

## Gaynam RACKSTRAW (1728-1809)

*Marriage Register St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney, London*  
1717 May 09 Robert Rakestraw, Sp. f., Batchelor & Mary Gaynam of Bon, Spinster

*Index entries for the Baptism Register Halifax, York, England – Family Search Batch C00749-3*

1720 Jan 30 Elizabeth Rakestraw	dau of Robert Rakestraw
1723 Dec 23 John Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw
1726 Apr 11 Robert Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw
1728 Apr 22 Ganam Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw
1730 Jul 15 Thomas Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw
1732 Nov 13 William Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw
1734 Nov 17 James Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw
1736 Dec 05 Luke Rakestraw	son of Robert Rakestraw

*Marriage Register Index Entry Halifax, York – Family Search Batch No.M00749-3*  
1745 Sep 23 Gaynham Rakestraw to Mary Holden

*Baptism Register Index Entries Halifax, York – Family Search Batch No.C00749-3*

1746 Jun 28 Margaret	dau of Gaynham Rakestraw
1747 Jan 17 John	son of Gaynham Rakestraw
1750 Oct 14 James	son of Gaynum Rakestraw

*Marriage Register Westminster Saint George's Chapel Mayfair*  
1750 Apr 16 Gainham Rakestrow and Margaret Gamble of St Andrews Holborn

*Baptism Register Gravesend St George*

1752 Nov 12	George son of Gaynam Rackstraw	born 10 November
1754 Nov 01	George son of Gaynam Rackstraw	
1756 Jul 06	Joshua son of Gaynam Rackstraw	
1758 Apr 14	Ann Gamble dau of Gaynam Rackstraw	
1760 Apr 03	Mary dau of Gainham Rakestraw	
1761 Oct 29	Charlotte Elisabeth dau of Gaynam Rackstraw	
1765 Aug 04	Margaret dau of Gainham Rackstraw	
1768 Mar 06	Peggy Outram dau of Gaynham Rackstraw	

*The History of the town of Gravesend in the County of Kent by Robert Peirce Cruden (1843) p409-410 Gravesend Church*

The following account of these, and other bells subsequently provided, as they appeared in the year 1790... from which several interesting particulars relating to the Church have been obtained... They were thus inscribed:=-

1. "James Wade, Esq., mayor; Gm. Rackstraw, George Thompson, Ch. Wardens, 1771."
3. "J. Wade, Esq., mayor; Gm. Rackstraw, G. Thompson, Ch. Wardens, 1771."
6. "James Wade, Esq., mayor; Gaynham Rackstraw, G. Thompson, Ch. Wardens, 1771."

*Marriage Register Gravesend Saint George, Kent*

No.104 Gaynham Rackstraw of this Parish and Ann Perry of the same were married in this church by Licence 01 May 1796. Witnesses: George Thompson and Henry Humpage.

*PCC Will Transcript: Date of Will 3 Feb 1808; Proved at London 19 Apr 1809*

This is the last Will and Testament of me Gaynam Rackstraw of Gravesend in the County of Kent Salesman. First I give and bequeath unto my son William ... Rackstraw by my present wife the sum of ... hundred pounds of Great Britain to be applied within twelve months after my decease for his use in such manner as my Executors ... think most advantageous and the further sum of five hundred pounds of the lawful money to be paid to him on his attaining the age of twenty one years or so soon afterwards as the same can be conveniently spared out of my property and the Interest of the said sum of five hundred pounds to be applied to the ... for his benefit and advantage but in case of the death of my said son under the age of twenty one years then I do give and bequeath the same sum of five hundred pounds unto his ... Also I give and bequeath unto my son Gaynam Perry Rackstraw born of the body of Ann Perry now my wife the sum of three hundred pounds of like money to be paid to him when my said son William shall attain the age of twenty one years and in case of the death of the said Gaynam Perry Rackstraw before my said son William shall attain the said age then I give and bequeath the same unto my said son William to be paid to him upon attaining the said age and in case of his death before the same shall ... payable then I give and bequeath the said sum of one hundred pounds part thereof to my son John Gamble Rackstraw by my former wife his Executors and Administrators and the remaining two hundred pounds unto my daughter Peggy Outram Smith wife of Benjamin Smith of the City road Crossfields London Gentleman her executors and administrators. Also I give and

bequeath unto my said son John Gamble Rackstraw the sum of fifty pounds of like money to be paid to him at the rate of one guinea per month or in such other proportions as my Executors shall think most conducive to his benefit. Also I give and bequeath unto Ann Rackstraw Smith daughter of the said Benjamin Smith the sum of five Guineas of like money and the like sum of five Guineas unto my said daughter Peggy Outram Smith wife of the said Benjamin Smith. Also I give and devise all that my messuage or tenement situate in Milton next Gravesend in the said County which I purchased of the late William ... deceased with the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto and to the use of my dear wife Ann Rackstraw heretofore Ann Perry her heirs and assigns forever if she shall continue my widow ... and unmarried but in the event of the second marriage of my said wife then I do give and devise the same unto my said son William Rackstraw his heirs and assigns forever also from and after payment of my just debts ... funeral charges the costs of proving this my will and the ... attending the Execution thereof I give and bequeath all the rest residue and remainder of my ready money securities for money, money in the publick stocks or funds ... plate silver china goods chattels ... credits to estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever unto and to the use of my said dear wife Ann Rackstraw her executors administrators and assigns forever and I do hereby nominate and appoint the said Benjamin Smith and John Smith of Dortons Commons London Gentlemen Executors of this my will and I give unto each of them the said Benjamin Smith and John Smith of ... guineas for a ... I do direct that my said Executors shall be at liberty to retain... and... out of the money... a virtue of this my will ..... of three pounds all such costs charges and expenses as they ..... shall pay .... or ... the execution of this my will and that they shall be chargeable and accountable ... with and for such money as shall actually come to ... and not with or for any ..voluntary loss ... may happen and I do hereby revoke and ... void all former wills by me made ... witness whereof I the said Gaynam Rackstraw the Testator ... to this my last Will and Testament contained in two sheets of paper set my hand and seal (that is to say) to the first sheet ... of my hand and to this the last sheet thereof my hand and seal the third day of February in the forty eighth year of the reign of our sovereign lord George the third of the ... of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland... and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight Gaynam Rackstraw (55?) [number inside a circle] Signed sealed published and ... by the said Gaynam Rackstraw the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto ... the ... my said wife in the ... from ... to the top of the last sheet being first ... through with a ... Sgnd ... Evans Geo Silk.....

This Will was proved at London the nineteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine before the Worshipful Charles Coote Doctor of Laws Surrogate of the Right Honorable Sir John ... Doctor of Laws..... keeper of Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully ... by the oath of Benjamin Smith one of the Executors named in the said Will to whom administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased was granted having been first sworn duly to administer... power referred of making the like Grant ...

*Kentish Weekly Post 17 Mar 1809 Death*

Last week, at his house in Gravesend, Mr Gainham Rackstraw, aged 80, a very noted and eccentric character.