

The last Levetts living at Melton were the children of the Thomas Levett who died in 1623. An abstract of his will follows, together with the answer of his son John to a Chancery bill, showing what became of the Melton lands.

The Will of THOMAS LEVETT of High Melton, gent., 7 October 1622. I give to my wife Elizabeth £40, over and above her portion of my goods. To Thomas Levett my son and heir apparent all glass and seeling in or about my house at Melton. To Ralph Levitt my second son £20, to be paid within one month after he shall commence Maister of Arts in one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford. And whereas I have a spetiall desire to have my two younger sons, John Levett and Peter Levett, to be educated and brought up at their books, whereby they be furnished with knowledge and learning to become profitable members in God's Church or the commonwealth of this land; I do hereby pray and desire my said wife, my eldest son Thomas, and my second son Ralfe to be aiding and assisting to the said John and Peter therein. And therefore, rather to allure them to their books and to assist them in their studie, I do bequeath to the said John Levett £20, to be paid to him w^{thin} one month after he shall take the degree of Maister of Arts in Cambridge or Oxford. [Same bequest to Peter Levett.] To my daughter Jaïne Levett £40, over and besides her portion. The bequests to my three younger sons to be raised out of lands in Cadeby purchased of Richard Waterhouse. If this devise be insufficient in law, then I do require my eldest son to consider how chargeable his own education hath been to me and how much to the hindrance of his younger brethren's preferment, and therefore I do pray him to give way to this devise. My wife to be executrix. My brethren Robert Mirfin of Thurecroft and William Levett of Bentley to be supravisors. To my good friend Henry Saxton,* clerke, 10s., in thankful remembrance of God's blessing by him as a secondary cause in the indoctrinating of my children. Proved 1 May 1623. (York Wills, vol. 37, fo. 234.)

WHITAKER v. FITZWILLIAMS, LEVETT *et al.*, bill dated 26 October 1653: Thomas Whitaker, exr. will of John Whitaker, late of Melton-on-the-Hill, complains that John Levett, Dr. of Lawes, being seized of a capital messuage there, did on May 10, 1638, lease the same to the said John Whitaker for 21 years at £61 pr. ann. The said John Whitakers did continue tenant and much improved sd. farme and continued to pay his rent until he understood that the said Dr. Levett had conveyed the reversion thereof to Richard Berry, Dr. in Physicke, since decd., after w^{ch} time he did with the consent of Dr. Levett pay the rent to Dr. Berry. Sd. John Whitakers made his will and appointed your orator and John Whitacers his son exrs. and demised to your orator sd. farme and your orator pd. rent to Dr. Berry. Dr. Berry, dying about June, 1651, demised sd. farme to John Fountaine, Esq^r † and since then your orator has pd. rent to sd. Fountaine, saying that sometimes by consent of Dr. Levett, Dr. Berry, and Fountaine your orator and his father pd. to Thomas Fitzwilliams of Doncaster £16 pr. ann., the interest on £200, lent on some small pt. of the farme by sd. Fitzwilliams. And after the death of his sd. father, your orator being an illiterate person brought up only to husbandry, the sd. Fitzwilliams, being an attorney and often Under Sheriff for the County of York, repaired to your orator and required him to seale some writings, which he said were only to secure the payment of sd. interest; but now he pretendeth they are bonds wh. he threatens to put in suit. The sd. Fitzwilliams did combine with the said Dr. Levett (who married Mary, one of the daughters and coheires of Emmanuel Mote decd.) and with Anne and Dorothy Mote, two other daughters of sd. Emmanuel Mote, so that Feb. 13, 1651, a bill was drawn by which the said Anne and Dorothy Mote claimed that the sd. Emmanuel Mote was seized in fee of the manor of Melton and of this farme; and upon the marriage of the sd. Mary to Dr. Levett, and his agreement to pay £600 to sd. Anne and Dorothy, the premises were settled on the sd. Dr. Levett; but the sd. Anne and Dorothy lately discovered that on July 30, 1635, their father conveyed the premises to sd. Fitzwilliams for £200. Prays writ of subpoena commanding defts. to appear and set forth the truth, etc.

* Henry Saxton was vicar of Conisbrough from 1615 to 1665 and is buried in Conisbrough church.

† John Fountayne of Melton married Elizabeth, daughter of Major John Monkton and a grand-niece of Dr. Richard Berry.