

## Chapter 52

### My Scrope Ancestors in the Middle Ages in England

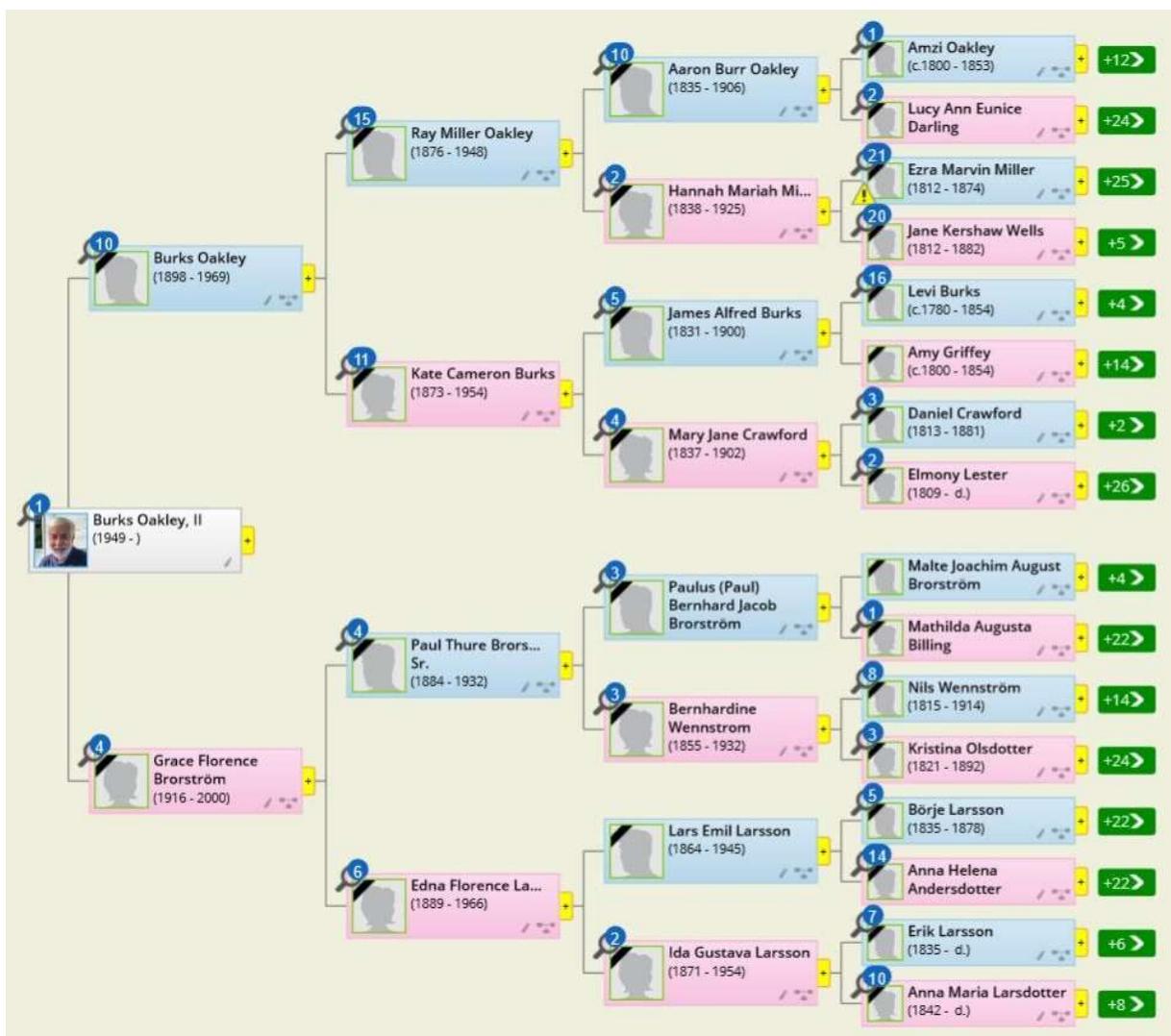
[originally written 11 July 2020]

#### Introduction

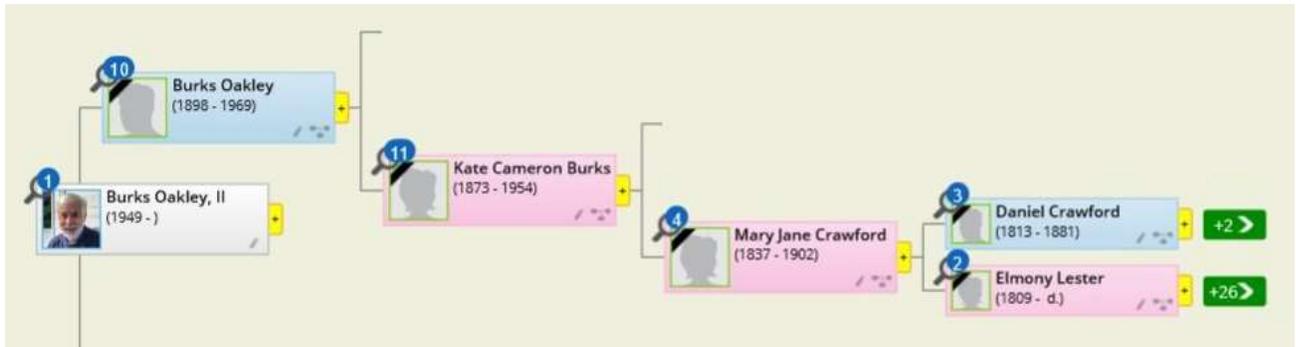
I have started using the Geni.com website to expand my knowledge of my family tree. Geni.com has what they call the “World Family Tree”. Unlike Ancestry.com, where everyone has their own complete (or incomplete) family tree, Geni.com is having its users collaboratively build just a single family tree. On Ancestry.com, there can be one thousand or more duplicate entries for the same person – and these entries often have conflicting information. On Geni.com, there should only be one entry on the entire website for any given person. Individual users on Geni.com can add their ancestral lines until they connect with people already in the World Family Tree. And then their lines immediately become part of this enormous family tree. As of early July 2020, there are over 145 million individuals in the World Family Tree – see:

<https://www.geni.com/worldfamilytree>

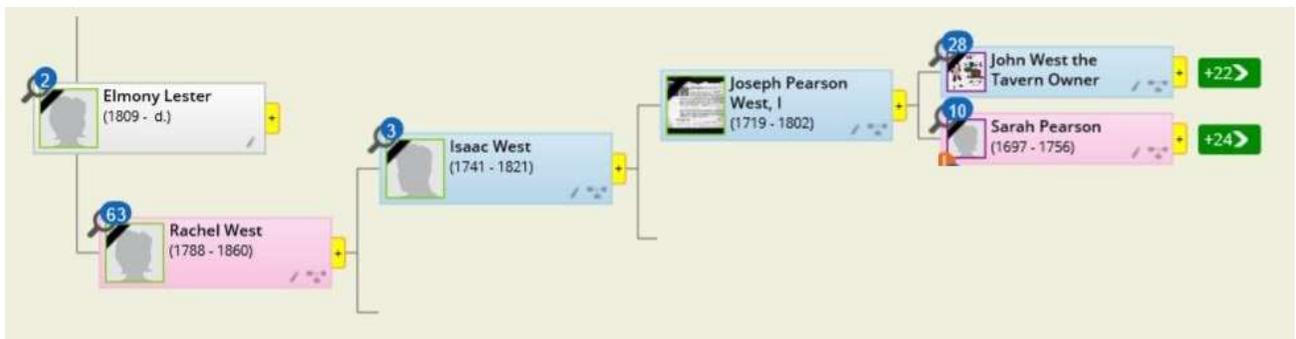
Over the past year, I have added various lines from my family tree to Geni.com, and then connected these lines to individuals already in the World Family Tree. Here is the initial portion of my pedigree on Geni.com:



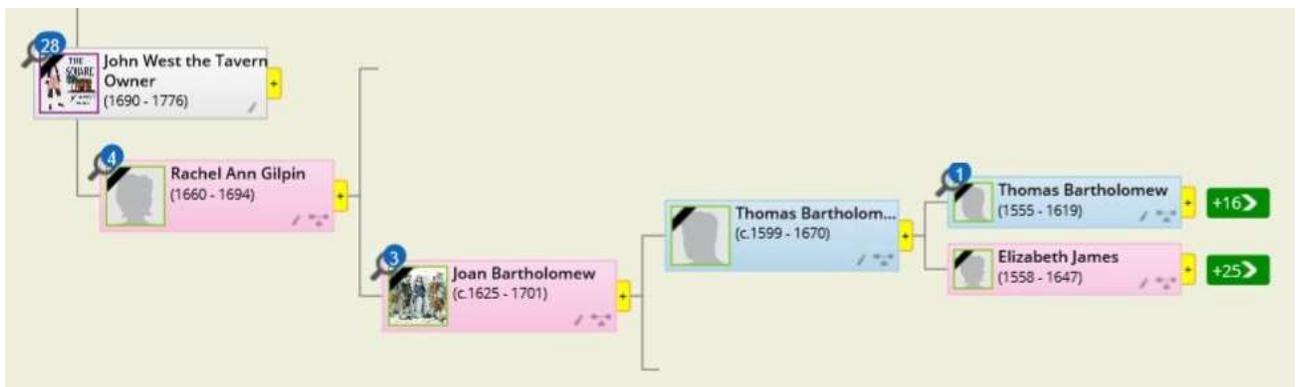
Elmony Lester was my 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandmother, and in Chapter 51, I looked at some of her ancestors. Here is my line going back to Elmony Lester:



Here is part of her ancestral line, going back to John West the Tavern Owner (1690-1776), who immigrated from England to Pennsylvania:



Here is part of John West's maternal line in England:



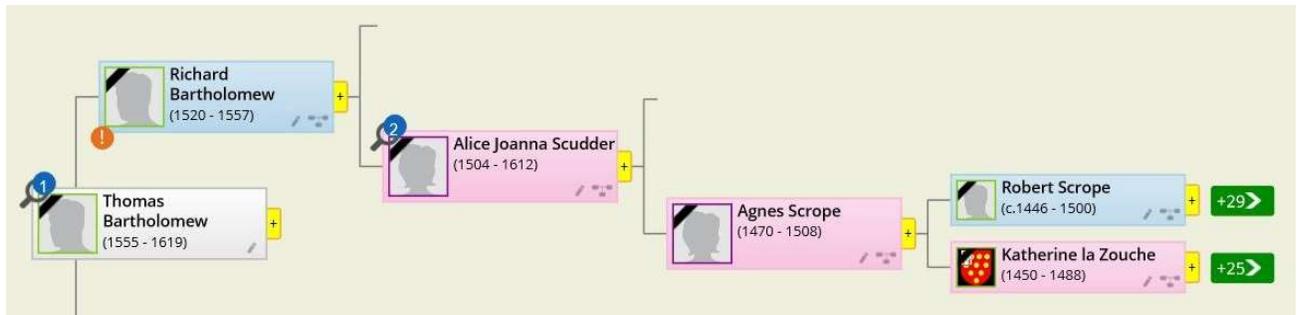
In Chapter 51, I went back on a line following the ancestors of Elizabeth James (1558-1647). See:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/51-An-ElmonyLester-Line-on-Geni.pdf>

However, I certainly could have followed the line going back from her husband, Thomas Bartholomew (1555-1619). And that is what I now have done. The rest of this chapter will cover what I learned about on ancestral line going back from Thomas Bartholomew.

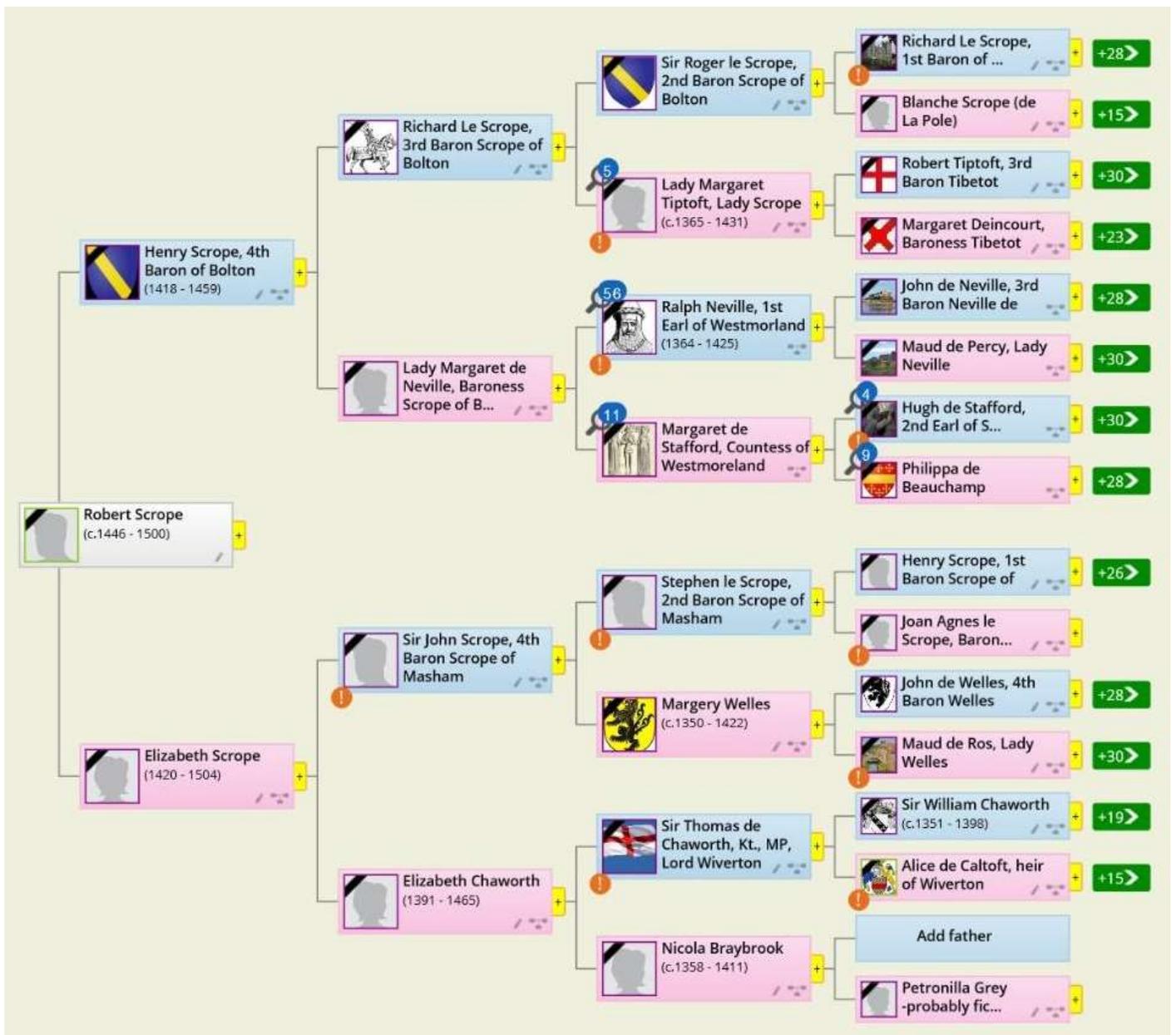
### ***Thomas Bartholomew's Ancestors***

The Bartholomew line on Geni.com goes back to John Bartholomew (born 1445), who was the 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather of Thomas Bartholomew. And that is all she wrote. Nothing more is known about this ancestral line. So there really isn't much at all to be learned sticking to the Bartholomew ancestral line itself. However, one of Thomas Bartholomew's other ancestral lines looked promising – going back to Robert Scrope (1446-1500) and his wife Katherine la Zouche (1450-1488):



The number in the green box next to Robert Scrope is +29, meaning that the next screen for this ancestral line will have 29 new ancestors (recall that +30 is a complete pedigree at this magnification).

Robert Scrope was my 14<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather. Here is his pedigree on Geni.com:



Oh my! This is an amazingly complete pedigree. And it has various entries with titles such as “3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton” and “4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham”. So it looks like Robert Scrope had a number of ancestors who were English nobility. This certainly is worth investigating.

## The Scrope Family in England in the Middle Ages

I started out by looking at Robert's father, Henry Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron of Bolton:



**Henry Scrope**

Gender: Male

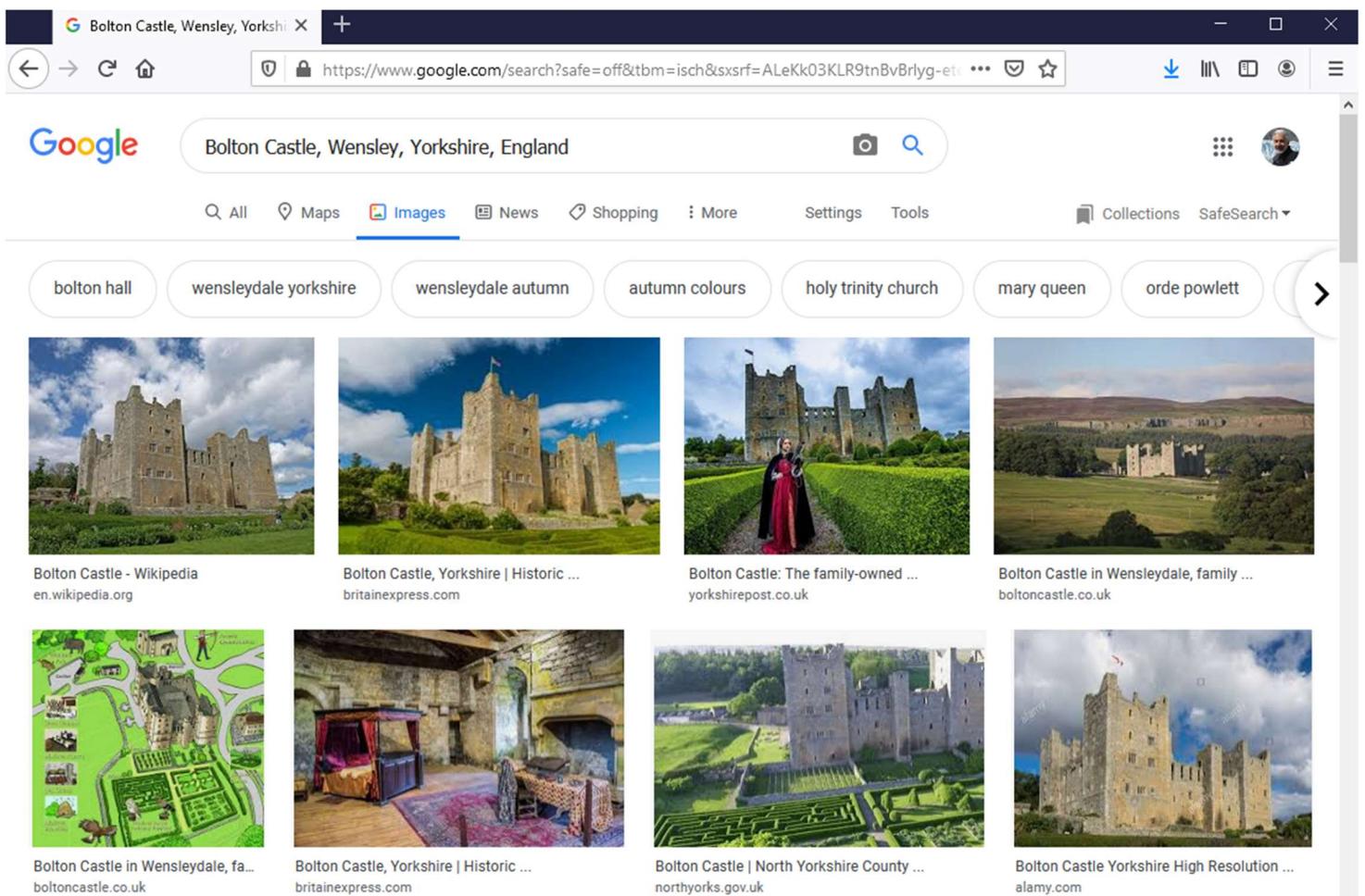
Birth: July 05, 1418  
Bolton Castle, Wensley, Yorkshire, England (United Kingdom)

Death: January 14, 1459 (40)  
Bolton Castle, Leyburn, Yorkshire, England

Here is my line back to Henry Scrope:



Henry was my 15<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather. According to his profile on Geni.com, he was born at Bolton Castle, Wensley, Yorkshire, England. Bolton Castle? I wonder what it looked like. I used Google Image Search to find some images:



Bolton Castle, Wensley, Yorkshi X

https://www.google.com/search?safe=off&tbn=isch&sxsrf=ALeKk03KLR9tnBvBrlyg-et...

Bolton Castle, Wensley, Yorkshire, England

Q All Maps Images News Shopping More Settings Tools

bolton hall wensleydale yorkshire wensleydale autumn autumn colours holy trinity church mary queen orde powlett

Bolton Castle - Wikipedia  
en.wikipedia.org

Bolton Castle, Yorkshire | Historic ...  
britainexpress.com

Bolton Castle: The family-owned ...  
yorkshirepost.co.uk

Bolton Castle in Wensleydale, family ...  
boltoncastle.co.uk

Bolton Castle in Wensleydale, fa...  
boltoncastle.co.uk

Bolton Castle, Yorkshire | Historic ...  
britainexpress.com

Bolton Castle | North Yorkshire County ...  
northyorks.gov.uk

Bolton Castle Yorkshire High Resolution ...  
alamy.com

Oh my! This place is still standing! And it looks just like an old English castle from the Middle Ages should look like. The first image from my Google search was a photo from the Wikipedia entry for Bolton Castle, so I followed that link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton\\_Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton_Castle)

Bolton Castle is a 14<sup>th</sup>-century castle located in Wensleydale, Yorkshire, England. The nearby village Castle Bolton takes its name from the castle. The castle is a Grade I listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The castle was damaged in the English Civil War, and “slighted” afterwards, but much of it survived. It has never been sold and is still in the ownership of the descendants of the Scrope family.

Much more about Bolton Castle in the Appendix.

Here is a Google Map showing the location of Bolton Castle in North Yorkshire:



54.321932°N 1.948106°W

The Wikipedia article included “It has never been sold and is still in the ownership of the descendants of the Scrope family.” And the word Scrope was a hyperlink going to a Wikipedia article about this family:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrope>

Scrope (pronounced “scroop”) is the name of an old English family of Norman origin that first came into prominence in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The family has held the noble titles of Baron Scrope of Masham, Baron Scrope of Bolton, and for a brief time, the Earl of Wiltshire.

Oh my! It looks like I stumbled on some important ancestors!

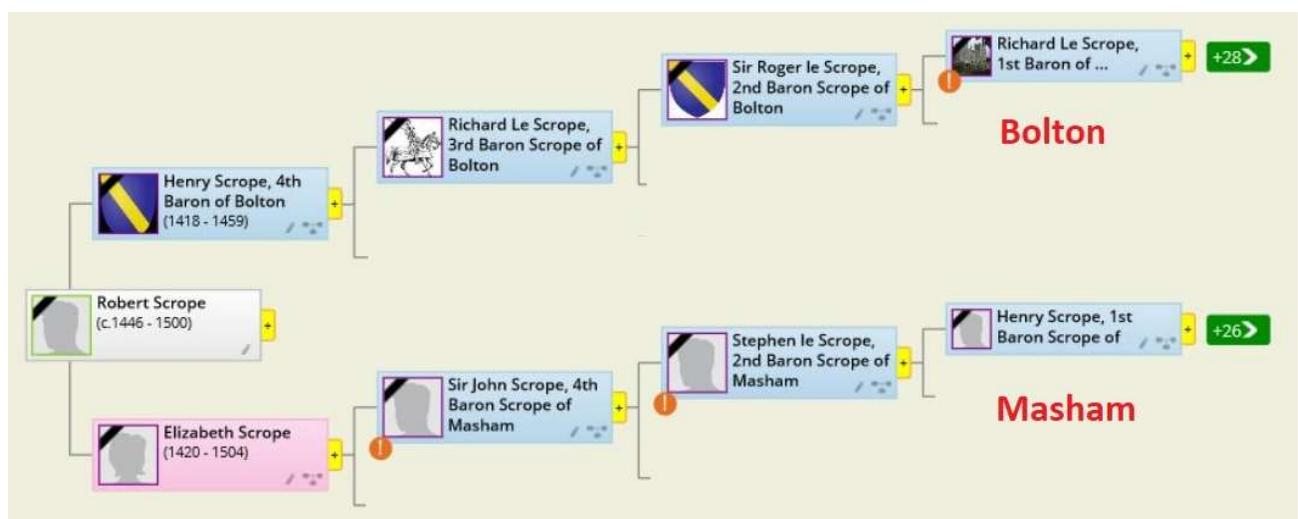
The Wikipedia article about the Scrope family included:

Origin of name – The name (pronounced “Scroop”) may be derived from the old Anglo-Norman word for “crab”. Whether far-fetched or not, it is fact that at one stage the family crest was a crab (subsequently five feathers) and that the family motto is still *Devant si je puis* (“forward if I can”), which could have a double meaning as, of course, a crab can only go sideways.

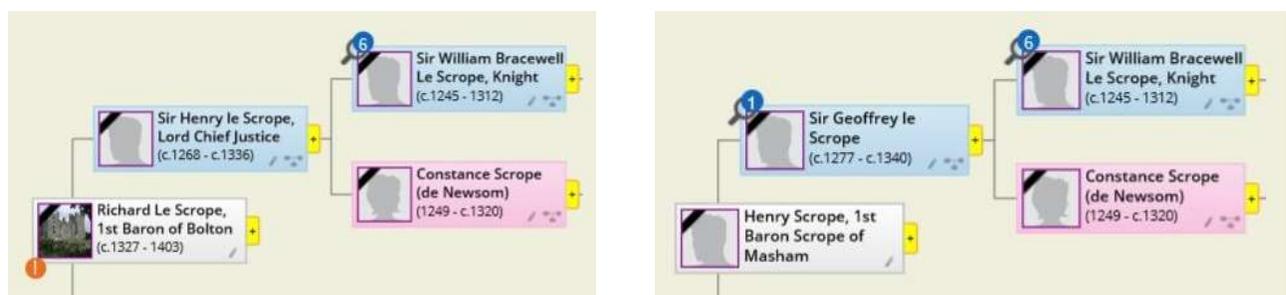
### *The Two Scrope Lines*

Before I can start discussing all my important Scrope ancestors, I need to step back and look at the overall family. Recall that I mentioned “3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton” and “4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham”. There actually are two separate peerages in the family – Bolton and Masham. These are the names of small villages in North Yorkshire, England, located about 15 miles from each other. Of course, Bolton Castle is located in Bolton.

Here is part of the pedigree chart for Robert Scrope, with the Bolton line in the upper part and the Masham line in the lower part:

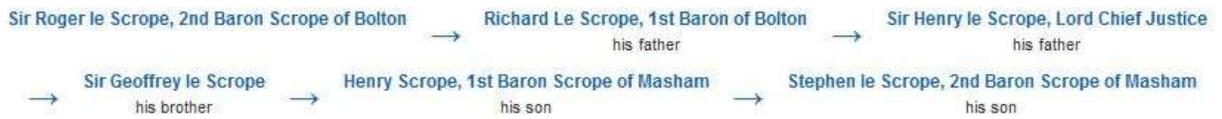


Robert’s father was a Scrope from the Bolton line, while his mother was a Scrope from the Masham line. Both the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton and the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham were grandsons of Sir William Bracewell Le Scrope and his wife Constance Scrope (de Newsom):



This means that the 1<sup>st</sup> Barons were first-cousins, and thus the 2<sup>nd</sup> Barons were second-cousins:

Stephen le Scrope, 2nd Baron Scrope of Masham is Sir Roger le Scrope, 2nd Baron Scrope of Bolton's second cousin.



In turn, Robert Scrope's parents were fourth-cousins. It is important to keep in mind that there are two distinct peerages here, both involving men named Scrope. And I am descended from both of these lines through my 14<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather Robert Scrope.

### Important Scrope Ancestors

#### Richard Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton

The Wikipedia article about the Scrope family mentioned a number of important family members from the past. One was Richard Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton. Of course, there is a Wikipedia article about him:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Scrope,\\_1st\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Bolton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Scrope,_1st_Baron_Scrope_of_Bolton)

Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton (1327-1403) was an English soldier and courtier, serving Richard II of England. He also fought under the Black Prince at the Battle of Crecy in 1346.

I looked back at the full pedigree for Robert Scrope (a few pages back), and Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Bolton, appears in the upper-right corner. Richard was Robert's 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandfather.

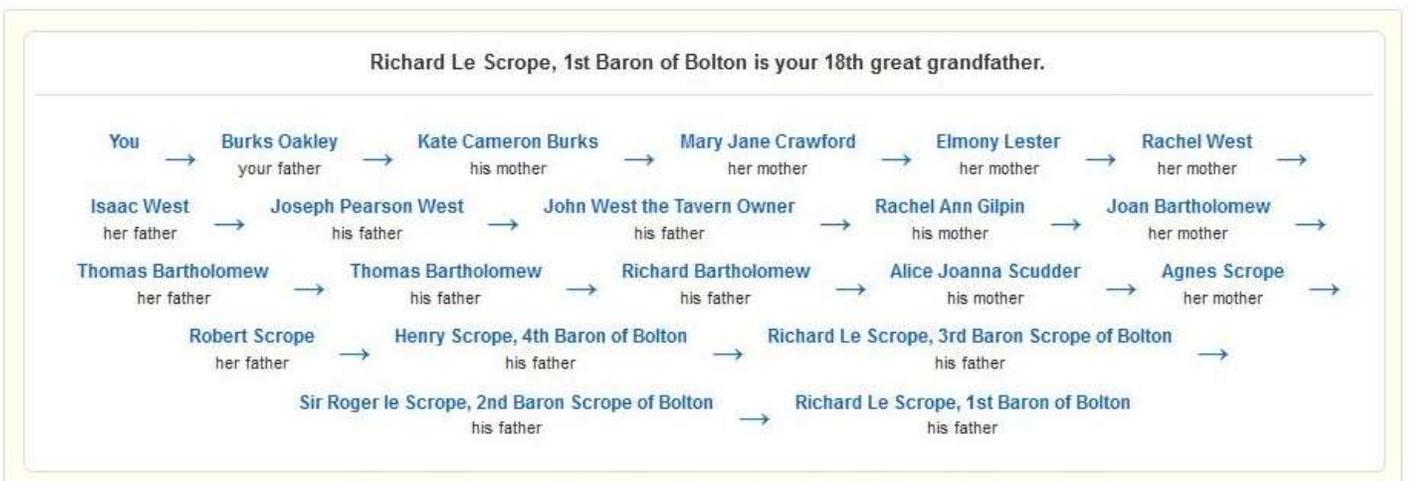
**Richard Le Scrope, 1st Baron of Bolton**

Birth: circa 1327  
Bolton, Wensleydale, Yorkshire, England, (Present UK)

Death: May 30, 1403 (71-80)  
England

Immediate Family: Son of Sir Henry le Scrope, Lord Chief Justice and Margaret de Ros

Here is my line going back to Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton:



Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, was my 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

### **Sir Henry le Scrope**

According to Richard le Scrope 's profile on Geni.com, his father, Sir Henry le Scrope, was the Lord Chief Justice.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_le\\_Scrope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_le_Scrope)

Sir Henry le Scrope (1268-1336) was an English lawyer, and Chief Justice of the King's Bench for two periods between 1317 and 1330. After serving as the Chief Justice of the Kings Bench, he was made Chief Baron of the Exchequer, a post he held until his death.

Henry le Scrope was knighted at some point before 1311. He held extensive possessions all over England, amounting to twenty-one manors all in all, most of them in Yorkshire.

Of his three sons, the eldest, William, was a soldier who distinguished himself in the French and Scottish wars and died in 1344. The next son, Stephen, had predeceased William, so the estates passed to Richard Scrope, who subsequently became the first Lord Scrope of Bolton, and chancellor of England.

How cool to have Wikipedia articles about my Scrope ancestors who lived during the Middle Ages!

### **Roger Scrope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton**

Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, had several sons. Upon his death, his oldest son, Roger Scrope, assumed the title 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton. Roger was my 17<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger\\_Scrope,\\_2nd\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Bolton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Scrope,_2nd_Baron_Scrope_of_Bolton)

Roger Scrope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, was a member of the English peerage in the late fourteenth century.

He was the second son of Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton (c. 1327–1403) and Blanche de la Pole (sister of the Earl of Suffolk). Roger Scrope's elder brother, his father's heir, had been beheaded for treason by the newly crowned King Henry IV in 1399, making Roger his father's heir.

Roger Scrope was probably born prior to 1370, and had been knighted 1385, while he was deputy governor of Mann. He was married in 1385 to Margaretha Tiptoft (alias de Tibetot) (1366–1431), co-heiress of the Barony of Tibetot.

Roger Scrope died in Bolton on 3 December 1403, only four months after inheriting his title. His widow married again two years later, but her second husband fled the realm in 1415, having been condemned as a felon.

His heir was his only son, who became Richard Scrope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton. [My 16<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.]

Interesting family, for sure!

### **William le Scrope, 1st Earl of Wiltshire (1350-1399)**

As mentioned in the previous section, Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, had son who was beheaded for treason. This son was named William Scrope. Here is the Wikipedia article about him:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Scrope,\\_1st\\_Earl\\_of\\_Wiltshire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Scrope,_1st_Earl_of_Wiltshire)

William le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Wiltshire, King of Mann (1350-1399), was a close supporter of King Richard II of England. He was a son of Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton.

Scrope was captured when Bristol Castle surrendered to Henry on 28 July 1399. He was executed without trial at Bristol Castle, and his head carried to London in a white basket to be displayed on London Bridge. Parliament later confirmed the sentence and determined that all his estates and title were to be forfeit to the crown. [So that was the end of the Earl of Wiltshire title in the Scrope family.]

William le Scrope was my 18<sup>th</sup>-great uncle.

### **Richard Scrope, 3rd Baron Scrope of Bolton (1394-1420)**

Richard Scrope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, was a member of the fifteenth-century English peerage in Yorkshire. He was my 16<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather. Of course, he has an entry on Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Scrope,\\_3rd\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Bolton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Scrope,_3rd_Baron_Scrope_of_Bolton)

Richard Scrope was the only son and heir of Roger Scrope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton (d. 1403), and Margaretha Tiptoft (alias de Tibetot) (1366–1431), co-heiress of the Barony of Tibetot. From the death of his father when Richard was just seven years old, Richard Scrope was in the ward of Queen Katherine. The queen arranged his marriage in 1413 to Margaret, daughter of Ralph Neville, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Westmorland, and his first wife Margaret, the daughter of Hugh Stafford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Stafford.

Richard Scrope fought in the major theatres of Henry V's French campaign, bringing fifteen men-at-arms and forty-five archers to the Battle of Agincourt and commanding a naval section at the Siege of Harfleur. His last years were spent defending the north-east coast of England against the threat of Scottish sea attacks; in 1418, he was based in Kingston upon Hull with 120 men-at-arms and 240 archers.

He died in Rouen, France, on 29 August 1420; he was only 26 years old at the time.

## **Henry Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton (1418-1459)**

Henry Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, was a member of the English peerage in Yorkshire in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He was my 15<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather. And everyone would be disappointed if he didn't have an entry on Wikipedia. Fear not, he does.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Scrope,\\_4th\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Bolton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Scrope,_4th_Baron_Scrope_of_Bolton)

Henry Scrope, 4th Baron Scrope of Bolton, was born in 1418 to Richard Scrope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, and Margaret Neville. He was still a minor when his father died in 1420. As such, his lands and marriageability were in the keeping of his uncle Sir Richard Neville until the young Scrope was 21. He appears to have remained living with his mother, who undertook not to marry him off. He received ownership of his estates in 1439, and two years later he was summoned to parliament as a knight.

Much of his career was concerned with administering the royal will in Yorkshire, which was undoubtedly a source of income for him.

Around 1435, Henry Scrope married Elizabeth Scrope (his fifth cousin), who was a daughter of John Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham.

Well, Wikipedia says that they were fifth-cousins. By my calculation, they were fourth-cousins.

## **Henry Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham**

Now let me move over to the Masham side of the family. Henry Scrope was the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham. Of course, like so many other Scropes of that time, he is in Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Scrope,\\_1st\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Masham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Scrope,_1st_Baron_Scrope_of_Masham)

Henry le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham (1312-1392), was an English soldier and administrator. Scrope was the eldest son of Geoffrey le Scrope and his first wife, Ivetta.

In November 1350, Scrope was summoned to the House of Lords as Lord Scrope, later Lord Scrope of Masham, and in 1354 he was one of the ambassadors to Pope Innocent VI, seeking to arbitrate between England and France.

Henry Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, was my 18<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

## **Richard Scrope, Archbishop of York**

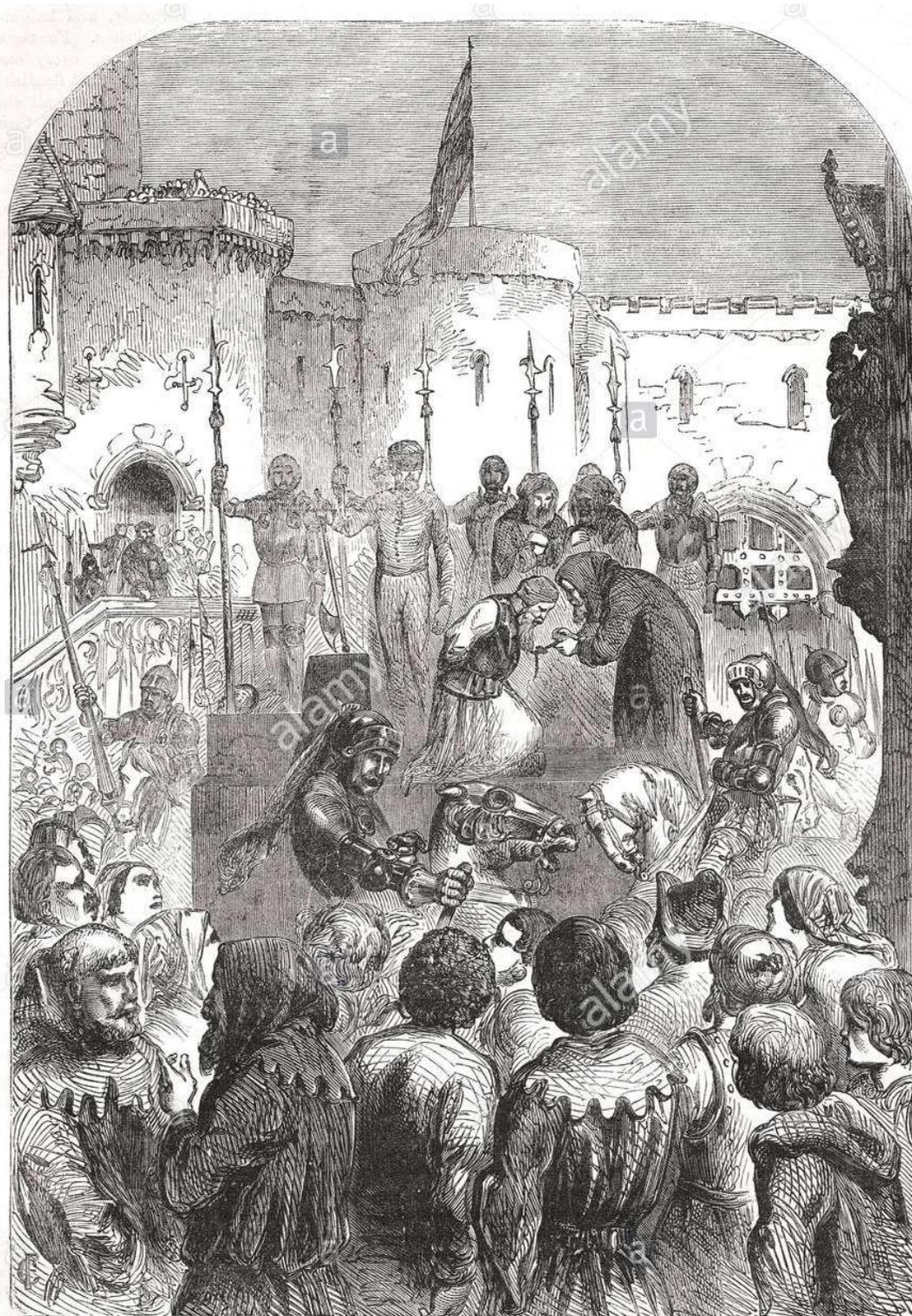
Henry's fourth son was Richard le Scrope (1350-1405), Archbishop of York, who took part with the Percies in opposition to Henry IV and was beheaded for treason in June 1405.

Here is the Wikipedia article about him:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_le\\_Scrope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_le_Scrope)

An excerpt reads:

Scrope earned a Doctorate in canon law. He made a profession of obedience to the Archbishop of Canterbury on 27 March 1387 and was enthroned in his cathedral on 29 June 1387. He was translated to York in 1398. He was arrested for treason on 29 May 1405 at his Bishopthorpe palace and was beheaded outside the York city walls on 8 June 1405.



Execution of the Archbishop of York.

Execution of the Archbishop of York.



Richard Scrope's tomb in York Minster Cathedral. The words read "Archbishop RICHARD SCROPE son of HENRY first Lord SCROPE of MASHAM"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Scrope\\_\(cleric\)#Trial\\_and\\_death](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Scrope_(cleric)#Trial_and_death)

The King denied the rebel leaders trial by jury, and a commission headed by the Earl of Arundel and Sir Thomas Beaufort sat in judgment on the Archbishop, Mowbray and Plumpton in Scrope's own hall at his manor of Bishopthorpe, some three miles south of York. The Chief Justice, Sir William Gascoigne, refused to participate in such irregular proceedings and to pronounce judgment on a Prince of the Church, and it was thus left to the lawyer Sir William Fulthorpe to condemn Scrope to death for high treason. Scrope, Mowbray and Plumpton were taken to a field belonging to the nunnery of Clementhorpe, which lay just under the walls of York, and before a great crowd were beheaded on 8 June 1405. Archbishop Scrope requesting the executioner to deal him five blows in remembrance of the Five Wounds of Christ, which was a popular devotion in Catholic England. After his execution, Archbishop Richard Scrope was buried in York Minster.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/York\\_Minster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/York_Minster)

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York, commonly known as York Minster, is the cathedral of York, England, and is one of the largest of its kind in Northern Europe.

An interesting connection to Shakespeare is at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Scrope\\_\(cleric\)#Shakespeare\\_and\\_Scrope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Scrope_(cleric)#Shakespeare_and_Scrope)

### **Stephen le Scrope, 2nd Baron Scrope of Masham (1345-1406)**

Stephen Scrope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, was the second surviving son of Henry Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, and his second wife Joan. Stephen was my 17<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Scrope,\\_2nd\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Masham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Scrope,_2nd_Baron_Scrope_of_Masham)

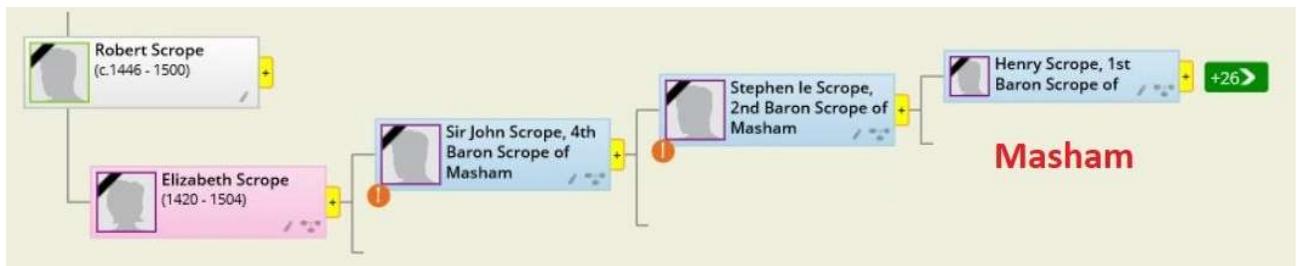
His early career was spent both on royal service, fighting in Edward III's French wars, as well as overseeing the activities of the local King's Bench of the West Riding. He was knighted in Alexandria (while on a pilgrimage) in 1365, and fought at the Battle of Nájera, part of England's involvement in the Castilian Civil War, two years later. He inherited his father's estate, which consisted of the manors of Masham, Upsall and Eccleshall and others in Nottinghamshire, in 1391, when he was around forty years old. He was summoned to parliament every year between 1399 and his death in 1406.

Stephen Scrope married Margery, daughter of John de Welles, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Welles and Maud de Ros, and widow of John de Huntingfield, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Huntingfield in about 1376. They had several children. His eldest son Henry inherited the title and was beheaded in 1415 as a result of his involvement in the Southampton Plot against King Henry V. [Who would have ever expected so many beheadings?] Stephen Scrope's younger son, also named Stephen, became Chancellor of University of Cambridge in 1414. [Wow, imagine that – my 17<sup>th</sup>-great uncle was the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge!]

Stephen Scrope died on 25 January 1406 and was buried in the family chapel in York Minster.

### What About the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham?

In looking at the ancestral line on the Masham side of the family, one has to ask the question, what happened to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham? Note that he doesn't appear in the line below:



Is he the son of Stephen Scrope who was beheaded? Yes, that is exactly who he was! Here is his Wikipedia entry:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Scrope,\\_3rd\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Masham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Scrope,_3rd_Baron_Scrope_of_Masham)

Henry Scrope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham (1373-1415), was a favorite of Henry V. He performed many diplomatic missions on behalf of the king, and he was appointed Treasurer of England in 1410 and made a Knight of the Garter in the same year.

He was beheaded for his involvement in the Southampton Plot to assassinate the king. [Another beheading!!!]

Scrope had no issue by either of his wives, and was succeeded by his brother, John Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, who did not recover the forfeited Scrope lands until 1442.

Henry Scrope was my 16<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

### **John Scrope, 4th Baron Scrope of Masham (1388-1455)**

John Scrope, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, was an English peer, Privy Councilor, and Treasurer of England. He was my 16<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Scrope,\\_4th\\_Baron\\_Scrope\\_of\\_Masham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Scrope,_4th_Baron_Scrope_of_Masham)

John was the fourth son of Stephen le Scrope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham and Margery, daughter of John Welles, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Welles. He inherited his title in 1415 when his elder brother Henry Scrope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Scrope of Masham, was executed for his part in the Southampton Plot.

In 1424, John was knighted, made a Privy Councilor, and appointed to Commissions of the Peace of Essex, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. He was on the Council of Regency for the young Henry VI. In 1426, he had the attainder on his title reversed, bought back the Scrope lands confiscated (and granted to other knights in the meantime) following his brother's execution, and restored the Barony to the House of Lords.

He died 15 November 1455 and was buried in the Scrope Chapel in York Minster. He had married twice; firstly Maud Greystoke, daughter of Sir John Greystoke and secondly Elizabeth Chaworth, the daughter of Sir Thomas Chaworth, of Wiverton, Nottinghamshire, with whom he had three sons and five daughters.

John's daughter Elizabeth Scrope (1420-1504) was my 15<sup>th</sup>-great grandmother.

### ***More in the Scrope Family***

I'm sure that I could find many more ancestors in the Scrope family, but this probably is enough for now. It was cool to find two different peerages held by my ancestors in this family. And such incredible connections to England in the Middle Ages.

### ***Summary***

In this narrative, I traced one of Elmony Lester's ancestral lines to Thomas Bartholomew (1555-1619), and from him back to Robert Scrope (1446-1500). Robert was my 14<sup>th</sup>-great grandfather.

Robert's father was a Scrope who was descended from a line of Barons Scrope of Bolton, while Robert's mother was a Scrope who was descended from a line of Barons Scrope of Masham. These were two separate peerages.

I discussed several of the Barons on each of these lines, as well as some of their siblings. These people served at the highest levels of government, with titles such as Treasurer of England, Knight of the Garter, Chief Justice of the Kings Bench, and Privy Councilor. There were numerous beheadings among the members of this family, which emphasize how tough life was, even for nobility, in the Middle Ages.

Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton (1327-1403), built a large castle, which still is in use to this day. Overall, it was pretty awesome to see my connection to nobility in northern England in the Middle Ages. Who would have thought that I would have learned all of this when I started looking at more of Elmony Lester's ancestors!!??

## *Appendix*

### *More about Bolton Castle*

Paraphrased from the Wikipedia article

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton\\_Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolton_Castle)

The castle was built between 1378 and 1399 by Richard le Scrope, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, and is an example of a quadrangular castle. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century writer John Leland described 'An Astronomical Clock' in the courtyard and how smoke was conveyed from the hearth in the hall through tunnels. Bolton Castle was described by Sir Francis Knollys as having 'The highest walls of any house he had seen'.

Fast-forward a couple of centuries, and Mary, Queen of Scots, was held prisoner at Bolton Castle for six months. Again, paraphrased from the Wikipedia article:

After her defeat in Scotland at the Battle of Langside in 1568 (her forces lost to those fighting on behalf of her infant son), Mary was forced to abdicate and was then imprisoned in Scotland. She escaped and fled to England, where she was held in captivity. Mary was initially held at Carlisle Castle under the watch of Henry, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Scrope of Bolton, but Carlisle proved unsuitable and in July 1568, Mary was moved to Bolton Castle. She lived in the South-West tower. Of her retinue of 51 knights, servants and ladies-in-waiting, only 30 of her men and six ladies-in-waiting were able to stay in the castle, the rest taking lodgings nearby. Her household included cooks, grooms, hairdresser, embroiderer, apothecary, physician and surgeon. Bolton Castle was not initially suitable for housing a Queen, so tapestries, rugs and furniture were borrowed from local houses and nearby Barnard Castle in County Durham. Queen Elizabeth herself loaned some pewter vessels as well as a copper kettle.



Photograph of Mary's chambers at Bolton Castle

Mary's keepers allowed her to wander the surrounding lands and often to go hunting. Her prime occupation while at the castle was having her hair done by her friend Mary Seton. Francis Knollys (the elder), whom Mary nicknamed 'Schoolmaster', taught her English, as she only spoke French, Latin and Scots. In January 1569, Mary was removed from Bolton Castle

for the last time, being taken to Tutbury in Staffordshire where she would spend much of the 18 years before her execution (by beheading) in 1587.

*Photos of Bolton Castle*

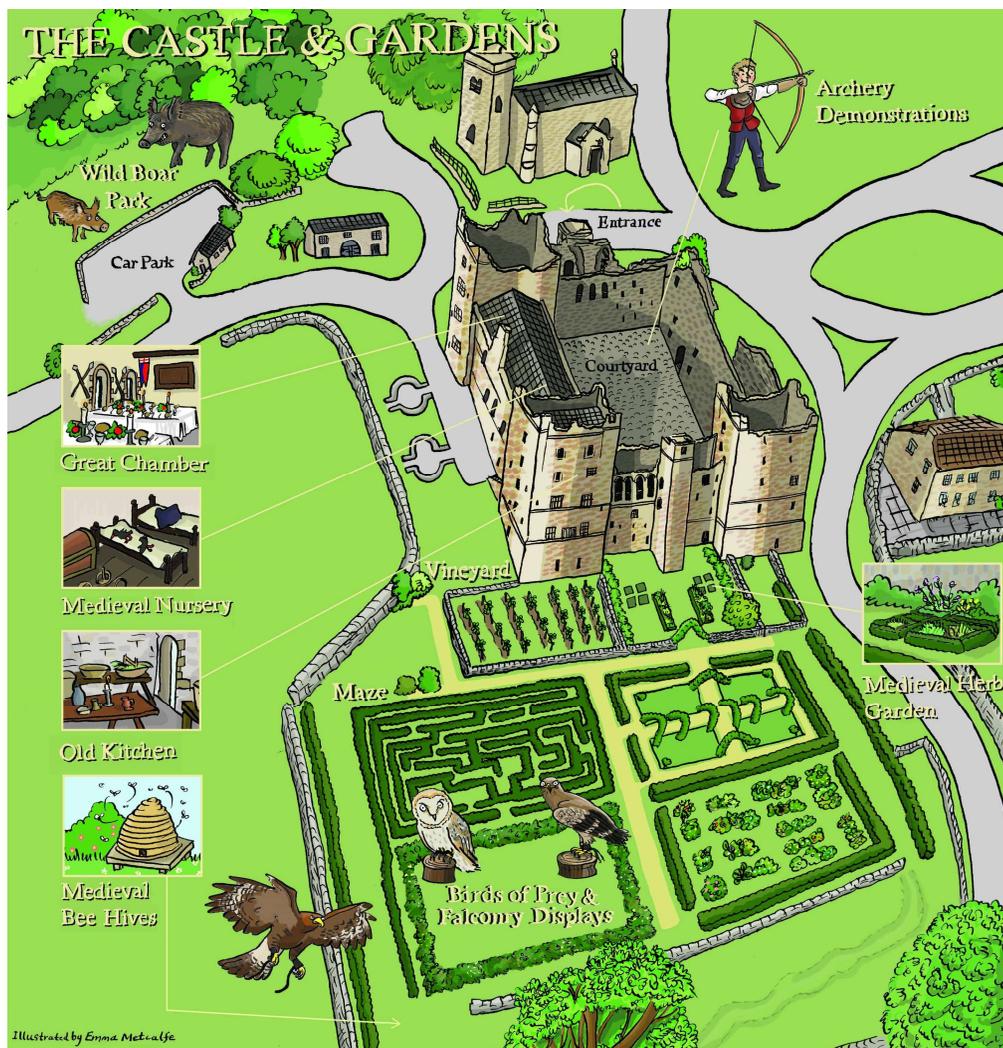






### Visiting Bolton Castle

Bolton Castle is privately owned, and it is open to the public through reasonably-priced tickets. They have lots and lots of different activities for visitors, including archery and falconry. See their website at: <https://www.boltoncastle.co.uk/>



## ***Newspaper Article about Bolton Castle***

Bolton Castle was featured in an article in the Yorkshire Post on 28 March 2020.  
See:

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/yorkshire-castle-has-been-same-family-650-years-2520001>

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# The Yorkshire castle that has been in the same family for 650 years

Bolton Castle has been in Tom Orde-Powlett's family since it was built in 1379, now it has fallen to him, his wife and young family to ensure its future. Catherine Scott reports. Pictures by Simon Hulme.

By Catherine Scott  
Saturday, 28th March 2020, 6:00 am

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Tom Orde-Powlett pictured with his wife Katie at Castle Bolton, near Leyburn..Picture by Simon Hulme