lands of the northern part of England against invaders from Scotland.



The Ripley Castle is located in Yorkshire, England. During my summer vacation this year, I visited the town of Ripley, near Harrogate, HG3 3AY, and took a tour of the castle for the cost of 10 pounds sterling. The tour of the castle included a walk through guide that explained the Ingilby family history and room by room details. At the end of the tour, I asked the guide if she knew anything about the family history of Hardesty in connection with the castle. She did not, but mentioned that the Hardesty name is quite common in this area and that they may have been farmers.

“Ripley Castle has been home to the Ingilby family for over 700 years. Because it has belonged to the same family for 26 generations, Ripley's colorful and sometimes gruesome history is well documented. If the Castle Walls could talk they would tell the story of kings and queens; civil war and plagues; secrets concealed behind the Knight's Chamber paneling; the swashbuckling daughter who held Oliver Cromwell at gunpoint

in the library, and numerous clandestine affairs. The Walled Gardens contain some of Britain's largest herbaceous borders and in April display the National Hyacinth Collection. The Hothouses contain tropical plant collections and the Kitchen Gardens include rare collections of herbs and spices, fruit trees and vegetables. In the pleasure grounds you can take a walk around the lake and into the Deer Park.” - Yorkshire's Great Houses, Castles & Gardens, “Great Days Out”



Many of the buildings in Ripley were originally built of wood and as they declined over the years, the Ingilby family bought them up and restored them using masonry. Thus the town of Ripley became completely under the control of the family and for his service.

In our Hardesty family tree, I found Francis Thomas Hardesty, born 10 Mar 1671 in Hollins Hall, Killinghall, Ripley, North Yorkshire, who married Ruth Gather Morley Hardesty 1655-1719, and who later married Dorcus Linthicum 1700-1741. Francis Thomas had numerous children in the British colony of Maryland, and Francis died 23 Apr 1734, in South River, Anne Arundel Co., MD. Their son, John I, 1727-1790 is one of our ancestors, from Dorcus Linthicum.

Francis Thomas's mother Mary Favell, 1633-1746 and father Thomas Arthur, 4

Sep 1641 – 10 Feb 1709 both were born in Ripley. Francis's grandmother Dorothie 1606-1658 married his grandfather Arthur H. Hardesty 1605-1658 was also born in Ripley. The Ripley Castle was built in the 1500s and these Hardesty's had migrated from a small town nearby called Fewston.

Their ancestor William Hardisty was born 1450 and died 1510 both in Fewston, Yorkshire, England. After visiting the Ripley Castle, I programmed the GPS computer in my Ford rental to direct me to Fewston which it happily complied to do and after a nice drive along country roads it told me I had arrived. I saw no town, but I had just passed the town church.



The farmland around Fewston is divided up into plots using rows of stones. This practice is common throughout Scotland and Ireland as well. The land today is used to graze sheep and cows as well as to tend crops. Fewston is located at the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

I drove down the hill a bit SE of the church to see the Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs where I enjoyed a hike along the lake and could see a bit of the forest. It reminded me of my uncle Harold Hardesty, who used to love to fish and hunt.



The two reservoirs are divided by a earthen dam with a road across it and the area is surrounded by wonderful hiking trails and forest. Near the car park, there are picnic tables along the shore line. Our Hardesty ancestors lived in this area from at least 1450 to 1670, and there were others that stayed behind to work the farms on Hardisty Hill at least until 1800s. Hardisty Hill is located just North of Blubberhouses which is north of the Fewston reservoir.

I drove back up the hill to visit the Fewston Church to look for gravesites that might match some family members and after walking around through some very tall grass, I found a couple of sites right next to the church worth taking a closer look.

I found the gravesite of Suzanna Ward who died 1851 at the age of 71. She had married a Johnathan Ward and they were of the Hardisty Hill. Next to them, I found the gravesite of Mary and William Hardesty who died 13 Oct 1809.

Back at the library of York, I found a reference to the Hardisty Hill hamlet in the parish overlooking the Washburn Valley which had been owned for many generations by the



Hardesty family. They formed alliances with Wardmans, Wards, and many respectable families in the neighborhood.

In 1 Feb 1601 William Slingsby married Anne Hardisty. While Fewston is 15 miles west of York, the city of Slingsby is 10 miles north of York.

William Hardisty married a Mary Wardman of William Wardman from Blubberhouses Hall. They had 3 sons that died in infancy, 1 son Joseph, unmarried died before his father, and 3 daughters Anne married Thomas Metcalfe, Hannah married Thomas Skaife, they had Joseph who married Elizabeth Davies and they had a son Robert Hardisty Skaife. The last daughter Suzanne married Johnathan Ward who because no sons were left to inherit the land, became in consequence owner of the Hardisty Hill estate.



Another interesting fact that I found in the York library while reading from the “History of Harrogate and Knaresborough”, c1970 was that in 1651, Thomas Stockdale, William Hardisty, Robert Atkinson and John Burton were granted a lease of the forest of Knaresborough and were proclaimed “Joint Lords of the Forest”.

In the book “Harrogate and the Forest of Knaresborough”, by Willaim Grainge, 1st published in 1871, Fewston is mentioned and general description of the land and the scattering of building by the defined town center, built mostly on hills and most buildings falling prey to moving earth and cracking from the top all the way down.

The church is thought to have been appropriated by the house of St. Robert of Knaresborough in 1351 and again ordained in 1381, taxed by the Scots in 1318 at 6 pounds/year. The Hardisty land is mentioned on page 467, witness 30 Jun 1786 is Samuel Hardisty (Inhabitants) J. Whinnerah, Vicar of Fewston. I wrote something else down about an eccentric friar named Robert Flours who was born in 1160, York, by the River Nidd, of which I remember driving across on the way from York to Knaresborough. He may have been an eccentric who went to live in this area for sometime, or perhaps who the church was dedicated.

After visiting the church and the gravesites, I went to hike into the forest around Fewston. This hike took me next to the reservoirs and was all quite pleasant except for the nettles I parked next to and found again on the way back into the car. I was wearing shorts and as I came to find out from Linda Death how easily you can be stung by nettles at the slightest little touch. At Peter and Linda's house, I found a small patch as well and they told me all about this plant and how to rub another plant against the skin to take away the itch. If you get stung, it is best not to rub them further into the skin.

Here you can see a few steps built into the wall next to the gate. These allow visitors into the area without having to give them access to the gate. The path went on for miles. I enjoyed the shade and cooler temperatures. In England, it rained only one day out of the twenty-one I was there!



The city of York was founded by the Romans and in 506 AD Constantine the Great presided over the city.

This statue was located just outside a huge cathedral which becomes an easy icon to use to navigate within the walls of the inner city.

I spent 5 days in York while visiting the county (or shire) of York, i.e. Yorkshire.

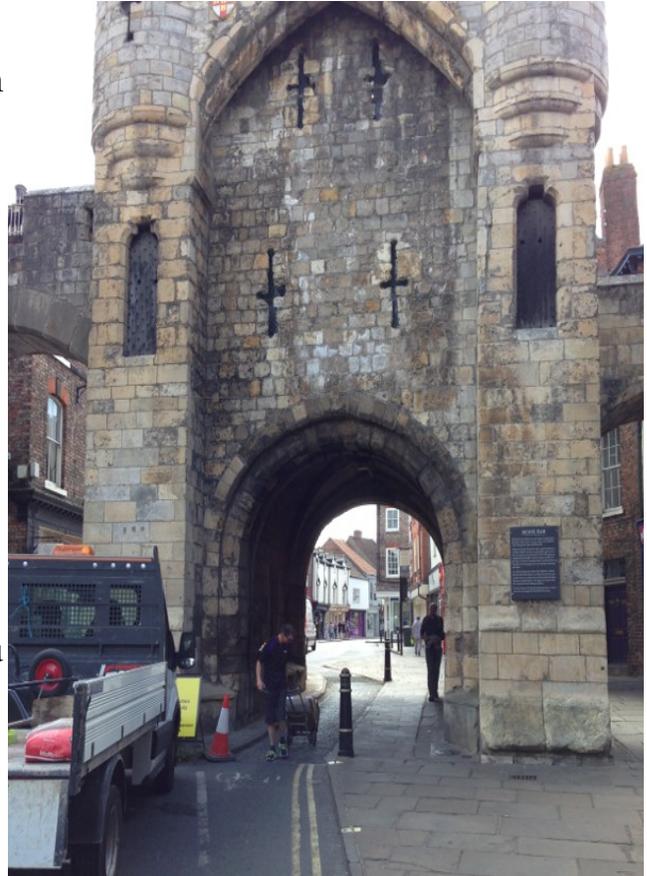
In regards to the name Hardesty, 'sty' means path or narrow road. From the Dictionary of Surnames, Oxford Press 1988, by Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, the name Hardesty is of English origin: habitation name from a place in Yorkshire, in the parish of Fewston. The placename is recorded in 1379 as Hardolfsty, from the OE personal name Heardwulf (composed of the elements 'heard' hardy, brave, strong + 'wulf' wolf) + OE 'stig' path. A variation in the spelling is noted as the way we have always spelt it - Hardesty.

No listings of Hardesty were found in the Book of Heraldry, but there is a Sir John Bennet of Norfolk listed which I believe our family tree may descend. The coat of arms lists: bore, argent, a chevron gules, a bordure sable; bezantee; Parl. Roll, Harl. MS 6137. A Sir Richard Benet: bore gules, a lyon rampant ermine, a bordure engrailed of the last; Asmole Roll. The Bennett name is quite common throughout England.



In 1559, the separation of The Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church was completed, and this meant that extra taxes were imposed upon the Roman Catholics. They were prohibited from mass, but many parts of northern England remained loyal participants. Not until 1778 to 1791 when the Catholic Relief Acts were enacted could Catholic church come to exist legally again. This meant that marriages either were clandestine or also had to have an Anglican wedding as well to be legal between these times. Obviously, this complicates the genealogical research of our ancestors during this time as well as the fact that England mostly kept only patriarchal records detailing your father and not regarding your mother's maiden name. As someone in England told me ... interesting, since certainly the mother is more than likely correct at birth (prior to artificial insemination).

The city of York is quite a tourist attraction. It is surrounded by a wall that you can walk along, fit with all the wonderful slots and openings to dump hot oil onto would-be attackers and pierce with flaming arrows.





It was all quite pleasant to walk along the city streets wandering around the town shops and old buildings.

Numerous pubs offered one a fill on English beer, fish and chips. During the time I was there, the World Cup Soccer matches were full-on and England made it to the 1/8-finals after a tense game against Columbia who tied on goals 1-1 near the end of time and then having England win it with penalty kicks – the pub went crazy. They then went on to beat Sweden but lost to Croatia in the semi-finals. (We watched the semi-finals at Cheltenham with Robert, James, George and Ian. We missed the quarter-finals when Macey White and I were playing doubles against David Maugham and Paddy Chapman.)





In fact, most of my time in England was spent playing and watching croquet. The first weekend was spent in Nottingham (yes the place Robin Hood made famous) during the Midland Championships. Here we played the Super Advanced game on fast and challenging lawns (13.5 Plummers were measured by Eugene the day before). In this shot, David Maugham is pegging out his yellow and red balls to win the game after he completely ran through all twelve hoops with his two balls. He defeated Jenny Clarke to win the championship.

It was great being in England, meeting new players and having fun playing croquet all day long. We were well fed at lunch time and again at 4 PM, which is English tea time. We usually played from 9 AM until 8 PM each day of the event.

While waiting to play his next shot, Mark Suter is talking with Eugene Chang and they seem to be smiling and having a good time too.

My grandfather Pius Hardesty used to play croquet and make mallets in Kentucky in the 1930s.

