Goldthorpe is now a horrible small ex-mining town about 10 miles west of Doncaster, once part of the Arthur Scargill’s Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire, which I often drove through on the way to visit my relatives in Lincolnshire. The nicest thing about it, is the new bypass.

They were the Top Dogs in Shepley. Inheritance was usually by primogeniture, the oldest surviving son and next the surviving daughter getting the lot unless the father made special provision for his younger children in his will.

Even after they were no longer top dogs, the cadet branches continuing around Shepley did not fall to the very bottom of the social heap. I use my medical and obstetric back ground to make this statement. There was enough food on the family table to produce sturdy healthy young men who attracted the attention of sturdy healthy, well developed and shapely young ladies.

Just look at the reproductive history. There are no second marriages, so the ladies would be well fed, strong and healthy, not succumbing to the 1 in 15 women dying in labour. Then there is the appearance of the first child within a year of marriage and others regularly every two years after that. They would suffer the usual high infant death rate of all families, but sufficient remain to spread far and wide.

Robert’s son and heir married Alice, daughter of Laurence Kaye of Woodsome.
In 1424 -25 William de Shepley (grandfather), let to Thomas Goldthorp, his manor of Shepley to farm.
Thomas and Alice had seven surviving children. A will exists dated 19th September 1468.
1. John m. Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Saville of Hallenhedge, the second son of Henry Saville and Ellen daughter of Thomas Copley of Copley
2. William, who owned land at Shepley, one son, John.
3. Robert who owned a messuage at Holmfirth. (House and buildings)
5. Thomas.
6. Oliver.

Notice how these landowners names keep reappearing and how they relate to each other.

Thomas Storthes married Ellen, another daughter of Thomas Saville of Hallenhedge and his wife daughter of John Stansfield.

John Goldthorp and Elizabeth Saville.
The engagement.
This writing indented between Thomas Goldthorp de Schepelay on the one part and Thomas Sayvell of Holynhigge in the other part etc.. John son and heir of Thom. Goldthorp to marry Eliz. dau. of Thos. Sayvell before the feast of St. James (July 25). Thos Goldthorp shall make to Thos. Wilkinson, Vicar of the Kirk of Halifax: Richard Chaumpe. Vicar of the Kirk of Byrton: and Elys of Byrton Squeier; a state of a
tenement in Shepley called the Riding in the tenure of Richard Bothe and a yearly rent of 4 shillings of a tenement called Catheland in Shepley etc. Savile to pay Mr. Thomas Goldthorpe on the day of the spousals 26 marks and in a year 20 marks.

Witnessess. Ayme Burdett, Squier; Richard Beaumont; Richard Storitz (Storhtes); John Clayton and others.

Township of Shepley.

It appears that a "Thomas de Schepley was lord in 1316, and that he had to wife one Margaret, by whom he had issue John de Schepley; which Margaret survived and had her dower assigned."

"In the 12th yeares of the reigne of Edward III., this John de Schepley in the court of the Earl Warren, holden at Wakefield, did acknowledge that he held a carucate of land of Thomas de Burgh by homage fealtye and escueage, &c. This John was twice married; by his first wife, Johanna, he had issue William de Schepley. By his second wife, Margaret, he had issue Robert de Schepley."

"William, the elder son and heir, was in ward to John de Burge, son and heir of Thomas de Burge, in the 36 Edward III, [1361,] who sold his wardship to Jennet, wief of William Storres" [Storthes]. "William de Shepley married and had issue two daughters, to wit—Isabell and Dionysia, co-heiresses. Isabell married Robert de Goldthorp, but more frequently called Robertson or Robinson, of Goldthorp, near Barnsley, by whom she had issue. Dionysia married Thomas Stone, by whom she also had issue: and the manor and estates were divided."

"But Robert de Schepley, brother of William, had likewise issue two daughters, namely—Alice, wife of —— Alcoke, and Agnes, wife of —— Cobbocke; the elder daughter had issue a son, named John Alcoke: and the second daughter had issue a son, named William Cobbocke."

"Isabell, the elder daughter of William Schepley, had issue a son, named Thomas Goldthorpe; and the younger daughter, Dionysia, had issue a son, named William Stone. These were the next heirs of William Shepley, who, in the 8 Henry VI. [1429], sewed John Alcoke for a chiste and evidences, which William Shepley, their grandfather, in anno 12 Henry IV. [1410,] delivered to Alice, the mother of John Alcoke, to keepe, and for a deed whereby John Shepley had given the manor of Shepley to Gilberte de Leighe in fee, and for another deed whereby the said Gilberte had gyven the said manor to John Shepley, and Jennet, his wife, and to the heires of their bodye lawfullye issuying," &c.

"John Alcoke denied the withholding of the chiste of evidences. But in the yeare after, John Alcoke and William Cobbocke, cousens and next heires of the two daughters of Roberte Shepleye, brought a formedom in descender against Thomas Goldthorpe and William Stone, the cousens and next heires of the two daughters of William Shepleye, for the manor of Shepleye, supposing the same to be entailed to the heires of the bodye of the second wief, &c. This was trayed and found against them. So that the manor hath since contynued in the right
“Thomas Goldthorpe, the son of Isabel, took to wife, in the 8 Henry V. [1419.] Alice, daughter of Laurence Kaye, the second of that surname at Woodside. Of this marriage it was stipulated that Laurence Kaye should name the second and place, when and where the marriage should be solemnized: that William Shepley should succeed Thomas and Alice in lands to the annual value of 26s. 8d.; and that Robert Robertson, alias Goldthorpe, should settle lands on them also. Laurence Kaye agrees to pay them 40 marks. There is also in the same deed a provision for the marriage of William Stone, another grandson of William Shepley, with another daughter of Laurence Kaye. The marriage of Alice took place, and she was living in 1468, when Thomas Goldthorpe, described as of Shepley, made his will; in which he mentions many children, and directs that Henry, his son, shall have a messuage in Goldthorpe, called the Dovecote Land, and a messuage in Bolton. He is to be buried in the cemetery of the parish church of Bolton, with his principale, according to custom. He gives to the high altar 20d., to the fabrick, 2s., to the service of the Blessed Mary, a cow of the value of 10s.; to the support of the tapers burning before the crucifix, 6d.; to the repair of the bridge of Horbury, 12d.; to the torches burning about my body on the day of my sepulture, 2s. He had before this time settled on his eldest son, John Goldthorpe, all his lands which came to him by right of inheritance after the death of Robert, his father, in the townships of Goldthorpe, Bolton, and Billingley, and those at Shepley which had descended to him after the death of William Shepley, his grandfather, on his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Save, of Hullenden, in 1458. Savile being to pay to Thomas Goldthorpe 26 marks on the day of the spousal, and in the year after, 20 marks more. The last William Goldthorpe having no male issue, made an entail of his lands, which are described as twelve messuages, thirty acres of meadow, one hundred of pasture, ten of wood, and 20s. rent, in Goldthorpe, Bolton, Billingley, Barnborough, and Shepley, to the use of himself and his heirs male of his body; remainder to John and James, his brothers, and their heirs male respectively; remainder to his uncle, William Goldthorpe, and the heirs male of his body; remainder to his right heirs.”

By virtue of this entail they descended to his nephew, Thomas Goldthorpe, of whom we shall next have to speak.

The Goldthorpæ had their principal residence at Goldthorpe, till having married the heiress of the manor of Shepley, where they afterwards resided.

In the 32 Henry VIII., [1540, 7th May.] Thomas Goldthorpe, by his deed of this date, sold to Richard Stansfield, of London, an annuity of £20 per annum, for forty-five years, out of the manors of Goldthorpe, Billingley, Bolton, Barnborough, and Shepley, to be paid half-yearly on Lady-day and Lammas, in St. Paul’s church, London; and for six weeks’ non-payment, to forfeit 40s. as a fine; and for non-payment for a whole quarter of a year, Richard Stansfield to enter to the whole of the rest of the 45 years that was to come. But before this, Thomas Goldthorpe had sold Richard Stansfield an annuity of £8 6s. 8d., for 47 years; but this was done away by this latter contract of £20 per annum. It

---

Carucate, the amount of land that can be ploughed by an ox team in one year about 240 acres. It is divided into 8 oxgangs of about 30 acres. There are 8 oxen in a plough team. Another name is bovate, the amount of land that can be worked by one man and one ox in a year. An Acre is the amount of land that can be ploughed by an ox team in a day.
Township of Shepley.

was also agreed that if Thomas Goldthorpe should sell or mortgage any of his estate, that Richard Stansfield should have the preference of buying, &c. And if Thomas kept and performed his covenants above-mentioned, a recognisance for £500 as security “shall be void and of none effect; otherwise it shall be of full force.”

In the 34 Henry VIII., [1542, September 16th,] the said Thomas Goldthorpe sold to the said Richard Stansfield, for £290, his “moity of the manor of Shepley, the hall, a messuage, miln, cottage, and all lands, together with all manorial rights, profits of courts, leets, &c., with all deeds, &c. This terminated the connexion of the line of Goldthorpe with the manor.

In the 13 Elizabeth, [1571,] on the 25th August, Richard Cooke, Esq., of Fulwell, in Essex, sold to John Savile, of Stanley, near Wakefield, Esq., for

6 June 34 H 6 1456.

Note the spelling. Bothe is the original of Booth.

1. William of Shepley, Lord of the Manor of Shepley m. Joan Wentworth, grand daughter of John Wentworth and Joan Beaumont. In June 1509. One daughter Joan. m. Robert de Mirfield.

2. John m. Alys Kaye. One son Thomas. M Alice ?? Nephew and male heir of William


*The Beaumonts appear frequently, they descend from a Norman, William FitzAdam, the first William de Beaumont, who appears in a 1200 deed giving a gift of land to, Matthew de Shepley.*

Kirkburton Registers start in 1540 in Latin.

257. 1543 S. It. William Goldthorpe generous fuit sepultus xxix die eiusdem mensis.

He was Lord of the manors of Shepley, Goldthorpe, Bolton on Deane, Billingsley and Barnborough.

Also in the Kirkburton Registers for 1540 -41.

53. S. Alicia ux of Thomas Goldthorpe generosi sepult fuit xxvi j die mess eiusdem mensis.
238 B. Dorothia Goldthorpe filia Thomas Goldthorpe fuit baptia vi die eiusdem mensis.

*I wonder if Alicia died in childbirth. This would probably be William’s uncle’s wife.*

References from the appendix to Kirkburton Registers.

1568 15th August. James Goldthorp and Jennet Archer married.

*The punch up over the manor of Shepley finally comes to an end.*
1431.
Wm. Cubbock, son of William, son of Agnes dau. of Robert son of John de Shepley, quits claim to Thomas Goldthorp, his heir and assigns all his rights etc. to the manor of Shepley in the parish of Birton and all lands which lately were William de Shepley’s in Shepley.
Witnesses. Laurence Kaye: Wm. Cargrave; Wm. Amyas, Esq.: Robert Bemond (Beaumont); John Kay and others.
Shepley 2 April 9 H 6.

William Hepworth, Vicar of the church of Ruston, quits claim to Thomas Goldthorp: all rights to the manor of Shepley in the parish of Birton which I lately had of gift of enfeoffment of William Shepley with Wm. West and John Stevenson.
Shepley 2 April 9 H 6

THOMAS pays up for Elizabeth.

Thomas Goldthorp grants to Thomas Wilkynson, Vicar of Halifax; Richard Chaumpe, Vicar of the Church at Byrton; and Elyas Byrton Esq. a tenement in Shepley called the Riding now in tenure of Richard Bothe and an annual rent of 4 s. from a tenement called Catheland in Shepley in tenure of William Caldwell.
Shepley 12 June. 34 H 6

An in family swap.

I William Goldthorp de Schepeley, by way of exchange to John Goldthorp, my brother, a rood in the close called the Cropflatt abutting on Shepley Wood and half a rood in the same close abutting the ditch which surrounds it.
Witnesses. Adam Kaye; John Stoyn (Stone); John Beaumont; John Kay de Thurange etc.
Shepley 12 February 7 E 4.

1485.
I William Goldthorp de Schepeley, son of Thomas Goldthorp de Shepley, grant to Nicholas Burdett Esq.; Matthew Wentworth Esq.; John Tong chaplain; Will Oldfield; John Beaumont and John Goldthorp my son, all lands in Shepley which I have of gift and feoffment of Thomas, my father, and which he bought of Thos. Wortley of Shepley and John Roydes of Wakefield.
Witnesses. John Stone (Stoyn); John Pogson: John Steveson etc.
Shepley 31 January 2 Ric. 3.

1508.
Nicolas Burdett quits claim to Richard Beaumont Esq. all right in a messuage at Shepley which in connection with Matthew Wentworth and others deceased I had of gift and feoffment of Wm. Goldthorpe.
8 December 23 H 7
To stand to the award of j
John Slingby Esq.; John Wortley; Christopher Gradford and John Waterhouse.

About this time Jane, grand daughter of John Wentworth and Joan Beaumont married William Goldthorp of Shepley.

Richard Beaumont Esq.; grants to William Goldthorpe gent., messuage and 60 acres etc in Shepley rent 26s 8d.
Witnesses. Henry Soothill, Vicar of Kirkburton; Thomas Wartlett; John Wod; Roberet Cussin; John Pogson etc..
10 November 16 H 8.
Note. Kirkburton has its name. Wod becomes Wood.

Joan Mirfield, relict of Robert Myrfield, deceased, and daughter and heir of William Goldthorp, late of Goldthorpe gent., deceased, quits claim to Richard Beaumont Esq., all right in a messuage, 60 acres of land, 10 of meadow and 4 of wood late in the tenure of Robert Cassin.
Witnesses. Richard Fleming; John Grice senior; Jac. Todde, Vicar of Carneby; Walter Redmond gent. etc.
Wakefield. 28 October 31 H 8

The end of the Top Dogs.

Thomas Goldthorpe of Shepley, gent., cousin and heir to William Goldthorp, late of Shepley, gent. deceased, gives to Richard Stansfield, Citizen and Skener of London, all those 7 messuages in Shepley in tenure of William Moorehouse; John Hege; Adam Copley; Jac. Goldthhorpe; John Smith; John Archer junior; and Edward Wortley, husbandman; also my watermill in tenure of John Beaumont of Rley (Kirkburton) – my wood – my messuage in Billyngley in tenure of Rob. Hopkinson, husbandman; my messuage in Barneburgh, an annual rental of 11s. issuing from a messuage and lands of John Coldwell, with wardship, services, marriages etc., an annual quit rent of 6s. from messuages and lands of Oliver Stephenson of Shepley with wardship etc.,
18 September 34 H 8.
Seisin given in presence of John Armysage; John Beaumont of Ryley; Robert Beaumont, his son; Robert Wortley; Adam Copley; William Moorehouse; Thomas Armysage; Edward Wortley of Shepley.

The Mirfields had also been long standing landholders.
Original in Latin.
1331. This indenture wirstesseseth that I John de Mirfield have granted to John de Schepeley 27 acres of land arable in campis de Sheplay and a wood called Schepely with meets and bounds as is more fully contained in the feoffment which Mirfield had of Schepeley to hold from the feast of Martin for three years etc.
Wirnesses. John de Schepeley; Will de Birton; Ad de Helay; Alan de Mershton; Matt de Lintwaite; Tomas Faber (Smith) de Schepley; Ad son of Benedict de Mirfield and others.

The date of the deed.  
Place carried out, day month and year, the year being related to the reign of the monarch. 34 H 8, 34th year of the reign of Henry the 8th.

So the top dogs go but the underdogs continue as yeomen, husbandmen, cobblers weavers etc., but not spreading far until the 19th century.

Whichever Mary, Shepley Mary or Shelley Mary was my great x 3 grandmother I can go back to William Goldthorpe de Shepley, yeoman 1533 to 1582.  
YEOMAN, one who owns and farms his own small estate to the value of 40 shillings per annum, which allows him to sit on a jury and vote for the County Sheriff.

He and others appears in the Kirkburton registers.  
27 July 1578. John Hepworth of this parish and Isabel Bardsell (probably daughter of Henry Bardsell) were married in the house of William Goldthorp de Shepley.

James Goldthorpe and Jennet Booth were married May 16th 1585. This James is not a descendant of William Goldthorpe the yeoman.

Joseph Goldthorp and Anne Booth were married in June 1652. William Goldthorpe the yeoman’s great grandson, elder brother of Edward who married Sarah Kaye in 165, my ancestor.

Joseph Goldthorpe, of Shepley and Anne Bray were married in June 1691. This Joseph is the older brother of William who married Abigail Roobotham in 1683, the ancestors of Shepley Mary born 1757. Joseph and Anne were married on June 9th 1691, they are the ancestors of Shelley Mary born 1759.

Joseph Addy came to live in Shepley in 1747------------- Alice the younger daughter married David Goldthorp in 1785.

John Roberts of Holmfirth, bachelor married Elizabeth Archer, spinster of Shepley 10th November 1757. Present were Thomas Firth and David Goldthorp.

John Bever of Penistone and Martha Bray of this parish were married in March 1764. Present were Humphrey Brook and David Goldthorp. Appearing as a witness David would have to have been able to write.

Godfrey Matthew and Susanna Booth were married December 1769. Present were Joseph Goldthorp and R. Booth.

Shepley Mary.

Matthew Berry, son of Matthew and his second wife Grace Crowther, baptised in March 1757 married Mary Goldthorpe in 1778
Philip Barraclough. Son of Jeremiah, baptised in 1783 married Esther Goldthorp in 1803. They lived in Newmill (Previously Fulstone)

John Goldthorp and Elizabeth Berry were married in May 1818.

John Goldthorp and Mary Anne Berry were married in October 1831.

Joseph Borden married Harriet Senior of Heymoorhouse, Shepley in February 1833 - ----------------------------- and Esther who married Benjamin Goldthorpe