

## George Watkinson of Scotton (d. 1670)

**A**MONG the family papers of Major T. W. Slingsby, formerly at Scriven Hall, Knaresborough, Yorkshire, now at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 10 Park Place, Leeds, 1 (collection DD56) are some documents concerning George Watkinson, including his will.

George Watkinson makes a brief appearance in George Fox's Journal in 1657, being captain of a troop in the army in Scotland when he was among those "turned out of ye army for owneing truth . . . & because they woulde not putt of there hatts to y<sup>m</sup> & saide thee & thou to y<sup>m</sup>" (*Cambridge Journal*, i, 308). He has been identified with George Watkinson of Scotton, for whom Besse has several references (*Sufferings*, 1753, ii, 96, 97, 102, 106, 110). In 1656 he had a horse valued at £9 taken from him for riding to meeting on a Sunday, and he and his wife, Anne, were imprisoned at York. In 1659 he was in prison again for a fortnight after being "knockt down and sore beaten in the Steeple-house at Leeds," and haled out of the church and his coat torn off his back. In the Fifth Monarchy scare in January and February 1661 he was gaoled for refusing the oath. In July, 1662, he was sent to York Castle, again for refusing to take the oath; and the final reference in Besse is of a distress of £2 18s. 4d. for refusing to contribute towards the charges of the county militia.

George Watkinson was buried 23rd September, 1670, three weeks after his wife Anne (Yorkshire Q.M. burial registers, quoted in G. F. Nuttall's *Early Quaker Letters from the Swarthmore MSS.* (1952), which provides further information).

We are indebted to Miss Amy Foster, Librarian and Archivist at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, for the following extracts and notes from the Slingsby papers.

George Watkinson's will provides as follows:

8th day of Sept. 1670.

Will of George Watkinson of Scotton, co. York, gent. I give and bequeath all my manor of Scotton . . . unto my two bretheren William Watkinson of Scale House and

Edward Watkinson of Bradley in the county of York upon trust . . . to make sale thereof . . . to such person . . . as will give the best price . . . pay the several legacies . . . £200 to be put forth and disposed of by my said two bretheren William Watkinson and Edward Watkinson with the assistance of my friends Thomas Waite of the city of York, Peter Hardcastle of Hardcastle Garth, William Redshaw of Beckwithshaw and Gervase Benson of Old Wenington as they in their discretions from time to time shall think meet and see convenient as a stock for the use and behoof of the people of God commonly called Quakers being inhabitants within the county of York and the yearly profit thereof to be yearly disposed of to and for the use and behoof of the people aforesaid by my said bretheren and friends aforesaid in such manner as they in their discretions shall think meet and convenient. . . .<sup>1</sup>

£300 to William and George Goodwin, the two sons of Thomas Goodwin, butcher and citizen of London . . .

£20 to be distributed by the said [brethren and friends as above] amongst the people of God commonly called Quakers belonging to the Scotton meeting. . . .

Pecuniary bequests to:

John Watkinson, son of Richard Watkinson late of Bradley

Henry, brother of John Watkinson

Anne, wife of Ric. Ibbotson of Rilston

Mary, wife of Thomas Waite of York

Gervase Benson, my friend

Peter Blakey, servant

Sarah Camm, servant

Thomas Watkinson, servant

Mary Watkinson, servant

Poor of Scotton, 40s.

Poor of Bradley, 40s.

The rest to be divided into ten parts, seven-tenths to brother William, three-tenths to brother Edward.

Witnesses: Da. Baymbrigge

William Buckle

Marmaducke Buckle

<sup>1</sup> There is no record of this trust in the current Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting estates book. Lord Frescheville's efforts to seize this legacy are recorded in *Extracts from State Papers* (Journal Supplement, no. 11), 1913.

Memo. I have given seven parts . . . to William and three to Edward . . . because Wm. has seven children and Edward three, and upon no other account.

The tenure of the Manor of Scotton by George Watkinson and its descent to the Slingsby family can be traced from the following records—

23 Jan. 1653/4. Manor of Scotton was sold to George Watkinson of Bradley in Craven, esq. (for £3,000) by Sir Christopher Martin of Covent Garden, Middlesex, James Mesmin of Covent Garden and Alice his wife and Frances Randolph spinster of Covent Garden, Alice and Frances being daughters of Dame Alice Martin, who was the daughter and heiress of William Atkinson one time lord of the manor of Scotton.

1658, 27th of the sixth month called August. The Chantry and lands were sold to George Watkinson of Scotton, husbandman, by John Atkinson.

1677, 16th August. Articles of Agreement between Edward Watkinson of Bradley and Abraham Thornton for the sale to Thornton before the 12th of March next of the manor of Scotton and all lands included in the above conveyance of 1653/4 "except that parcel of land which was lately made a Buriall place for the people called Quakers," and all the ancient chantry with an acre of land belonging, for £3,300.

In 1678 the trustees of George Watkinson sold the manor and chantry lands to Thornton. The premises were mortgaged and eventually sold to Thomas Slingsby in 1708.