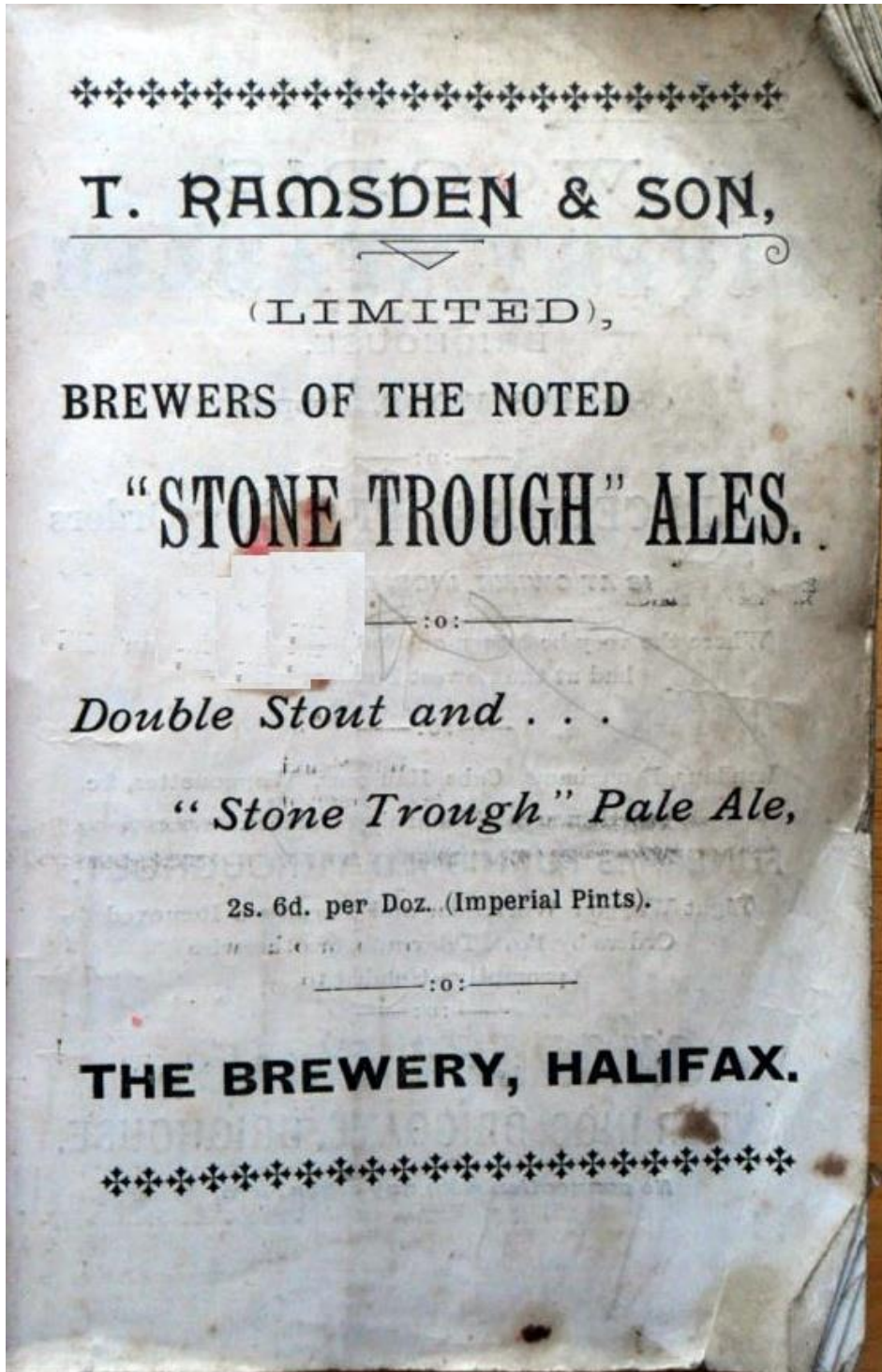


5. The family of Fanny Watkinson and her husband John Taylor Ramsden of The Jumbles, Ovenden, Halifax and Middleton Tower, King's Lynn.

Fanny Watkinson's husband, John Taylor Ramsden, was a brewer who with his father owned a bottling & brewing company, Thomas Ramsden & Son, at Clough Brewery, Mixenden. They gradually acquired other breweries in the Halifax area and renamed themselves Ramsden's Stone Trough Brewery on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1894.





Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion

Clearly the Ramsdens were very wealthy and able to acquire property in Norfolk. John Taylor Ramsden was on the Norfolk Electoral Register from 1898 until 1912 (when the record set ends). Until 1904 his residence was always given as **The Jumbles**, Halifax with qualifying addresses in Norfolk. In 1904 John and Fanny acquired Middleton Towers, King's Lynn possibly from Fanny's father (GW2) and seemed to divide their time between there and Halifax. From 1906 their sons George Taylor, John Watkinson and Thomas Ramsden were also on the Norfolk Electoral Register. The residence of George Taylor Ramsden and John Watkinson Ramsden was usually The Jumbles, Halifax with father John Taylor Ramsden and brother Thomas Ramsden being listed as residing at Middleton Towers, King's Lynn. The family continued to own two Norfolk farms, some houses in Saddlebow Road and cottages near Middleton Towers.

As already stated on census night 1901 John Taylor Ramsden was not at home at **The Jumbles**. And then on census night 1911 Fanny and John Taylor Ramsden have not been found although a son and daughter were listed as a "Son" and "Dau" at Middleton Tower, King's Lynn. This implies that Fanny and her husband were usually resident there and were perhaps again 'between houses' on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911.

RAMSDEN John Taylor of Middleton Tower King's Lynn Norfolk died 2 September 1916 Probate 16 December to George Taylor Ramsden R.G.A and John Watkinson Ramsden and Thomas Ramsden gentleman. Effects £275 916 19s 7d Resworn £ 289 330 - 10 - 0

RAMSDEN Fanny of Middleton Tower King's Lynn Norfolk widow died 17 January 1931 Probate London to George Taylor Ramsden Thomas Ramsden John Watkinson Ramsden and Edward Ramsden directors. Effects £11 974 10s 3d

(a) **George Taylor Ramsden**, born 6 April 1879, was educated at Eton College and Trinity College Cambridge. He was Mayor of Halifax from 1911-12. On 29<sup>th</sup> June 1915 he married Elizabeth Juel Hanson. By then he may well have been serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery. After WW1 he served as a Coalition Unionist M.P. for Elland from 1918 to 1922. George and Elizabeth had five children; Elizabeth Mary (11<sup>th</sup> March 1916 - 1996), Robert George Taylor (1918 - 15<sup>th</sup> April 1946), Elna Margaret (28<sup>th</sup> April 1920 - 29<sup>th</sup> July 2005), Anne T (1922 - 1923) and Janet Beatrice Winifred Ramsden (9<sup>th</sup> December 1929 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011)



Twenty-three-month-old Anne Ramsden, of Colebrook Lodge, Wandsworth was buried on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1923 at St. Mary's Illingworth. Her father's cousin, Rev. George Watkinson (GW4), Vicar of Northowram, took the funeral service.

The family then moved to Bramham House near Leeds after George purchased it in 1924. He died whilst out shooting on Redlish Moor, Thornthwaite in 1936. He was buried at St.Mary's Illingworth on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1936 once again Rev. George Watkinson (GW4) officiated.

RAMSDEN George Taylor of Bramham House Bramham Yorkshire died 9 October 1936 at Redlish Moor Thornthwaite Yorkshire Probate London 14 January [1937] to Thomas Ramsden company director and Edward Ramsden retired captain H.M.army. Effects £287 598 19s 8d. Resworn £320 671-8-3, and £3211 171-8-3 and £320 871-8-3

The only son, Robert George Taylor Ramsden, was educated at Radley College and served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Yorkshire Hussars during WW2. He has not been found in the 1939 register. But his mother, widow Elisabeth Ramsden (19<sup>th</sup> October 1891 - 5<sup>th</sup> September 1957) and two sisters, Elisabeth Mary and Elna Margaret, were resident at Bramham House when the 1939 register was taken. Younger sister Janet has also not been found.

RAMSDEN Robert George Taylor of Bramham House Bramham Yorkshire died 15 April 1946 at Thorner-lane East Rigton Bardsey Yorkshire Probate Wakefield 7 December to The Public Trustee, Effects £65 506 1s 3d

Apparently, Robert George Taylor Ramsden died following a motor cycle accident at Pompopali near Hetchwell Woods, Leeds.

(b) **John Watkinson Ramsden**, born 5<sup>th</sup> October 1880, married Eleanor Murgatroyd (2<sup>nd</sup> January 1881 – 15<sup>th</sup> November 1960) on 28 August 1906 at Luddendon with, once again, his cousin Rev. George Watkinson (GW4) helping to officiate.



1911 census

John Watkinson Ramsden Head 30 Farmer  
Eleanor Ramsden Wife 30  
3 servants  
Address Hareby House, Spilsby, Lincolnshire

Hareby House was John and Eleanor's residence in 1939 and where he died. They had no children.

RAMSDEN John Watkinson of Hareby House Spilsby Lincolnshire died 15 June 1943 at University College Hospital Gower-street London W.1 Probate Wakefield 11 October to Edward Ramsden and Thomas Ramsden company directors, Effects £335 369 18s 9d

(c) **Thomas Ramsden**, born, 14<sup>th</sup> January 1882, was educated at Harrow School and Christ Church, Oxford.

1911 census

Thomas Ramsden Son 29 Private Means  
Mary W Ramsden Dau 24 ditto  
7 servants  
Address Middleton Tower, King's Lynn, Norfolk

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 1920 he married Clare Erymytrude Magdalen Wright Taylor at St.Jude's , South Kensington. They had two daughters Diana Mary (13<sup>th</sup> February 1921 – 1995) and June (1923 - ????) whose portrait below was painted by Harry Dixon – painter of "*Tiger, tiger burning bright*" - and bequeathed to North Lincolnshire Museums Service by Diana Mary Myburgh in 1995.



**Diana Mary and June Ramsden of Middleton Tower by Harry Dixon**

Middleton Towers seems to have been Thomas and Clare Ramsden's residence all their married life. He and the family were there when the 1939 register was taken. But Thomas continued to have links back to West Yorkshire. He was a director of the family brewery, Stone Trough Brewery, in Halifax and became joint owner, with his younger brother Edward, of Bramham House after the death of his older brother, George Taylor Ramsden and then his nephew Robert George Taylor Ramsden. They sold Bramham House to the West Ridding County Council in 1947.

Clare Ermytrude Magdalen Wright Ramsden died at Middleton Tower on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1953 and then seven years later her husband died.

RAMSDEN Thomas of Middleton Tower Kings Lynn Norfolk died 29 March 1960 at Gaywood Hall Nursing Home Lings Lynn Probate Wakefield 10 October to James Edward Ramsden member of parliament Diana Mary Myburgh (wife of Claude John Myburgh) and June Barclay (wife of Timothy Humphrey Barclay) Effects £640 289 3s 4d.

After that the daughter, June Barclay, and her husband Timothy Humphrey Barclay (8<sup>th</sup> June 1923 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 1999) seem to have resided at Middleton Tower.

- (d) **Maud Ramsden**, born 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1883, married Harold Patrick Martin (18<sup>th</sup> March 1872 - 31<sup>st</sup> August 1959) in 1911. They had two sons Thomas Acquin Martin (20<sup>th</sup> May 1912 – 8<sup>th</sup> August 1995) and Mervyn Harold Acquin Martin (16<sup>th</sup> October 1920 – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007). The Martins lived at Nether Hall, Pakenham, Bury St.Edmunds.

MARTIN Maud of Nether Hall Pakenham Bury St. Edmunds died 22 March 1972 Probate London 20 October £198 088

- (e) **Mary Winifred Ramsden**, born 15<sup>th</sup> June 1886 was with her brother Thomas at Middleton Tower on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911. On 18<sup>th</sup> March 1914 she married Anthony Knight (31<sup>st</sup> August 1887 – 18<sup>th</sup> March 1967). The London Gazette of 18<sup>th</sup> May 1909 notes “5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment; Second Lieutenant Anthony Knight, M.V.O., to be Lieutenant. Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1908”. He appears to have then been promoted to Captain and then Major in 1914. Anthony and Mary Knight had two sons Peter Fernley Knight (13<sup>th</sup> June 1915 – 24<sup>th</sup> August 1980) and John Taylor Knight (29<sup>th</sup> May 1919 - ???). By 1939 the Knights were living in Chichester and Anthony was a “Retired Farmer”; this had been his occupation in 1911 when he was living alone on a farm near King's Lynn.

KNIGHT Mary Winifred of Sunrays Residential Hotel St.Andrews Rd Droitwich Worcs died 24 March 1971 Probate Winchester £56 292

- (f) **Edward Ramsden**, born 7<sup>th</sup> August 1890, was educated at Eton College and the Royal Military College Sandhurst before following a military career. His whereabouts have not been found in the 1911 census when he was already following a military career. Apparently, he joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Irish Lancers and served with them in WW1 achieving the rank of Captain. But this military record has also been found: -

## Ramsden Edward Captain 59106

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**Name** Ramsden Edward

**Army number** 59106

**Rank** Captain

**Decorations** M.C. 1/9/1919, M.i.D. 22/6/1915, 4/1/1917, 20/5/1918.

**Date of birth** 7/8/1890, Baptised 14/9/1890.

**Age** 0

**Unit** 12th Lancers - Commissioned as 2/Lt 23/2/1910, Resigned Commission 2/3/1919. Captain - National Defence Company TA Reserve 12/8/1939, Embodied 24/8/1939, 13th Bn Durham Light Infantry up to March 1940, Trf to Reserve on age grounds 1941, Home Guard - posted 11th Bn Durham Home Guard - in command - 1/3/1942, Relinquished Commission 2/4/1949 as Hon Major.

**Company/Battery** 41st National Defence Company as at 3/9/1939, Bn HQ 11th Durham Home Guard

**Platoon or other sub-unit** E Company 41st NDC.

**Task or role** Company Commander, Battalion Commander.

**Joined Brigade** 3/9/1939

**Promotions** Lt 1/2/1911, Captain 7/3/1917, T/Major 20/9/1940, Lt Col 1/3/1942

**Died/Killed in action** Death registered May 1985, Claro District.

**Home address** Son of John Taylor and Fanny Ramsden. Father a Brewer. Educated Eton and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. J P 1943, High Sheriff 1944.

Early in 1923 Edward Ramsden married Geraldine Wilson, the daughter of Colonel John Gerald Wilson (12<sup>th</sup> September 1888 – 7<sup>th</sup> September 1976) of Cliffe Hall, Darlington, apparently having met her at Craythorne Hall in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Their only son, James Edward Ramsden, was born on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1923 in Liverpool although his birth was registered in London. This was the young man who was granted probate for his uncle, Thomas Ramsden. In 1939 these Ramsdens were resident at Sands Hall, Sedgefield. But then they must have moved to Ripon before 1976 when Geraldine died at Breckamore; her husband remaining at the same address.

RAMSDEN Edward of Breckamore Ripon died 13 May 1985 Probate Leeds  
10 October £838 423



**This almost impossible to read stone marks their joint grave at  
St.John the Evangelist churchyard, Mickley, Ripon**

- (i) **James Edward Ramsden** (1<sup>st</sup> November 1923 - ) . Like his father he was educated at Eton College but then at Trinity College, Oxford. During WW2 he served as a lieutenant with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. In 1949 he married Juliet Ponsonby, the daughter of a Conservative politician. Politics was to be his career following in the footsteps of his uncle George Taylor Ramsden. He stood unsuccessfully in the 1950 and 1951 election as the Conservative candidate in Dewsbury. But then in 1954 he became the Member of Parliament for Harrogate a seat he held until 1974. During his time as an M.P. he held various posts including being the last person to hold the office of Secretary of State for War.

In 2012 James Edward Ramsden gave an interview for The History of Parliament's oral history project.

He recalled his childhood, his interest in politics and who influenced him, campaigning in Dewsbury, the lack of facilities in Parliament and then his various roles.

Presumably this portrait was taken at the time of the interview.



This concludes the story of the Watkinsons comprising:-

**Samuel Lord Watkinson**

**The Charteris family**

**George Watkinson and Sons**

**George Watkinson the Younger**

**John Watkinson Colliery Owner**

**Samuel Watkinson of Shelf Hall**

**Emma Watkinson of Longlands**

**Fanny Watkinson and the Stone Trough Brewery**

D.M.Barker  
October 2018