

March 28 , 1931.

THE STEPPING STONES

AMBLESIDE

Dear Mr. Hoyland,

I must ask you to accept my sincere apology for my delay in replying to your letter of the 22nd. I have been busy preparing a lecture - an unwonted task for me - and I only got it off my chest last night .

I am afraid you may have considerable difficulty in meeting with a copy of Bedford's Notes . The title page runs

"Genealogical Memoranda
relating to the
Family of Wordsworth
collected by
Edwin Jackson Bedford

Privately printed (50 copies only)

London : Mitchell and Hughes, Printers, 140 Wardour Street , W.
1881 . "

I rather fancy that that firm has ceased to exist, but it might be worth a postcard of enquiry . It is a thin flimsy quarto in paper covers of 27 pages . My working copy is all to bits, but I have a comparatively sound copy which I have had bound to preserve *it*. This I should be happy to lend you if you can find no other copy .

Bedford gives the 4 wives of John, son of Ralph, as

Deborah Hyde of Denton, bur. 1663.

Sarah Spencer of Attercliffe marr. 1664.

Sarah Rich, marr at Peniston, 1665.

Mary Dau. of Sir Edward Rodes of Great Houghton. Died 1673,
Bur. at Darfield .

With regard to your difficulty as to the date of birth of William son of John, bapt. at Peniston Dec 1. 1673, I can only suggest that

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the number of Johns and Williams ^{in the pedigree} is very great, or that the ceremony of baptism did not take place till some time after birth, for which many reasons are conceivable. There seem often to have been two ceremonies - one at home and one in Church. For instance the poet's father has entered in his family Bible that his son William was "born on the 7th of April, 1770, bapt. the 13th at Cockermouth, Christen'd 18th of January, 1772" - on the same day as his sister Dorothy who was born on Christmas day, 1771. and the entry in the family Bible in her case is "Baptised and Christened, 18th of Jan. 1772".

I did look up the Cockermouth Registers many years ago, but cannot now find my note - to the best of my recollection the ^{The poet's} date of baptism is there given as Jan. 18, 1772.

Yours very truly,

Gordon Woodsworth