

This particular part of the family tree is a puzzle. One I suspect have only partly unravelled. It would seem as if William had deserted his first wife Mary Cleaver who he married in 1773 at Kettering. The breakup in the marriage must have taken place before 1777 as he is listed on the Militia Muster for Kettering for that year.

William seems to have taken the three children Elizabeth, John, and Sarah with him because they are not listed anywhere as having died on the Grafton Underwood parish registers.

There is the entry on the parish register for Grafton Underwood when Mary's son William Robinson Hawkes is baptised on Sept 20th 1784. The parish priest does not seem to know quite if she is” wife or widow “so he obviously does not know where William is. Mary dies in 1787 and William Robinson Hawkes in 1795 at Grafton Underwood.

William surfaces in 1803 at Kilsby and Marries Martha William on Jan 1st 1803 and then takes her to Kettering where they have a son Thomas in 1804 Thomas died in 1806 at Kettering.

William and Martha reappear in The City of London in 1812 and 1815 baptising two sons William Hawkes and Edmund Hawkes at St Ann’s Blackfriars and living in what is known as Bennett’s Hill Castle Baynard Ward close to St Anne’s Blackfriars.

William & Martha and the two children move back to Grafton Underwood sometime after where William Hawkes senior dies in 1831. Martha and William junior are on the 1841 census living together.