

## The Cooke family by Sharon Moore Elliott

John Cooke, yeoman and agriculturer, was born in Escrick in 1663, son of Robert Cooke. John was married twice with his first wife unknown. His second marriage in 1700 was to Margaret Ellis of Deighton. John and Margaret Cooke lived at Wray's House on the road to Wheldrake.



(Escrick 1845 map)

Of John's three children

- Dinah married 1st William Askren, 2nd Michael Smith and had six children,
- Margaret married Matthew Ashton and had nine children
- Alice married William Raines or Raimes.

The best-documented line appears to be from Dinah's son Thomas Askren who was transported to the American colonies in 1745 and left a large number of American descendants.

John Cooke's will begins...

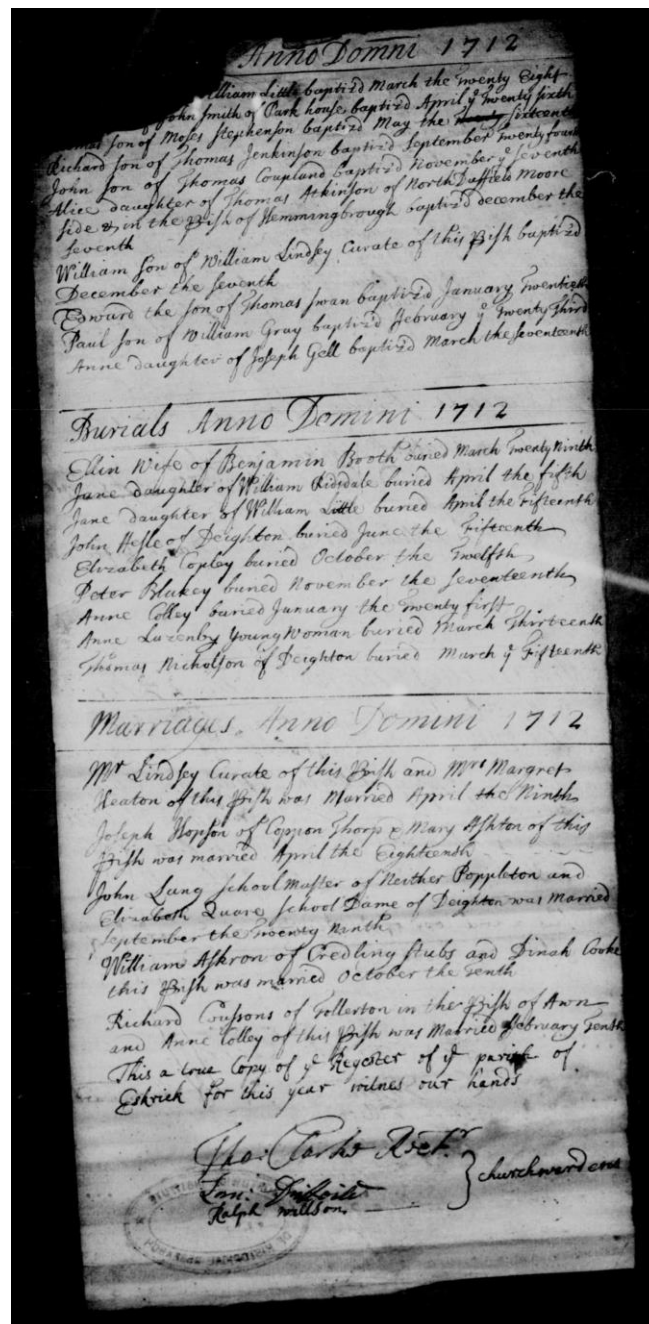
*In the Name of god Amen I John Cooke of Escrick wrays in ye county of york yeoman being sick & weak in body but of disposing mind and memory thanks be god, do make and ordain this my Last will & Testament this first day of February 1727.*

He names his wife, his three daughters and some other relatives and includes a benefaction...

*I give twenty six shillings a year to six poor people of Eskrick to be distributed in bread every Lords day to be paid out of ten acres of Land Lying in Skipwith fields.*

John Cooke's brother Marshall had a son he named John. This John, of Stillingfleet, had four daughters who left numerous Yorkshire progeny.

Copy of marriage register. Dinah married William Askron or Askren 10<sup>th</sup> October 1712



Footnote.... In the late 14th to 18th centuries, yeomen were farmers who owned land ([freehold](#), [leasehold](#) or [copyhold](#)). Their wealth and the size of their landholding varied. Sir Anthony Richard Wagner, Garter Principal [King of Arms](#), wrote that "a Yeoman would not normally have less than 100 acres" (40 hectares) "and in social status is one step down from the Landed Gentry, but above, say, a husbandman."<sup>[1]</sup> Often it was hard to distinguish minor landed gentry from the wealthier yeomen, and wealthier [husbandmen](#) from the poorer yeomen.

Information relating to the Cooke family can also be found in the Hull University Archive.