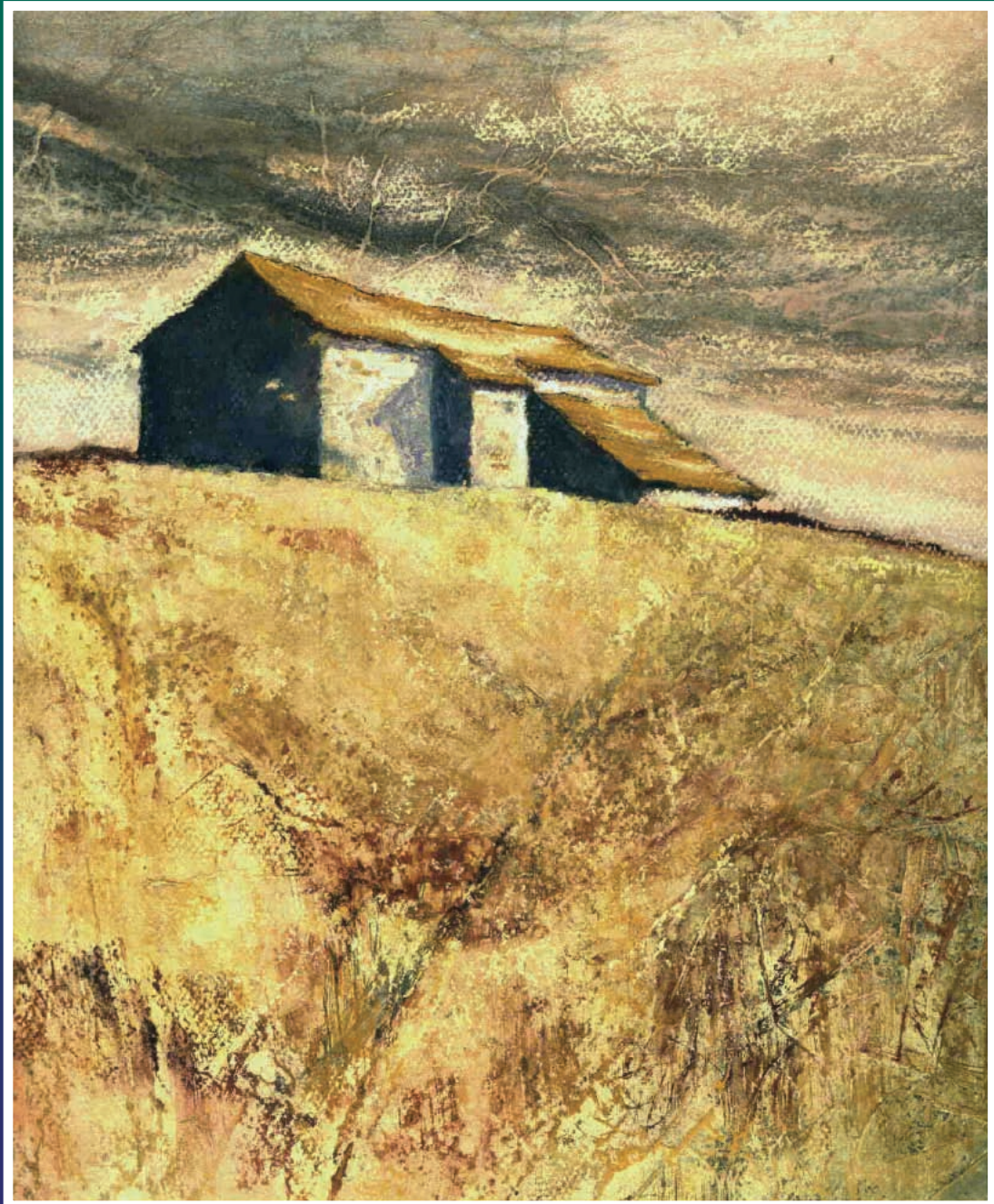


# North Craven Heritage Trust



JOURNAL 2023



# North Craven Heritage Trust

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## Chair's Report

The most eagle-eyed members may have noticed that there has been a change to our website. The Trust is pleased to welcome John Cuthbert as our new Webmaster and he has been busy creating a new website which is user friendly and can easily be viewed on smart phones and tablets as well as laptops and desktops. The Trust remains indebted to Frank Woodhams and David Holdsworth for the stalwart work they have done over the years ensuring we have an online presence. David built the original website and we have been grateful for his expertise and knowledge in keeping it up and running over the last twenty years.

This Spring we see a change in local government organisation with the formation of the new North Yorkshire Council. When our Trust was formed in 1968 we were governed locally by Settle Rural District Council until the formation of Craven District Council in 1974. The Trust was established for the public benefit of North Craven and throughout this time has been diligently monitoring local planning issues and will continue to do so as the centre of our local governance becomes ever more remote. The importance of this work was demonstrated during this last year when a successful objection was made to the planning application which Craven District Council had submitted to re-develop the Ashfield Car Park toilet block. It was a fine example that even local authorities need to abide by their own local plans and national planning policy when submitting a scheme for approval and we were pleased when it was refused.

It often seems to me that people in our locality either have never heard of the Trust, or get very confused about what we actually do. We have been trying to raise our profile and will continue to do so but you as members can help by letting your friends and neighbours know about us and encouraging them to join us. The future is in your hands!

*Pamela Jordan*  
*Chair*

Cover picture: Garnet Brow Barn, Eldroth  
Artist: Margaret Blackburne.

## Editorial

Producing the Journal is very much a team effort so it is only right that I thank all those involved. Without our contributors we would not have a Journal. I am ever grateful to those of you who take the time and effort to record their researches, write book reviews etc. In the case of Stuart

Ralph the article he wrote for us is the culmination of over twenty years observation of Roe deer on Austwick Moss. Many of us see wildlife on our rambles about the countryside but how many of us note down our records? It is never too late to start.

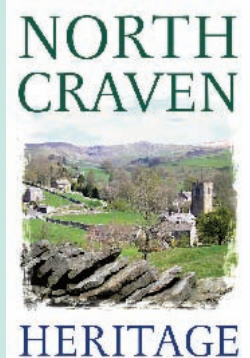
I rely on a band of experienced and expert historians who willingly check some articles the details of which I am uncertain about. Their wealth of local knowledge enhances the finished articles. Dr Mike Slater and Dr David Johnson kindly contributed their expertise to the current issue.

The cost of printing the Journal is one of the principal expenditures for the Trust and so the financial support of our sponsors is particularly valuable. Pam Jordan, Anne Webster and Robin Bundy have done much of the ground work in meeting potential and past sponsors to persuade them to support the Trust. If you would like to help by liaising with potential sponsors or have ideas about who we could approach then do get in touch.

Once all the articles have been edited and checked and the adverts assembled everything goes off to the printers who sort out the layout and make any final changes. Then it is too late if I have missed any typos: however many times I have read the articles there is always one error that has slipped through. If you would like to help with the proof reading or have ideas about an article for the next edition then do contact me.

With the Journal printed a small band of volunteers spring into action to deliver it to your door. This greatly reduces the cost of postage and their work is much appreciated. Needless to say anyone who is willing to help is most welcome!

Once the dust has settled work starts on the website version of the Journal. This often includes additional photographs and article references where there has been limited space in the printed version. This is then loaded onto the Trust website and available for anyone anywhere in the world to access. This is how Hilma Wilkinson contacted us from the States and ended up writing an article about one of her ancestors. Over many years David Holdsworth and Frank Woodhams have contributed their time and expertise to sorting out the Journal and uploading it to the website and so a final thank you to them both.



# The Roe Deer (*Capriolos capriolos*) of Austwick Moss.

Stuart Ralph

I was born in Settle in 1947, and at that time, it is unlikely that any Roe Deer would have been present within the area. However, they would soon arrive from the north, most probably into the post-war forestry plantations around Tosside, which would provide ideal conditions for the roe to establish themselves. There are just the two endemic deer species in Britain, the Red Deer and the very much smaller roe. A mature roe will only stand 65 – 72 cm at the shoulder, mid-thigh to the average person. A mature buck could weigh 33 kg, the doe is a little lighter. Besides the enormous difference in size, the Red Deer are gregarious herding animals, whilst Roe Deer, are extremely territorial. Both are basically woodland dwellers but now most Red Deer have been pushed into a more open mountainous terrain in the north whilst the Roe Deer can still find a home in woodlands and shelter-belts, they are a most adaptable and resourceful animal. Locally, I have recorded them more than once on the top of Fountains Fell at 650 meters.

Carbon dated fossil remains of roe, go back more than half a million years, the deer departing south during a number of glacial periods, returning when conditions were more temperate. The oldest post glacial records are dated to over 9,000 years ago. In 1338, the Roe Deer was relegated from a beast off the forest to a beast of the warren. This allowed the commoners the right to hunt. At the same time, the royal foresters were ordered to eradicate roe from royal hunting preserves because they were known to displace other more favourable species, (Red Deer and Fallow). This is due to their territorial nature, despite their much smaller size.

Roe are fastidious feeders and, with a narrow jaw, roe are known as concentrate selectors, eating small quantities of high quality food. On the Moss, I can't think of much they don't eat. They love Scots Pine and since the 1970s they have halted its natural colonisation of the Moss. In winter, they rely heavily on Bog Myrtle. Spring sees them eating many leaves of birch and willow, grasses and Bilberry. Later in the year Cranberry and many flower species, especially Devils-bit Scabious. In the summer, they love reaping the heavy drooping seed heads of the Malinia when it is often laden with early morning dew. They are very partial to fungi, especially the bright lemon-yellow Russla. There is only the one Crab Apple tree on the Moss and I have watched a doe with her fawns browsing the autumn fruits from beneath it. They will eat Ivy and are not impartial to Holly. However, they cannot browse much higher than a meter.

The lovely dark, wide eyes of Roe have always appealed to me. They appear glossy-black and on the Moss, I liken them to the colour of a dark peat pool. I can never quite discern a pupil or any colouration. In bird species, notably barn and tawny owls, which have very dark eyes, they hunt in poor light



Fig 1: Roe ring

at dusk and dawn. But roe are not noted for their eyesight. In books I have consulted, it is generally assumed that roe see mainly in monochrome, affording them much better vision than man in poor light.

The roe rut (mating time), begins with the yearlings, and runs from mid-July to mid-August but of course it can run later. It can be a most energetic affair with much frantic chasing by the buck. But to observe it usually requires a very early start before sunrise. The mature doe rut in early August is performed in a much more orderly fashion. The doe will lead the way at a slow sedate walk, the buck following eagerly, his nose to the doe's target. They may weave and turn haphazardly amongst trees, twisting tightly this way and that, the buck following her every move. They may sometimes circle a stump or clump of rushes several times in a clockwise direction. If this is trodden sufficiently, it may leave what is termed, a 'roe ring'. When the doe finally comes to a stand, she allows the buck to gently rise onto her back and he serves her until she walks forward. She is in full control of proceedings at all times, just as long as the buck is happy with their location. They stay together, feeding and sitting between mating sessions for a lengthy period. During the space of a morning, I have seen a doe mated more than a dozen times. The longer this union persists, the more restless she becomes, for the doe is now anxious to return to her fawns and some extremely energetic chasing can now be seen before she finally gets her way. The buck is loath to let her go. It is fascinating to watch the power and speed the chasing buck possesses to retain her, a mature doe is no slouch. He can prevent her premature departure like some champion sheep dog, a most accomplished and impressive spectacle. I am always amazed to watch roe chasing about at break-neck speed over such uncompromising terrain, or through woodland. Roe do not actually run but bound light footed when moving swiftly, hardly touching the ground in prodigious leaps that may cover 5-6 meters. They have no trouble clearing a five-bar gate, a wall or fence. They are good swimmers when needs be. Like Hares, the hind legs of roe are a little longer and

although they may appear rather spindly they are the Whippets of the deer world.

Unique to the roe deer, after mating, the fertilised eggs remains suspended in the uterus for fully five months before the embryos finally begin development, a process known as embryonic diapause. The fawns are generally born toward the latter part of May. They can have triplets but I have never recorded this, twins or sometimes singles are normally produced. If twins are born, they are very soon separated into suitable cover, where they remain until the doe returns to feed them several times a day. This makes very sound sense as fawns release no scent and I can vouch for the fact myself. One day in late May I stumbled on a fawn, just a few days old. As usual, it was curled up tight and remained perfectly still, the large dark glossy eyes unblinking. The point is that my border collie had walked right past without detecting it. The fawns begin to get more independent and mobile into their second month and can often be seen with the doe by July. This is a wonderful sight to greet the early roe watcher, especially as the fawns remain in their lovely dappled coats, affording them ideal camouflage during early life. This can be mostly faded by late August but it can persist much later.

Scent plays a crucial role in roe society. It keeps the family unit in touch and advertises any strangers. Roe possess active scent glands between their hooves, especially the rear hoof, as well as another scent-gland higher up toward the hock on the rear leg. This I understand, releases airborne scent, helping keep the family unit together in the cover of woodland. When becoming territorially active in spring, the 'stand' bucks also possess scent glands on their head. One is placed on the forehead between the antlers and another on the cheek close to the eye. It is interesting watching the 'stand' buck at work, diligently patrolling his patch in spring or summer. He is always on the lookout for incursions whilst marking his territory with scent and keeping a close contact with the does within it. You may see him actively mauling and fraying a young sapling, tossing it frantically with his antlers whilst 'hoofing' the ground with fore-legs, dislodging clods of earth and leaving scent in both instances. He may pause by a tree, he smells at it diligently before rubbing it gently with the side of his head (anointing). He may do this several times before he is happy to move along. Each roe will carry its own individual scent, keeping the family informed and together. This is also the case with their voice which is normally a dog-like bark but it can be most expressive. Several roe, that are far apart, may converse at length in spring and summer, creating quite a bedlam at times that can last many minutes. It is an ancient primeval sound, as volley upon volley of challenging barks, reverberate through the misty dawn woodlands. One assumes that the contestants are 'stand' bucks but mature does can bark just as loudly.

Roe began colonising the Moss at much the same time that I began visiting in 1970, but it was not until 1975 that I finally encountered my first buck. With increasing visits, documenting and photographing the flora and fauna, I unwittingly made increasing contact with the roe. I slowly began to get more and more familiar with them and the roe became used to me and my collie. In the late 80s, there was one particular buck I called Nelson. He had a most distinctive walled-eye, silver in colour. I could never quite determine if he was blind in that eye, maybe after some conflict with

another buck. I have seen some severe injuries over the years. By 1990, I began to get familiar with a number of roe and one doe in particular. She was always so bold in defence of her fawns not that they were ever in any great peril. She would, quite suddenly introduce herself, and boldly confront you, whilst passing through her territory. She was quite a character, the like of which I have never encountered since. Over time she even accepted my dog, Penny.

In 1994, knowing very little about roe and the roe residing on the Moss in particular, I began to take much more of an interest. How many roe are there on the moss? How many breeding does are there? How many fawns are reared and what happens to them? How many bucks reside on the Moss? How long do they live? The more I learned the more questions it created. I soon became aware, that roe have a very complex society and that mature does were the matriarchs of the family and not the bucks as I had imagined. In spring, the mature bucks take a stand, which in effect is protecting one or more mature doe territories for himself. Family life is much more relaxed by early autumn. I read extensively the works on roe by Frank Holmes and Richard Prior and was now 'hooked'. Dedicating more and more time to the roe, their intimate world slowly unravelled over the following 25 years. Little did I envisage my interest lasting so long but that is entirely due to their charm and their complex family nature. Roe are a law unto themselves with no hard and fast rules apart from territory and the family bond. They certainly keep you entertained and on your toes, I find them totally absorbing. The one thing that I have found, that is predictable about the roe, is their unpredictability.

Identification is the key to any study of wild animals and to the novice, one roe looks very much like another. The more time you spend with the roe and the more of an interest you take, the more you begin to recognise individuals, bucks more readily than does because of their antlers. Does are an entirely different proposition, even identifying old does from yearlings can be a challenge for the beginner. My photographs proved most helpful in this respect. I soon found that the ears of roe can be most helpful whilst in their summer pelage. Any marks they may carry and some can be quite subtle, are diagnostic and are retained throughout their lives, along with the shade of summer coat. I call the summer coat red but of course, it is not actually red. There can be a very pale shade I have found, a foxy-red shade, most common and a darker, ginger-red shade when the coat itself can be quite textured. Roe begin to acquire a much thicker darker winter coat in September. The longer guard hairs I understand are hollow much like the Reindeer, affording them ideal insulation. I can't quite imagine a hair being hollow! My longest lived roe has been a doe, she was 12 at our parting in spring. My oldest buck was 9 after 6 years as a stand buck.

We will now follow the fortunes of one doe and her family, at the very beginning of my study. She had most distinct pale-tipped ears and I came to know her as Tipper and this is her story. I photographed Tipper for the first time with her twin fawns in the summer of 1994 but she was also to be seen with twins the previous summer and I believe these may have been her first fawns. She was a breeding doe in the same section, winter and summer until 2001. Her core territory covering an area of around 10 hectares. In all, she was seen with 7 lots of twins with just a single doe fawn in 2000. During that

time, she raised 14 fawns, 9 does and 5 bucks. She also lost 2 buck fawns, one in summer and one in late winter, so the sex ratio would be roughly equal. When you see a doe with a single fawn you can't be sure it was not one of twins but if you manage to see them when young enough, they are always of a very good size. Doe fawns generally are a little larger than buck fawns. The fawns remain with the doe until the following spring and can be seen with the doe well into May, especially doe fawns. Sometimes, she may have a little trouble 'shedding' them before her next fawns are due. It must be quite a traumatic time for them, to be suddenly cast into the world on their own but they can remain within their mother's extended territory for a further 12 months or more, even her yearling bucks in some instances.



Fig 2: Tip

The year 2001 proved rather trying for the watcher of roe. I was excluded from visiting the Moss for a period of 8 months, from mid-March, because of the foot and mouth epidemic. It was a most frustrating summer not to be able to follow the rut in particular and as I learnt later in early 2002, it proved to be a pivotal year in my roe study. A new breeding doe would take over from Tipper that spring. She was, I believe, Tippers daughter and I eventually named her Tip. She carried almost identical pale-tipped ears as her mother. She was later found to have had twins, a buck and a doe, both survive to the following spring, 2003, when she was to be seen with twins again.

June 15th 2003. I watch Tip springing away from an isolated clump of willows and, eventually, after some hesitation, I watch her quietly make her way into nearby woodland. It looked a very likely place for a fawn to be. I don't usually like searching for fawns but my curiosity got the better of me today. In the shade of the willow, I soon located a delightful young fawn but unusually, it was standing. I think I had just disturbed a feed. The fawn did not move at all, it stood there calm as you like. It was not in a good position for a photo and so I quickly retreated but I shortly found that I was being followed. Walking rather ungainly, swaying a little from side to side as if intoxicated, I found the fawn was following me. As he wobbled his way closer, he was making a soft squeaky bleating, a contact call with his mother, who remained absent throughout but who would have been close-by at all times. Very shortly, this exquisite little fawn was stood beside me, nudging my leg. A wonderful experience but not an ideal situation. The fawn was still bleating quietly as I bent down, slipping my hand beneath him and lifting him to return him to the seclusion of the willows. He made not the slightest sound now and did not struggle as I sat him down there in the shade, and this time I was able to leave without him. I never did see Tip. I later found that this fawn was actually a doe and that she had a sister as well. These fawns were successfully reared and they would remain together on their mother's territory the following year as yearlings.

In 2004, Tip was finally seen with twin doe fawns, they were successfully reared. On July 6th Tip is feeding by the west pines as another reddish form catches my eye: it is a fox.

The fox is busily engaged in vole hunting and the doe begins to take a keen interest along with myself. It appeared quite comical to watch. The fox would prance about eagerly, jumping high at times in spasms of hectic endeavour. He would then pose motionless, his gaze and pointed snout fixed on a grassy hummock. His tail, long and bushy was held high, it wafted to and fro, rather like someone waving a grey white-tipped flag. He would stomp about, stiff-legged with great endeavour, trying his upmost to flush-out his elusive prey. Tip, like myself, was getting ever more interested, and slowly began approaching closer and closer, to the point where she



Fig 3: Observation seat



Fig 4: Rosy

stood just a few meters from the industrious fox, who himself was now aware of Tip. Almost side by side now, one could clearly see the similarity in coat. The fox begins stomping around again, his tail once more wafting high in the air, when suddenly, much to my amazement, Tip is vigorously chasing the fox away. Her fawns I fancy were in the immediate neighbourhood. It was a shame I was not on the seat with my camera.

On 19th June 2005 I find a delightful dappled fawn laid down in a woodland edge but sadly, it did not look at all well. Tip was nearby watching. The fawn was sat omitting a constant quiet bleating, and even from close range this was hardly audible to my ears. The fawn appeared very sickly and I depart. I return three hours later and find Tip feeding in the same vicinity. She is shortly standing at the woodland edge, her gaze fixed to the birches with extended lowered head. Sadly, she was not to be greeted by an eager fawn. When shortly she turned and began walking away, I knew the fawn was dead. In the first two months of 2001, before our exile from the moss, and thanks mostly to the nose of Penny, we find no fewer than three dead fawns but generally, roe are very productive. Tip is later to be seen with just a single doe fawn, which is reared successfully.

28th May 2006. I am fortunate to see Tip with a suckling fawn. She will be breeding for the 6th time this year and in due course, I see her with twins, a buck and a doe. In 2007 Tip is seen with buck and doe fawns again, they are raised successfully. This would be the last year that Tip would raise fawns. Between 2001 & 2007 Tip is seen with 5 lots of twins and 2 singles. In all, 8 does and 4 bucks, all but 2 surviving, a buck and a doe fawn died, a clear 2:1 ratio in favour of does.

Tip was still present during the summer of 2008, sharing her territory with a new breeding doe that I take to be her daughter, a 2nd year doe. I came to know her very well as Rosy. This spring, Rosy had twins but unfortunately lost one later in the summer, leaving her with a single doe fawn that would be raised successfully. It was really nice for me, to see Rosy and her doe fawn feeding one evening in September with her mother Tip. This would be the last time that I would

see Tip, it is just as well you don't know these things at the time. Rosy would ultimately be the longest lived doe that I knew, we had a long and fruitful friendship with a host of memorable encounters, she was just a remarkable doe. In all, Rosy would go on to have 8 lots of twins and 2 singles and no fewer than 15 of these fawns would be successfully reared, 10 bucks and 5 does, a clear 2:1 ratio in favour of bucks.

On May 18th 2018, I find Rosy's daughter about to give birth for the very first time. I have known her since she herself was a fawn in 2015 and she will be fawning very close to where she herself was born. I am able to leave her and return

later to find her with a new-born fawn. It was later found to be a buck and it would be successfully raised.

So, after 24 years, I did learn a substantial amount about the roe. The Moss I found, carried three breeding does up to 2014 with just the two to 2018. In all, Tipper, Tip and Rosy, were all related and they reared a total of 31 fawns and lost a total of 7. Being highly territorial, they are self-regulating, otherwise the Moss would have been over-run with roe. The true total of fawns reared during that period, taking into account the other breeding does, would have been more than doubled that figure. They live on average from 8 – 11 years, does the longer. There were normally 2 stand bucks, 3 once and a single for 8 years but not consecutively. A normal population at the year-end would range from 9 to 15 individuals but mostly around 12 – 13. This was made up of the 2-3 breeding does and their fawns, 1-2 stand bucks and normally 4 younger roe, yearlings and 2nd year roe, bucks and does. Territorial behaviour is much more relaxed during autumn and winter. They eat virtually everything and I have only seen them drink once. I know now that the roe deer are very much family orientated and there may be a certain amount of in-breeding. Mature does will by and large control the number of younger does in their territories, whilst stand bucks will control the number of bucks, although I have seen mature does chasing young bucks. Following the roe has been a most rewarding endeavour, they are certainly remarkable animals, highly intelligent, affectionate, resourceful, charming and totally absorbing but they can be most brutal to each other at times. I cherish my days with the roe, my fascination with them will continue, they have my upmost respect and admiration.

#### Further Reading:

Holmes, Frank *Following the Roe. A Natural history of the Roe Deer.* Bartholomew (1974). Prior, Richard *The Roe Deer: Conservation of a Native Species.* Swan Hill (1995).

# Medieval taxes in the Ancient parish of Giggleswick

*Michael Slater*

The Ancient parish of Giggleswick comprised the townships of Giggleswick, Langcliffe, Rathmell, Settle and Stainforth which were in the wapentake of Staincliffe. The neighbouring wapentake to the west was Ewcross.

England was taxed in 991 with the Danegeld – marking the beginning of national laity taxation. Then William the Conqueror arrived and continued the tradition. His heavy tax demands caused anguish amongst the peasants. The choice was to pay up or have your house burnt down – ‘less a system of taxation than a system of plunder’ [Saul, 2000]. In 1188 it was suggested at the time of Henry II’s death at age 56 that his demise was a punishment for enormous exaction of tax.

In post-Conquest days the Crown had to ask parliament to grant taxes for specific purposes. Most taxes took the form of subsidies – grants sanctioned by parliament to the sovereign for state needs (usually for fighting in France or Scotland). Taxation was not imposed to improve the lot of the ordinary man. There were also special taxes that the sovereign had the feudal right to levy.

The National Archives hold virtually all the detailed records of taxation of lay people in England (over 25,000 records in series E179). Taxes from 1188 to 1688 are listed and explained by Jurkowski et al. [1998]. Of course, not all documents for all tax demands and communities have survived. The predations of rodents, silver fish, mildew and mould have left many documents in poor condition. Records dating from 1302 to 1692 for the townships of Giggleswick parish total about 100 with several being unreadable.

Taxation is a large and complex subject; the present remarks can only be illustrative and are here limited to the period up to 1500. We have local records mainly of fractional taxes (fifteenths and tenths) from 1332 up to 1500, and the poll and graduated income taxes of 1377 and 1379. Other tax demands for which we have no local records include:

carucage (land), tallage (royal land), scutage (military), tax levied on income, profits on land, forced loans, tax on aliens, subsidy to pay for 13,000 archers with income tax of 10%, subsidy on Crown tenants and annuitants, subsidy on northern counties, benevolences from named persons (‘free gifts’), and a fixed subsidy from the laity and clergy.

Some of these tax demands were irrelevant to local people because they were aimed at wealthy landowners, aliens, tenants-in-chief (barons) who owed military service, and royal tenants. In 1225 everyone below a knight had to swear to the value of their own taxable moveable goods – and those of their two nearest neighbours. Anyone reluctant to make a ‘free gift’ could be summoned to military service or be imprisoned. In 1397 a forced loan to Richard II involved ‘a certain amount of coercion’ [Jurkowski et al., 1998]. Edward IV (1461-1483) was said to know the names and fortunes of everyone of standing, which knowledge he employed to obtain large loans and gifts and which freed him from dependence on subsidies granted by parliament. King Gama’s song in *Princess Ida* (Gilbert and Sullivan) sums up the situation.

*‘I know everybody’s income and what everybody earns;  
And I carefully compare it with the income tax returns;  
But to benefit humanity however much I plan,  
Yet everybody says I’m such a disagreeable man!  
And I can’t think why!’*

Tax demands were made every two years or so for much of the period 1300 to 1500. Many residents in our area were exempt for one reason or another, but mainly due to poverty.

## **Kirkby’s Inquest, 1285**

John de Kirkby, the king’s treasurer, carried out a survey of the county of York and an inquisition of knights’ fees (landholdings) on which taxation could be based [Kirkby Inquest, 1866]. The knights could not resist tax payment since the king had awarded them the land in return for military service and could easily take it back.

Giggleswick and Stackhouse	4 carucates
Langcliffe	2 carucates (Abbot of Sawley, 18d)
Rathmell	2 carucates
Settle	4 carucates
Stainforth	4 carucates (Stainforth cum altero Stainforth)

The carucate was about 60 to 160 acres according to its nature.



## Marriage of the King's daughter, 1302

Medieval monarchs were able to demand taxes known as Feudal Aids from their chief tenants. Magna Carta (1215) limited the king's right to levy such aids to three occasions: the knighting of his eldest son; the first marriage of his eldest daughter; the ransom of his own person from captivity (e.g. Richard I, Lionheart). A Feudal Aid demand for Edward I's eldest daughter Eleanor was made in 1302 when money was needed to fight the Scots. The money did not go to Eleanor!

*E179/206/11* lists the 'Abbas de Salley' for Langcliffe and names land owners in Settle for example – but is almost unreadable. Henry de Percy is named in *E179/206/9* as the chief tenant:

Giggleswick	2 carucates	7s 2½d
Langcliffe	2 carucates	5s 9d
Rathmell	2 carucates	10s 10d
Settle	3 carucates	10s 10d
Stainforth	2 carucates	illegible

The money amounts are strange, supposedly £2 per knight's fee, but if correct, since the carucate was about 60 to 160 acres, the tax was less than 1d per acre. Payment was expected to come from sub-tenants, not the chief tenants such as Percy.

## Subsidy on wool, 1340

Wool taxes were resented in England [Graf, 2007]. Edward I needed money for military campaigns and in 1275 raised a tax on wool of 6s 8d (half a mark) on a sack worth £1 for example. It was said that one third of the value went to the king, two thirds to the monasteries, and none to the shepherd! Hence 'Baa, baa, black sheep /Have you any wool?etc.' (The master is the king, the dame is the monastery, the little boy is the shepherd). Black sheep were less valuable because the wool could not be dyed [Jack, 2008]. In 1337 a fractional tax was accompanied by a wool tax of a stone of wool for every 2s of the valuation of each community.

In 1340 there was a tax on wool for two years of 1/9th of sheaf corn, fleeces and lambs, and on moveable goods for town dwellers. Others without crops or sheep paid a 1/15th tax on the value of moveable goods. But firstly, count the sheep. Wool could be used to pay the tax instead of money but the collection proved difficult. Collectors were assaulted, money was taken in place of fleeces, and substandard ones bought instead, good fleeces were sold and replaced with poor ones. The wool merchants were in an ugly temper and little disposed to endure a repetition of earlier demands. In defiance of the king's orders, they exported wool in butter-tubs and cheese-boxes.

*E179/206/19* records sums paid by parishes and individuals, e.g. Giggleswick £8.

*E179/206/46b* concerns the ninth sheaf, the ninth fleece, the ninth lamb. Just imagine collecting all these little lambs! Some idea of content is as follows but the layout is unclear and messy – uv light is needed to read the content.

Gyglesweke	Inde ix	garba velleris agne[llus]	ix li vj s viij d pro sacerdotum Adam x li
Preston taxa ... nona		garba velleris agne[llus]	xiiij li vj s viij d pro sacerdotum v s xx s
Capelle de horton	Inde ix	garba velleris agne[llus]	xl s pro sacerdotum xv s
		Roger de ... Robt de Fallar...	
		Rich de Ranc ... Johe de Skalagill	
		Rich de Sky ... de Tebb...	

[Inde ix – on account of one ninth; garba – sheaf of corn; velleris – fleece; agnellus – lamb; sacerdotum – priest; nona - ninth]

*E179/242/68* lists weights of wool from different townships but is much faded and unclear. Giggleswick shows xvj pa xiiij li dj (i.e. 16 stones, 13 pounds, half). The unregulated weight of a stone (pa stands for petra) could be from 6 to 24 pounds. Other places show roughly similar weights (Horton 6 pa, Langcliffe 12 pa, Settle 15 pa and Stainforth 10 pa). Abbreviated letters dj following the pound sign (li – libra) mean dimidius - half. Were the scales really so accurate as to reliably measure half-pounds? Wool from ten or a dozen sheep weighed only 14 pounds, worth about 2s to 4s. Sheep were small animals in medieval days. The woolly nature of these figures is perplexing!

For those interested in sheep, the Sheep tax of 1549 (*E179/208/211*) has some data for Stainforth, Austwick and Horton and the Sheep Relief tax of 1551 (*E179/217/121*) has more extensive information. No money seems to have been collected from the 1549 poll tax on sheep. So much for counting sheep! And they were counted in long hundreds.

## Lay subsidy rolls - Fractional taxes – the fifteenths and tenths

Various fractional taxes were introduced in the late 1100s. This very long-running series of taxes on laymen was based on notional values of moveable personal goods, surplus crops and animal stock. ‘There was a bewildering range of methods of assessment’ [Jurkowski et al., 1998]. In 1332 parliament agreed on fifteenths (for rural communities) and tenths (for towns) of valuations and these fractions were adopted thereafter, but with various multiples. Practical means of livelihood (e.g. looms, ploughs, tools) for all and those with wealth below 10s were exempt – it cannot be known how many were too poor to pay.

In 1332 two chief taxmen were appointed for each county or district, supported by four to six sub-taxmen. These unwelcome officers visited houses at Michaelmas valuing and recording, using some discretion. In 1332 the fractional taxes paid in Langcliffe by the very few men worth more than 10s were as follows:

E179/206/47 rot 1 1332

Langcliffe	henr[ico] Spete	iiij s iiiij d	(3s 4d)
	Juone de Langcliffe	ij s	(2s)
	Rob[er]to Swift	ij s	(2s)
	Johe fit Will[elm]i	xvj d	(16d)
	henr[ico] fit Amabille	xij d	(12d)
	summa ix s viij d		(9s 8d)

Records for other parish townships are too faded to read. The valuations for 1332 were used as the starting point for a change to the system in 1334 to overcome complaints about corruption. The taxes ceased to be assessed on individuals and were replaced by negotiated fixed quotas on communities. The amounts to be paid by individuals were then decided by the better-off in each community to make administration easier, perhaps with some self-interest – the burden shifted to the less well-off. Local control allowed some concealment of wealth and some persons to exempt themselves. In the case of Langcliffe 9s 8d tax was increased to 13s for each fifteenth. Glasscock [1975] has published all the returns for the 1334 tax. The valuations became fossilized at 1334 levels for 300 years, with occasional relief (halved valuations) for famine, agricultural problems, the Black Death and Scottish depredations.

Township valuations in 1334 are as follows. The tax varied from half a fifteenth to three fifteenths of the valuation up to 1500. (E179/206/64 is the clearest record and is of one fifteenth. E179/206/53 is also clear showing half a fifteenth).

Staincliffe wapentake (Ancient parish of Giggleswick) 1334

	Valuation	1/15th
Giggleswick	£21 15s	29s
Langcliffe	£9 15s	13s
Rathmell	£9 00s	12s
Settle	£20 00s	26s 8d (£10 in 1348, £20 by 1391)
Stainforth	£13 10s	18s

Ewcross wapentake (part)

Horton in R	£10 00s	13s 4d
Austwick	£16 10s	22s
Clapham	£15 00s	20s
Bentham	£14 5s	19s

From 1300 to 1500 76 grants of fractional taxes were made, one about every 3 years on average. Just a few inhabitants, as in 1332, presumably paid much of the money. Dislocation was caused by the Black Death in 1349 and 1350 but the tax was still imposed. Collectors were assaulted, robbed and one was murdered – in view of ‘moult grande et outrageous charge’. We do not know the impact on poorer folk; my rough estimate is that a few old pence per household were paid on each tax occasion. Wages of unskilled working men in the early 1300s were 1d per day – but as a seasonal wage. By 1500 they were nearer 4d/day and workers were better able to afford a few pence occasionally. Serfs subject to the lord of the manor were paid a few shillings a year in cash as part of their sustenance.

Inflation gradually devalued the fractional tax system, population changes were ignored and no attempt was made to revise the tax valuations. Instead, new taxes were devised in later years, particularly in the later 1500s. The fractional tax system was abandoned in 1624 since it became too burdensome on the poor.

## Parishes and Knights' Fees, 1371 and 1428

The parish tax of 1371 charging 116s per parish, regardless of size initially, was part of the attempt to make more individuals pay tax. The 1371 tax was followed by a subsidy granted in 1428 to Henry VI for the defence of the realm, on parishes and knights' fees (landholdings) (E179/206/71). The roll lists churches in the West Riding and lands held by individuals with the tax payable. For parish valuations less than 10 marks the tax was half a mark, and for valuations over 10 marks the tax was 1/10th of the valuation. The mark was worth 13s 4d (i.e. 160d). (Try checking the amounts).

Giggleswick church	22 marks	tax paid 29s 4d
Giggleswick vicarage	10 marks	tax paid 13s 4d
Long Preston church	20 marks	tax paid 26s 8d
Kirkby Malham church	23 marks	tax paid 30s 8d

The tax was to be paid from the moveable goods of parishioners who were householders.

If the number of householders was say 600 in these parishes, that means 2d each.

A list of knights' fees taxes of 1428 for the wapentake of Staincliffe has not survived. In neighbouring Ewcross wapentake knights were paying a few shillings each.

## The Poll taxes

The poll taxes have been documented in full by Fenwick [2005]. Three poll taxes, in 1377, 1379 and 1380/81 were imposed alongside continued frequent fractional taxes based on moveable goods. Wage earners and those paying rent of a few shillings per year typically were to be caught in the net.

In 1377 a flat rate of 4d (a groat) per person aged 14 and over (about half to two-thirds of the population) was charged - 'impoverished' and 'true and genuine mendicants' (professional beggars - e.g. friars) being exempt. Beneficed clergy paid one shilling, unbeneficed 4d [Beresford, 1984]. Those classed as paupers were allowed the necessities for daily life, their food, their bed (!) and tools of a trade. The expensive clothes of the wealthy and their jewels were deemed necessities of life, to maintain their status. This arbitrary definition allowed assessors some leeway. The 1377 collectors claimed that drawing up detailed lists of taxpayers would require 'too much labour and expense' so we do not have any personal names for 1377.

The local collectors in 1377 were William de Eltofts and William de Mirfield. They were accompanied by the local constable and two 'honest men' (probi homines). There are examples of some of these men exempting themselves.

### Staincliffe wapentake (Ancient parish of Giggleswick) 1377

	no. over age 14 taxed	tax	Collectors' assistants
Giggleswick	-	-	-
Langcliffe	43	14s 4d	Willelmus Prest (constable), Laurencius Ermetsted, Willelmus Fhiser
Rathmell	48	16s	Willelmus Walschman (constable), Robertus Wilhamson, Willelmus del Cote
Settle	87	29s	Johannes Gymmonthe (constable), Symon Bellard, Johannes de Walsell'
Stainforth	68	22s 8d	Willelmus Robynson' (constable), Henricus de Brayeshage, Ricardu' de Cravyn
Total	246	Total 82s 0d	

A graduated Poll tax (4d to 10 marks) followed in 1379 for those over 16 years old. Did anyone have a birth certificate? People remembered how old they were in relation to memorable events. It was manifestly unfair since the rich easily afforded the top rate. 'The classes represented in parliament perceived that the peasantry had become both lazy and wealthier than their position in the social hierarchy warranted' [Jurkowski et al., 1998]. Personal names were listed in the 1379 receipts so they have much historical value. Indeed, taxation led to the development of surnames as we now know them - occupation was often used as a surname. Speight [1892] gives the 1379 full list for Staincliffe and Ewcross wapentakes but Fenwick's is the definitive list [2005]. The number paying more than 4d is very small. In Langcliffe Thomas Ineson paid 12d; in Giggleswick Ricardus de Bank paid 12d and frank(lin) Laurencius del Armetstead paid 40d; in Rathmell all but Johannes Webster (textor, 6d) paid 4d; in Settle two paid 6d; in Stainforth Robertus de Staynford dominus ville paid 20s. The lords of the manors are absentees apart from in Stainforth.

Estimation of population size is very crude but assuming that each married couple had two to three children on average, the numbers are indicative of a likely minimum size of the community. It has been suggested [Saul, 2000] that population was about twice the number of taxpayers in 1377 which gives very similar numbers. The additional number of paupers is unknown.  
Staincliffe wapentake 1379 (Ancient parish of Giggleswick)

	age 16 taxed	no. over couples	no. married	no. singles	tax	est. population @2.5 children per married couple
Langcliffe	23	12	11		8s 4d	65
Giggleswick	53	42	11		21s 8d	200
Rathmell	35	25	10		11s 10d	123
Settle	52	39	13		17s 10d	189
Stainforth	36	31	5		32s	145
	Total 199			Total 91s 8d		Total 722
	(146 ex Giggleswick in 1379 to compare with 246 in 1377 list)					
Ewcross wapentake 1379 (part)						
Austwick	73	57	16		26s 6d	273
Bentham	36	24	12		15s 4d	120
Clapham	75	41	34		23s 6d	219
Horton in R.	51	40	11		17s	191

For Staincliffe and Ewcross combined, allowing for some differences in townships listed:

Staincliffe and Ewcross	1377	1379
Numbers of taxpayers	4846	2708
Total money collected	£82-16-4	£63-9-0
Old pence per taxpayer	4.1	5.6

Many texts draw attention to the much smaller numbers of taxpayers in 1379 compared to 1377. It has been suggested that

this is due to evasion, corruption and connivance at under-assessment but extensive evasion or corrupt practice cannot be substantiated [Fenwick, 2005]. Concealment was difficult and the social climate non-conducive to unfair treatment. It seems more likely that poor people were treated more leniently in 1379. It may be surmised that there was tacit agreement nationally by collectors that as long as the money collected in 1379 was similar to that in 1377, then a sympathetic approach to exemption of the poor would reduce the chance of resistance. Many young people over 16 in families were probably not being taxed in 1379. Lack of means to pay seems most likely.

The ratio of the 1379 and 1377 taxpayer numbers for 78 administrative areas in Staincliffe and Ewcross is on average 0.56 with a standard deviation of 0.15, that is, about half the number in 1377 were taxed in 1379. The ratio of about 0.59 for Giggleswick parish is typical of other places. The national total money income did not suffer much in 1379 so the graduation of taxation proved successful – some must have paid much more than 4d.

For eight local communities in Staincliffe and Ewcross in 1379, 314 men and 306 women were listed – a normal ratio of sexes. There were 40 single men and 32 single women listed, the imbalance suggesting that some women were not taxed because of lack of income.

For the whole wapentake of Staincliffe there are 2386 entries for 1379 [Fenwick, 2005]. Five individuals (manorial lords) contributed £5 out of the total of near £54 collected. The next set of twenty noted as armed men (Armiger, Armatus), Frankleyns (freemen) and Gentlemen were mainly taxed at 3s 4d raising about £4. There were 13 merchants (mercator, mercer, marchant) taxed at rates from 6d to 4s 4d raising about £1; two were wool merchants (emptores

lanarum) and two animal stock dealers (mercator best'). A large group of 166 named contributors could be considered as tradesmen, paying 6d usually, raising about £5.

That leaves the rest numbering about 2200 poorer people, about 90% of the total number raising about £39 – about 72% of the total revenue. A sudden demand for 4d, a day's income perhaps – say £100 today, would have been unwelcome to most.

In 1380 the Poll tax was set at an outrageous three groats (one shilling) a head (married couple 2s) for those over 15 years old with the poor exempted – the wealthier and those with more experience as office-holders in the manor courts decided who paid what and the rich were supposed to support the poor. The taxes paid actually ranged inconsistently from 4d to 20s and government recommendations were ignored in some places. The assessment was made 'during one of the worst winters in memory' and after a particularly bad harvest [Fenwick, 2005]. The amount demanded was two or three times larger than the fractional taxes. We have no records for local places.

The 1380 tax was a 'grevous charge pur eux endurer ou porter' the Commons said [Jurkowski et al., 1998]. After Christmas 1380 the Exchequer were suspicious about the honesty of the collectors' returns. The attempted collection in 1381 of this third imposition proved too great a burden and the peasants refused to pay, having run out of money and surplus goods for sale. Of course, they had more fractional taxes to look forward to – and tithes, and manorial payments for firewood and transgressions against the lord of the manor.

The peasants revolted in 1381 in the south-east, in part against what were demands well beyond tax levies made in earlier years, and the heavy-handedness of the collectors.

'They are dressed in velvet and furs, while we wear only

cloth. They have wine, and spices and good bread, while we have rye bread and water. They have fine houses and manors, and we have to brave the wind and rain as we toil in the fields. It is by the sweat of our brows that they maintain their high state.'

[[https://spartacus-educational.com/Peasants\\_Revolt.htm](https://spartacus-educational.com/Peasants_Revolt.htm)]

In 1489 a tax riot happened in York, but 'unlike the French the English did not usually rebel on a large scale' [Dyer, 2002]. Further graduated poll taxes were granted in 1512 and 1514 but the documents for our locality are unreadable or in poor condition.

In conclusion one finds oneself wondering why '... anybody in the Middle Ages, except kings and tax collectors, ever took the trouble to live at all' [Jerome, 1900].

### Acknowledgement

Prof. Richard Hoyle advised on texts to read and generously loaned copies of Jurkowski et al. (1998) and Dyer (1996). Dr David Johnson was helpfully able to check some tax documents held at TNA.

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[[https://spartacus-educational.com/Peasants\\_Revolt.htm](https://spartacus-educational.com/Peasants_Revolt.htm)]

# Wader Survey

Catherine Ramsay

The Forest of Bowland is a magical place at any time of the year. Barn owls hunting over orange rush are a common sight on autumn evenings, and the peeking ears of a brown hare can be seen amongst frosty fields during the winter months. But anyone who has walked around the upland fells of Bowland in spring knows there is nothing quite like experiencing the jubilant bubbling call of the curlew or spectacular tumbling display of lapwings, (known locally as tewits) during the pre-summer months that they are breeding. This experience is one that many locals have become accustomed to, however across the UK, wading birds are one of the most threatened groups of migratory species. Between 1995 and 2014 the UK's curlew population declined by 48%. Sadly this trend has been seen in all Bowland's breeding waders. Curlews must produce one chick every two years for the population to remain stable but the reported average in Europe is one chick every 3-4 years. Curlews are consistently

not producing enough young to maintain their population, and this is largely attributed to a combination of agricultural intensification, predation and climate change reducing the availability of suitable habitat and breeding success.

The RSPB have been working with farmers in Bowland since 2003 to improve breeding habitat for waders on inbye. This includes management of rush pastures: too much rush is bad for the birds and can conceal predators, but too little gives no cover for snipe. A balance is created by cattle grazing and rush cutting in early autumn. Field wetness is also a key habitat feature for ground nesting birds, as they feed by probing the soft ground for invertebrates. Habitat improvement, overseen by the RSPB, has included creating shallow pools with muddy edges for young birds to feed on (known as 'wader scrapes') and advising that trees are planted away from fields where the ground-nesting birds breed.

This advisory work is only possible due to our long-term data collection of breeding wader numbers. Over 70 farms have been surveyed for their breeding waders in Bowland, and more farms sign up for the survey each year. This is done by a dedicated team of volunteers who walk their assigned farm, counting numbers of lapwing, curlew, oystercatcher, redshank and snipe once a month in April, May and June. Notes are also made on birds breeding status and habitat factors such as sward condition, rush coverage, field wetness and predator abundance. This data gives a vital insight into the conditions of breeding wader populations and allows conservation advisors at the RSPB to give informed advice to farmers.

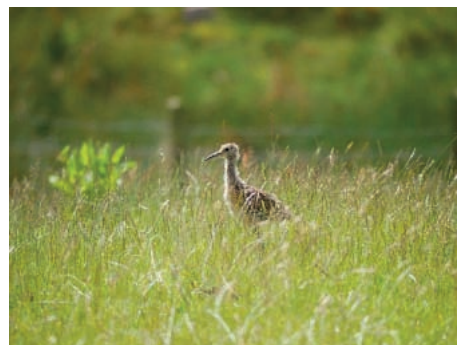
Many farmers in Bowland have been using agri-environment schemes to fund habitat work for wading birds and other wildlife on their farm; government subsidies that pay farmers for managing their land in a more environmentally sensitive way. In the uplands, drainage



Curlews caught on a nest camera (Hilary Maguire)



Wader scrapes (Philip Miller)



Curlew chick (Gavin Thomas)

of wetlands, afforestation and loss of peatland have been highlighted as major drivers of habitat loss for waders, and unsuitable habitat reduces suitable feeding ground and makes wader nests and chicks more vulnerable to predation. Grants from the government are therefore vital in creating and maintaining these semi-natural diverse pastures ideal for breeding waders.

Where farmers are managing their land for waders by keeping low numbers of livestock, managing rush and adding wet features to fields, more waders have been seen. We are still in the process of analysing this year's survey data, however it is clear that Bowland is still experiencing the population decline with the rest of the country. This year we set up a nest camera for the first time in Bowland. Each week we watched back footage that beautifully displayed curlew nesting behaviour, such as incubation changeovers, territorial behaviour and watched how curlews interact with cows and sheep around their nest. This detailed data collection is something that we hope to do on a larger scale next year and increase our knowledge of what curlews do when we aren't watching them.

The RSPB's next step is to update our survey to include

more thorough counts of fledged wader chicks. In an ideal world, we would track each chick and determine how many fledge, find the main reason for their low survivability and focus conservation efforts in that direction. For now, we are starting with setting up more nest cameras and increasing our survey effort to follow chicks from hatching to fledging. There are numerous projects aiming to do the same thing all over the UK, some using radio-tags and thermal imaging cameras to track chicks, some hand-rearing and releasing young once they fledge, some electric fencing around nests to keep out ground predators such as foxes and badgers. All this work is vital if we are to halt the decline of curlew and other waders before they vanish from our uplands. I must highlight that it is the efforts and passions of local farmers and volunteers that have slowed the decline of wader populations across Bowland. The hours of work they put into finding breeding birds, observing their behaviour, finding nests and chicks is key to our understanding of how many birds we have left.

Would you like to help save our wading birds? Apply to be a volunteer or get more information about how to help waders on your farm by emailing [Catherine.ramsay@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.ramsay@rspb.org.uk).

## Book Review

# A Review of Sarah Lister's 'Meandering down the Ribble'

**Gillian Jones**

The first thing to say is that this is not a book about walking along the Ribble but about individuals and families who lived along this section of the Ribble. The sub-title 'Born and Bred in the Long Preston Floodplain' is a more accurate description. Over only a few short years, Sarah has established herself as an interesting and lively family researcher as well as providing entertaining graveyard trails.

In the introduction, Sarah refers to the Long Preston floodplain and the history of the villages around this large area of land. Some more background might have been helpful to those who, perhaps, do not know the area well.

After the Ice Age, a former, generally shallow, lake extended roughly from Long Preston to the outskirts of Settle. The moraines between Long Preston and Hellifield forced the Ribble to change course, do a u-turn, and end up in the Irish Sea. The lake was a very valuable asset and attracted people to live around it as it provided a reliable source of food. Sarah refers to an auroch's skull, proof that large animals also lived in the area, which was found close to the present A65 near to Skirbeck, when electricity cables were being installed in the 1930s.

In 1799 a Bill was presented to Parliament petitioning George III to allow the draining of the land and the formation of enclosures. It is interesting to note that it took until 1815 for the approval of the enclosures to take place and the legal agreement was signed in the Boars Head, Long Preston on 25th May!

All this fascinating background history sets the scene and provides a context as Sarah explores the lives of people living in Long Preston, Rathmell and Wigglesworth. She also gives a brief history of the religious position in this part of Craven

where a third of the population was non-conformist. This was important to the way of life for so many people living in the area. I especially appreciated the reference to the Settle Quaker Meeting House. In Long Preston there was a Baptist Chapel, with its own graveyard and a Methodist Chapel, which depended on St Mary's church for burials.

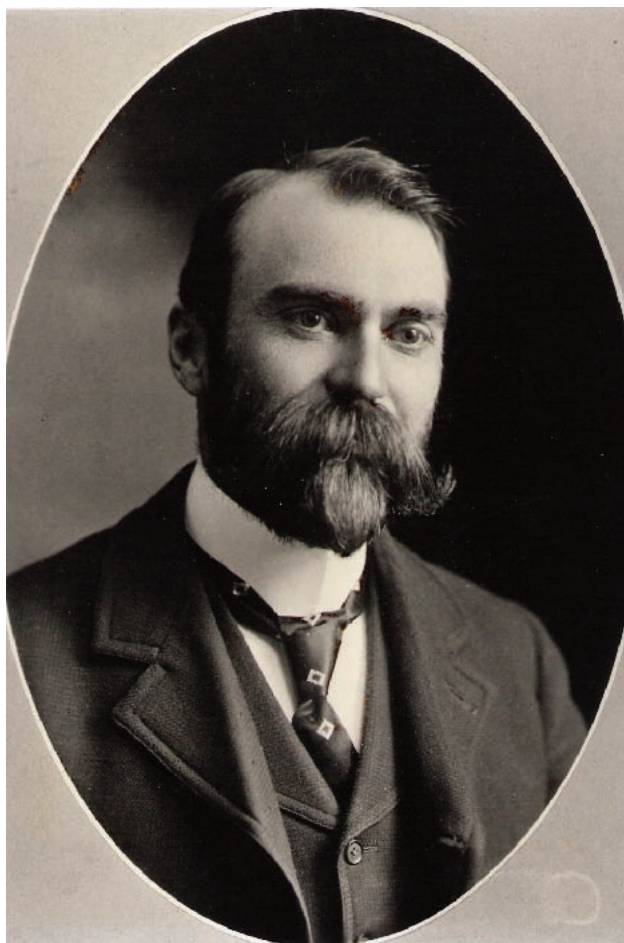
Sarah has included detailed old maps for around both Rathmell and Wigglesworth as well as Long Preston. The book, being about people, doesn't explain that Long Preston has been established as a very old settlement. This can be ascertained from the fact that at Domesday the church in Long Preston was the only one recorded between Farnhill and Bentham. Nor does she say that Long Preston Parish used to include Hellifield and it was only in the early 1900s that the Parish of Hellifield was created.

For anyone wanting to discover more about the lives of people living around the floodplain Sarah's book provides an excellent basis and starting point. In exploring family histories in Long Preston, Wigglesworth and Rathmell, the book provides lots of information about how people lived, what type of work they did and their family links. It also shows how the law operated and the consequences of not abiding by it. Sarah is always happy to include the good bits and the bad bits of people's lives. That's what keeps you turning the pages!

The book can be read from start to finish or, equally, you can dip in and out or pick up on family names that interest you. There is a very handy index of family trees and surnames. There are also plenty of pictures and boxes of anecdotes to keep a reader enthralled. All in all, a very enjoyable and informative read.

# From Canada to Craven, a visit by Robert Coates in 1901

Hilma Wilkinson



Robert Coates

## Introduction

My great grandfather Thomas Coates farmed at Lower Ragged Hall. Thomas Coates had a brother Christopher (born 1826) who had emigrated to Canada. He returned to England and married Sarah Woods on 23rd May 1863 in Giggleswick Church. On their marriage certificate their stated address is Close House.

In 1813 an earlier Robert Coates (1790-1862) married Ann Harrison (1792-1879). He was a farmer and clogger at Hanover in Rathmell (now demolished). A hill farm of 28 acres could not support their seven sons. The story of the diary starts here. Three became farmers in the same area, three went to find a better life in Liverpool and Lancaster and one, Christopher, emigrated with his new wife to Canada. Their one daughter looked after them into old age.

The Robert Coates who wrote the diary is the son of Christopher Coates (born 1826) who emigrated to Ontario in 1863. Alfred, his companion on the Yorkshire journey, is the son of Christopher's brother Thomas Coates and Isabella (née Bolland, daughter of Thomas Bolland of Close House and New Hall) who farmed at Lower Ragged Hall, and later

moved to Clitheroe. They moved to find better employment for their family, their four dressmaker daughters (who died of consumption before the end of the century) and their two sons who became cabinet makers. In spite of the distances the two families kept in touch. The diary of 1901 describes a visit from Canada to all the surviving English relatives.

Robert went on to become a very successful business man in London, Ontario. From being a salesman he founded a boot and shoe company which provided boots for the Canadian army. He was a cultured man and sponsored art galleries and exhibitions as well as having art collections of his own. He visited England many times until old age. He is buried in the Woodlands Mausoleum, London, Ontario. Most of the Yorkshire family is buried at Zion Chapel, Sandy Syke, Tosside, where they had been Trustees.

The original diary is held by Robert's descendants in Ontario.

## The diary of Robert Coates of Ontario, of his trip to England in the year 1901

Left London Ontario July 28, 1901 for New York. Sailed July 31 (to Liverpool.) White Star Line steamship. The Teutonia.

**Aug 8th** arrived Liverpool. Put up at the Northwestern Hotel, beside Lime St. Station. Took 11.05 train for Lancaster. Stopped at St. Helens near Wigan, then Preston. Rolling country. Saw lots of sheep and cattle pasturing as well as bob tail nags and a few donkeys. Arrived Lancaster at 12.45. Dinner at County Hotel in front of station. Then went up to John Middlebrooks. Then went up to Aunt Janes, she looks well and is very much like Mother.

**Mon. Aug. 12th.** Took train to Preston, had a look at the town. A big one. Mostly red brick, every other place I have seen has been stone. I saw the park with the river Ribble. Then took train past Cherry tree to Blackburn, another town with over 100,000 people. Another train to Clitheroe. Passed under big tunnel on the trip. We also passed the ancient village of Whalley. Back of Whalley is the old college of Stoneyhurst, then past Primrose and steamed in to Clitheroe. There was a Hotel close to the station, where I had Dinner. Inquired for WoonLime (*Woone lane*) and found it with much trouble. Found Uncle Thomas and Aunt Isabella at home. (*Hilma's Great Grandparents*). Alfred and his wife were in Morecambe on holiday. Saw Clitheroe Castle. Uncle is quite a talker, same as Father but not as loud. I have a nice room with them.

**Tues. Aug. 13th.** Alfred (*Hilma's grandfather*) and I took in the town. We took the train down to Whooley, (*Whalley*) which is a very old village. 4 Miles. Saw Whooley Abbey. Through the parish church built in 1140. Best preserved old church I have seen - oak wood carvings would do credit to our wood carvers nowadays. Wonderful old stones in the



cemetery, dating back hundreds of years an empty stone coffin and old tombstones erected in 625 (*sic. Perhaps as the monks believed*). There were 3 of that date.

**Wed. Aug. 14th.** Alfred and I left by train for Hellifield. Raining as usual. Found John Coates place. Glad to see me. Talked about Canada and his brother Thomas's family. He often spoke of Richards visit with them years ago. We had dinner with him. Mrs. Coates, his second wife was a typical farmer's wife. Took train back to Clitheroe. We will return next day.

**Thurs. Aug. 15th** Here we are again at Hellifield, took in the sale of cows. I met Uncle Henry Coates as we call him. Met him in Canada. Met William Barrett, gave invitation to visit them at Horton. Also met a John Coates today. Miss Polly Coates, is a daughter of John Coates, who used to be an auctioneer. She knew Richard well when he was over. Her sister is married to Charles Carr, who used to live with Henry Coates. Polly's mother lives at Street House. Well we had dinner again at John Coates and then Henry Coates of Tosside, hitched up the team and we went to Tosside. Passed down winding roads to Long Preston, came over Cove (*Cow*) bridge to Wigglesworth on to Pekebar (*Pikeber*) to M. Fells, who married Elizabeth, Uncle William's daughter. He is the son of Stephen Fell. Stephen fell is married to the widow of Ged Bolland. We also passed beggar barn. Stopped at Hill Top. We crossed the fields to Laddied (*Laddy*) Green. Alfred and I stopped to look at the view on the way. The House was built in 1670, here Thomas Hargraves, he married our cousin Martha, and Aunt Mary live, her Mother lives with her. She is 77. Then Cousin Will came in. Then came Tom Hargraves. We are going over to Cousin Wills of the Hile (*off Tod Holes Lane*). Will and his wife Ann have no children. (Cousin Will is a little taller than father, (i.e *Christopher Coates*) but is just as like him as any one man could look like another. 24 years ago he went harvesting on the east side to Leonard Sutherby's of Holme Wood and there was Leonard the same as ever but he had lost his farm and was just manager – what a come down. He told him that if he had not been sure father was an older man, then he would have thought he was father – he told him father was the best man that ever came to his fields. Cousin Will has got an American mowing machine – though not a good crop this season. Had an extra man to help him haying but had to pay him £7:15 s (?) Grand old farm and farm house is the Hile 126 acres. And Rotten Edge. Slept at cousin Will's (Here we are Alfred and I in a fine large bedroom that one would hardly expect so very nicely furnished and in such nice shape away in the hills of England).

**Fri. Aug. 16th.** Taking the trap to Settle, and around a little to see the country. Through the gates to Wigglesworth and on to Rathmell. Passing New Low Roome, Close house, also Grass (*Grain?*) House all the same as ever. Wigglesworth to Awe (*Hall?*) and Cappleside where Mr. and Mrs. Geldard still live. On to Giggleswick, past Grammar School, old church, past Lime Kills (*kilns*) to the ebbing and flowing well, then back to Settle. Putting in the Horse at Royal Oak. The town



Hile

hall is just the same, also the Shambles. Called on Mrs. John Bolland. Saw Settle Holly (*Folly*) and went on to Castlebergh and looked over the town. The Old Joiners Arms, is now a store and residence. Came back to the Hile. After dinner walked to Hanover (*now reduced to a vague earthwork*) away down the fields, passing Long Gill, Boaster Gill (*Boostagill*) and Bents Hazel Lane (*Hesley Lane*) Old Roul's where Kitty Harrison, with his daughter Ann now live. We found him home. He is too stingy to wear good clothes. Walked up to Hanover, past Hinsela Hill (*Hensley*), Scanthergh (*Scoutber*) Cragg end, to Lower Ragged Oil (*Hall*) where Kitty Harrison's son now lives, passing Coeley (*Cockley, now a ruin*) Bank and on to Hanover, which is now deserted, as it is added to Black Hill, but there it stood, still the old garden around it. Then we saw Higher Ragged Hall Owlshaw Middle Brachen (*now Middle Brayshaw*), but Nicholas Harrison was away. Got a good view of Ingleborough Mountain, to Welpston (*Whelpstone*) Crag. Drank water at Lower Ragged Hall. Back to the Hile for tea. Will, Alfred and I started for Tosside. We passed down the meadow, called at Laddie Green and bid them good bye. Out to the fields to the main Rd. Past Coolham's, Crow trees, milkingkites (*Milkinggates*). There is letter box. To Damhead then up the hill past the old church and on down to Tosside chapel. Saw all around Grandmother and Grandfathers graves and the stone and everything looked neat. The Hotel is now a Limprints House, kept by Matias Lawson. Met him. Down to Henry Coates for the night. With Alfred leaving to go back to the Hile.

**Sat. Aug. 17th.** Raining. It is Gisburn fair today and Henry and I are going to the agriculture show. There we met Will and his wife and Alfred. Had Dinner at the White Bull. Left at four and left for Clitheroe.

**Aug. 18th. Sun.** Went to church. Enjoyed evening at their home in Woone Lane.

**Aug. 19th** Liverpool. It is a big city. I met a Mr. J. A. Cale and we enjoyed ourselves. Saw a play at the Empire Theatre and spent the night at the Northwestern Hotel.

**Aug. 20th.** Off for London by fast train. Making 1 mile per. Minute. To Huston (*Euston*) Station, London. Took Handsome to Hotel Holborn Viaduct. Very old Hotel. One of the best for travellers. Central location.



Robert Coates (with black beard) and family

**Aug. 21st.** Visited Tower of London, Tower bridge, went to top. London Bridge, fish market, St. Pauls. Theatre.

**Aug. 22nd.** Saw through the Parliament bldgs. House of Lords, Westminster Abbey, British Museum. National Gallery, St. James Park to Buckingham Palace, St. James Palace, Marlborough house, Hyde park, Albert Hall, Kensington Gardens, Kensington Palace. Kensington palace was more interesting than any other. The oil paintings are grand.

**Aug. 23nd.** Kensington museum, Zoological gardens. Empire theatre.

**Aug. 24th.** Shopping, Manchester. Toured Manchester, Liverpool. Cousin John Coates house. He is the Superintendent of a large Bath House. John lives next door. John has 6 children. 4 boys and 2 girls. Saw another John Coates. Cousin of Fathers. Best man at Father and Mothers wedding. One son. Have 3 gents furnishing stores and 1 hat store. Very well to do. Made money originally in the dairy business.

**Sun. Aug. 25th.** Visited Johns brother William, a city official in charge of water works, mains etc. William has a small confectioners store which his wife looks after. They have 3 children, 2 girls and a boy. Brother Robert's widow lives over in Wales. They have 2 sisters who live near Lancaster. Met their Mother at cousin Wills. Went to church.

**Mon. Aug. 26th.** Saw the other John Coates. Met his son. Saw public buildings. He married Mary Allen. They had 6 children, but all died as babies, except William. John's sons wife died 7 years ago. He keeps a housekeeper, Bleasdale a grandchild of old Peg and William Bleasdale of Rathmell.

**Tues. Aug. 27th.** Went downtown. With Cousin John and Daughter Sally went to New Brighton by boat. Lovely family.

**Wed. Aug. 28th.** Downtown, Docks. Took the family on board the ship to see me off. The Majestic, twin to the Teutonia, that I came over on.

#### Addendum (Copied from the original diary on our visit to Ontario in June 2007)

I am leaving old England in good spirits, well pleased with my trip and the sights I have seen, to say nothing of the relatives. That has been a revelation for me to have been so well treated and received by them all – that is a trip never to be forgotten or ... Tho the time we have in this world, when we look back is short, God has been good to me and mine. May I be taken back safely to dear ones at home and I must say it just here, that spiritually I intend to live a better man. So with God's help to keep this resolution it will certainly be stamped in

memory as the event of my life, trusting under the same influence I may be guided to do good to others which will be further reward towards keeping in fond remembrance this trip.

#### Additional notes

Thomas Bolland is noted in the 1851 UK census as aged 54 farming 90 acres. Family trees for the Coates are to be seen on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

Whalley Abbey: Perhaps Robert is referring to fragments within the south transept of three tombstones, two of which have lettering indicating they are the tombs of John Walton, a 'monk of this monastery', and Thomas Wood, one of the priors of the medieval monastery.

Most of the places mentioned are identifiable on the current 1:25,000 OS map and the OS map revised 1917 (<https://maps.nls.uk>). They lie in the triangle Settle, Tosside, Hellifield. The modern names of places with unusual spellings are italicized; the locations of some few places are yet unknown or are obvious.

Christopher Coates (who married Sarah Woods in 1863) is in the 1851 UK census as agricultural labourer in Hellifield. According to the Canadian census (agricultural labourer) he was in Canada by 1861. It is presumed that he returned to marry Sarah, who was a servant at Rome farm in 1861(census), then perhaps at Close House. Christopher is not found on the 1861 or 1871 UK censuses.

John Coates of Hellifield farmed at Highground and was a milk dealer in Old Station Rd. 'Uncle Henry' Coates farmed at Olivers in Tosside. Mrs John Bolland is Alfred's aunt. Her husband farmed at Close House and died at Sutcliffe House in Giggleswick. In old age she lived in Kirkgate in Settle.

Further photographs of people and places, courtesy of Hilma Wilkinson and Dr David Johnson, have been added to the website version of this article.

# The Families behind the Datestones

*Jean Asher, Eileen Bamford, Pamela Jordan and Michael Slater*

A photographic collection of North Craven doorhead datestones was made some years ago. Many have a set of initials with a date but it is not easy to determine the owners of such initials. The images in date order and a list of places and types are available for inspection on the North Craven Heritage Trust website [www.northcravenheritage.org](http://www.northcravenheritage.org). Although a total of 519 datestones has been listed, 121 of these are on private property and are not accessible to the public. Otherwise the remaining 398 can be seen from public paths. A few more have been photographed since the initial survey was made. A few dates are to be found on rain-water hoppers and above barn and other entrances.

The datestones are not always in their original place and cannot be guaranteed to be the date of the building itself. They may have been incorporated when alterations were made to the building. They are placed on buildings great and small – manor houses, halls, houses, cottages, barns.

The number of datestones within Giggleswick Ancient parish is near 100. This parish comprised Giggleswick, Langcliffe, Rathmell, Settle and Stainforth townships and Stackhouse hamlet. An attempt has been made to associate family names with these datestones. The date is usually readable but the initials are sometimes in a decayed state. Sometimes there are two initials, most often three initials, and occasionally four or five. The arrangement varies but often one initial is isolated from the others and this is usually the surname initial – but may be the wife's Christian name initial! Sometimes there are two pairs of initials with a common second initial, e.g. LS MS, NB CB, IS TS, IL E AL. These may refer to two sets of owners at different times or man and wife and repeated surname initial. AI TF poses a problem but is thought to refer to Alice and Thomas Foster. The most difficult datestone to understand is HIAW 1682 – because the arrangement of initials is unique. Almost certainly the family name is Whittam so perhaps the man HW married the lady IA – Isabella Armitstead bp 1654/5, or bp 1665, or Isabell Atkinson bp 1659, all possible candidates - but proof is lacking! It seems most unlikely that HI married AW.

Using C for Christian name and S for surname the following arrangements are found:

CS 36% ; S 28% ; CCS 14% ; C 6% ; others 16%  
CC CS

Since one cannot rely on there being any consistency or logic shown by those who commissioned the datestone, or any consistent reason for putting a stone over a door, much imagination has to be used in making a judgement about identification of the owner. The letter I also usually stands for J – just to make life more complicated. The letters C and G need to be looked at carefully. The enquirer has to use imagination in the near absence of any rules. The only rule seems to be that the first letter on the left is a Christian name initial.

The parish register is the first port of call for information. People did not live in one place all their lives and not all events in their lives are recorded in the register. Marriage dates for a couple give the Christian and surnames of both parties and the initials may agree with a datestone; the year on a datestone may be that of the marriage, (rarely), or some years after a marriage, or when a house was altered to suit the new owners. But many couples married in a parish of the bride, other than Giggleswick, so such information is hard to find. A clue to a marriage may be a series of children recorded in the register. The register also records burials and sometimes one finds the name of a wife (ux – Latin uxor for wife, or relict of ...) with her Christian name and that of her husband. With two initials the first can be searched as a Christian name under all surnames of the second initial and if the Christian name initial is uncommon a match might be found.

The parish register has a gap in data for the Civil War Commonwealth period of Oliver Cromwell, 1641 to 1652, when registers were not properly maintained. Some dates cannot therefore be ascertained.

Wills can next be consulted and a comprehensive collection for Giggleswick for the period of about 1500 to 1750 can be viewed at [www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk). Not all families made wills but all levels of society are represented. Women seldom made wills, and usually only when widowed. Men sometimes named their wife in their wills, and if not, one can usually assume that the wife died before the husband, or the man was not married. About 20 wills have proved very helpful or decisive.

The Hearth tax lists of 1672 are very helpful for properties built before and around that date.

Deeds for property transactions after 1704 are available but rarely do they reveal useful information. Occasionally earlier deeds catalogued in local record offices might help but they are not easy to access. The 1844 tithe apportionment and early census returns are helpful for 19th-century datestones. As a near last resort other documents such as manor court records of the 1600s and 1700s can be checked to see if named people are alive at a specified date. These records may also reveal the names of families who lived in named farms or important houses such as Close House, Fieldgate, Grain House, Green Farm, Hollin Hall, Knight Stainforth Hall, Langcliffe Hall, New Hall, Swainstead and many others. Local personal knowledge about long-standing families also helps as do history books such as that by Brayshaw and Robinson.

The website for British Listed Buildings can be helpful but contains errors. After 1831 census data are available.

All the skills of the genealogist are called into play in this task and a successful conclusion to a search is most satisfying. The success rate is about 90% based on being certain or reasonably confident that, for those datestones with initials, the initials can be linked to individuals. Pitfalls abound so evidence from multiple sources is ideally required to

substantiate a result. There are other buildings with datestones but no initials which can be related to families. The precise locations of datestones in townships are not revealed but those farms in outlying districts are identified. The hamlet of Stackhouse is treated separately from the townships of Giggleswick, Langcliffe, Rathmell, Settle and Stainforth. Privacy should be respected in looking at properties.

It has been suggested that the datestone is that of a marriage or birth of a first child but there is no evidence for such. About 14 examples suggest that the datestone was made 1 to 28 years after marriage with only three cases of one year difference. Rather the date accords with the building or rebuilding or possibly purchase of a house by a man or married couple later in life when it could be afforded, much as today. Furthermore, money was unlikely to be spent on a rented house by adding a datestone firmly part of the structure. During the later 1600s and 1700s new houses were being built, part of the Great Rebuilding in stone, when inhabitants with money had the confidence to build and own their own home and tenure was more secure. Nearly half of the men associated with datestones with initials and dates (prior to 1750) left wills suggesting that they had money enough to build or rebuild a house at some stage in their lives. The least success of identification (75%) was found in Settle, possibly because there were relatively more incomers to Settle, a growing commercial centre, who had married elsewhere, so that they are not found in the Giggleswick parish register.

There is room for everyone to join the challenge! Several examples given here have not been satisfactorily identified. The results are listed on the NCHT website (Datestones of Families in Giggleswick Ancient parish) and contributions from readers will be welcomed. Wills and deeds can be seen on the websites [www.northcravenheritage.org](http://www.northcravenheritage.org) and [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk).

1684 AI TF Private



Thomas and Alice Foster.  
Alice of Fieldgate, widow, bd 1691  
(Parish register). Will of Thomas 1697, of Field Gate.  
Question mark over AI.  
I unlikely to be Alice's surname initial.

1682 HIAW



Settle:  
An unusual set of four initials in line. Almost certainly the family name is Whittam so perhaps the man H(enry)W married the lady IA – Isabella Armitstead bp 1654/5, or bp 1665, or Isabell Atkinson bp 1659 are possible candidates. Isabella bp 1738 is name of daughter of Thomas Whittam of Settle.

1685 IL



Settle:  
John Lister?  
John Lupton 2 hearths in 1672?  
John Lupton married Alice Foster in 1680?

1697



Stainforth:  
No initials but could benefit from research.

# Plant find: a first for the Yorkshire Dales and British Isles

Howard M Beck



The plants in their beck side setting

You are an orchid hunter on expedition to the tropics, when out of the blue you find a species new to science high in the lofty tree canopy of a remote equatorial rainforest. Try imagining the elation such a moment would furnish, then wind the clock back to 2019 and transfer the setting to the Yorkshire Dales.

It was here at Easter, that I was carrying out yet another day of field botany gleaning records in the run-up to the publication of a new national plant atlas for Great Britain. Under the auspices of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland such detailed nation-wide surveys takes place approximately every two decades. They involve botanists—professional and amateur alike—tramping throughout the whole of the United Kingdom and Ireland, through all manner of habitats, gathering and submitting records on vascular plant species, their numbers and their habitats.

Using such surveys the BSBI, and other bodies involved with conservation, nature reserve management and woodland planting are able to determine trends, for instance which species are spreading, which on the decline, where environmental pressures are likely to become problematic and which species are under the greatest threat. Such work now takes on a greater importance than ever in the face of increasing habitat loss and changes wrought by global warming.



Inflorescence clearly showing the dense, glandular hairs peculiar to subspecies *macrophylla*

The deadline for gathering such data had entered its final year, and weighed heavily on my sensibilities. I was pulling out all the stops, doing my level best for citizen science, and only too pleased to have joined the ranks of volunteers searching the countryside, submitting plant observations for inclusion on the national database.

For most of my life the Yorkshire Dales has been my principal stomping ground, a place I have grown familiar with over a period of fifty years. On the 19 April a long day botanising was drawing to a close, and on my way home down the A65 I decided on a whim to dip into the leafy milieu of Clapham. It is an especially picturesque setting that previously has harboured some surprises, so I decided to have a poke about the lanes to see what might be found.

I finished my investigations for the day by examining a strip of unkempt ground where rank growth were dominated by nettles and brambles, yet little else. This ground separates the village car park from a footpath leading to nearby Austwick. On the point of finishing for the day, I came upon a patch of leaves I was unable to recognize. Hunting about turned up more a few metres away.

It was a leafy mystery as these matters often are. I was intrigued and eager to identify the species. Yet this was not forthcoming until some three months later, when another BSBI botanist, found more of the same plants elsewhere in the village. By this time it was mid-summer and the plants were mature and in full bloom. After the on-line *Manual of the Alien Plants of Belgium* had been consulted the plants were finally determined to be the Blue Sow-thistle (*Cicerbita macrophylla* subspecies *macrophylla*).

I returned to my earlier find and could see immediately that ‘my’ plants were indeed identical—in an instant catapulting the April discovery to the fore as a completely new find for Britain! I was unable to believe my good fortune. It is always exciting recording a plant new to an area or region, but to find one never before seen anywhere else in the British

Isles is quite significant and a great thrill. For me this made the April find that bit more special.

The *Cicerbita* genus is a perennial preferring a temperate biome and belongs to the *Asteraceae* (composites) family of vascular plants, which include thistles, oxeye daisy, the common daisy, sea aster, ragworts, dandelions and the sunflower. The Clapham plants are significantly different to any of the above, and to the Blue Sow-thistle (subspecies *uralensis*) which is commonly found throughout Britain. Subspecies *macrophylla* is a far more robust plant. It can grow as tall as three metres, the basal leaves have ludicrously large terminal lobes, and the inflorescence (area of the stem bearing the flower heads) bears a dense fuzz of glandular (sticky) hairs. Overall a much more statuesque and handsome plant.

Of course this find begs questions concerning provenance. Subspecies *macrophylla* is a native to North and NE Turkey, the Caucasus and North Iran, so how does it come to be thriving in The Dales? This answer to this question may be

linked to the fact that Clapham's Ingleborough Hall was home to the famous botanist, Reginald Farrer (1880 – 1920). Farrer travelled extensively in Asia, returning home with all manner of exotic specimens for his private collections. Many of the species we see in the Ingleborough grounds: the bamboos, giant butterbur and *Gunnera*, for instance, are some of his introductions. Did he bring back Blue Sow-thistle from one of his expeditions? Did it escape years ago from his nursery or garden and establish itself in the wild?

A conversation with Philip Farrer of Clapham, revealed that the land where I first found the plants was once occupied by the Ingleborough Hall greenhouses, bringing nearer the possibility that the *Cicerbita* was brought to the UK by Reginald. We may never know for certain. However, Clapham is now firmly placed on the botanical map as the repository for a plant so far unknown anywhere else in the British Isles.

## New arrival: the Little Egret in Austwick

*Michael Pearson*

The Little Egret is a small white heron which in my youth was a rare European visitor. It had been expanding its range into western and northern France and it was only in 1989 that significant numbers appeared along the south and east coast of England with some birds staying to overwinter here. In 1996 it first bred in Dorset and began to spread further north.

This summer a sole Little Egret, with its white plumage and strikingly yellow feet, appeared in Austwick Beck. Feeding on small fish, crustacea, insects and frogs, the solitary bird must have found plenty to eat as it remained for several



weeks. My many attempts to photograph this bird proved a failure so many thanks to Chris and Judy Leeming for providing this image. If you want to see other Little Egrets there are good numbers along the Ribble and Lune with a large colony at the RSPB Leighton Moss reserve. With climate change we may be seeing more of these fascinating birds in the future.

# The Revd Henry Ellershaw and his family in Chapel-le-Dale

*Peter Metcalfe*

Henry Ellershaw was perpetual curate of St Leonard's, Chapel-le-Dale, for over three decades before his death in 1814. He was a force in the dale as a charismatic preacher, teacher and progressive farmer and had a large and influential family.

Ellershaw is still a prominent name in Bentham where Henry was baptised in 1759, the fifth of six children. But the family had farmed for generations at Oakhead in nearby Tatham. His father, James, married Mary Carter of Gill Farm near Wennington at Thornton-in-Lonsdale and, as his older brother was taking over the family farm, James seems to have moved to Bentham with his growing family in about 1750.

Henry was ordained in 1782 at Chester Cathedral and licensed the following year at Duke Street Chapel in Westminster as perpetual curate at "Ingletonfell otherwise Chapel in le dale" [1]. He also officiated at Ingleton and from 1797 to 1799 was curate at Hornby church where his name appears on a displayed list of ministers.

Four years after his ordination Henry married Elizabeth Sedgwick of Scales (now Middle Scales). The farm is on Twisleton Scar high above the church, and was where all their eleven children were born between 1787 and 1809. Elizabeth already had family who clergy as three of her uncles were vicars [2]. Her father Thomas Sedgwick of Scales died when she was three years old, but his will provided her and her brother "with sufficient meat drink apparel and lodging agreeable to their condition and state during their minority" [3]. Then at the age of sixteen Elizabeth was left £200 by her maternal grandfather Stephen Sedgwick, a very prosperous gentleman of Ingleton [4].

In 1787, three months before the birth of their first child, the couple are recorded in the Court Baron of Ingleton Manor as transferring the house, land and cattlegaits at Scales to Robert Metcalfe and John Whaley [5]. As this was to be the family home for the next five decades and was not mentioned in Henry's will, we can assume that they became tenants.

Henry was also the village schoolmaster and in 1795 was made temporary headmaster of Bentham Grammar School. The school history states that he could not be given a permanent headship as he was not a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge, but it credits him with a BA degree which is not recorded elsewhere [6].



Fig: 1 Scales, home of the Ellershaws for 63 years

## Farmer and landowner

As well as being a clergyman and teacher, Henry was an innovative farmer and landowner, as noted in a 1794 survey. "Mr Ellershaw gave us the first account of watering land, which is done by him, and several of his neighbours, to great advantage: he floats it early in the spring, which not only rots the moss, but enriches the land considerably. The commons here are all stunted, every man who enjoys a privilege being restricted to the quantity of stock he is to put on them. There is not much land limed in the neighbourhood, and what is done, is applied very sparingly. Few or no leases granted; and those are of short duration. Tithes in kind; but Mr Ellershaw thinks it would be for the peace and interest of the community to have them valued. No turnips raised. Sheep generally of the Scotch kind. Wool sold a 6s. 3d. per stone this season. Some stockings knit for the Kendal market." [7].

The survey adds, "... [watering] is certainly is the cheapest and probably the most efficacious way of enriching ground. After all, a good deal of judgment is required to perform this operation in a proper manner" [8]. Henry was a cattle farmer as recorded in his will [9] and he subscribed to a veterinary work dealing with diseases of cattle and calves [10].

An indenture of 1809[11] shows that Henry paid £150 to Thomas Bradford of Ashdown Park in Sussex for the purchase of nearly five acres of land at Baines Close, part of Dale Close Farm, tenanted by Joseph Slinger. Henry had bought a parcel of land from Francis Metcalfe at the west end of New Pasture, and two closes called Carr Dale and Clapham on the east side of Great Dale Close from John Newton. Land Tax records from 1798 confirm he was owner-occupier of land in Ingleton Fells [12]. A sale notice in the Lancaster Gazette a year after Henry's death (Fig 2) shows he had owned more than 95 acres of land, including Backstone Gill.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
**On FRIDAY the 20th day of October, 1815, at the**  
**Bay Horse, in Ingleton, in the county of York,**  
**at six o'clock in the evening**

**T**HE following PARCELS of LAND,  
 situate within Twisleton, late the property of  
 the Rev. Mr. Ellershaw, deceased, and in such lots  
 as shall be then offered;

	A.	R.	P.
Carrs Dale,	10	3	30
Claphams Dale,	4	1	37
Baines Close,	4	3	18
Great Dale Close,	20	1	14
Blackstonegill,	55	0	0
<b>Statute,</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>

One thousand loads of lime have been laid on  
 Blackstonegill, within the last three years, which is  
 in the occupation of M<sup>rs</sup>. Ellershaw; the remainder  
 of the premises are in the occupation of Mr. Thos  
 Ellershaw.

\* \* \* Mr. RICHARD PROCTOR, of Ingleton, or  
 Mr. THOMAS ELLERSHAW, of Scales, in Ingleton  
 Fells, will shew the premises, and further particulars  
 may be had by applying to them

Fig: 2 Lancaster Gazette, 30 September 1815

Henry Ellershaw also owned freehold property in Dent in 1807 and 1809 [13], probably inherited from his wife's grandfather Thomas Sedgwick, who moved from there to Ingleton in about 1718.

It was not all farming and preaching. A court case at Lancaster Assizes in 1834 mentions in passing that Henry was fond of a game of whist in the 1790s and surprisingly seems to have played for money with the Metcalfes at nearby Weathercote and with John Marsden of Hornby Castle, Henry's patron at Hornby Church. [14]

The artist J. M. W. Turner visited the area around 1800 and produced a sketch of St Leonard's church with Ingleborough in the background [15]. Henry would almost certainly have met Turner when he was in the churchyard, and the official guide to St Leonard's even speculates that the people depicted under an umbrella could be the Ellershaws [16]. The final watercolour shows one of Henry's parishioners running for cover as lightning flashes overhead [17].

### Commitment to faith and flock

Henry seems to have been an enthusiastic but controversial minister. An 1815 memoir [18] recalls a violent summer thunderstorm. "Mr. E.'s house was situated nearly upon the top of the hill forming one side of the valley, and seemed to vie in elevation with Ingleborough, on the other. While the peals of thunder were re-echoing through the mountains, Mr Ellershaw called in his children (of whom he had a large number) to sing a hymn of prayer and praise to God." The memoir continues, "The leading features in his character were, humility, brokenness of spirit, and a heart overflowing with love and gratitude to his Redeemer. I know not that I have ever heard him speak of Jesus, either in public or in private, without his eyes being filled with tears."

We have an account of his last illnesses and death. Henry describes in a letter how he first fell ill while standing in as a preacher at another church. "I felt an indescribable something

floating through my head and which, on expressing, 'Thy will be done,' rendered me incapable of proceeding, and I sunk, down in the pulpit. ... a very large and respectable congregation dissolved in pity and in tears, in momentary expectation of witnessing ... the departure of a dying Minister." He was laid up for 16 days before being brought back home.

Henry again became incapacitated in May 1814 and reflects on those of his parishioners "who have expressed their hopes that this affliction might lead me to the grave. O that my love towards them may increase in full proportion that their hatred increases towards me". If he was indeed hated by some, we do not know if it was as a minister or a farmer. He mentions in passing that the application of leeches to his head helped reduce his stupor.

Henry's death the following month is described by a friend. "It was the first week in June, when, having gone over to see a friend a few miles off, he was taken suddenly ill. ... He had just had a living offered to him and though it was very small, and would have obliged him to keep a curate, yet he expressed a strong wish to accept of it, that he might have had a few pounds to give to the Bible Society. But God had better things in store for him: he was about to remove him from the post assigned him in the church militant, to the church triumphant in heaven." [18]

### The family in the dale and beyond

His widow Elizabeth lived on at Scales with son Thomas. In 1816 Elizabeth contributed to a collection for soldiers wounded at Waterloo and was still paying manorial rents in 1822. She is recorded in Ingleton Land Tax records as proprietor and occupier from 1824 to 1832 [12]. Her last local record is for the highway repair rate in 1839 [19]. She died a year later visiting her son Revd Henry Ellershaw II in Conisborough but was buried at Chapel-le-Dale. By then seven of her eleven children had predeceased her.

Of the six Ellershaw daughters who reached adulthood, four made very good marriages to prosperous traders, landowners and farmers – but three of them were to die in their thirties and two of the four sons died in their early twenties.

The eldest child, Mary Ellershaw, married Lancaster ironmonger, Thomas Walton, but the marriage was tragic. Three sons and a daughter were born in Lancaster with only one son surviving birth. Mary herself died, aged 31, soon after the last birth, leaving the spectacularly named Henry Ellershaw Thomas Sedgwick Walton to be brought up with family back in Chapel-le-Dale. But at the age of seven the boy too died. A tablet dedicated to Mary is inside St Leonard's church.

Agnes Ellershaw married James Dawson, a gentleman of Scotforth. They had eight children and moved to Liverpool. In the dale, her brother James inherited manorial property on his father's death, but sold it almost immediately. He was a churchwarden and was appointed Clerk to the Chapel, keeping the accounts for the Overseers of the Poor [20]. He died unmarried at Scales, aged 46, and was buried in Chapel-le-Dale.

Another son entered holy orders, leaving a trail of eponymous ministers behind him. Revd Henry Ellershaw II was vicar of Millington and other parishes in south Yorkshire,



while his son, Revd Henry Ellershaw III, became vicar of Mexborough [21]. He in turn had a son, Revd Henry Ellershaw IV, Professor of English and Pro Vice Chancellor of Durham University [22]. And his son, the fifth and final Henry Ellershaw, served as a District Commissioner in the Gold Coast. He died in Accra in 1938, aged 35, rendering that line extinct [23].

By contrast, Thomas Sedgwick Ellershaw remained in the dale as a farmer at Scales, marrying Ellen Bentham of nearby farm Philpin, but after less than two years of marriage Thomas died aged 25 and was buried at Chapel-le-Dale. His son Henry Thomas Sedgwick Ellershaw was born one month after his father's death, eventually becoming a farm labourer at Philpin. He was described as a 'husbandman of Chapel Houses' when he married Mary Guy in 1842 at Chapel-le-Dale. Mary was born at Newby Head where her parents, Thomas Guy and Isabella Thistlethwaite, were innkeepers. The Guys had farmed at Ribblesdale and Nether Lodge, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, later moving to the now-abandoned hamlet of Thorns where they lived for about six years. By 1841 they were at Chapel House and at Low Scales in 1847 [24].

H.T.S. and Mary Ellershaw lived at Chapel House with her parents before settling at the 49 acres of Broadrake in about 1847, where they were tenant farmers. After nine years there, Mary died aged 34 of 'inflammation of the bowels' and their four sons were sent to The North of England Agricultural School at Great Ayton.

Without his sons and the farm, widowed H.T.S. then saw out his days as a farm labourer at nearby Hodge Hole and Winterskills and later at Borrins in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. The grandson of the first Revd Henry Ellershaw died in 1891 at Gearstones Inn aged 73, the last of the family in the dale after more than a century of farming.

As for Henry's younger daughters, unmarried Jane lived in Ingleton in 1841, but moved to Bradford living at a clerical charity and caring for two orphaned girls. Meanwhile Ellen Ellershaw married Thomas Parkin of Blyth, Notts, a prosperous miller and farmer of 130 acres. They had five children before Ellen died, aged 36, after which the youngest sister Alice went to look after the family.

### Joining the Yorkshire gentry

The greatest catch of all was made by Elizabeth Ellershaw in 1819 when she married the wealthy Conyers Norton of Sawley Hall, some fifty miles away near Ripon [25]. She was



Fig: 3 Turner's sketch of St Leonard's



Fig: 4 'Ingleborough from Chapel-le-Dale' painted by Turner around 1809

just 21 while he was a 45-year-old member of the landed gentry, former Middle Temple lawyer [26] and sometime dashing officer in the fashionable 1st Regiment of Foot (now the Grenadier Guards) [27]. He mingled with royalty and radical government ministers [28] while at his London property and sponsored racing and field sports in Yorkshire where he owned 1800 acres of land [29].

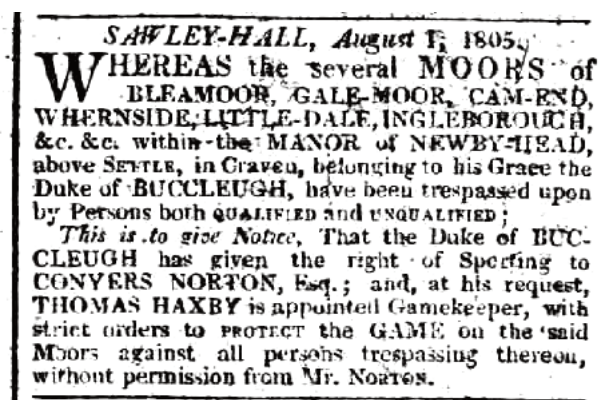


Fig: 5 A warning to poachers in Chapel-le-Dale



Fig: 6 Major Edward Norton was among fellow officers at Sebastopol on 26 April 1855. He died of cholera three weeks later aged 34.

The marriages of Mary and Ellen Ellershaw are explained by local and family connections, but Elizabeth's elevation to the gentry is worthy of a Jane Austen novel and was for long a mystery until the discovery of an 1805 notice in the York Herald (Fig 5).

From this warning to poachers, we know that Norton had shooting rights in Chapel-le-Dale. As well as owning much of the land around Fountains Abbey, he is also named as owner and occupier of land in Ingleton, and in 1819 a tenant is named as Mr Farrer, whose family became prominent local landowners [12]. Norton must have admired Elizabeth Ellershaw at church on his many visits to the dale and waited for her coming-of-age.

Conyers Norton died after seven years together in their splendid mansion, obliging Elizabeth to return to her mother at Scales with her five-year-old son. But in 1829 Elizabeth herself died aged 31. An heir to great wealth, Edward Norton was sent to Rugby School in 1834 at the same time as Thomas Hughes, the author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays* [30]. Edward touched history in more ways in a distinguished military career in the 88th Regiment of Foot, the Connaught Rangers, serving as a major at the battles of Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol in the Crimea [31]. He was caught in an iconic 'Band of Brothers' image by Roger Fenton, the world's first war photographer, and his much-lamented death from cholera was announced in the Times by William Howard Russell, regarded as the first war correspondent [32].

A grandson of the Revd Henry Ellershaw, Major Edward Norton had never forgotten his roots in Chapel-le-Dale, where he was christened in 1820. Visitors can still see his mother's memorial, an opulent marble tablet strangely out of place in the simple surroundings of St Leonard's church



Fig: 7 Tablet commemorating Elizabeth Ellershaw in Chapel-le-Dale church

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## Epitaph for a Tree

Michael Pearson

Storm Arwen, a powerful extratropical cyclone, struck Britain on 26th November 2021 leaving devastation in its wake. With gusts in excess of 90 mph over 110,000 homes were left without power in the north of England alone. Many thousands were still without power a week later. In Scotland it is estimated that 16 million trees were damaged or blown over completely.

In Austwick Hall wood we lost over thirty trees, mostly on the northern boundary. But for us saddest loss was that of a magnificent beech, possibly the oldest tree in our woodland. In life it was impressive with its gnarled trunk, burrs and rot holes. With a girth of 5 ½ m, at chest height, this fine specimen brought down other neighbouring trees as it came crashing down. The scene was one of utter devastation and in the following weeks the priority was to clear away all the tangled branches so that we could assess what else had been damaged and which trees could be salvaged. The temptation is then to continue with the chainsaw to disc the larger branches and trunk to provide an immense





supply of firewood. But this seemed such a waste of the timber when it could be used to create something more enduring such as a piece of furniture.

Initial research suggested that there were at least two options. The first was to remove the logs from the wood and get them to a saw mill where they could be planked. With such a steep site and poor access we decided that this was not feasible: the damage to the rest of the woodland would be too great. Another possibility was to find a mobile sawmill which could be transported to the fallen tree. Unfortunately this would require heavy lifting equipment to raise each log onto the milling platform. We were beginning to give up hope when we found someone with a portable mill. This consists of a steel framework which is attached to a log on the ground and acts as a guide for the chainsaw. So in the summer of 2022 Jack Barister took three days to mill our beech tree. We then stacked the planks with spacers so that they can season over the next couple of years.

One notable feature of the tree was a large burr on one of the limbs. When the tree fell its weight half buried the burr in the ground. When it was extracted it proved to be a meter in diameter. Having had bowls turned from our timber in the past we wanted to do the same to display the distinctive features of the wood. This turned out to be a major undertaking: when the burr was extracted from the ground it proved too heavy to lift. It was then cut in two with a chain

saw and taken by Jonathan Leech to his workshop. With the aid of a block and tackle the burr was lifted to the lathe. The initial blank has been cut and it will now slowly season over the next couple of years and then turned again to produce the finished bowl. Working wood is not for the impatient!

The beech was probably the oldest tree in the woodland but how old? Unfortunately there was too much rotten wood in the core of the tree so we could not count the number of annual rings to get a precise age. There are several formulae, that have been published, for assessing the age of beeches but these gave a range from 229 to 851 years for our tree. Thinking that it must be possible to narrow this range I went back to examine our tree to take a closer look. By counting the number of growth rings over several measured sections it is possible to calculate the mean width of a tree ring. Then by converting the girth (circumference) to the radius of the tree (and deducting the width of the bark), then dividing by the mean annual ring width it is possible to estimate its age. Thus when our tree was felled by the storm it was between 260 and 315 years old. So it was planted between 1706 and 1761.

In time we will have some furniture and a magnificent work of art to remember our tree. Meanwhile the remains of the trunk and root plate will stand as a memorial to its life. As a natural sculpture it will crumble gently back into the soil. After all dead and rotting wood is a natural component of living woodlands.

# Migration in North Craven, 1560 - 1790

Michael Pearson

Many of us think of migration in terms of movement of people between countries. Prior to the early seventeenth century much of the movement out of England was to Ireland and the Low Countries. Then from the 1630s this changed to immigration to North America. It has been estimated that over the next 70 years about 380,000 people sailed to America [1]. During the same period many people came to this country fleeing religious persecution in Europe. Overall there was a net emigration from England. There was also internal migration with movement, for example, between the countryside and the towns.

If you have tried researching your family history you may have encountered the problem of elusive ancestors! Having traced your great, great etc grandfather to some rural parish, where he died, you then discover that in that very same village there is no trace of his marriage or even his birth. So where did he spend those years between birth and burial? Whilst the movement of people between parishes, towns and counties or even between countries is common in our own times it is often assumed that there was little migration before the industrial revolution with the creation of centres of manufacturing and trade. And yet there are numerous examples of people born in North Craven who then went onto successful careers elsewhere in the country in Stuart and early Georgian times. For example Brayshaw [2] lists a number of people from Giggleswick who rose to prominence nationally. Roger Altham (1648-1714) was born in Settle and became the Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford. Although William Paley (1743-1805) was born in Peterborough (where his father, also called William, was canon of the cathedral) he moved to Giggleswick when his father was appointed as headmaster of the school. William junior went onto Christ's College, Cambridge and then held various clerical posts in Cumbria, culminating in the archdeaconry of Carlisle. At the other end of the social scale were the vagrants. The very existence of the extensive Tudor legislation demonstrates attempts to control the movement of the poor from rural areas into towns in search of work and a livelihood. So how much migration occurred in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and how can it be measured? This is of interest not only to the historian considering aspects of social mobility but also to the demographer calculating population growth and decline.

## Parish Registers

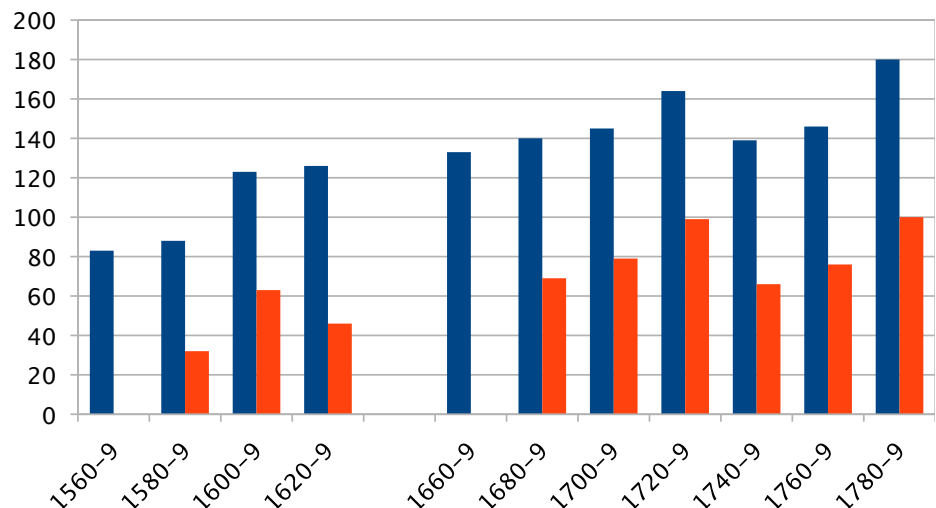
Before the introduction of national censuses the main source of information about individual people is found in the parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials. So we know, in theory, where a person was born, married and died. Sometimes the registers also provide details of where the parents and marriage partners lived which provide clues to migration. But the registers are far from perfect, with gaps, inconsistent recording of details as well as errors in spelling. But this is all we have to go on.

Two methods have been used to assess levels of migration: the turnover of surnames and marriage distances (sometimes also referred to as marriage horizons). In the former it is possible to quantify the number of surnames in an area and then examine the number of new surnames appearing and disappearing over time. The new names would indicate movement into the area whilst those names lost could be either due to emigration or death. What is not clear is where the 'new' names came from, a neighbouring village or a place more distant. With marriage distances an assessment can be made as to whether the partners were from the same parish or whether one of them, usually the groom, came from further afield. If the couple then settled in the groom's parish this would be a measure of emigration. By comparing these two measures for a single parish we may be able to get a clearer idea of the historic levels of migration.

## Surnames

The first entries in the Giggleswick registers date from 1558. The baptismal records include the name of the father and these have been used to examine the turnover in surnames. Taking the period 1560-69 as a base line there were 527 baptisms with 83 different surnames. Then for the period 1580-89 the surnames listed were compared with those for

Fig 1 Total number of surnames and new surnames



the earlier period: of the 88 surnames 27 had been lost and 32 had been gained. Or, new names accounted for nearly 8% of the 418 baptisms. The next step was to compare the surnames for 1600-09 with those for 1580-89 and so on. The results are shown in Figure 1. Unfortunately there are gaps in the registers so the process was re-started, using 1660-69 as a new baseline, with comparisons up to 1780-89. In any ten year period the new names accounted for between 36 and 62% of the surnames recorded in the registers.

Figure 1 shows that there was an increase in the number of surnames from 1560 to 1790. This mirrors a growth in the number of baptisms for the same period. There was also an increase in the number of new family names. Thus there were significant movements of people into the parish throughout the period.

### Marriage Distances

Unfortunately the early registers rarely record the origin of the bride and groom. This may have been because both partners were from within the parish or simply that it was not a requirement to record this information. The one exception for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was from 1600-09. Of the 169 marriages both bride and groom were from within the parish in 161 instances. In a further seven cases one of the partners was living within 10 miles of the church with the remaining two marriages one of the couple lived more than 10 miles away.

Figure 2 shows the proportions from 1700 to 1789. During this time 61 to 78% of the marriages were of couples who lived within the parish. But from 7 to 17% of instances one of the couple lived more than 10 miles away. The remainder (from 12 to 25%) involved one partner coming from outside Giggleswick, from neighbouring parishes up to 10 miles away. If the bride was married in her home parish and then moved to live in the groom's parish then this would be a case of emigration but if it was Giggleswick was the groom's home parish and the bride moved to the parish then this would be an example of immigration.

Unlike the surname analysis there does not appear to be a clear trend with the marriage distances. For example, the percentage of those where one of the couple had lived ten or more miles away remained fairly constant apart from a peak in 1740-9 and 1760-9. Nevertheless the figures point to an average of about a third of the marriages were being between people where one of them came from outside the parish.

Figure 2 Marriage distances for Giggleswick

	Total marriages	Within parish	Up to 10 miles	10+ miles
1700-9	99	69 (70%)	20 (20%)	10 (10%)
1720-9	124	84 (68%)	31 (25%)	9 (7%)
1740-9	98	67 (68%)	17 (18%)	14 (14%)
1760-9	133	81 (61%)	24 (12%)	23 (17%)
1780-9	140	109 (78%)	21 (15%)	10 (7%)

### Discussion

Some historians have concluded that parish registers are of little use for studying migration or that the information provided by marriage horizons under estimate personal mobility of both men and women [3]. Perhaps as a result, migration is largely ignored by many local historians or at least assumed to be negligible during the centuries preceding the Industrial Revolution. This study shows that this is not the case: there was considerable movement of people into and out of the parish of Giggleswick. What remains unclear are the reasons for such migration.

Just getting the data is a laborious and time-consuming process. To start to understand the reasons for the migration requires extensive further work with the registers as well as other sources such as manorial records, wills & property deeds. By piecing together a family's history it may be possible to understand the many reasons for movement into and out of an area.

In the case of Giggleswick with the regular movement of people there remained a core of families who stayed in the place over the centuries. Of the 83 surnames present in 1560-9 just under a half were still there over 200 years later (1780-9). Many of these, such as Newhouse, Paley, Stackhouse, Armitstead, Clapham etc have clear associations with local place names and may date well before the 16th century. It is tempting to suggest that these core families were rooted in the locality through their ties to the land, as yeomen and husbandmen, with sufficient land to earn a living. Unfortunately the early parish records provide meagre evidence for the occupations of the people recorded. But this can be ascertained from probate inventories etc. Then there are the younger sons and daughters who may not have inherited the land and perhaps moved away to pursue their lives elsewhere.

It was not until the 1680s that occupations such as miller, school master and grocer make an appearance in Giggleswick registers. Then from the 18th century the occupations become more diverse with apothecary, white-smith, excise officer, serge-weaver, inn holder, corn factor, and clothier being recorded. All this indicating an influx of people from elsewhere and a diversification away from a solely agricultural economy.

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# Westmorland Ho: NCHT Summer Outing 2022

*Robin Bundy*

On a wet and rather dreary morning in June 2022 fourteen members and our leader David Johnson gathered in the centre of Shap Village looking forward to David's nineteenth Summer Outing. The weather forecast was not promising but in the event a gradual improvement led to a fine sunny afternoon. Also unpromising was that the road to Crosby Ravensworth, that we were to take to our first destination, was signed as closed. A scouting expedition by David proved that this was in fact the case so we set off in convoy behind him, narrowly avoiding the far end of the obstruction.

Our first stop was in the village of Maulds Meaburn. The name Meaburn comes from 'Old English' meaning meadow stream and indeed the River Lyvennet flows almost due north for the full length of the village through a wide village green. Maulds is a corruption of Maud's. The manor of Meaburn was granted to Hugh de Morville by Henry II but following Hugh's involvement in the murder of Thomas a Becket the northern part of the manor was forfeited back to the king and became known as King's Meaburn. The village forming the southern part was retained by Hugh's sister Maud and became Maud's (or Maulds) Meaburn.

David explained to us that the village retains one of the best preserved layouts of a medieval linear village with houses facing the green on both sides, sited on the original ancient tofts on which the householders would have kept hens and perhaps a pig and grown a few vegetables. Behind the tofts are the crofts that on the east side are separated by a back lane. There is no public right of way on the back lane but running between two of the tofts is a narrow vennel (cf. ginnel or snicket) allowing access to the crofts and beyond. On the west side of the village only the earthworks of a back lane survive. We did not venture through the vennel but David pointed out that the crofts retain the "reverse S" shape resulting from the fact that a team of oxen ploughing a croft were unable to make a sharp U-turn at the head of the field and needed to veer off to one side in order to swing round. The dry stone walls are of particular interest and characterised by large granite erratics at the base, a mixture of large and small stones throughout the height and very little batter. One short section on the south east side is totally medieval in construction and much of the walls through the village have been repaired/rebuilt on the medieval base.

We walked first along the east side noting ancient footings under several of the houses, many with a footprint the width of two of the original tofts. We passed the weir that fed the mill leat. There is still a sluice gate though the leat itself is now substantially silted up or filled in. Towards the mill where a field borders the road there remain the platforms for two or three further houses, long since abandoned and with no visible sign of the walls. Reaching the old mill itself it was possible to discern the original building that is now subsumed into a much more modern house. The building does retain a



Maulds Meaburn. Remnants of Mill Wheel.



Maulds Meaburn. Section of Medieval Wall.

datestone, for 1690, that bears the Lowther family coat of arms, Sir John Lowther having bought the manor early in the 17th century. The original mill on the site dates to four centuries earlier. The 1858 Ordnance Survey map shows the building as being then a corn mill and saw mill. Although having been converted into a house some years ago the wooden axle with the remnants of a few spokes of the mill wheel can be seen protruding from the north side of the building at ground level. Towards the river are the remains of the return leat or race.

The house opposite the mill is the former Bay Horse, one of two public houses in the village, and returning on the west side of the green we passed the former Mason's Arms, also now a house with its Brew House next door. Down this west side is an incursion onto the green in the form of Maulds Meaburn School, built in 1834 as a National School for the education of the poor in the principles of the Church of England. This closed in 1963.

Also closed was the road to our next destination, Dalemain, which is between Penrith and Pooley Bridge at the north end of Ullswater. Again David went out on a scouting expedition and returned with the news that the blockage was just at the point where we would turn off towards Penrith so we were clear to go. We reassembled in the car park at

Dalemain for our various picnic lunches before moving to the courtyard, at the rear of the house, to be met by Keith Cooper who was to be our guide for the afternoon. Dalemain claims to be one of the most beautiful and impressive stately houses in the north-west but our first view was of barns, stables, coach-house and the hotchpotch that is the western corner of the house itself. Keith began with an outline of the history of the house.

Dalemain stands close to the boundary between Cumberland and Westmorland that is formed by the River Eamont at a point where the river was fordable. Although there is evidence of an earlier settlement, the first recorded building on the site was a fortified pele tower erected in the reign of Henry II (in the 12th century), one of a series built in the north of England to protect against the Scots. This tower remains embedded in the present building. In the 14th century a manor house and a second tower were built and then in the 16th century two wings were added with a kitchen and additional living accommodation. This created something of a maze of rooms and passages in the present day house. This includes the “Fretwork Room” with its magnificent 16th century plasterwork ceiling.

In 1769 the Layton family sold the house and manor to Edward Hasell, later knighted. That Edward had the means to do so was thanks to the generosity of Lady Anne Clifford, his employer. He had been her “Chiefe Officer” or Steward and received a substantial legacy from her on her death in 1676. It would seem that she had it in mind that this would allow him to buy a grand house and become part of the gentry



Introduction to Dalemain



Dalemain internal Courtyard

as she gave him a copy of her portrait, by John Bracken, and one of her famous locks the key of which hangs in the house today. Lady Anne’s diary for 1676, some of which is in Edward’s hand, is also displayed in the house. This Edward made few changes to the building and it was his son, also Edward, who, in 1744, added the magnificent front in the Georgian style and so created the house we see today. The house has passed through the male line of the Hasell family until 1972 when it was inherited by Sylvia Mary McCosh, nee Hasell who had married Bryce McCosh in 1948. The family now take the name Hasell – McCosh and continue to live in the house.

Our tour began with a visit to the Great Barn. Keith Cooper was keen to hear the opinions of David and other members on the age and sequence of phases of building. We passed first through the barn itself into a courtyard in the far corner of which is a dovecote housing a large number of nesting alcoves built into the internal walls. On the outside of the wall is a protruding course of thin flat sandstone slabs to prevent rats climbing to gain access. The barn itself is said to be one of the largest loft barns in the North of England and this was evident when we climbed the stairs into the loft level. Keith related that the diaries of Sir Edward Hassel referred to the building of a barn in 1685 but this may have been the raising of an earlier building. Many of the roof timbers including the ridge were seen to be machine sawn indicating a relatively recent (19th century?) re-roofing and while the front half of the roof had visible slates with mortar torching, the back half had a modern sarking. The loft holds a large and interesting collection of old domestic and agricultural tools and machines mostly brought from a McCosh property in Scotland. Also at the far end is the Fell Pony Museum. Sylvia Mary McCosh was a renowned breeder of Fell Ponies and the museum includes many items of hers.

Moving to the house we spent some time examining and speculating on the variations in the stonework on the western corner of the building. Then we entered a room from the 16th century extensions with its large fireplace that had been much “messed about with” over the years. From there we were able to enter a small internal courtyard enclosed when the 1744 Georgian house had been added. This is not normally accessible to the public but clearly accessed by the family dog. We then viewed the front of the house with its Georgian symmetry. The pink sandstone used on this façade and elsewhere on the house and outbuildings was brought from a quarry at nearby Stainton. Entering the house by the front door we then followed very much the public tour route through the building. The highlight for most of us was probably the Chinese room furnished at the height of the 18th century fashion for Chinoiserie. The wallpaper, hand-painted in bright colours with birds, flowers and insects, is in amazing condition being 265 years old. Keith told us that it had been imported in large sheets packed flat between wooden boards and that it can be dated exactly to 1757 because the invoice still exists in the Dalemain archive. Having visited many parts not accessible to the general public we finished in comfortable time for refreshments in the tea room; a pleasant end to another of David Johnson’s Summer Outings.



# Recent acquisitions at the Museum of North Craven Life

Heather Lane

Finding the time to clear your attic or go through family papers is never easy, but many people took advantage of the recent lock-downs to do just that. As a result, one of the unexpected side-effects of the pandemic has been that the Museum has received numerous offers of interesting material from far and wide over the last eighteen months. We are grateful to everyone who has been in touch to discuss making a gift to the collection at The Folly. As an Accredited Museum, we are guided by a Collections Development Policy that focuses on acquiring material that promotes a clear understanding of North Craven and its heritage. We have been

delighted to have been able to expand the collection in ways that help us meet this objective.

Tony Marshall contacted us about the records and photographs compiled by his father, the late Peter Marshall, of Ingleton and previously of Low Bentham. Peter had wide interests in local history, genealogy and heraldry and was an active member of the Ewecross Historical Society. Over the last 20 years he gathered photographs of and meticulously recorded the roadside furniture of the North Craven area, such as milestones and post boxes, some of which are now no longer present. We were delighted to receive a series of ring binders of fully illustrated historical information relating especially to Bentham and other areas around Settle. Peter also researched and documented the heraldry found in several local churches. He was an avid photographer, and a stalwart of the Bentham Camera Club, and his collection included the club's minute books and trophies.

Books and maps of North Craven interest collected by Allen Butterfield, including a set of pamphlets by Arthur Raistrick on the archaeology of Malham Moor, were donated by his daughter, Mrs Ann Woon. These have been added to our growing local history library, along with a set of photographs taken at the unveiling of the Elgar plaque on the former NatWest Bank in 1989. A kind donation by Anne Read enabled the Museum to purchase two nineteenth century Burton-in-Lonsdale flagons stamped for use by the local chemist, 'Shepherd & Walker, Settle'. Other purchases included a 1626 indenture on vellum relating to land in Bordley, near Malham, and a fascinating set of photographic slides produced during a geology field trip to Settle in 1919.

Gillian and Neil Roberts kindly deposited material collected over several decades by their family, in particular the late Ian Roberts. This substantial collection of items of local interest includes records from Close House Farm in



Staff of Harger's fretwork workshop (Anthony Horner) (c) NCBPT

Giggleswick, photographs, maps and prints, genealogical material and veterinary equipment. A team of dedicated volunteers helped to sort and list the donation ready for transport to the Museum and then spent several months producing a detailed hand list before the items were packaged and placed in storage. Members of the team are currently carrying out research in preparation for cataloguing the collection.

Other items acquired in the past year included a set of Settle guidebooks donated by Alison Parry in memory of her parents, Ron & Pat Bryer. Karen Marshall donated books about the local area in memory of her late father, Andrew Marshall, who is much missed by members of the Museum's governing body, the Board of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust, not least for his wise counsel on financial matters and for his unfailing good humour. A selection of these books, with commemorative bookplates, will be available for visitors to browse through when the Museum reopens for the 2023 season.

Responding to a request for more Jubilee items to add to the collection, Chris Petrie kindly gifted an Edward VIII coronation handkerchief. Robin Bundy donated a mug from the Golden Jubilee in 2002, found in the Swimming Pool Shop! A display of commemorative wares was mounted at The Folly to mark the occasion of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which included a number of ceramics from the Roberts Collection, originally presented to children in Settle and Giggleswick.

Michael Pearson donated a set of 19th century brass tokens from Ingleton Industrial Co-operative. The co-operative movement, which expanded rapidly after originating in Rochdale in 1844, returned profits to its members in the form of a dividend, calculated as a proportion of each pound spent. One way to keep track of a member's spending was to give

an equivalent face value in tokens with every purchase. When the dividend was declared, all tokens brought in were exchanged at the dividend rate. As the most recent items to enter the collection, this set was included in a display to mark the Museum's forty-fifth anniversary in June 2022, alongside some of the earliest acquisitions made in 1976.

Perhaps the most significant acquisition made during the year was the Horner Photographic Studio Collection, which was transferred to The Folly on 14 May 2021. This was made possible by an award from the Arts Council England/Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, matched by donations to a Crowdfunder appeal, which was very generously supported by many local residents. The collection contains well over 1000 glass plate and film negatives, as well as prints, depicting Settle people and places between 1864 and 1960. The appeal and an additional ACE Culture Recovery Fund grant allowed the Museum to recruit photographic expert Dr Damian Hughes to work on the Horner Collection cataloguing project. With his help, we have been able to sample the images to prepare workflows, recruit a team of enthusiastic volunteers to assist with research, repackaging, digitisation and description of each item, and develop a new set of catalogue templates. Showcasing this initial work on the images, the Horner Collection was the focus for the Museum's Heritage Open Days in September 2022, which attracted a great deal of local interest, especially in the studio portraits and caving photographs. Members of the Horner family provided additional images and further information about the studio. The Museum acquired a stereoscope viewer, given by the curator, for use during the event. Alison Tyas gifted a 1930s doll's tea service that had been owned by Winifred Horner and the open weekend encouraged a number of new volunteers to come forward. More are always welcome: please contact [hdo@ncbpt.org.uk](mailto:hdo@ncbpt.org.uk) if you are interested. The Museum is delighted that the

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Advertisement from the Roberts Collection (HE Lane) (c) NCBPT

significance of the Horner Collection has been recognised by the Art Fund, through a grant under their Reimagine scheme that will enable work on these outstanding photographs to continue for a further eighteen months.

## The Brayshaw Memorial and the Plague Stone

*Michael Pearson*

Many of us will have driven or walked past this memorial on numerous occasions and probably never really noticed it. Sitting by the side of the road, near the Craven Arms, it is often obscured by the tall grasses of the verge so it is easy to miss it.

Thomas Brayshaw needs little introduction to readers of the Journal: his book, co-authored with Ralph Robinson, *A History of the Ancient Parish of Giggleswick*, is packed with details of the local history of the area. On page 150 he provides an account of the Plague Stone. It was originally one of three crosses placed as medieval boundary markers which were subsequently destroyed at the Reformation. At the time of an outbreak of the plague (1597-8) this stone acted as a quarantine boundary with food being deposited in exchange for coins placed in the depression in the stone. This depression was filled with water or vinegar to act as a disinfectant.

So what is the evidence for this? The Giggleswick parish register does indicate that there were excessive deaths in 1597-8 but there is no specific record of plague being the cause. However, there is a similar stone at Penrith and a similar explanation. Perhaps one of our readers would be interested in doing some further research: are there other examples in Craven and what happened to the other two crosses in Giggleswick?

Then there is also the reference to the Settle Naturalist & Antiquarian Society. Does anyone know anything about this group and whether any of their records have survived.

# Sheila Haywood (1929-2022)

## Vice-President of North Craven Heritage Trust 2003-2020

Sheila, who had lived in Horton-in-Ribblesdale since 1971, was a lady of diverse skills and interests who made a lasting impact on so many areas of our lives in Craven. I am indebted to Margaret Barker, Audrey Dakin and the Revd. Stephen Dawson for enabling me to write what I hope is a well-rounded summary of her life, but I am sure there is much more out there still waiting to be discovered. If anyone has any other contributions, I should be delighted to hear from them.

In the early issues of our Journal, Sheila's activities mainly centred around the musical life of Craven, because she was after all a professional musician who had studied the flute and piano at the Royal College of Music in London, where one of her tutors was William Lloyd Webber, father of Andrew (now Lord Lloyd Webber). She was a born teacher and taught teacher training at Furzedown Teacher Training College in Tooting. Margaret remembers her talking so enthusiastically about her time there and the exciting and novel ways in which she could engage her students, many of whom kept in touch and visited her in Horton. Living and working in the London area, gave Sheila the opportunity of meeting many other professional musicians and many years later she invited the eminent conductor Vernon Handley, of Liverpool Philharmonic fame to rehearse and conduct a local group of performers to raise money for the church.

Although a southerner by birth and upbringing, her heart was obviously in the north and not long after she had bought South View in Horton in 1971, she obtained the post of head of music at Clitheroe Girls' Grammar School. This enabled Sheila to commute daily to her work and also take an active part in the life of the village. She founded a church choir for the three parishes of Horton, Stainforth and Langcliffe and was in charge of the readers' rota at St Oswald's, where she herself read beautifully with great thought and power. She also formed the Craven Camerata, a group of experienced musicians who met every Friday evening to rehearse at South View. They gave regular concerts, always in aid of a good cause, especially North Craven Heritage Trust's Historic Churches Fund. I am greatly indebted to Audrey Daley for collecting and preserving a wonderful collection of programmes, which showed the wide range of local churches in which they performed and also the wide-ranging repertoire which Sheila promoted. Nothing was too challenging and comprised both sacred and secular music. She had a great interest in English folk song and often chose work with local connections, e.g. Elgar's song cycle, including 'My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land', which linked closely to his friendship with Dr Charles Buck, with whom he stayed regularly and



performed in the music room at Cravendale in Giggleswick. With her love of teaching, Sheila also set up a sight-singing group for people who could not read music, many of whom said how it transformed their lives. She herself took part in other groups, playing the flute in the orchestra for the Settle Operatic Society's annual performances.

Sheila's great organisational skills led her to be closely involved from the start in fund-raising for the replacement of the lead roof and strengthening of the tower at St. Oswald's, ready to take an augmented ring of six bells. This led to the publication of *We Raised the Roof* by Sheila and Margaret Barker, which states on the title page, 'A vast sum was needed – a tiny community triumphed'. Sheila tackled the project with immense professionalism and produced publicity material of the

highest standard, securing the support of Alan Bennett and other eminent figures and organisations from the outset, e.g. English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation. She also, through the Chairmanship of well-known local farmer and gamekeeper, George Perfect got the whole village and local individuals involved in fundraising. Rag-rug making was a particularly successful effort (see NCHT Journal 1993,19-20). Sheila designed the emblem of the Golden Lion for the rugs, which were made in quantity and raffled. The Appeal, which lasted from 1989-1996, raised a magnificent £93,752. The final words of *We Raised the Roof* are 'Mission Accomplished ... We remember seven years of hard work, comradeship, fun, frustration, sadness and dogged determination, which have overcome all odds and culminated in an achievement that seemed totally impossible when we started'.

As if this was not enough in a very busy life, Sheila was directly involved in founding a WEA class in local history in 1984 which led to the publication of *Horton-in-Ribblesdale, the story of an upland parish* and the founding of Horton Local History Group, which has gathered an impressive and extensive archive of material now available on the Yorkshire Dales Community Archives website. Sheila herself had a great interest in history and was especially keen on tracing her own ancestry. She travelled up and down the country in her tiny camper van to do this.

It is hardly surprising that, as she approached the age of 90, Sheila sadly realised that she must sell her beloved South View and move into sheltered accommodation in Settle. She faced this change with great stoicism and fortitude, but clearly found it hard to be no longer at the heart of a vibrant community. Not long after her move, things became even

harder, due to the period of lock-down introduced after the outbreak of Covid and the attitude of caution it has left behind.

Summing up Sheila's life, Margaret Barker says, 'Regarded in high esteem by the village – a person who was intelligent,

compassionate, articulate and ready to speak up for village issues when required, having tirelessly researched any problem which arose'. To which, I would simply add that Sheila's legacy extends far beyond Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

*Anne Read*

## A Book of Barns and the Clapham Art Group

*Margaret Blackburne*

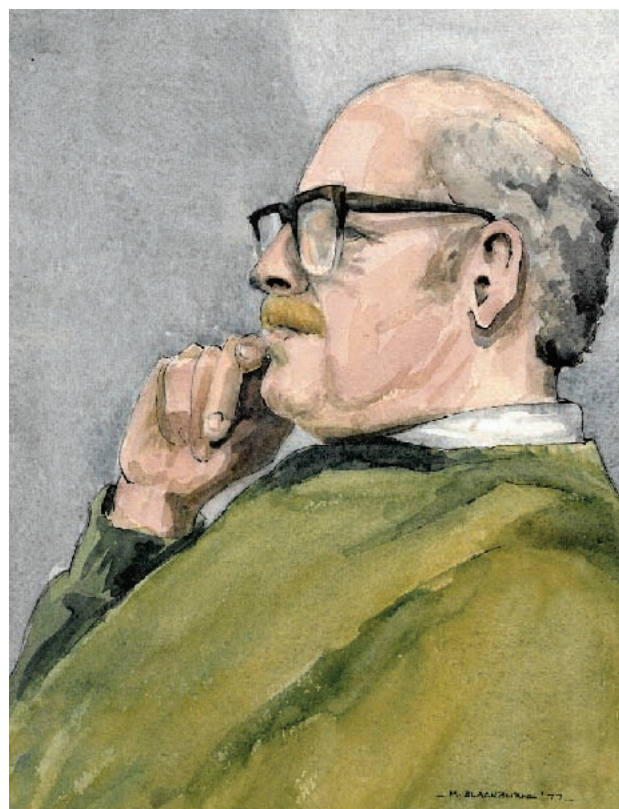
When I was asked to write a piece about *A Book of Barns*, which I have had published, and the story behind it, I little realised what a nostalgic journey it would be. This is more a tribute to the very knowledgeable people who have inspired and helped me during this journey.

Over many years, I have drawn and painted some of the barns in the Dales (I understand that there are some 4,500 of them!) and have become increasingly concerned about their disappearance and decay, so during the Covid lockdown I gradually put together a collection of them as a record, and the book includes photos of many of them as they are now-disappeared, crumbling or converted to dwellings.

Born and brought up on a local farm, I have had a life-long interest in art and studied at Harrogate College of Art until coming back home to paint landscapes and barns in the natural beauty of the Dales. When I was invited to join Clapham Art Group in 1972, this interest in barns was encouraged by the Group's Leader, Cyril Harrington, who was Head of Art at Giggleswick School and had previously worked with the Ancient Monuments Commission and Listed Buildings in Yorkshire. He, and his wife Betty, who had trained at Manchester Art School, became my mentors and life-long friends, as did many of the other members.

Clapham Art Group has an interesting and unique history in that it was founded in 1949 by Peggy Macdonald, a Slade-trained artist and wife of the Agent for the Farrer Estate, who wanted to paint with a small group of like-minded people, in the potting shed of Reginald Farrer's Nursery, and this included the Harringtons. Their first exhibition was held there in 1951 and later the Group, with Cyril as Leader, met every Tuesday evening in the Old Manor House.

Cyril also played a huge part in the formation of the Settle and District Civic Society, being the Chair in 1969 - 71. I remember clearly him telling me how Dr. Barry Brewster burst into Huntsman's Cottage in Giggleswick to declare "Guess what the buggers have done now?" In the process of widening the road at the Royal Oak corner, the workmen had taken away the Mounting Steps and put them on the Council tip up Buckhaw Brow, where they were found broken up. This led to a rallying cry to form a group to prevent serious architectural destruction and hence the Settle and District Civic Society was formed, which later became the North Craven Heritage Trust!



Cyril Harrington

When Cyril moved to Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1977 after the death of Betty, he asked me if I would take over and lead the Group, with the same aims of encouraging the practice of drawing and painting, with helpful criticism given, but no tuition, as members were all practising artists. These aims apply even now! When Cyril died, I decided to retire as Leader in 2011 and hand over to the very capable hands of Linda Clemence, our Leader now, and the Group will be holding our 70th Annual Exhibition at the end of May in Clapham Village Hall, where we have met weekly since the late 1990s.

Having known and been a friend of Bill Mitchell, MBE, the former Editor of the Dalesman, all my life. He too encouraged me to paint after I became widowed with two very small children in 1969. He asked me to do pen and ink drawings to illustrate articles he had written, mainly about birds, and to visit the Dalesman's offices in Clapham to see all the work being sent in by Dales artists, such as Janet Rawlings and Edward Jeffries. Trips out made me more aware of the wonderful scenery and natural beauty of our landscape and how lucky we are to live here. One piece of advice he gave me was to always keep my original sketches, and little did I realise the wisdom of this until I started to put together my idea of a collection of barns!

Writing this article has been a wonderful opportunity to share my gratitude, and pay tribute to two dear friends who have contributed so much to our area and to our lives.

# CONTRIBUTORS

## Howard Beck

Howard was born in Leeds and has travelled the world extensively, led an expedition to Arctic Norway, cycled in the Atacama Desert, and spent eight months exploring the largely uncharted jungle of central New Guinea in search of the deepest cave system in the world. For over thirty years he has worked as a freelance writer and photographer and been a regular contributor to *Dalesman*, *Yorkshire Ridings* and many other local and national magazines. He has published several books, including *Ancestors in the Landscape* (Blurb, 2014), *Wordsworth's Lake District* (Blurb 2013) and *Wild Flowers of Yorkshire* (Crowood Press, 2010).

## Robin Bundy

Has lived in North Craven since 1987 and is one of our trustees. He was an industrial chemist in the plastics industry and in retirement has developed an interest in local history. He is past chairman and currently archivist for Malhamdale Local History Group and is also a volunteer at the Folly.

## Gillian Jones

I have lived in Craven for the last 50 years, moving up here after finishing at Leeds University. I lived in Settle for 4 years before moving to Long Preston in 1976. After retiring, I developed my interest in local heritage and helped start the Long Preston Heritage Group, a condition required as part of St Mary's Church Heritage Lottery Fund Grant to repair its bells. I'm still the Heritage Group's secretary, after 14 years, and become a Trustee of the North Craven Heritage Trust last year.

## Pam Jordan

Born into a farming family in Giggleswick and married a, now retired, local solicitor. Some branches of my family can be traced back at least 14 generations in various parts of North Craven, so the area is very much in my genes!

## Heather Lane

Is the Honorary Curator of the Museum of North Craven Life.

## Peter Metcalfe

After retiring as Head of French at Settle High School, Peter completed a doctorate in computer-assisted language learning & worked for the Open University. As well as publishing *The Place-Names of North Craven* & *Place-Names of the Yorkshire Dales*, he has contributed to the *Yorkshire Dales Review* & the *Yorkshire Journal*. He is researching his farming ancestors on Malham Moor & in Chapel-le-Dale.

## Michael Pearson

Is a keen local historian and naturalist, writing for the *Journal* and *The Naturalist* as well as other publications.

## Catherine Ramsay

I'm a conservation advisor for the RSPB working with farmers in and around the Forest of Bowland AONB. I have been incredibly fortunate to have worked in Bowland since 2019, firstly as a volunteer on the annual wader survey whilst I was studying zoology at the University of Liverpool. Nature has always been at the heart of everything I do, and I find fulfilment in working for wildlife and helping others to do the same.

## Stuart Ralph

Born in Settle where he worked as a postman for nearly 38 years. Interested from an early age in nature and photography he first visited Austwick Moss in 1970. Recently he has just concluded a 26 year study of the roe deer of the Moss.

## Anne Read MBE

Well known for her work with the Folly Anne is also President of the Trust.

## Michael Slater

After retirement as a chemical engineer Michael became interested in local history when moving to Langcliffe. It was apparent that relevant historical records were widely dispersed and not easily accessible for study. He engaged with others in finding and transcribing early wills, deeds and manorial documents and making them accessible online in digital format. Throwing light on local affairs of hundreds of years ago involves all manner of challenges but continues to yield interesting stories.

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## Legacies

Bequests are invaluable in supporting the Trust in its work and particularly in the grants we provide for the restoration of historic buildings and to students, and others, to research the past. If you believe that it is important to protect the unique heritage of North Craven for the future, please help to keep this place special by leaving a gift in your will for the Trust to use in 'cherishing the past, shaping the future' (north Craven Heritage Trust Registered Charity No. 504029). Depending on your circumstances bequests to UK charities may reduce death duties.

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## North Craven Heritage Trust Aims and Objectives

The North Craven Heritage Trust was set up in 1968 to encourage interest in, and to help safeguard, the distinctive beauty, history and character of the North Craven area. It encourages high standards of architecture and town planning, promotes the preservation and sympathetic development of the area's special historic features and helps to protect its natural environment. It arranges lectures, walks and local events and publishes booklets about the North Craven area.

This annual Journal aims to keep members informed of the Trust's activities. Further information about the Trust and details of membership are available from any committee member. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publishers.

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