North Craven Heritage Trust



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Cover picture: Veteran Hawthorn,150-200 years old

North Craven Heritage Trust

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Chair's Report

This has been a year of 'exits and entrances' for the Trust and it has been a time of reflection. We were sorry to hear of the death of Maureen Ellis who had edited this Journal and of Ken Pearce who had been an NCHT Trustee. The Trust benefited greatly from their efforts and work over several years.

We were all shocked to learn of the sad news of our former President, Anne Read and there is a fitting tribute to her later in this Journal. Anne was involved with the Trust from its early years and looking back through our archives when she died, I realised just how much Anne and the other early members of the Trust had done to preserve our local heritage.

In 1968 at the first meeting of what was then the Settle & District Civic Society there were some 80 concerned residents who wanted to do something to protect the heritage of the area. They set about persuading the local authorities to create conservation areas and, through talks, publications and events, aroused interest in both the built and natural heritage. We owe it to those early pioneers to continue their good work, and it is important for us to promote the work of the Trust to a new generation. Do please encourage friends and neighbours to come to our talks and check out our website.

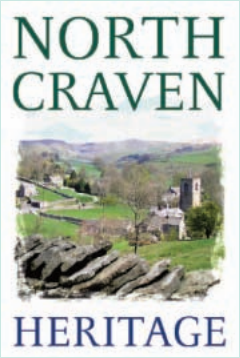
We are pleased to welcome two new younger faces to the Trust. Andy Swinscoe, of the Courtyard Dairy, agreed to become our new President. He has done much to promote the heritage of local cheese making and a visit to the Courtyard Dairy is always an education.

Richard Lloyd has just joined us as our Secretary and his attendance at our meetings has reduced the average age of the Committee considerably!

Finally, I must congratulate Michael Pearson on being the joint winner of the British Association of Local History Publications 'Short Article' award for his article on 'Domestic Medicine in the Yorkshire Dales (1650-1850) in last year's Journal. We can now call him our 'award winning Editor'!

Pamela Jordan
Chair

Editorial



Recently I have been reading Jenny Uglow's book *A Year with Gilbert White*. Hopefully he needs no introduction as the clergyman who spent his life studying the natural history of his home parish. Unfortunately he was a terrible prevaricator, and his family and friends despaired at times that his book would ever be finished. In 1789 *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* was finally published, when Gilbert was 69. Only just in time as he died four years later. The book has remained in print ever since. However, many later editions omit the sections covering the antiquities of the area. Perhaps this is because the publishers thought that they have become a little dated or that people are no longer interested in the history of their area. Clearly this is not the case and our Journal demonstrates that we continue to be fascinated by our heritage, both natural and historical.

Gilbert White was writing when there was still an intimate connection between people and the natural world. The current edition of the Journal includes a marvellous mix of articles about our history and the natural world and in some instances combine the two. There are also opportunities to get involved, so perhaps you will take up the challenge to start your own research or help to contribute to that of others.

Returning to Gilbert White's prevarication, many of us recognise that research often results in further questions and other avenues of enquiry. It is never finished, but by publishing the research is never wasted, and there is always the opportunity to update it later. Hidden in the Journal there is a report of an unsolved murder. There are no clues, so can you identify the murderer and the background to the crime from searching the archives? There is a prize for the person who comes up with the most convincing explanation – but first you must identify the victim.

Many thanks to all our contributors who have undertaken their research into the heritage of North Craven and grasped the nettle to publish. Also thanks to the editorial team of David Johnson, Maureen Street and Catherine Vaughan Williams. Thanks also to John Cuthbert who has uploaded last years printed Journal onto the Trust website, and kept the indexing up to date. The on-line version is only available at the end of the year, but is important in highlighting to the wider world the richness of our heritage, and the work undertaken to record it.

I hope you enjoy reading the Journal as much as we have had great pleasure in preparing it!

Michael Pearson

Elizabeth Anne Read (née Cromwell) MBE, (1943-2025)



Anne was born in Glasgow on 24 October 1943 to Dr Benjamin Cromwell, a university lecturer, and his wife Elizabeth, a teacher. During the war, the family moved to Cottingham, near Hull. Her maternal grandfather, Thomas Holme, was instrumental in setting up Hull Corporation Telephones, which he managed from 1903 to 1945.

When Anne was 15, the family moved to Nunburnholme, near Pocklington. She was very proud of her connections to the former East Riding of Yorkshire. She attended Rise Hall School, where her mother taught Biology, and Anne developed a strong circle of friends, with whom she kept in touch throughout her life. That talent for friendship was evident to all who knew her.

In 1961, Anne went up to St Hugh's College, Oxford to read English, specialising in English Language and Old and Middle English Literature. She recalled her time there as inspiring, and particularly enjoyed discussions with friends on the position of women in the University and the wider world, and the challenges of social injustice in the Third World – War on Want lunches were a regular feature of College life. She was a talented singer and joined a mixed voice choir at Balliol; this led to her meeting Peter Read, who was reading music there. One evening he asked her to turn over his copy as he was playing a harpsichord accompaniment and romance blossomed.

After graduating from Oxford, Anne spent a year as a trainee at the Bodleian Library before studying for her professional librarianship qualification. In September 1966, she was appointed as an Assistant Librarian in the Brotherton Library of the University of Leeds, where she worked for a year in the Cataloguing Room. Anne and Peter married in Nunburnholme in September 1967 and moved to Solihull, where Peter was organist and Director of the Chapel Choir at Solihull School; Anne was employed as an Assistant Librarian in Birmingham University Library. Her *Checklist of Books, Catalogues and Periodical Articles relating to the Cathedral Libraries of England* was published by the Oxford Bibliographical Society in 1970.

Peter's appointment in 1972 as Director of Music at Giggleswick School brought Anne back to Yorkshire. Anne worked as the Giggleswick Parish Clerk until she and Peter moved to their much-loved former farmhouse at East Kettlesbeck, near Eldroth. As a couple, she and Peter remained very active in local music. Amongst her other roles, Anne was for many years a member of the St Peter's Singers of Leeds.

Anne returned to the Brotherton Library in September 1974, at first as a cataloguer, but she was soon made the Assistant Librarian responsible for liaison with the University's Estates Office when repairs and alterations to the building and its services were needed. At first Anne's remit covered only the Brotherton Library, but from 1975, when the new South Library (the Edward Boyle Library) opened, she was responsible also for works there and in the Medical Library. As well as routine maintenance, Anne organised the temporary staff who were appointed most summers to re-arrange library space to cope with the growing collections. Anne's efficiency, her calmness in crisis, and her easy manner led to excellent relations with colleagues, not only in the Library but, equally importantly, with those in other parts of the University, especially in the Estates Office. They respected her understanding of problems and her willingness to consider alternatives, and equally her polite but firm insistence when, in the Library's interest, she was not prepared to compromise. The good working relationships she developed with them were crucial to meeting the Library's requirements at times when there was great demand on central services from all quarters of the University. Never were Anne's skills more important than when the long-awaited extension to the Brotherton Library, the West Building, was being planned and built in 1992-3. As well as almost constant liaison with planners, builders, technicians and tradesmen of every description as it was being built, Anne then organised the workers needed to move nearly every book in the Library into a new location.

Anne was promoted in 1988 to Senior Assistant Librarian in recognition of her important position in the Library's administrative structure, and in 1992 to Sub-Librarian. Her skills were again central to the planning and construction of the Edward Boyle Library extension in 1995-7. By 1997, however, the 50-mile drive twice a day and the growing infrequency and unreliability of the trains were taking their toll on Anne's health. Working from home was not an option

then, of course, nor would it have been feasible for the type of work Anne did. To the regret of all her colleagues, she took early retirement that summer, in order to devote more time to a cause dear to her and nearer to her home, the Museum of North Craven Life. She returned, however, in 1998 as external consultant to the team planning the restructuring of the Library's organisation; her communication skills contributed considerably to the successful implementation of its recommendations. As well as for her professional expertise and talent for communication, Anne will be remembered for the kindly interest she always took in work colleagues at all levels and in their families.

In 1976, the Settle & District Civic Society had approached Anne with a request for help in establishing the museum that was to become her unpaid second career. In 1977, to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Anne set up a temporary exhibition in a barn at Twisleton's Yard in Settle, using artefacts and photographs lent by local people. Much of this material was later donated to form the core of the Museum of North Craven Life collection. Anne not only helped found the museum, but held the post of Honorary Curator there from April 1976 until October 2019, an astounding 43 years of voluntary service.

Following her retirement from the Brotherton in 1997, the museum often commanded her attention for up to 16 hours a day, seven days a week. She steered its moves as it outgrew its first two premises in Settle, first at Coneygar and then Chapel Street, until it found a permanent home at The Folly in 2001. Anne was particularly pleased to have been involved in the preparations for its official opening by HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales. In 2012 she was awarded an MBE for services to heritage in North Yorkshire. Under her guidance, the museum flourished, achieving accredited status in 2013 and providing a remarkably inventive programme of exhibitions and events each year, often on a shoestring budget and reliant on volunteer help, culminating in a series of annual exhibitions on the Great War in Craven, held from 2014 to 2019. On the eve of the anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, one friend recalled that Anne sat vigil with a candle in The Folly to mark that moment. Peter kept her company.

Anne herself insisted, with her usual modesty, that nothing could have been achieved without the skills, time and commitment of very many volunteer supporters, but her kindness and personal warmth was central to maintaining the enthusiasm and morale of that volunteer group. She shared her excitement at new discoveries and connections, and inspired confidence in others to get involved and learn new skills. Even so, the lion's share of planning exhibitions, organising research, and continuously pursuing funding was borne by Anne. She travelled across Yorkshire in all weathers to promote the museum, to talk about Craven history, attend workshops, and to seek out best practice in other museums, making many new friends along the way. She made a point of collecting from donors the stories that attached to their objects, determined that the museum should not simply be a collection of bygones, but should reflect all aspects of life in North Craven.

Her dedication to the development of the Museum of North Craven Life leaves an extraordinary legacy. She will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues, and by those who benefited from her immense knowledge of local history, not only as a curator, but also in her roles as a trustee of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust and more recently as President of the North Craven Heritage Trust. On behalf of both organisations, she maintained a close watch on local planning applications, writing meticulously detailed objections whenever she considered that there might be a detrimental effect on the built heritage and environment of North Craven.

We shall miss her caring presence, her friendly enquiries about families and pets, and her delight in recent years at the further development of her beloved museum. A recent email from her colleagues at the Craven Museum in Skipton expressed it beautifully – "she was a wonderfully kind and incredibly interesting woman to know". It seems very fitting that her lifetime of service was acknowledged by a Legacy Award, given at the final meeting of Craven District Council in 2021 in thanks for her contributions to the life of the district. Those contributions are incalculable.

Anne died peacefully at home at East Kettlesbeck on 19 November 2025. She and Peter had no children.

Heather Lane

Ken Pearce
(1937-2025)

Ken contributed much to the work of the Trust, being a Trustee from 2006 to 2012 as well as writing articles for the Journal in 2010, 2012, 2016 and 2021. He was also a member of the Clapham Village History Project (2016-18) working with other volunteers to transcribe and publish the parish wills and inventories from 1541-1603. The following has been written by Brenda and their sons.

Ken was born in Bingley to Tom and Mabel. His father spent his entire career working in the library service of three local authorities, becoming Chief Librarian at Loughborough Public Library & Museum.

Typical of most kids, Ken spent hours 'playing out' near his home. It didn't always end well as one culvert he explored passed underneath the local Salvation Army HQ and he was hauled out and frog-marched home by the police. As a teenager Ken joined the Scouts and further developed his outdoor interests and skills. Years later he would continue this, exploring Welsh mines and then caves in the Dales.

Ken enjoyed watching his dad mend and make things and eventually he was allowed the use of a small room as a workshop. A door laid over a bath was his bench and his earliest passion of 'tinkering', dismantling, mending and making things took hold. Any liberated nuts, bolts and washers were saved in case they 'might come in handy someday', a habit that never left him.

Ken started at Loughborough Grammar School in the late 1940s. They had moved to the town where father was Chief Librarian at the Public Library & Museum. He studied hard in crafts, design and technical drawing, history and geography. Priorities changed when Ken and Brenda (who had first met

at Infant School) started courting. They became interested in trad jazz and went regularly to the YWCA where they would strut their stuff doing Tangos, the Veleta, quicksteps and the waltz.

When Ken went to teacher training college the curriculum was completely different to the one he'd known at school: a mix of palaeontology and archaeology with a bit of local history thrown in, which he found fascinating. However, he did say many years later that the teacher training element, learning how to teach, was very poor. Though the college made him into a good craftsman when he started work as a teacher he had much still to learn.

Ken and Brenda married in 1959 and their three boys were born between 1961 and 1966.

One of Ken's early jobs was working as a milkman in the summer holidays. His control of the electric milk float proved to be haphazard as he lost a full crate on one occasion, and also knocked a nun off her stepladder outside a convent where she was cleaning the windows.

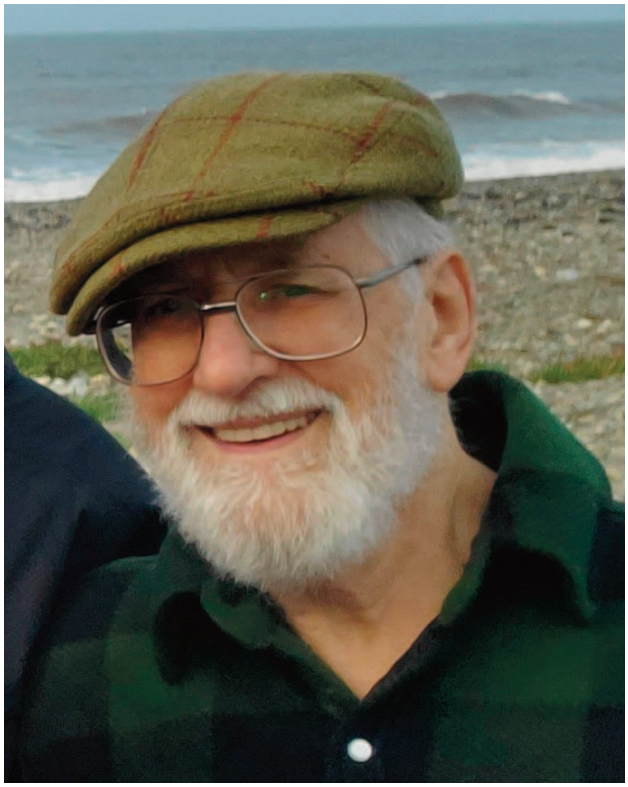
Ken's first 'proper' job was as a teacher of woodwork and crafts, but after a few years he decided that people were more interesting to work with than wood. He moved on to teach outdoor pursuits in North Wales, and during this time he received a commendation for his role in a mine rescue. Later, he worked at an Approved School. Following that, he ran a Community Education Centre in a disadvantaged mining community, near Doncaster. His final job was running a regeneration project in another local village that, like many others near Doncaster, was a pit village without a pit. These were all challenging jobs but shared a common goal of helping people, a trait which he displayed throughout his life.

In his personal life Ken again had many roles. He was a community activist, cabinet maker and craftsman, an outdoor pursuits fan, a historian, a bell ringer, Clapham's No.1 odd job man, tomato-grower, and all-round good neighbour and friend. Undoubtedly his hard-working, dedicated, meticulous, brave and principled approach enabled him to make a huge success in all of these.

His meticulous approach was evident at an early age in the many pieces of woodwork that he created, displaying outstanding design and craftsmanship. He wanted to be remembered for 'some of the better craftwork' he had done and there are many beautiful articles of furniture that bear testament to his skill, such as an oak chest of drawers which he made in the sixth form (still in service today) and an altar rail made using traditional blacksmithing techniques for St Mary's Church in Coleorton, Leicestershire.

His activism took many forms. He was involved in local politics and numerous forums in Doncaster for many years. Once in Clapham, Ken corresponded with the local MP regularly. One exchange was regarding his views on the arrangements for Margaret Thatcher's funeral, making it clear that he felt plans were getting out of hand. Other correspondence was sent to Prime Ministers on various matters. His principled nature didn't always make him popular with officialdom but it was always motivated by trying to help others and the community.

Once Ken was retired, he and Brenda travelling widely, most notably circumnavigating the globe for four months on



a cargo ship, the MV Arunbank. They also enjoyed holidays to Indonesia and Central Asia. The Scottish islands were a favourite and they visited repeatedly.

When Ken and Brenda arrived in Clapham they got involved in everything. A couple of Ken's high points were the work done in the Church tower with the bells and clock, and much research into the history of Clapham, most of which has been published in the Clapham Newsletter and elsewhere. In recent years he produced an excellent booklet called 'Clapham Answers The Call To Arms'. In it, he documented many previously unrecorded Clapham men who went to war in 1914-18. So the stories of those who died, those who lived to return home and also conscientious objectors are all now recorded for posterity. He was a vital contributor to a local history exhibition held at Keasden Church on its 150th anniversary and to a series of leaflets and a churchyard trail, which visitors to Clapham Church can now enjoy reading.

Whilst local history was one of Ken's passions, before and during their time in Clapham, he put in just as much energy researching and documenting his family tree, which includes several hundred individuals. As part of this mammoth task, he wrote papers about the lives of his grandfather, another earlier relative who had been a surgeon, an ancestor who had been a sawyer, and also the origin and development of the surname Pearce.

In all areas of Ken's very full and well-lived life he wanted to learn and understand more, and to help and improve things. Ken and Brenda moved to Cambourne in Cambridgeshire in November 2025 but unfortunately Ken died only a few days later. He will be deeply missed and the family would like to thank the people of Clapham for providing a home for them for the last 21 years; they both loved the place and the people a great deal.

Bench-marks in the Dales - heritage worth protecting

Peter Wilson and Frances Wilson

It was in the early years of the 19th century that the Ordnance Survey (OS) commenced its mapping work in the Dales. The initial surveys formed part of the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain and laid the foundations for the maps that we have today. Later surveys complemented the earlier ones, providing increased coverage of the country and greater detail. This had become necessary because of rapid urban and industrial growth, expansion of the transport network, and changes to patterns of agricultural land holdings.

The work that was undertaken left its own very distinctive marks in the landscape and many of these survive today, although they are little known to the majority of people. Some survey marks are small and inconspicuous, others are more prominent. Together they are remnants of a survey methodology that is no longer in use; map-making is now based on digital data acquired via satellites and GPS ground receivers. Most of the marks created by the OS are essentially redundant; nevertheless they are significant historical artefacts that are worthy of protection because of the part they played in mapping the nation.

The Principal Triangulation

The Dales were the focus of OS attention in 1807 when Lieutenant-Colonel William Mudge (Director of the OS) and his assistant Captain Thomas Colby, along with a team of several men, passed through the region. They ascended two mountains (Ingleborough and Great Whernside) and obtained high-precision angular bearings to other summits, flag-staffs and church towers. Figure 1 (uppermost) gives the descriptions of these two Dales summits (Mudge & Colby, 1811). Great Whernside was revisited by an OS party in 1840 but not, apparently, Ingleborough. However, descriptions for both summits appeared in Clarke & James (1858) (Figure 1, middle). The trigonometrical data obtained from Great Whernside from the 5th-20th September 1840 are given in Figure 1. Multiple observations were made on 13 other summits and York Minster.

The survey data obtained from Ingleborough and Great Whernside were used in the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain. This exercise had started 1783, before the OS was formally established, and was completed in 1853.

***Ingleborough,* Yorkshire. The station on this well known mountain is sixty-seven yards east from the old hut (a shepherd's hut). Round the station are placed a great number of very large stones.**

***Great Whernside,* Yorkshire. This is a high mountain north-east from Kettlewell, and nearly two miles from it. On the top are a great number of huge rocks, scattered about in all directions. One of these rocks towards the south is perfectly flat, and on the centre of it is the station.**

INGLEBOROUGH, 1807. This station is on the top of the mountain of this name, 5 miles east of Ingleton Village, in the West Riding of Yorkshire; it is about 60 yards from the highest part of an old building towards the north-east, which building is on the nearest brink of Ingleborough from the station south-westward.

GREAT WHERNSIDE, 1840. This station is on the top of a conspicuous mountain, a few miles west from New Malton in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

GREAT WHERNSIDE.

3-ft. Theodolite, R.S.

From 5th to 20th September 1840. Observer: Lieut. PIPON, R.E.

Objects.	Bearings.	No. of Obs.	Range.	Recip. of Weight.	Objects.	Bearings.	No. of Obs.	Range.	Recip. of Weight.
	° ′ ″		″			° ′ ″		″	
Boulsworth	10 41 56·66	10	6·65	0·56	Cross Fell	152 29 1·83	4	3·53	0·85
Whittle Hill	17 51 18·30	6	3·36	0·45	Water Crag	166 38 6·29	9	3·13	0·26
Pendle Hill	31 16 42·51	4	3·09	0·68	Botton Head	244 56 47·85	7	5·28	0·66
Ingleboro'	91 29 49·88	5	3·71	0·70	Black Hambleton	251 18 31·61	4	3·10	1·04
Little Whernside	105 54 53·14	2	0·13	0·00	Wilton Beacon	282 11 33·60	2	1·47	0·54
Sca Fell	112 57 10·45	5	4·06	0·88	York Minster	289 51 55·72	3	5·31	3·46
Helvellyn	121 59 38·12	3	3·67	1·64	Holme Moss	353 43 22·54	3	1·49	0·30

Fig 1: Details of triangulation stations on the summits of Ingleborough and Great Whernside. Uppermost descriptions from Mudge & Colby (1811), middle from Clarke & James (1858). Lowermost table gives trigonometrical data obtained from Great Whernside in September 1840 (from Clarke & James, 1858). Note that all bearings are 'referred to a South Meridian Line' (Clarke & James, 1858, p. 71) rather than north, as is conventional today.



Fig. 2: Ingleborough summit showing wall shelter, cairn, and triangulation pillar. The cairn may consist of the same stones that were gathered together for the first survey cairn in 1807. The triangulation pillar was built in 1949 and cost £82 12s.

Triangulation is the process of dividing an area into triangles. If the length of one side of a triangle (the base line) is known by precise measurement then by measurement of the internal angles at each point of the triangle, the lengths of the other two sides of the triangle can be determined by trigonometry. From this, other triangles can be measured and the locations of places correctly positioned in space, rather than being estimated. Hence, use of the name Trigonometrical Survey in these early years (Owen & Pilbeam, 1992). The base line for the Survey, measured across Hounslow Heath in southern England, was 5.19 miles (8.35 km) in length. Later, additional baselines in other parts of the country were measured to provide a check on the accuracy of the expanding network of triangles.

In preparation for the triangulation measurements, cairns of stone or peat, often supporting long wooden poles, were usually constructed on the selected hills or mountain tops. These acted as conspicuous objects and enabled the surveyors to obtain accurate bearings between summits. Today, these cairns and poles no longer exist having been dismantled or allowed to degrade over time and, from the 1930s on, replaced as survey locations by triangulation pillars (see below). But the summit cairns on Ingleborough and Great Whernside probably consist of the same stones that were collected together by OS personnel in the 19th century for that initial triangulation work (Figure 2).

Cross-country levelling and bench-mark creation

As well as obtaining measurements for the Principal Triangulation, spirit levelling was conducted by the OS along the road network in order to establish surface heights. This 1st (Primary) Geodetic Levelling (aka 1GL) began in 1841, was completed in 1859, and involved 10,000 miles of double (i.e. forward and backward) levelling across the country (Seymour, 1980; Owen & Pilbeam, 1992). The datum or zero level for this work was eventually settled in 1844 from observations of high and low water at Liverpool's Victoria Dock, although the datum was later found to be slightly lower than mean sea-level; this entailed adding a small amount (0.65 ft) to each height determined.

Table 1 lists the two lines of 1GL that passed through the Dales along with their start and end dates. The Kirkby Kendal to Thirsk line went along Wensleydale, the Milner's Bridge to Bradford line passed through Clapham, Giggleswick, Settle, Long Preston, Hellifield, Gargrave and Skipton. On the ground, semi-permanent marks were created by the surveyors as a record of their work and as points of reference for any subsequent surveys. These marks, termed 'cut-marks' 'bench-marks' (sometimes 'cut bench-marks') and colloquially as 'crow's feet', were usually chiselled into the stonework of roadside walls, gateposts, bridges, churches and various other public and non-public buildings at intervals of ~0.5 mile (~0.8 km). Similar marks were cut into wooden posts where stonework was not available. On vertical stonework the commonest form of mark consists of an incised horizontal line below which an incised broad arrow points upwards (Figure 3A-C). The line defines the height of that location above the datum and presumably the arrow draws attention to it, making it easier for surveyors to find. An arrow symbol had been in use for several centuries to indicate Government property. These marks were usually placed ~12-36 inches (~30-100 cm) above the ground surface, but sometimes much higher. On stonework, some cut bench-marks were augmented by a brass bolt. This was either inserted into the middle of the horizontal cut or it was placed to one side or other of the cut (Figure 3D). Bench-marks were also made on quasi-horizontal stone surfaces such as kerbstones, bridge parapets, earth-fast boulders and exposed bedrock. In such cases a bolt or rivet was usually paired with an incised broad arrow; alternatively a shallow indentation was made in the stone at the apex of the arrow. This indentation, termed a pivot bench-mark, was designed to hold a small steel ball-bearing on which a survey staff could stand and freely pivot. Bench-mark locations along the two lines of levelling from this phase of

Table 1. Lines of levelling that passed through or impinged on the Dales, associated with the 1GL, 2GL and 3GL schemes. Start and end dates are not available (na) for the 3GL scheme.

Scheme	Line	Start date	End date
1GL	Kirkby Kendal to Thirsk	June 1845	November 1845
	Milner's Bridge to Bradford	September 1842	July 1844
2GL	Greetland to Skipton	August 1913	March 1914
	Ribblesdale to Kirkby Stephen	July 1914	October 1914
	Skipton to Ribblesdale	August 1914	December 1914
3GL	Kirkby Stephen to Ribblesdale	na	na
	Ribblesdale to Skipton	na	na
	Skipton to Greetland	na	na
	Skipton to Hoghton	na	na
	Skipton to Wetherby	na	na

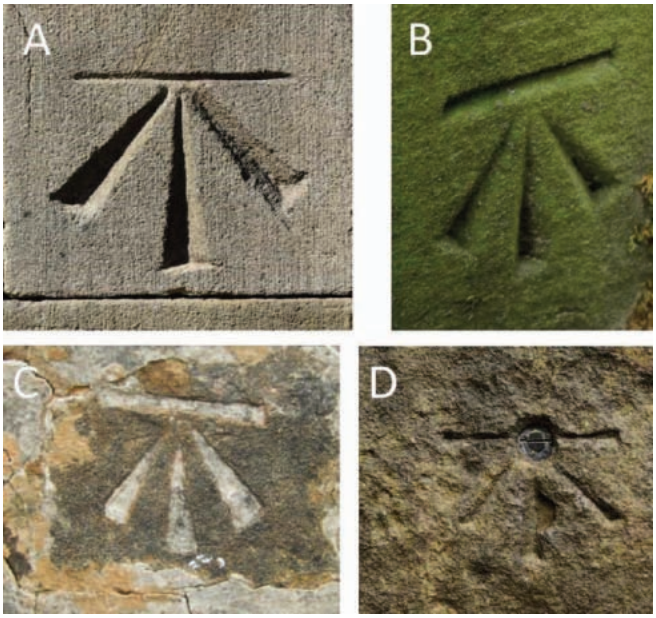


Fig 3: A. Cut bench-mark on boundary wall of Eshton Hall estate, Gargrave.
B. Cut-bench mark on gatepost on Thwaite Lane, Clapham.
C. Cut bench-mark on ruined shooting hut, Simon Fell, Ribblesdale.
D. Cut bench-mark with bolt on Gargrave Church.

surveying are listed by Clarke & James (1861) and can be downloaded from www.bench-marks.org.uk

Bench-marks of the types described above do not only occur in association with lines of levelling; they continued to be added to the network of survey points as mapping was extended into areas between the lines and are indicated on the 1:10,560 scale OS maps by a small arrow symbol, the letters BM and the height above sea-level. Within relatively small urban and rural areas it is usually possible to find bench-marks of different styles and ages (Wilson & Smith, 2022). However, with the passage of time many of the early bench-marks have been destroyed as a consequence of re-development. Bench-mark locations are no longer indicated on the latest 1:10,000 scale maps.

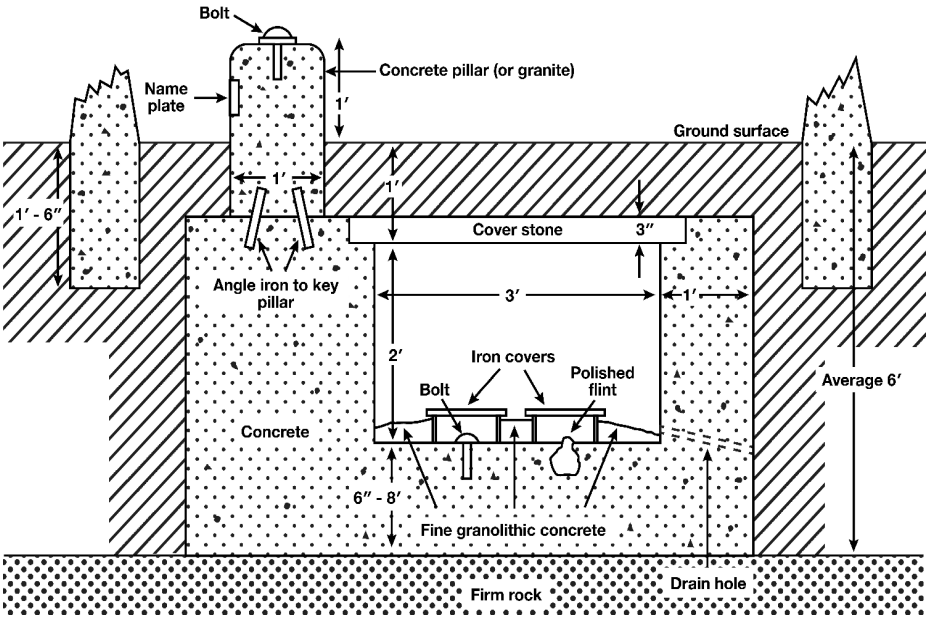


Fig 4: Sketch of a Fundamental Bench Mark showing above and below ground components. Redrawn with amendments, from Seymour (1980).

2nd Geodetic Levelling (2GL)

A second phase of levelling was conducted by the OS between 1912 and 1921 and two of the lines passed through the Dales with another, from the south, terminating at Skipton (Table 1). The 2GL was associated with the creation of some new forms of bench-mark, although cut-marks and bolts continued to be used as height reference points. The new bench-marks consisted of Fundamental Bench Marks, Projecting Brackets and Flush Brackets. A new datum was also adopted in conjunction with 2GL; mean sea-level at Newlyn in Cornwall derived from hourly tide-gauge readings from 1st May 1915 to 30th April 1921 was approved, and this continues as the OS datum. Details of the bench-marks placed along these lines can be found at www.bench-marks.org.uk.

Fundamental Bench Marks (FBMs) – These bench-marks were established on solid rock in order to minimise any subsequent natural disturbance and are high-accuracy marks. They consist of above and below ground components (Figure 4). Above ground, the mark is a short pillar of granite or concrete with a brass bolt set into the top. The pillars usually also have two plaques on the vertical sides. One of these states Ordnance Survey BM (or Bench Mark on some). The other is a more recently added plate stating that the structure is part of the national GPS network. Below ground, a chamber contains the precisely measured reference point. Some 115 FBMs were constructed but financial constraints following the First World War resulted in some parts of the country being excluded and only 86 of the FBMs were eventually used (Seymour, 1980).

FBMs were placed at the terminal points of each of the 2GL lines of levelling listed in Table 1. Thus, two such marks are present in the Dales: at Skipton and Ribblesdale (Figure 5A).

Projecting Brackets (PBs) – These small metal brackets were in use for only a short period before being superseded by Flush Brackets (see below). They consist of wall-mounted metal plates that carry the letters OSBM and an arrow symbol. Projecting from the plate is a small platform with a raised stud that represents the height reference point (Figure 5B). Unlike Flush Brackets they have no unique identifying number. Only two PBs occur in the Dales. Both are on the Skipton to Ribblesdale line of levelling: one in Hellifield, the other in Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

Flush Brackets (FBs) – As their name implies these brackets were intended to be flush with the wall surface on which they were mounted. To achieve this, a shallow recess was cut in the stonework to take the bracket. However, this was often not done and therefore some brackets stand proud of the surface. FBs measure ~18x9 cm, are embossed with the letters OSBM and a small vertical

arrow, and have a horizontal slot directly above the arrow that is the height reference point. In addition they carry a unique identifying number (Figure 5C). All FBs associated with 2GL lines in the Dales are of the basic variety, i.e. they have an up-to four-figure number. Originally 19 FBs were placed along the Ribblesdale to Kirkby Stephen line and 22 along the Skipton to Ribblesdale line. However, not all these FBs exist today; several have disappeared probably as a consequence of re-development or refurbishment of the structures on which they were placed. A small number of 2GL FBs were used on triangulation pillars (Figure 6A).

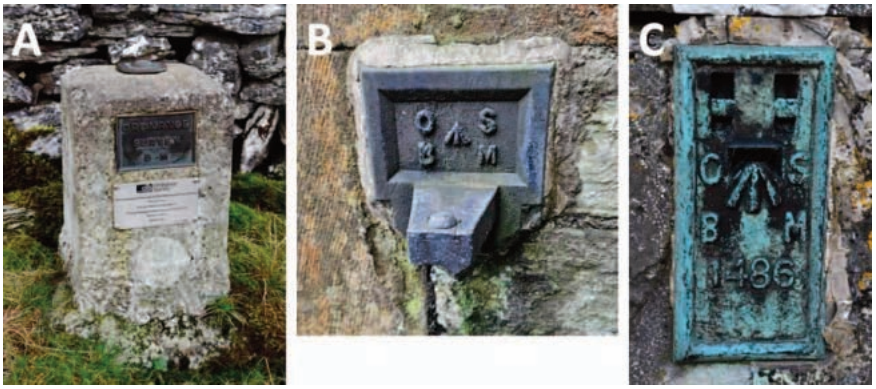


Fig 5: A: The Fundamental Bench Mark in Ribblesdale.
B: Projecting Bracket associated with the 2GL scheme on a wall in Hellifield.
C: Flush Bracket – 1486 - associated with the 2GL scheme on a Ribblesdale barn.



Fig 6: A: The 2GL Flush Bracket on the Whernside Triangulation Pillar – 2982.
B: G-series Flush Bracket G2085 – associated with the 3GL scheme, in Ribblesdale.
C: S-series Flush Bracket on wall of St. James' Church, Clapham – 0739/S.

3rd Geodetic Levelling (3GL)

A third phase of levelling took place between 1950 and 1956. This was deemed necessary due to deficiencies with the 2GL, one of which was its rather sparse coverage of northern England. The two 3GL lines that passed through the Dales are the same as used for 2GL, although apparently levelled in the opposite direction. Existing FBs were re-levelled and some additional brackets were placed along these lines but differed from the earlier ones by being of G-series type (Figure 6B). These brackets have their serial number prefixed with a letter G. Details of the bench-marks placed along these lines can be found at www.bench-marks.org.uk.

S-series Flush Brackets

In addition to the 2GL and G-series FBs, there are some S-series FBs in the Dales. These were introduced in the 1920s and can be found on walls and most triangulation pillars (see below), and there are a few distinct styles: from S01 to S1134 the S is found below the number (Figure 6C), from S3200 to S3677 the S is above the number, all other brackets have S as a prefix to the number. FB numbers S01 to S0999 all have zero before the number.

Retriangulation and Triangulation Pillars

A primary retriangulation was conducted in Great Britain in the years 1935-39. To permanently mark the stations used for the retriangulation, a standard pillar was designed and built on-site (Hotine, 1937; Officers of the Ordnance Survey, 1967). These structures are the familiar triangulation pillars (TPs) found on some hilltops and in other prominent landscape positions (Figure 7). This retriangulation also involved the creation of secondary stations with a TP on each. So, the original stations of Ingleborough and Great Whernside, were retained and acquired pillars, as did many other heights including, for example, Warrendale Knotts and Rye Loaf Hill east of Settle, Weets Top east of Malham, Penyghent and Whernside.

The pillars take the form of a truncated pyramid of concrete or local stone, stand to a height of 4 feet (1.2 m) and are 2 feet (0.61 m) square at base. On top of each pillar is a brass 'spider' with three grooved legs 120º apart designed to hold a theodolite or beacon (light) during surveying. Adjacent to the spider are three brass loops by which that equipment can be secured by cords. Low down on one side of the pillar is a FB of similar size and design to those mentioned above (Figure 6), including a unique serial number. A small number of the 2GL FBs were used on TPs, such as that on Whernside (Figure 6A) and Great Whernside. Other TPs carry S-series brackets with the letter S as a prefix (Figure 7), except for brackets with numbers exceeding 10,000 from which the S is absent.

The structure of TPs is more complex than the exterior view suggests. Figure 8 shows the anatomy of a TP, in particular the lower centre mark and the upper centre mark. These consist of brass bolts firmly fixed in position. The former mark, usually set into bedrock, defines the location of the station and is independent of the pillar. Should the pillar be toppled or destroyed, this mark allows the precise re-positioning of a replacement. The latter mark, usually set in concrete, is aligned exactly above the former and is the surveyed mark. In addition, pillars have sighting/drainage tubes towards the base and a centre tube covered by a screw cap in the middle of the spider. The spider acts as a 'forced centring' fitting that ensures a theodolite, when mounted on the spider, is centred over the centre marks at the base of the pillar.



Fig 7: Concrete Triangulation Pillar on Weets Top, east of Malham. Inset shows the S-series Flush Bracket – S5563.

Approximately 6500 TPs were constructed in Great Britain between 1936 and 1962. In 2021 it was estimated that 6190 pillars were still present, the others having been deliberately removed because of industrial or urban development, or they had succumbed to weather-related factors or vandalism. Fortunately, many remain in the Dales.

Heritage worth protecting

Except for TPs, which are prominent features in their local landscapes, the other OS marks are small and unobtrusive, and may sometimes be obscured by vegetation or various types of domestic and industrial 'debris'. Consequently their existence is unknown to most people and they usually go unnoticed. Over the years there has been a sharp decline in their numbers because some of the structures on which they were placed have been demolished or refurbished. No new cut-marks have been made since the 1990s. The marks have no legal protection unless their host structures have protected status. But even on listed buildings, weathered stonework that carries a cut-mark, brass bolt or flush bracket may be replaced, resulting in the loss of the artefact.

Except for FBMs, and some TPs, which are still used by the OS and carry a small stainless-steel plate that informs of such (Figure 5A), other bench-marks are no longer maintained for surveying purposes.

The removal of bench-marks, either through ignorance or intention, represents the loss of an artefact that played a significant role in mapping the nation. They are important physical and temporal markers of the OS remit to produce accurate maps, and are heritage features (albeit of small-scale) that deserve to be protected.

To this end, local Historical/Heritage groups can play a part. The bench-mark database at www.bench-marks.org.uk is available for use by everyone. By selecting the Search tab and entering a postcode and a radius distance around that location, the site will generate a list of all known bench-marks of all ages within that radius. For the postcode of BD24 9EL (the Town Hall in Settle) and a radius of 3 km, a list of 143 bench-marks will appear along with details of their locations (National grid references and nature of their host structures) and, in most cases, their ages, and physical condition. However, such lists are not necessarily complete; unrecorded bench-marks may exist and await discovery. Also, some bench-marks in these lists no longer exist, having been removed for reasons mentioned above.

Local societies can assist with the protection of bench-marks within their areas by field recording of extant marks and making representations against proposals that would lead to their removal. The refurbishment of a bench-mark-bearing structure need not result in the loss of the mark. In some circumstances, cut-marked stones have been retained within the fabric of

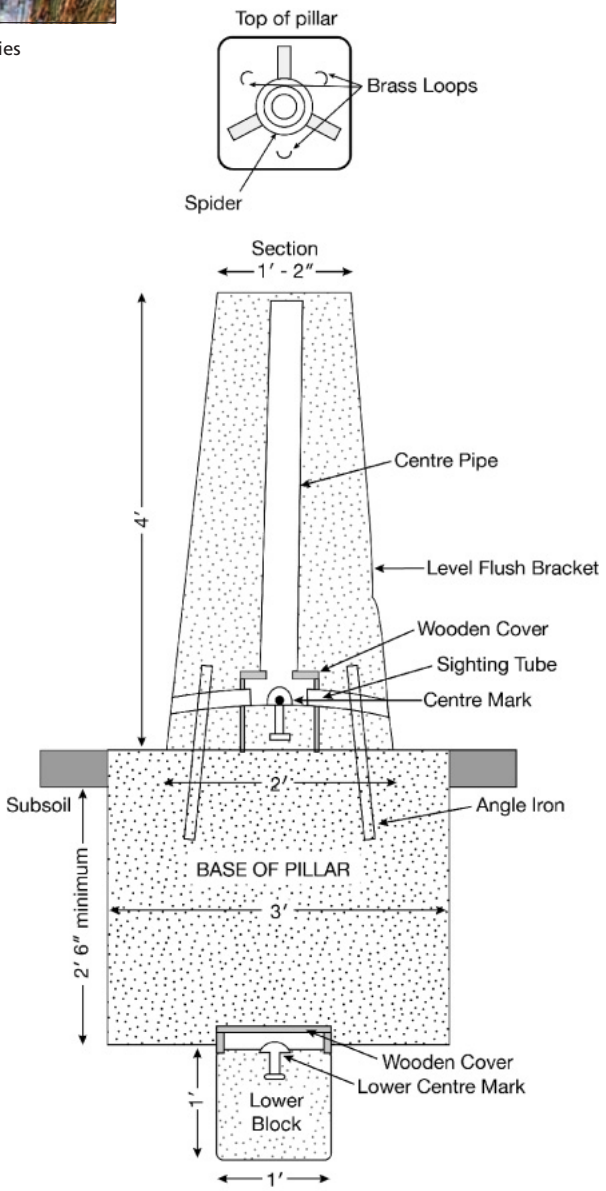


Fig 8: Structure of a triangulation pillar (adapted from https://Trigpointing.UK).

refurbished structures, although not always in their original position. In some of these cases the stones have been inverted to signify that the cut-mark no longer indicates an accurately levelled elevation.

Further exploration of the bench-mark database can provide lists of marks placed along lines of survey associated with the 1GL, 2GL and 3GL phases (Table 1). Again, some of the marks listed may have been destroyed but the remaining ones are deserving of protection.

Conclusions

Different styles of OS artefacts that were created to facilitate surveying and map-making occur throughout the Dales. However, since they were created many have been lost or seriously damaged. Most of the extant survey marks are no longer used by the OS and they lack statutory protection. This has resulted in a rapid decline in their numbers and the loss of a significant heritage resource.

OS maps have been part of British life since they were first published in the 19th century, and they continue to be used by geographers (both physical and human), geologists, historians, archaeologists, motorists, cyclists and walkers alike. Although surveying and map-making no longer rely entirely on bench-marks, some effort to record and protect such marks is important; they represent a tangible link with the past but their redundant status threatens their very survival.

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Lost show caves of the Yorkshire Dales

Phil Murphy

The three active show caves in the region are major tourist attractions. Stump Cross Caverns, on the watershed between Wharfedale and Nidderdale, was originally discovered by lead miners and has been open to the public since 1863 (Halliwell 2022 a & b). Ingleborough Cave above the village of Clapham was originally explored by the land owning Farrer family and, in addition to being a popular tourist attraction, has a long history of scientific investigation (Craven 2004). White Scar Cave was mainly explored by Christopher Long in the 1920s who was deliberately seeking a money making show cave venture. Following the driving of an access level the cave opened to the public in 1925 (Craven 2006 & 2010). In addition to these three caves there have been a number of other caves which have functioned as paid for tourist attractions in the past with varying degrees of success.

The caves around Ingleton were a popular attraction for travellers using the Keighley to Kendal turnpike during the eighteenth century, often as a stop off on their way to the Lake District (Craven 1999). This time is considered a 'golden age'

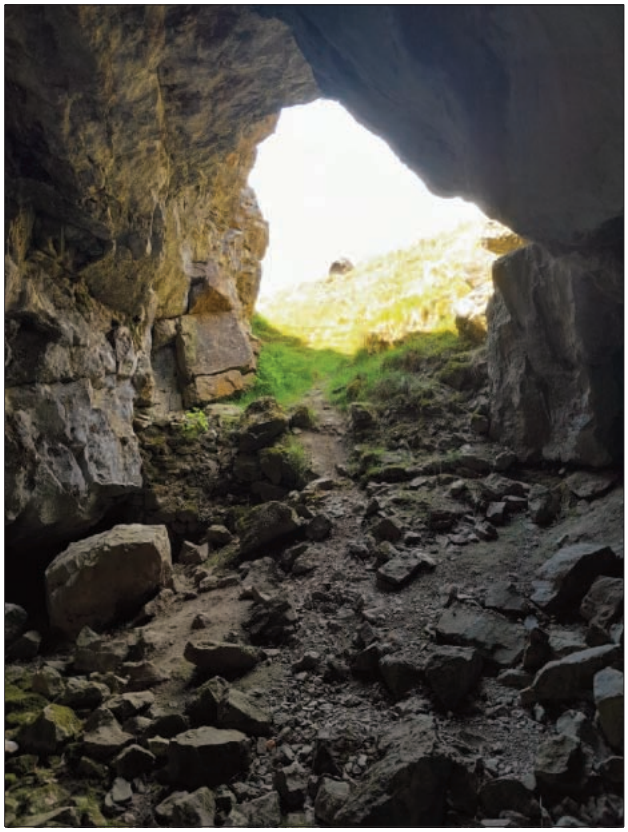


Fig 1: Storrs Cave looking out to the north. Evidence of walling and steps can be seen at the base of the slope. PJM

for both science and romanticism in Britain and caves captured the attentions of the scientific and artistic elite (Sommer 2003). John Hutton describes visiting many caves in the area in his popular tourist guidebook 'A Tour to the Caves' published in 1780 (Shaw 1971). With the coming of the railways Ingleton became a major recreational destination. The post-war boom in motor touring again ensured a steady stream of visitors to the area's underground attractions. The now classic and sought after booklet Discovering Caves is a gazetteer of show caves across the country published in the early 1970s (Oldham and Oldham 1972) and the web- based guide to show caves and mines around the world [1] is well worth consulting.

The Lost Caverns Storrs Common, Ingleton. SD702733 (Storrs Cave SD703732)

A large but short and muddy length of passage referred to by cavers as Bean Pot (Brook et al. 1991, 224). The original show cave access is now sealed and for a time it was reputedly accessible through a road drain (Dodd 1977a). It was developed in 1884 by several local investors who engaged workmen to open up the entrance and lay timber walkways. The progress of work on the cave was reported in the local newspaper The Craven Herald:

> May 3rd 1884. A new cave for Ingleton. A party of enterprising gentlemen last week commenced to explore what has long been supposed to be a fine cave, but has never before been explored, and a party of labourers were set to work in cutting a drain for the purpose of lowering the water, which at present is standing at a considerable depth.
>
> May 31st 1884. The new cave. Workmen are still employed in the cave exploring and preparing a course to take away the water. They are also paving a road with stone for a distance of sixty or seventy yards, and if all goes favourably the portion of the cave already explored will by the end of the present week be open to the public for inspection. A raft has been placed on the little lake in the cave for the use of those who wish to have a pleasure trip within the bowels of the earth.
>
> 27th May 1889. Ingleton Storrs Caves. Two caves situated a short distance from the village were formally opened on Good Friday. Mr Hewitson, the owner, has been at considerable expense in opening one of them, and as further exploration is still going on a large sum of money will still be required.
>
> July 3rd 1891. Ingleton's Physical Features No 3 by Rev R. V. Taylor. Two caves have recently been opened on Storrs Common. Two caves have been recently opened out, and the debris removed to render them available for visitors. The lower cave (Lost Caverns) goes down, down, down by several series of as yet rudely cut steps into still lower regions, it is supposed, about 140 feet below the upper cave. It is narrow, and in some places the rocks approach low enough to compel the visitors to crouch and to endanger the crown of the hat or head unless due care is taken. They are wanting of stalactite formations to make them attractive.

The second cave mentioned above is believed to be Old Storrs Cave as named on the cave surveys published in the Exploration Journal of the Black Rose Pothole Club (Dodd 1977a, 19). This cave is referred to as Storrs Cave in the cavers' guide book (Brook et al. 1991) (Fig.1). The Lost Caverns cave was sealed off in 1898 by which time the timber used for the walk ways had rotted.



Fig 2: The old quarry used as a car park for Skirwith Cave. The steps led up to the cave entrance and the words Cave Entrance and an arrow pointing to the steps can still just be made out on the rock face to the right of the steps. The concrete block walls of the ticket office and souvenir shop are still standing. PJM

Skirwith Cave Chapel-le-Dale SD709738

The cave was first open to the public Easter 1964. Entry cost 2 shillings for an adult and it had its own car park, toilets and souvenir shop (Fig.2). The cave was entered by a series of steps down through a collapse, which was later reinforced with a concrete arch. The remains of the gates are still present but further collapse has made the entrance now a caver size slither down to the stream. A tall stream passage on made paths led to a series of steps bypassing a collapse until finishing in a large chamber which once had a good display of straw stalagmites. Concerns about the effects of nearby quarrying on the structural integrity of the cave along with competition from the nearby well established White Scar Cave probably contributed to the attraction's closure in 1974.

Weathercote Cave Chapel-le-Dale SD739776

An impressive chasm situated in the grounds of Weathercote House. Once a popular site for visitors to the area. The second waterfall was painted by Turner in the 19th century. The entry price was 1 shilling in the late 1880s and sixpence in the 1960s. The cave closed in 1971 after falling rocks killed a young man recorded in the Cave Rescue

Organisation incident log as Incident 240 09/05/1971 Caver killed by rock fall. Fatal.

Bruntscar Cave (SD738789)

Discovered in 1865 by the tenant of Blue Hall, a Mr Kidd, who had reputedly long been suspicious of the sound of water under Bruntscar farm (Riley 1923). Some parts of the cave were blasted to make it easier for visitors (Speight 1895, 39) and it was at one time gated (Fig.3). There was apparently no fixed cost but good tea and eggs could be purchased from the farm while wet boots dried out after a visit (Balderston and Balderston 1888).

Holme Hill Cave Ribblehead SD785802

A resurgence cave on the north side of Gayle Beck near the junction of Cam Fell track with the B6255 Hawes road. A 1.5 m wide stream passage can be followed for 122 m. Beyond this point the further 274 m of further passages are constricted and technical (Brook et al. 1991, 123). The remains of a frame for a gate are passed shortly after entering the cave (Fig.4). Exactly when this was a show cave is not known but only the frame for the gate remained by 1924 (Yorkshire Ramblers Club 1927). It was possibly functioning when the Settle to Carlisle railway opened in 1876 bringing visitors to the area. The cave is reported as having been the scene of a fatality during 1974 due to a fractured skull resulting from a fall (Howes 2007).

Yordas Cave Kingsdale SD705791

A large and impressive fault aligned chamber accessed easily accessed through a stooping size entrance in a dry valley close to the Ingleton - Dentdale road at Kingsdale Head. The Yordas show cave was a very low-key enterprise, with only the occasional visitor although it did have some very eminent ones including Wordsworth and Turner. In 1890 Balderston and Balderston (1888) recorded knocking on the door of Braida Garth farm and paying a florin to be taken in to the cave through the locked entrance door with some candles:

> "It's narrow opening in the limestone rock is closed by a door - a precaution not to be censured, by those who know what wanton destruction has been caused to many miracles of nature by her irreverent worshippers... fantastic stalactites and stalagmites, which visitors so often beat to pieces for pleasure!"

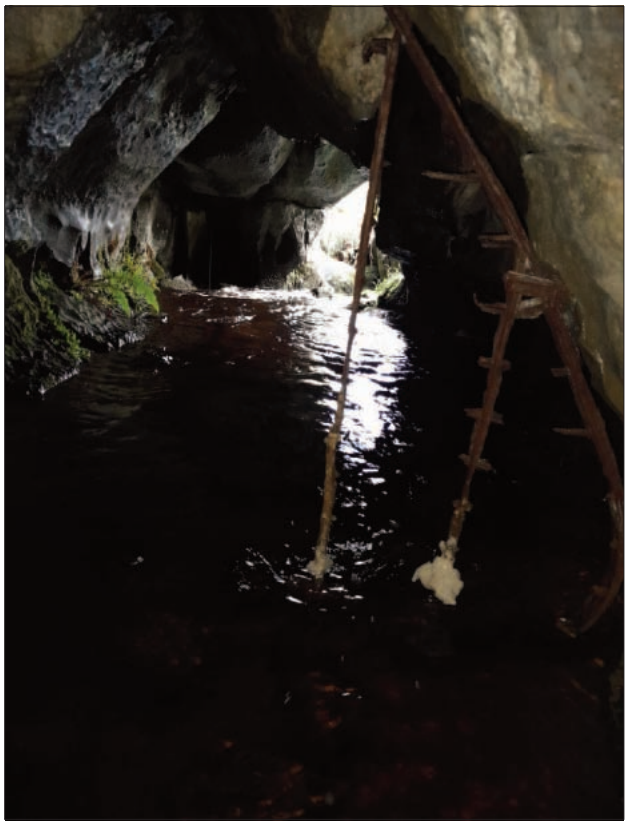


Fig 4: Looking out towards the entrance of Holme Hill Cave with the remains of the gate. PJM



Fig 3: Bruntscar Cave entrance looking out probably 1930s. From the British Speleological Association records hosted by the British Cave Research Association online archive. https://archives.bcra.org.uk/

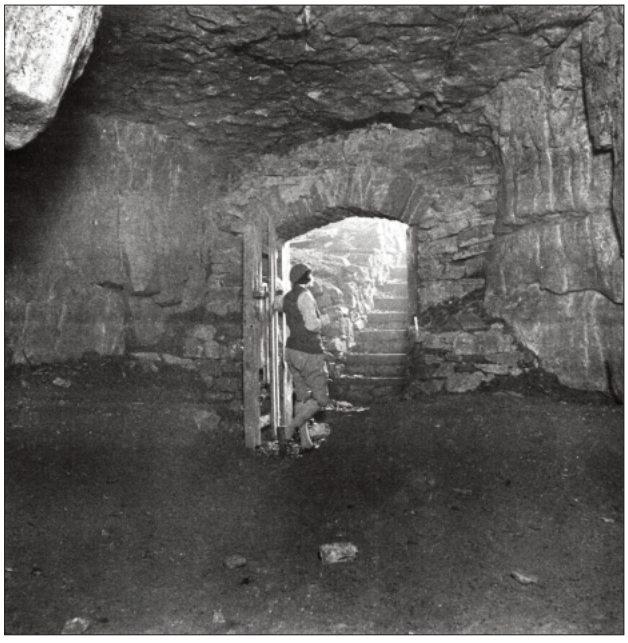


Fig 5: Yordas Cave looking out of the Stepped entrance probably 1930s. From the British Speleological Association records hosted by the British Cave Research Association online archive. https://archives.bcra.org.uk/



Fig 6: The walling around the Yordas Cave entrance 1938. Reproduced from the Peter Binns collection hosted by the British Cave Research Association online archive. https://archives.bcra.org.uk/ https://archives.bcra.org.uk/

The cave was still gated in the 1930s as Brown (1938) could not visit as the guide did not come with the key when arranged (Fig 5). The walling around the entrance where the gate had been survived until the early 1990s when it was washed away in an extreme flood event (Fig 6).

Palmer (1904) identified graffiti from visitors dating from 1653 but a recent study identified a piece dated 1768 as the earliest present but suggested the earlier graffiti may have been covered by calcite (Howard 2007).

Conclusions

The potential to make money from enabling visits to the underground has been appreciated from the earliest arrival of travellers in the region. In one of the earliest published accounts of a visit dated 1761 the need for 'lights and dues' is noted when wishing to visit the caves of Ease Gill Kirk (Craven 1999). This wish to experience the underground is still being successfully catered for in the area today and hopefully may long continue.

Note: The sites discussed in this article are on private land and no right of access is implied.

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Web resources: [1] https://www.showcaves.com/

Coal mining trials in Giggleswick and Settle

Mary Slater, Michael Slater and Michael Pearson

The Trust has supported research into a supposed coal pit at Sutcliffe House in Giggleswick. Relevant lease documents and correspondence concerning coal mining trials in the area were found in the Chatsworth House Archives relevant to the period 1605 to 1740. The transcriptions are in the NCHT archive. Many of the items are just draft copies of letters concerning the drawing up of leases, based on earlier lease indentures and draft leases in the local area and further afield.

Up to the mid-1500s the Percy family were lords of the manor of Giggleswick. The lordship then went to the Clifford family by marriage (Earls of Cumberland), then from 1703 to the Earl of Burlington by marriage and finally to the Dukes of Devonshire, at Chatsworth House.

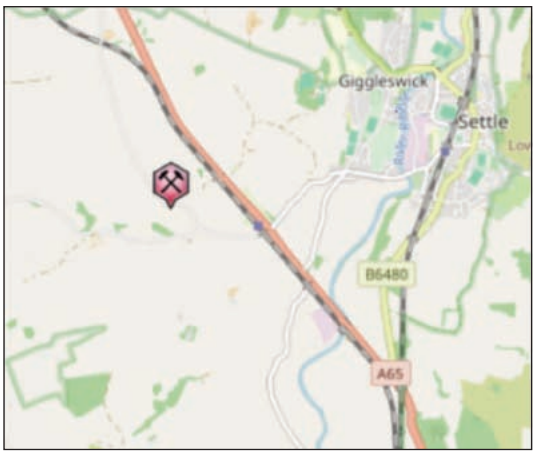
Coal could have been used domestically or for limestone burning to make lime for agricultural use. Only those with good stone houses with chimneys (a Tudor invention) are likely to have used coal domestically – the sulphurous fumes would not have been acceptable in thatched cottages with holes in the roof. The Household Book of Henry Percy 5th Earl of Northumberland made in 1512 mentions sea-coal and char-coal and worries about smoke damage to wall furnishings.

Serious coal-mining in England was only undertaken in and after the 16th century. The Ingleton coal field and its history described by John Bentley et al. in 2005 shows that a successful industry was carried out there, probably from Elizabethan times through to the 20th century. The geologist John Phillips reported in 1837 on the prospects for coal mining in the Burton and Ingleton coalfield. This coal field covered only a few square miles just south of Ingleton. William Knipe and later Isaac Knipe of Holling Hall in Giggleswick in the late 1600s were involved so it is not surprising that interest was aroused around Giggleswick by those looking for opportunities to invest their money, principally the gentry.

Various leases are noted in the Chatsworth Archives (item L/45/33) which show that the lords of the manors of Giggleswick and Settle were keen to ensure that they could profit from any coal or metal ores found on their property. They took the lease money for agreed periods of years and if any profits ensued, they would have a share – no risks involved!



OS 6 inch Yorkshire 132 © maps.nls.uk 1847



Mindat.org Field gate pit location

Giggleswick Coal Pit

A recent NCHT visit to Sutcliffe House on Belle Hill, Giggleswick, courtesy of Andrew Davidson, reminded visitors of the 'Coal Pit' in the garden, remains of which appear to be extant. This is shown on the 6 inch OS map of 1847 but not on the 25 inch 1892 OS map.

Michael Kelly, in 2008, says that 'For several centuries, the seams of the Rivers Lune and Upper Ribble were an important local resource, producing coal for domestic and small scale industrial use in forges, potteries, brick kilns, limekilns and smelting mills.'

The current version the website of The Northern Mine Research Society (undated but post-2008, seen June 2025) states that:

Although trials were made in the Grassington Grit there, no significant amount of coal is known to have been worked at Giggleswick, so it was not covered by Kelly. Since then, however, further evidence has come to light and so it was decided to include it here.

In 1740, Charles Nowell obtained a lease to work coal from the Earl of Burlington. It appears that the areas felt most likely to carry workable coal were Croft Closes (SD023445) and Field Gate (SD960302). Mike Kelly has visited both locations and found "no features which could be clearly related to trials for coal. Small diggings in the fields on the outcrop of the Brennand [Grassington] Grit could have been either for walling stone or coal trials, & the fields on the shales above are featureless".

By 1829 the Duke of Devonshire was Lord of the Manor, and so was entitled to work the coal. John Barrett, the Duke's mining agent at Grassington, was making trials for coal at Giggleswick and the landowner, John Hartley, sought recompense for damages claiming that the miners were laying rubbish on his fields.

What appears to be firm proof for mining, the 'Coal Pit' shown on the first edition 1/10560 Ordnance Survey map, at the eastern edge of the village, was actually a 'Cock Pit'.

This comment about a cock pit is considered disputable.

Brown, in his book 'On foot around Settle', has much to say about the Settle Mining company in 1868 and a shaft being sunk near Wigglesworth. One thousand shares of £1

were taken up. But the venture failed, leaving '... inhabitants with dreams of rapidly-accumulating wealth' disappointed. 'The money was sunk as well as the shaft'. Frederic Riley describes coal pits and working conditions in Garsdale, abandoned in the 1860s.

Chatsworth Archives L/45/33

In 1605 George, Earl of Cumberland, and Francis Clifford his brother and William Ingleby of Ripley leased mining rights to Thomas Breyshey et al. for 6000 years. Metals were included knowing that the Grassington mines had such reserves. The lease made in 1740 with Charles Nowell and William Birkbeck refers back to this lease of 1605 which forms the basis of all following leases, none of which appear to have been profitable to the lessee or the Earls of Cumberland or Burlington.

The lease of 1605 refers to '... All and singular Mines of Lead Copper Iron and Coal in the premises thereby demised Other than in the messuages houses /gardens\ Orchards Crofts arrable lands and meadow of such Lessees respectively in Gigleswick aforesaid parcel of the thereby demised premises and also stone and slate for the only use of the said Earl and his heirs for his and their severall buildings and reparations ... and also for the Tenants of the said Earl and his heirs ... and free liberty and leave to sink digg and search for the said Lead Copper Iron Coal Stone and Slate at their liberty and pleasure other than in the said messuages gardens crofts arrable land and meadow ground within the fields of Gigleswick aforesaid full power Liberty and authority to have and convert all such lead copper Iron coal stone and slate as they or any of them should find or gett in or out of the said premises or any part thereof to his and their own proper use and behoof with reasonable and convenient Egress and Regress to carry and recarry the same ... '

In 1629 Francis, Earl of Cumberland, granted to Henry Walker of Giggleswick leave to mine in grounds, fields, moors, pastures and waste. The Walkers had leased the Ingleton coalfield in the later 1600s and Eleanor Walker married William Knipe who had interests in Giggleswick. Coal hunting was all in the family!

A copy of the lease for 11 years made in 1629 concerning Henry Walker was sent to the Earl in London in 1735 'All thosse his Lo[rdshi]ps myne and mynes seame and seames and vaynes of Seacoale com'only called [and] knowne by the nam(e) of Stonecale lyinge or beinge within upon or under all and every or any the groundes moors wastes pastures and territories of the said Erle of the Mannors or Lordshippes of Giglesweeke and Setle aforesaid and ether of them and full and free liberty powere and authority to sincke digg and make pitt and pitts waies and watercourses ... ' '... and to dispose and lay the earth gravell and stone digged and cast upon the ground as usually in such w[or]ks is and hath bene accostomed and in as ample large and free manner and sort as the said Erle hath or ought to have, or is reserved unto him his heires and assignes upon the grants and lets made to the tenents within the said Mannors and liberty to erect and build houses and shades over such pitt and pitts as shalbe soe wr[ou]ght And alsoe Free ingresse egresse and regresse in and from the said Grounds Moores Com'ons and wasts and the myne and mynes there to be made wrought and found withall manner of h[ors?]e Carts or any other Carrige needfull for the searche sincking digging getting leading and Carying of Coales so to be gotten or for any other matter or thing belonging or incident to or about the said works.'

In 1695 Richard, Earl of Burlington, leased digging rights for 14 years in moors, commons, pastures of Giggleswick and Settle to John Lister of Giggleswick, Robert Potter of Leeds, Roger Crumbleholme of Long Preston, Richard Atkinson of Giggleswick, William Anderson of Malham and Francis Wellock of Calton. A long list of conditions was included, the Earl being careful to avoid claims on his property while ensuring a possible profit. The lease gave rights to 'Search for, sinke, digg up & gett such Seames, veines, mynes & quarryes of Cole as they shall find within the Moores, com'ons & pasturegrounds of Giggleswicke & Settle in ye sd County with full & free Liberty of Ingresse, egresse & regresse, way & passage to sough, digge, sinke & make pitts & lay above ground ye sd Coles & to sell, dispose of & carry away ye same in as full large & ample manner ...'

It continued in detail ' ... see if ye same bee soe fairely soughed, digged & gotten without such wilfull or unnecessary wast or omission as aforesd. And also shall & will soe sufficiently cover, raile or fence about all such pitts, soughs & trenches as they shall digg dureing the sd Terme, and make even with ye surface of ye Earth, such as ye sd Earles Agent for ye time being shall thinke fit and such as shall bee left workeing in, soe as ye same may bee kept Staunch & secure from the falling in of cattle or any other thing. And shall & will save and keepe harmeless and Indempnifyed ye sd Earle, his heires and assignes upon those accounts. And also That noe wilfull or unnecessary spoile shall be made in any mans ground about ye sinkeing for soughing, getting & carrying away ye said Coles, nor in laying by ye earth, wasts or rubbish that shall bee digged out of ye sd pitts or soughs, But that every thing relateing to the Sinkeing for, soughing getting up and carrying away of ye sd Coles shall bee done & performed to ye lest spoile, harme and prejudice in any mans land and or ground that possibly can bee. And that ye Coles soe to bee gotten shall bee carryed away from the Pitthill on the nearest & most convenient places & wayes to the com'on Highroad or passeage next to ye sd Pitts: And if there bee any just cause of complaint of any extraordinary or unnecessary damage or foyle made (which might bee avoided) either by ye getting, soughing or carrying away of ye said Coles... ' 'And Also shall & will dureing ye sd Terme pay off & discharge one full Moytie or halfe part of all such damage as any person or occupyer of Land shall sustaine by reason of ye digging, soughing, getting or carrying away of ye said Coles, as the same shall bee reasonably settled & computed by ye Jury or by foure men of the neighbourhood ... ' 'And Also shall and will at their owne proper costs and charges keepe cleane, open and well covered all such soughs and Levells as shall bee by them soughed & carryed up for the better conveniency of getting & digging up the sd Coles, and at ye end of the said Terme shall and will yeild up ye same unto ye said Earle, his heires & ass's cleane, open and well covered as aforesaid.'

In 1735 Richard, Earl of Burlington, leased rights for 41 years to William Dawson of Langcliffe Hall, Charles Harris of Catterell (sic) Hall, Robert Tatham of Stainforth, Anthony Lister, Richard Brayshaw, John Foster of Armistead, John Lister, William Birkbeck Elder and Younger, and John Rudley (Ridley) all of Settle. They were allowed to search for coals in

the manor of Giggleswick, but not under houses, outhouses, barns, buildings, orchards or gardens. Anthony Lister, vicar of Giggleswick, was resident in the Sutcliffe house in 1748 which had been in the Lister family from 1724, so it might be suspected that any coal pit there may have been dug by him, privately or with permission. However, the lease did not allow digging in gardens!

It is unclear whether William Dawson and his nine partners went ahead with their venture. In the first place the indenture was undated with the space left blank and there is a lack of further records. Perhaps some of the partners had reservation about the terms and pulled out. This might explain the protracted negotiations, which are preserved, concerning the later scheme proposed by Charles Nowell. There was lengthy procrastination about the rent and length of the lease as well as whether a royalty would be paid based on the amount of coal extracted. Perhaps to downplay expectations Charles Nowell wrote that he only expected to find a small bed of coal which would be used for local lime burning.

When, finally, all the terms were agreed the project encountered a further problem. According to the Earl's agent, Richard and Thomas Brayshaw had hired labourers to dig up the ground where the trial was taking place. Using the claim that the land was arable, these tenants suggested that as such this precluded the digging of a mine. It is interesting that Richard Brayshaw was one of the partners named in the Dawson scheme of 1735. Henry Simpson, the Earl's agent, reported that Low Moor, the site of the trial, was stinted pasture and not capable of being ploughed 'untill the Rocks and Bushes are first digged out'. [L/24/98]

The project thus went ahead, but in February 1740 Charles Knowell wrote that he had hit hard rock and had to resort to blasting with gunpowder. Just as serious was that water was '12 yards deep in the pits'. There was no further correspondence so perhaps the problems were too daunting and Nowell decided to cut his losses. So where is Low Moor and what remains of the mine? Though not appearing on Ordnance Survey maps Low Moor was the area of Croft Closes in Giggleswick parish and was the same locality examined by Michael Kelly. No doubt the mine was backfilled with the spoil but its exact locality is yet to be identified.

Other projects were more successful. In 1735 there was made a deed concerning a Lawkland manor coal royalty due to John Ingleby of Lawkland from William Dawson of Langcliffe, Charles Harris, Antony Lister vicar of Giggleswick and others.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the project is that trial pits for coal were allowed to be made in Giggleswick and Settle from 1605 onwards by the lords of the manor but exact sites cannot be determined. There is no evidence found that any commercial venture resulted from any of these permissions to dig but clearly some people were considering making test pits, hoping to make their fortunes.

It appears that the writing of these leases followed a similar pattern over more than one hundred years. They prescribe in great detail how and where the search and operation is to be done, concerning access, safety, spoliation and water drainage.

Glossary

Corf, corve – wicker basket or small cart, holding about one hundredweight of coal

Demise – convey, grant

Foyle – excavation or pit

Peck, Winchester peck – unit of dry measure for coal, ¼ of 2150 cubic inches, i.e. about 9 litres

Sough – underground channel for draining water

ye – the

yt - that

Peck vessel. Winchester measure - unit of dry measure for coal



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Acknowledgements

The archivists at the Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth have been most obliging in this work. Prof Richard Hoyle identified the locality of Low Moor in Giggleswick.

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Acquisitions at the Museum of North Craven Life in 2025

Heather Lane

In November 2025, the museum team, volunteers, staff and trustees at The Folly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Anne Read. Between 1976 and 1977, to celebrate HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee, Anne had been instrumental in setting up the temporary exhibition in Twisleton's Yard that was to become the founding collection of the Museum of North Craven Life. She steered its progress from those early days until her retirement from her voluntary position as Honorary Curator in 2019, but remained actively engaged – generously sharing her vast knowledge of the local area with her colleagues and delighted to know that her work was being taken forward by a new team of professional staff.

Our Collections Manager, Carson Murphy, and Documentation Officer, Dr Rebecca Bennion, made remarkable progress during the second year of our Dynamic Collections project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The collections audit has been a catalyst for the reorganisation, photography and relabeling of thousands of artifacts and archival materials. The project continues to attract new volunteers, some of whom have trained as cataloguers or are involved with collections research.

As an Arts Council England Accredited Museum, we have a Collections Development Policy that ensures that we only collect material that will promote understanding of North Craven and its heritage. We were grateful to receive many donations to the Museum during the year that helped us meet this objective. In addition, we added a number of new oral history recordings to the collection with support from an Arts Council England Unlocking Collections grant focusing on our intangible cultural heritage, augmented by three further recordings given by NCBPT trustee Caroline Rosier.

Notable new objects included:

- A Georgian 'three-seater' toilet, with its slate front and privy door, given by Jane & Robert Bordett
- A group of show trophies and record books from the Ingleborough Group of Women's Institutes, presented by their chair Margaret Coleman
- A group of items relating to Malham Tarn House and the former Field Studies Centre, donated by Emmeline Butler on behalf of the National Trust Malham Tarn Estate
- An interesting addition to our Burton Potteries collection – a 'tree bark' design flower pot and saucer given by John Owen
- A pair of early 20th century elbow-length silk gloves, part of a 1939 Langcliffe wedding costume – the gift of Janice Procter
- Two nameplates: RIBBLEHEAD VIADUCT (from Class 60 locomotive no. 60071, and previously from Class 47 no. 47760) transferred from the Science Museum Group
- A lamp from Giggleswick quarry, the gift of David Hedley
- A fine long case clock made by William Clough of Duke Street, Settle, donated by David and Rosemary Wallace

Significant additions to the art collection included:

- A framed artwork by Godfrey Wilson of the inside of barn, based on a Horner photograph, kindly donated by Jenny Hall
- Four bronze fish and bird sculptures by David Tippey, of the type made for Kirkby Malham and Coniston Cold Churches, donated by Angela Tippey
- Two watercolours by Constance Pearson, gifted by her granddaughter Katharine Holmes RA
- A framed watercolour on paper signed and dated 1874, by Edmund Mariner Gill, entitled 'Waterfall in Wethercote Cave' donated by Heather Lane

Additionally, the loan of Katharine Holmes' mixed media painting 'Settle from Buckhaw Brow', gifted to the people of Settle, was renewed by Settle Town Council.

Photographic holdings were augmented by gifts of Horner Studio cartes de visite from Roger Taylor and Heather Lane, and a Horner cabinet card from Rebecca Bennion. Sarah Freeman donated two early, framed Horner prints. Jenny Mapplebeck presented a photograph of the coronation celebrations for Edward VII, taken in 1902 outside Settle Post Office. Jean Jelley donated photographs and programmes from the studio of Ken and Jean Jelley, with additional material gifted by Graham Cleverly. Carson Murphy gifted an aerial photograph of Clapham. Work was completed during the year to make the digitised catalogue of Horner Studio images available online and thanks go to the many volunteers who were involved in this project and to the members of the public who have added to our growing body of knowledge about the collection.

We were particularly grateful to be offered the archives of the North Craven Heritage Trust on loan for a period of five years. Additions to our archival collections also included a set of typed sermons written by Rev George Moffat for the Zion Congregational Chapel, kindly donated by his great-grandson Thomas Claughton. Robin Bundy generously organised the loan from Kirkby Malham Parish Council of a set of historic indentures and the bible belonging to Robert King, the vicar of Kirkby Malham at the end of the 16th century. Margaret Hird kindly donated the National Farm Survey for the West Riding, 1943. We are grateful to Helen Wallbank from Slaidburn Archive for donating a set of burial cards from the Settle area, and Elizabeth Shorrock for her donation of a bundle of invoices from Settle tradespeople that add to our understanding of the town's economic history. Michael Pearson presented us with three fascinating scrapbooks of local newspaper cuttings and local programmes, two of which belonged to Bill Mitchell and include some pieces written by him. The gift also included three microscope slides prepared by Kathleen Mattinson of Austwick, examples of her work – an unusual cottage industry – which were sold all over the country. Finally, we are grateful to Ben Caldwell for the

donation of photograph albums, drawings and deeds relating to The Riddings, Long Preston.

The museum's reference library and research collections grew significantly, with books and pamphlets on a range of topics from archaeology, botany and geology to the early days of the museum itself. Thanks go to Ged Benn, Rebecca Bennion, Richard Greenhalgh, Caitlin Greenwood, Graham Hallam, Sue Lenehan, Damian Lockley and Morag Reavley. Edward Hindle generously gifted a presentation copy in a full leather binding of The Parish of Kirkby Malhamdale by John William Morkill, published by Kirkby Malham P. C. C. in 2005. The late Ken Pearce, who did so much to support the museum over the years, donated his extensive collection of research material and maps of Clapham and the surrounding area. Sue Mann also arranged for the deposit of a collection of books from the Hearse House in Clapham.

Contemporary material was also added to the museum's holdings. This included a poster made by local schoolgirl, Amelia Routledge, during the COVID pandemic to boost the morale of the residents of Hawkswick, a coaster from the release party for the tenth book in Julia Chapman's Dales Detective series and, closer to home, Victoria Murray donated items from the Museums and Heritage Awards Ceremony in 2023, including the menu, delegate list, a printed photo of The Folly Coffee House manager with the award for Museum Café of the Year. We were also very pleased to accession the booklet produced by participants in the museum's Friday Club (our community co-curation group) to accompany their exhibition, The Things We Keep.

As ever, we are grateful to everyone who has contacted the team at The Folly to discuss making a gift or a loan to the Museum. We receive so much support both locally and from further afield and are always pleased to receive research enquiries and offers of new material. This will continue to be the case in 2026, when The Folly will be under scaffolding for major roof repairs. However, the museum will still be open and we look forward to welcoming you, whether as a visitor, a volunteer, a donor or someone undertaking local history research.

For further information, please contact *curator@ncbpt.org.uk*

Our Lost Orchards

Michael Pearson

Whilst doing some other research I was looking through the tithe map and schedules for Austwick, of 1851, and was struck by the number of orchards in the area. These were not commercial orchards but fairly small ones close to properties or attached to gardens. In all there were 28 properties with orchards, of which 19 were less than one rood or a quarter of an acre in area.

Over the last 175 years many of these orchards have disappeared. For example, at Austwick Hall Thomas Richard Clapham recorded in the House Journal that he grew cherries, apples, plums and pears. Among the pears grown was a variety called Jargonelle, first mentioned by Parkinson in 1629 but thought to be much older. The only plum he recorded was called Orleans. This was an old French cooking plum dating from 1600. There were three varieties of apples grown. Blenheim Orange, also known as Kempster's Pippin, originated in Oxfordshire in about 1740. Then there was Ribston (either Pippin or Pearlmain) which was first grown at Ribston Hall, near Harrogate and dates from 1707. The final variety was called Lord Suffield which had been raised by Thomas Thorpe from Middleton, near Manchester. So many of the fruit grown had a long history in cultivation and two of the apples have a very local provenance.

In 1878 Clapham cut down the orchard and made a new kitchen garden. From his journal it is not clear whether he transplanted his fruit trees. But in 1908 he planted new fruit trees bought from the Backhouse nursery, near York. Although described as 'beautifully trained trees' he did not record which varieties he had selected. Later in the twentieth century the kitchen garden was cleared and a house was built on the site. Other orchards may simply have succumbed to age with fruit trees not being replaced as they blew over in storms etc.

Although Yorkshire is not now known for its commercial orchards it has a long history of fruit growing. One of the earliest books on the subject was written by William Lawson (c1554-1635) who was vicar of Ormesby, near Middlesbrough. His book 'A new orchard and garden: or the best way of planting, grafting, and to make any ground good, for a rich orchard: particularly in the North etc' was first published in 1618 and went through several editions. With his 48 years experience of gardening in the north he advised 'meddle not with Apricockes nor Peaches … which will not like our cold parts'. He did provide a wealth of detail about growing cherries, damsons, pears and apples: on soil conditions, grafting, pruning, pests and diseases. There were also helpful tips about gathering and storing the fruit as well as making cider and perry. Today some of his recommendations appear quite odd, such as digging a moat around the orchard (keeps the trees well watered & livestock at bay) and planting the trees 'twenty yards asunder' (before the development of dwarfing rootstock and controlling the use of the orchard as pasture). What is missing from his book

is any reference to the different varieties of fruit trees. From the grafting section it is clear that varieties existed and were commercially available but not named.

In Kendal, Damson Sunday was a regular event until the start of World War II. Damsons have been grown on a large scale in Westmorland since the early 1700s, if not earlier. Sold as fruit, for making jam and the skins were used for the manufacture of purple dye. The Westmorland Damson Association is a thriving organisation today, promoting the growing of this fruit (lythdamsons.org.uk).

The archives at North Allerton have some fascinating records of gardens and orchards in Yorkshire. There is a plan of Newburgh Priory dating from 1722 which shows two orchards, which were situated east and west of the central pleasure gardens and surrounded by moats. A clear indication of the enduring importance of Lawson's advice a century prior to this.

The earliest record of fruit varieties can be found in an orchard plan of 1804, possibly for Brockfield Hall in the East Yorkshire. There are an amazing number of varieties of apples, crab apples, pears and plums. I had always thought that crab apples were a native species so it was interesting to discover names such as Siberian, Double flowering Chinese apple, and Minchal (possibly Manchurian). Were these solely used for making culinary jelly or were they an essential ingredient for cider production?

The list of apples contains some evocative names, many of them Yorkshire varieties: Ribston Pippin (previously mentioned), York Glory, Hunt House (named after the property near Whitby), Yorkshire Greening and Bowes's Nonsuch. The pear trees included York Bergamot, Swan's Egg and Catillac. The plums included Red Orleans, White Damascene (an old word for damson) and White Magnum Bonum.

The gardening notebook of John Smith of Egton, near Whitby (again at the archives at North Allerton) contains some fascinating entries dating from 1823 to 1867. Using a single stock apple tree of the Leadington variety he took six branches and grafted on thirteen other apple varieties, These consisted of a mixture of cooking and dessert fruit which would be ready to harvest at different time of the summer and autumn. The census records show that he was a landed proprietor, born in Scarborough and retiring to live in Whitby on the death of his wife. In 1823 he had planted a new orchard and listed ten varieties of apples which supplemented the eight already growing in the old garden. He also listed a total of 42 varieties growing in other people's gardens. The notebook also contains records, spanning 25 years, as to when he planted his vegetables. So he began sowing his onions on 17th March 1843 and was still sowing cabbages on 2nd August. John Smith also cultivated a wide range of ornamental plants acquiring Fuchsias from Scarborough, Auriculas from Lancashire and Pansies from the Rev. B Richardson.

The final records are from James Lightfoot's (1795-1857) 'daybook' kept at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. The entries date from 1810 to 1855 and contain extracts from newspapers as well as his own notes. Born in Liverpool, where his father was the master of a trading vessel, James Lightfoot appears to have spent much of his life at Askrigg in Wensleydale. In the 1841 census he is recorded as being a brewer with his neighbour, Adam Hutchinson, being described as a publican. In the next census he has become a yeoman. In other words he has given up his trade and taken up farming. There are several memorials to the Lightfoots in Askrigg church so the family was well established in the area. Just as interesting, and a digression from orchards, is a memorial to Thomas Pratt, captain of the Hibernia, who was buried in Liverpool in 1811 and his brother, John, who died on his first voyage from Jamaica to England in 1801. This connection between the Dales and sea-faring is a link deserving further research.

In the book James Lightfoot lists 41 fruit trees growing in his garden in Askrigg. Of these there were 19 apple trees, 7 pears, 13 plums and 2 cherries. Also recorded were notes such as ' good eating early', a 'Baker keeper' and 'Early keeper' for the apples; all details to aid the harvesting of the crop. He also included a note about storing apples: 'Apples covered in a linen cloth will keep them from the first'.

It has not been possible to locate the house but, from the notes it is clear that the garden had walls to the north and the west and the fruit trees were planted both as standards and espaliers. Lightfoot also grew a wide variety of vegetables, soft fruit and herbs.

The notebook also contains instructions for controlling pests. For example 'A remedy against wall fruit being destroyed by snails and slugs' was copied from Kay's Liverpool Courier of June 1816. It involves mixing tar with horse hair and painting the base of the walls and around the tree stems. There is also another recipe for destroying insects on fruit trees. This time tobacco water was diluted and applied with a fine watering can to the leaves.

We have become accustomed to supermarkets providing an amazing variety of fruit shipped from all over the world and available throughout the year. But typically there are only half a dozen varieties of apples and a couple of pears and plums. Sadly this is a tiny proportion of the varieties that have been grown in this country over the last couple of centuries. There are more than two thousand varieties of apples alone with their different tastes, textures, culinary uses and storage length. Unless we continue to grow these we will lose a rich cultural history. Even more worrying is the loss to our wildlife. Traditional orchards provide an amazing habitat for wildlife and an abundant source of food for insects, birds and mammals.

Acknowledgements

Jane Sammells of the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes provided useful background history of James Lightfoot and access to his day book.

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Farther Rome, Giggleswick

Catherine Vaughan-Williams



Farther Rome is a rubble-built farmhouse typical of the late 17th century. The farm over which it once presided included the nearby similarly built stables and barns. Its beginnings and early history run parallel to that of Rome Farm [1] of which, for much of the twentieth century, it was an integral part. Prior to 1901, however, it was the farmhouse on the separate Far Roome Farm. Its history resides largely in the people who shaped it.

The first reference to Roome was in the Percy Survey of 1499, when William Tailer and his son Thomas were tenants, paying an annual rent of 21s for one of two 'loges' (small subsistence level farmsteads averaging 12 acres) [2] However, a John Tailer and his wife appeared as early as 1379, when they paid 1½ groats (6d) Poll Tax. Introduced by Richard II to fund the ongoing Hundred Years' War, this tax levied one groat (4d) on every adult, with higher rates according to estate.

The areas of lodges were no doubt measured in customary acres, equivalent in Craven to around 1.6 modern (statutory) acres. Thus, in late medieval times, each lodge or 'infield' area at Roome may well have consisted of meadow, pasture and some arable land, amounting to twenty modern acres, which, together with grazing rights in a common 'outfield', maybe another hundred acres, already constituted fairly large, productive dairy and livestock farms generating an income and even accumulation of capital.[Tom Lord - personal communication]

Ten or twelve generations of Tailers occupied the Roome farmstead continuously until 1672 and have been traced through the Percy and Clifford Surveys of 1520 and 1579 respectively, the Giggleswick Manorial Court records and Parish Registers, and a variety of deeds and wills.

Robert Tailer, an 'at-will' tenant from1549, was granted the lord's warrant in 1572 for a lifetime tenancy at a fixed rent of 21s. By then he had taken on a further *'sixteenth part of one rood of land and two parcels of houses on the lord's waste'*, at a rent of 2d. Seven years later the holding, now held jointly with his son Thomas, consisted of one 'messuage', one barn, two other outhouses, an estimated 14 acres of land and the improved parcel. [3]

The property was unchanged when, in 1583, the manorial court permitted transfer of the tenancy, on his payment of the fine of £17, to Thomas *'in consideracon of Coments made at Daye of marriage of the same Thomas and by writtinge thereof shewed to the said Commissioners'*.[4] The nature of the 'writtinge' is uncertain. Thomas had married Margaret Carr, probably of Close House, in September 1576; John, their first child, was born four months later. Of the many other Tailer baptisms in the parish register, only those of Jane in 1579, and Isabella in 1592, can be confidently assigned to Thomas and Margaret.

After decades of bewildering religious turmoil, the accession of Elizabeth I in 1588, brought relative stability and security to the country, albeit with high levels of inflation, and increased prosperity for some in the latter part of her reign. Thus, when George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, desperate to raise funds to pay his debts, offered his tenants leases in exchange for fines and gressums, Thomas was able, in 1604, to pay the £40 6s 8d required to secure a 6000-year lease on the Roome farmstead. No doubt, in common with other more prosperous owners, he had taken up smaller holdings which had become non-viable, even at subsistence level, during the years of high inflation. He now owned thirty-four acres of *'diverse parcels of land lying partly together enclosed and also dispersed at Room'*. [5] He was also paying 5½ d moor rent.

Thomas's wife Margaret died in 1597; Thomas was still living in 1628,but probably died about 1630. John inherited the farm and started to enlarge it further. In 1630 he purchased two acres *'of enclosed arable and meadow ground called the Close under Cockett'*, and *'a parcel called Dads butts'*, and may well have added further parcels later. [6]

In 1610 John had married Jane, daughter of local freeholder Giles Houghton. The couple had seven children but only three, two daughters and a son, another Thomas, survived into adulthood. Apart from records of the children's baptisms and burials, and mention of legacies from Carr relatives, there is little trace of John until 1642, when he drew up his will. Maybe the outbreak of the Civil War precipitated this move. However, he lived another 12 years until, at the age of seventy-seven, he took his own life; the sad words *'se suspendit'* were appended to his burial record.

Under the terms of John's will, Thomas inherited his father's estate, subject to Jane's having lifetime occupancy of half the property and the income therefrom.[7] However, seven years later, Thomas was murdered (by persons, and for reasons, as yet unknown); a stark *'homicid'* accompanied his burial record of September 1661. As he had apparently left no will, an heir at law had to be identified. Relevant records have not come to light but there is compelling evidence that he was married and had a daughter. Both his parents had left legacies to a grandchild - 'Jane Tailer' by John in 1642 and 'Jane Carr' by Jane in 1664 - who could only have been the daughter of Thomas Tailer - or just possibly the illegitimate daughter of Elizabeth. A Giggleswick marriage between Jane Tailer and Thomas Carr in 1661 was followed a year later by the baptism of *'Jane daughter of Thomas Carr of Stackhouse'*, and of two further children in 1665 and 1667. Jane, 'wife of Thomas Carr of Stackhouse', was buried in 1676. However, the complex rules of intestacy inclined towards primogeniture, in spite of this not being in law, and Thomas's estate was awarded to his nearest male collateral heir, his uncle William Atkinson (1), a tenant farmer at Little Bank. William had married John Tailer's sister Isabella in 1619. Both William and Isabella were now elderly; they died, within a few weeks of each other, early in 1663.

William's will was straightforward; all his real estate, essentially the farm at Roome, was to be divided equally between his sons George (1) (born c 1621) and William (2) (b 1662). His eldest son Thomas, farming at Cleatops, had recently predeceased him; two other sons, James (I) and Robert, received pecuniary legacies. [8]

Now seventy-five, Jane was alone, apart from her unmarried daughter. She had lost all five sons, and her elder daughter had married and left home. The support she needed, and the help to manage the farm, came from George Atkinson (I). Usually resident at Little Bank, he and his family were at Roome during the latter part of 1663, and possibly for some time before; they had returned home by the next May.[9]

Jane continued to live at Roome until her death in 1672. John Tailer's will had ensured her security and income but he had not bequeathed ownership of property. Yet, it is clear from her will, written in 1664, that she owned Under Cocket, which he had purchased in 1630. She left this, along with several monetary bonds, to her executors George Atkinson I (now co-owner of the farm) and Thomas Carr of Stackhouse (her grand-daughter's husband?), on the understanding that they would maintain her daughter Elizabeth for life.[10] After Jane's death, George (I) moved to Roome permanently whilst William (2) took over the tenancy at Little Bank. Their brother James (I), a tailor by trade, also moved into Far Roome.

The rural economy started to grow after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Agricultural productivity increased as enclosure and land improvement spread, and the Atkinsons, as did many others, became more prosperous. They purchased more land near Roome while selling off outlying parcels,[11] and embarked upon replacement of timber-framed thatched buildings with stone-built ones. They built a house of two storeys and five bays, with chamfered stone surrounds to the windows and doors, and a stone slate roof. They had the lintel over the entrance inscribed with their initial AGW (George and William Atkinson) and the date, 1690. [Fig 1] James (I) had died three years before.) A fire window with decorated lintel looked into a large arched inglenook fireplace. [12]

The Atkinsons were of a nonconformist persuasion, shunning ritual, sacrament and oath-taking. Having initially embraced Protestantism, they were less happy after the 1662 Act of Uniformity and, doubtless influenced by the preaching of Watson and others, and the views of their neighbours, notably John Moore and the Armitsteads, they began to attend the Society of Friends' Monthly Meetings at Ingham Lodge.[13] George Atkinson (10), particularly, became a prominent member and was later involved in the building of the Settle Meeting House, completed in 1678. [14] The births, marriages and burials of the Atkinson family are chronicled in the minutes of the Quaker Meetings held at Ingham Lodge, and later at Settle, although James(1) had married Isabella Chapman, in 1676, at John Moore's house in Eldroth.

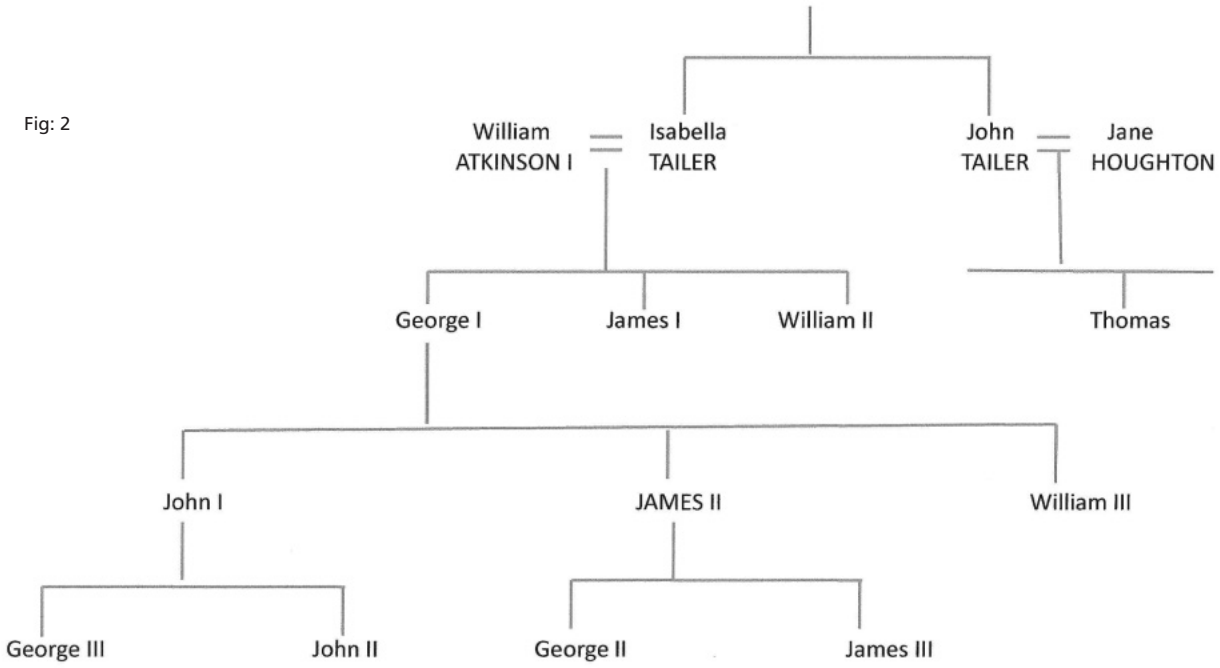
When James (1) died in 1687, he left his estate to his nephew, James (2), subject to his wife's having *'all my housis and ground for this yeare* […] *the fire housis gardings and turfe moss* […] *fre liberty for one cow*' for life. [15] (How he came by his real estate is a mystery.) Isabella died at Ingham Lodge and was buried there in 1712. George (1) died in 1703, William (2) in 1707. Neither James (1) nor William (2) had children; George (1) had eight, three of whom were sons. Together, the wills of the three brothers ensured that the 'messuage' and a larger portion of the Roome land passed to George's eldest son John (1), and just over a quarter of the land to his second son James (2). [16,17] Which piece should go to whom was carefully detailed. John Moore was witness to the wills and/or appraised the properties for probate.

The next few years were busy ones at Far Roome. John (1) married Alice Carr from Bentham in June 1707. And a year later both his brothers were married - James (2) to Susanna Preston from Farleton and William (2), having taken over the Little Bank tenancy, to his landlord's daughter, Elizabeth Bradley. The same year John (1) added to the farm with the purchase of rich meadow and arable land with a barn nearer Giggleswick. [18]



Fig: 1

Fig: 2



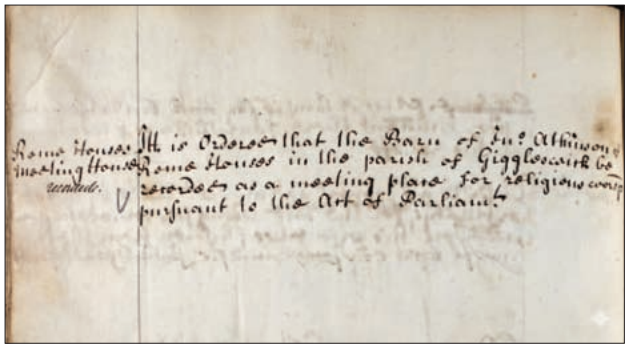


Fig: 3

Earlier in 1708, the Court of Quarter Sessions ruled that John Atkinson's barn be recorded as *'a meeting place for religious worship pursuant to the Act of Parliament'* (Act of Toleration of 1689). [19] [Fig 3]. An inscription over one stable door, IA (JA), was discernible in 1958, with an even less distinct date, 170[?], that could well be 1708.[20] Shortly afterwards, he started building a new barn at Far Roome. This was was completed in 1715, with a date stone inscribed AIA – John and Ann Atkinson over the door. [Fig 4].

But all did not remain well at Far Roome. Increasing food production was feeding the growing population but often at the expense of yeoman farmers, such as the Atkinsons, who, unable to compete with greater landowners, were driven to mortgage or sell their properties. In 1730 John Atkinson (1) raised a £300 mortgage on his house, outbuildings and land [21] which was later assigned to William Husband of Grain House.[22] A year later James (2) obtained a one-year loan of £67, secured against 6½ acres of land, which he appears not to have repaid [23], and the following year sold a further 8½ acres. [24] In 1734, he sold the remainder of his share of Far Roome - his house, barn, outbuildings and 36 acres - to Thomas Redmayne, a butcher in Langcliffe. [25] who let the farm to Richard Preston, a husbandman from Close House.

James (2) bought, a smaller holding at Bracenber. When he died in 1742 he left this and all his personal estate to his younger son, subject to a lifetime interest for his wife. Part of a field at Roome, Sandforth Brow, which he still owned, he left to his elder son George (2), known as the Elder, at Equith/High Little Bank.[26]

When John Atkinson (1) died, in 1744, his elder son, George (3), 'the Younger', inherited his half of Far Roome. [27] George was living with his cognominal cousin at Equith (now Ackworth). Richard Preston took on the tenancy and now occupied the whole farm. When George (3) died, *'not in full unity'*, in 1770, Far Roome passed to his brother John (2), probably as administrator. However, it was not until December 1786, four years after John (2)'s death, that George's estate was administered.

John Atkinson (2), armed with a £5 legacy from his father, had moved to York, where he became a school teacher and, in 1746, married Eleanor Pickering at the York Quaker Meeting. John (2) remained in York until his death in 1780. Four years later his widow re-married. It was possibly her husband who instigated the sale of the Far Roome to William Heselden, a farmer at Bracken Bottom.[28] The mortgage on Far Roome, transferred to mortgagees in York 1774 [29], was now redeemed.



Fig: 4 Date Stone on the Barn

Meanwhile, in 1770, Thomas Redmayne, nearing the end of his life, had transferred his part of Far Roome to his brother Richard. [30] Richard Redmayne already owned a considerable acreage in the area, most of which he would leave to his eldest son. But in 1779, shortly before is own death, he assigned his Roome property to William Heselden, his son-in-law [31] who now owned the whole of Far Roome Farm. Richard Preston's sons, John and William, now held tenancy; the Preston family continued as tenants until the late 1830s.

William Heselden also had extensive property which, in 1815, he left to his daughter Alice and her husband Thomas Foster, in trust for his grandson, John William Foster, until then four-year old came of age. Alice, his executor, failed to administer his will, as did Thomas as her executor after her death in 1827. When Thomas Foster died in 1837, administrative powers were granted to Arthur Ingleby and William Howson. [32]

Once in possession, John William Foster took careful stock of his inheritance, letting the farm to John Parker, a young husbandman from Close House, [33] whilst he continued to farm at Clapham, increasing his wealth by cattle trading and property dealing. On 15 June 1842 he married Ann Ingleby, then only nineteen, the daughter of Thomas Ingleby of Lawkland Hall and grand-daughter of Arthur Ingleby. The couple moved from Clapham to Lawkland Hall after the death of Ann's mother in 1852.

John William Foster died in Scarborough in 1879. He had written his will five years earlier, leaving an annuity to his wife, and his property to his sons. [32] In 1901, his two surviving sons, with the concurrence of their mother Ann Foster, and her grandchildren, offered Far Roome for sale, together with Swawbeck and other properties he had added to the premises. Christopher Bateson Maudsley of neighbouring Roome Farm bought the properties for his daughters, Elizabeth and Jane Maudsley, for £1810. [35] Joseph Parker's son Edward, having taken over the tenancy in the 1860s, held it until his untimely death in 1906.

The next phase in the history of Rome Farm has been recounted previously in this journal.[1] Rome and Farther Rome were combined in 1905 when the Maudsley sisters inherited Rome Farm from their brother. It was not until 1969 that the house at Far Rome was separated from the farm and sold as a private residence.

Acknowledgements:

I am extremely grateful to the owners of Farther Rome and Rome Farm for allowing me access to their houses, barns, documents and photographs and to Maureen Street for help with Inghamite records.

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Where have all the woodlands gone?

Towards an historical ecology of North Craven woodland

Ken Timms

The long decline in woodland[1]

Woodlands in the North Craven area have a relatively short history, starting from when the climate first became suitable for trees after the end of the last glacial period, about 12,000 years ago. Trees and plants re-colonised Britain from Europe in waves of different species from around 8200 BC. Starting with birch, followed by pine and then hazel, elm, oak and alder, they eventually covered most of the land. It was previously thought this 'wildwood' was a continuous, dense forest, but grazing by large herbivores may have created a mosaic of large areas of grassland and woodland. Nevertheless, there was substantial woodland cover. When people began to return in the Mesolithic period, small areas of managed wood are thought to have been created.



Lower Winskill Shadow Wood/Upland wood pasture ©Judith Allinson

Climate change subsequently reduced upland tree cover whilst blanket bog increased, and increasing agriculture in the Neolithic period had a major impact with areas of woodland cleared for crops or to create grassland for domestic animals. Woodland cover had been reduced to about half of the land area of England during the Bronze Age, at around 2000 BC. The remaining wildwood began to be actively managed, with evidence of sophisticated woodmanship and a wide variety of timber structures and wooden household, farming and transport products. The Iron Age accelerated loss of cover as more effective tools became available, and more charcoal was needed for smelting, forging and smithing iron. For each kilogram of iron produced from ore, at least 40 kg of charcoal was required, which required from 80 to 100kg of wood.

The Roman occupation reduced tree cover further, to about 25%. The Early Medieval period maintained a similar level of cover initially, but by the time of the Domesday Book, in 1086, it was estimated to be about 15%. Domesday mentions two categories of woodland, *silva pastilis* and *silva minuta*, wood-pasture and 'small wood', or coppiced woodland, respectively. These remained the principle categories over following centuries.

Wood-pasture is a mix of grassland and trees, used both for grazing and for harvesting wood. The density of trees can vary, according to local conditions and needs. The trees were often pollarded, that is the trunks were cut at above 1.8-2.4 m, which then grow new shoots and eventually useful poles, out of the reach of stock. Coppicing entails cutting a maiden tree close to the ground, leaving a stool from which shoots grow. In either case, with a mature root system feeding new shoots, they grow much more quickly than a maiden sapling grows and if the original trees were planted close together, the poles grow straight and tall with few side branches as they race for light. The strongest poles are chosen to grow on until useful sizes, when they are all cut, and the process starts again. Poles are generally cut on a regular cycle from 5-35 years, according to species and need. The stool from which the poles grow will remain in its immature, vigorous state as long as the poles are regularly removed, and can live many times longer than the original maiden tree would have.

Once the poles are cut, light again reaches the woodland floor, and the ground flora that had diminished in the shade regrows. Where a group (coup or panel) of coppice or pollards are cut at the same time on a rotation with other groups, each plot will provide a different habitat as the amount of shade cast changes, creating a mosaic of different aged wood-plots across the woodland, a model of bio-diversity.

In Domesday Craven, there was no woodland listed. There have been various theories to account for this, but the Harrying of the North (1069-70) may have had an impact. This scorched earth policy, to subdue rebellion against the Norman occupation, was said to have left 60-80% of Yorkshire laid to waste. With vills and infrastructure destroyed, and large numbers killed, starved or fled, the previously managed woodlands would have changed in the intervening 16 years, and woodland regeneration would be showing as scrub across previously cultivated land. The Domesday exercise was to identify taxable assets, and these reversions to 'waste' may not have been an asset in the Craven commissioners' eyes.

Throughout the medieval period there was growing concern about the loss of woodland as the population grew,

which required more land given over to settlement and agriculture, and increasing needs for fuel and materials. Subsequently, cover increased and decreased in response to changes in weather and the ravages of famine and epidemics, but the overall trend was down, reaching a minimum of 7% cover over the UK at the beginning of the 20th century: little or nothing had been done to reverse the trend in the meantime. The Forestry Commission was established in 1919 to address the issue, principally by planting vast areas of non-native coniferous forest on upland.

Estimates of the amount of current tree cover in England vary from 9-11%, compared to the 38% average for European Union countries. A survey of tree cover in each local authority, carried out by Friends of the Earth/Terra Sulis in 2020, put tree cover in Craven (whilst still an independent authority) at 4.6%. The Yorkshire Dales National Park website puts tree cover within the National Park area at 'less than 5%', over half of which is recent coniferous plantations and a fifth of which (1% of the National Park) is ancient semi-natural woodland, compared to 2.5% nationally.

Ancient semi-natural woodland is defined as areas of woodland having existed from at least 1600. Before this there was very little tree planting, so the woodland would have been made up of trees and shrubs native to the site arising from natural regeneration. 'Semi-natural' indicates it would have been 'worked', usually for harvesting wood and occasionally timber, with some balancing of felling and natural regeneration. The concept of 'ancient woodland' was promoted by woodland historian Oliver Rackham and forest ecologist George Peterken, in response to the rapid clearance and grubbing out of woodlands after the Second World War. Rackham had established that 50% of woodland remaining at the end of the war was subsequently lost to agricultural and infrastructure development, as much as over proceeding centuries. However, by 1990[2], he was cautiously optimistic that such rapid destruction had been slowed if not halted, as interest had grown in all aspects of conservation.

Historical ecology

Rackham's studies of ancient woodland were based on both field-work and historical research, in what became called 'historical ecology'. Examination of historical maps and a range of other documents can establish woodlands' spatial and temporal locations, and history of use which can then be cross-referenced to landscape, archaeological and ecological features of woodlands found by field work. Conversely, when such features are found outside current woodlands, historical records are necessary to establish if there had been woodland there at some time in the past.

In order to counter developers' planning applications that characterise areas of trees as 'scrub', in need of clearing for development, the Woodland Trust, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and Ian Rotherham's group, at Sheffield Hallam University, produced an evidence-based methodology to provide data and frameworks for defining woodlands as ancient and therefore irreplaceable features in need of protection (Rotheram, 2025). Rotherham's group developed this into a format that could be used by volunteers to uncover the hidden woodland past around the eastern fringes of the Peak District and western edge of the Sheffield conurbation. Published as 'Shadow Woods & Ghost Woodlands: A Survey Guide'[3], the guide includes, for example, field surveys of flora particular to the area, but provides a template for similar surveying elsewhere.

The shadow woods and ghost woodlands are partly wooded left-overs from ancient wood-pasture and medieval woods. Rotherham (2025)[4] is explicit about their differentiation. He proposes that the original mosaic of grassland and woodland grazed by large herbivores became wood-pastures through human intervention. Around the Norman Conquest, some areas started to be managed as enclosed coppice, with new and young shoots protected from being grazed by herbivores, wild or domestic by earth-banks, ditches, walls or hedges. Post-Conquest, this practice became more wide-spread, protected and formally managed by the manor, in response to the higher demand for wood and timber as population increased in the medieval period. These enclosures continued up until the 14th century, having been ratified by the passing of the Commons Act of 1236, and these particular woodlands became the medieval woods, with their complex flora and fauna. Not all enclosed woods endured: some were unenclosed, cleared or stubbed, ploughed for farming, urban and infra-structure development, mineral extraction and other industrial uses.

Wood-pasture gradually reduced, having been dominant in the landscape pre-Domesday. It was usually common land and a lot of upland moors were wood-pastures. They had relatively few trees, denser on lower slopes and thinning out towards the higher slopes. Accounts of the Peak district in the 18th and 19th centuries talked of the uplands having large numbers of small trees. By the late 18th-early 19th century, there were then reports of farmers removing these smaller trees. Pollen evidence shows there had been a good number of trees in these uplands that had disappeared by the end of the 19th Century. Centuries of drainage, burning (usually to benefit grouse, but also for sheep), and heavy grazing led to dominance of single species such as bracken, heather, or purple moor grass.

Ghost woods are remnants of where a wood used to be: there may be archaeological features, boundaries and trackways remaining from their previous working, as well as woodland indicator flora, and according to Rotherham can be found everywhere, including road-side verges and urban gardens. Shadow woods may never have been enclosed woods but are remnant wood-pasture usually containing a scattering of small but very old hawthorns, birch or multi-stemmed oak, with a typical woodland ground-flora. They are typically found on boulder and scree slopes, fell-sides, and unimproved pastures with a scattering of trees. They are possibly even older than ancient woods and a glimpse further back into pre-Conquest landscapes.

Historical ecology in North Craven

Oliver Rackham clearly acknowledged that his work was predominantly on woodlands in the east and south of England, where centuries-long shortages of wood had led to systematic attempts to conserve woodlands. He stated that the Highland Zone of the UK 'has a different history. Its inhabitants, having plenty of stone to build with and of peat or coal to burn, have been less inclined to conserve trees. Woodlands have been less intensively used and less stable'[5]. Perhaps this is why, as Tom Lord pointed out recently[6], 'there's



Veteran Hawthorn,150-200 years old

never been an historical ecology of upland woodlands' in North Craven. Possibly, woodlands have been used intensively here, differently to both the Lowland Zone and Rotherham's East Peaks/South Sheffield, and their 'instability' has been an adaptive response to different and changing conditions. An historical ecology seems overdue to test Rackham's assertion.

When Peterken retired one of his projects was to study meadows. His article 'The woodland origins of meadows'[7] includes his photographs of Swaledale, Colt Park Wood and Muker and includes a section on Dales Hay Meadows. In this section, he remarks 'that it is easy to see [Yorkshire Dales hay] meadows as woodlands only lacking the trees'. He points out that ungrazed woods, citing Colt Park Wood in particular, contain species that cannot survive in meadows, and lack the herbs and grasses bulking up the meadows, implying both loss of species in converting to meadow and also that the original woodland contained open habitats. In effect, both the woodlands and grasslands were present in the initial woodland mosaic in this area.

Pearson (2014)[8] published an examination of the historical evidence for woodland in Austwick civic parish with a survey of current woodland in the area. He followed this up with a more detailed study of one of the woods at Oxenber (Pearson, 2017)[9]. The latter article raised some questions about wood pasture and its ground flora that Rotherham's mosaic approach to wooded landscapes may help answer.

Lord (2017)[10] had previously identified traces of wood pasture at Lower Winskill and the changes in land-use and settlement that led to its demise, using monastic records from the mid-13th century, the presence of medieval drystone walls, a 16th century commons enclosure plan and pre-16th century woodland enclosures. Its legacy is 'the variety of the ground flora, the old walls and the field names' . He also co-authored the study that showed the presence of lynx in the area of Kinsey cave in the early medieval period, which suggested a local woodland cover of at least 40% at the time.[11]

The North Craven Woodland Research Group (NCWRG) was started from within the Collections Team of the Museum of North Craven Life, based at the Folly, to explore the history of woodlands in North Craven, and to track the current fortunes of woodland in the area. Materials from the Museum's collections and other archives are being used to begin to fill in the historical detail. Local history and woodland-related organisations are partners or consultants to the group.

One of the Research Group's partners, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Trees and Woodland Team are currently working on a complementary project, up-dating the Ancient Woodland Inventory for the Park using the 1841 Ordnance Survey maps to identify woods down to 0.25 hectare, whereas previous criteria only included woodland above 3 or 5 ha.

We recently established the Once and Future Woodlands Project Group to develop a North Craven-specific tool-kit based on the Rotherham and Handley's Survey Guide, which involves the Research Group, Craven Conservation Group, Ingleborough Archaeology Group, and the Woodland Trust Northern Region.

The Once and Future Woodlands Project Group

Initially, the Project Group is focussing on a case-study of a 20-year-old plantation in Thornton-in-Lonsdale which is transitioning from pasture. It includes pre-Enclosure drystone walling, two ditch/embankment features, ridge-and-furrow features, a platform area with possible enclosure features, some veteran hedgerow remnants, and a compartment that has ancient woodland indicator species that may have previously been woodland. This is bordered on one side by one of the embankments, and on another by a wildlife rich, possibly ancient hedgerow.

Ecological investigations

Members of the Craven Conservation Group (CCG) are actively involved in developing ground flora and lichen surveying and monitoring in the woodland, and handing on their skills to Woodland Trust volunteers. Anyone can become a Woodland Trust Wildlife Volunteer, and once skills

have developed, it is hoped they will become Shadow and Ghost Woodland hunters. Preliminary studies have identified a number of distinct areas within the wood, providing quite different habitats.

A Bio-diversity Sub-group has also been set up by the CCG, in order to establish what sorts of wild-life constitute reliable woodland indicators in North Craven. There will probably not be a single list, given the variety of landscapes across the area.

Archaeological investigations

A Woodland Trust survey had identified some of the historical features but not the drystone walls. David Johnson has carried out a preliminary survey, and recommended further exploratory archaeological excavations to determine what the features. He will also provide support and training for volunteers in identifying potential woodland archaeological features in field-surveys.

Archive investigations

In 2022 the Folly Museum acquired a set of clog knives that had been used by Phineas Harrison, of Rathmell, to make and repair clog soles in the 1920s to 40s. The 1841 census return lists Robert Coates as farmer and 'clogg' maker. Genealogical research by Geraldine Norman showed that there was extensive inter-marriage between the Coates and Harrisons, but there was no reason to suppose Harrison's clog knives had been passed down from Coates. However, from a woodland point of view, it suggests there was a consistent local supply of alder, which is the favoured wood for clog soles. Alder is particularly resistant to being soaked in water, and is easier to work than the other common alternative, sycamore.

The inventories and wills of the people of Ingleton, transcribed and published by the Ingleborough Archaeology Group[12], clearly show how homes and farms at the time were full of wooden objects such as furniture, house-hold objects, husbandry gear, transport, wooden-soled clogs and pantables, as well as the timber used in house and barn construction, and wood used for fuel.

One inventory mentions 'coupering' tools used in the making and repairing of the various casks, buckets and tubs common in all households and farms at the time; and another mentions 'cowper wood'. Wood refers to material taken from tree trunks or coppiced poles, of typically less than 12 ins/300mm in diameter. Timber is from larger diameter trees and is used principally in construction. Most of the wooden objects mentioned would have been made of the smaller wood. Boards are mentioned in a large proportion of the inventories: they are planks cleft or sawn from probably larger diameter poles or from trees.

So where would this wood and timber have come from? The short answer is 'nearby'. Although timber transport developed in the medieval period[13] it depended on navigable waters, passable roads, few hills and wealth. So these timbers would have been destined for royal, aristocratic or ecclesiastical use. Locally, the dendrochronology report of the timbers used in constructing the Folly stated that 'the oak timber used at The Folly in the AD 1670s is ... derived from relatively local woodland sources...The tower beam is most likely derived from a tree that was less than 100 years old at the point of felling" (pers. comm, 2023). How it got from which woodland to Mr Preston's new house remains to be established.

On the other hand, freshly cut wood rarely justified any transport costs. It was usually worked where it was felled, roughly blanked out into clog soles, chair parts, or cooper staves, for example, which were then stacked and dried to reduce weight before being carted or couped off-site for finishing. Charcoal was made close to where the wood was felled and whilst then being very light was also very fragile, crumbling to unusable dust when moved: iron-ore, for example, was taken to the charcoal to be smelted in bloomeries.[14]

In summary, at the time immediately preceding the inventories, far more trees and woodlands would have been needed in North Craven to meet local needs than at present, until roads and transport were more highly developed. The woods and the crafting would have been close together to reduce costs and transport. Therefore, by researching wood-based occupations and where they were carried could give an



Veteran hawthorn – showing many of ATI criteria for recognising veteran trees



Veteran hawthorn detail – supporting other plants

idea of whereabout the woods and woodlands might have been located.

If they still existed, these woodlands would now be classified as ancient semi-natural woodland, having existed before 1600 in order to be of an age to be felled and crafted. To maintain supplies there would have been some management of both felling and natural regeneration, for example, being 'stinted' in a similar way to grazing.

What's in a name?

A first glance at parish records has been those of Thornton in Lonsdale, Ingleton and Bentham, each within 5 km of the case-study wood. A number of wood- and timber-related occupations are mentioned, particularly for the years 1801-1812, included more cloggers and coopers, as well as cabinet- and clock-makers and turners. The largest numbers in a wood-dependent occupation in Thornton and Bentham parishes were carpenters, which were equalled by colliers. In Ingleton, there was only one collier. Coming from a woodsman perspective, I assumed these colliers were making charcoal in local woods. Ingleton had a number of coal-diggers and miners listed, suggesting mineral coal-pits were reducing the need for charcoal, as Rackham suggested. However, further research showed that across the country 'collier' had covered both charcoal making and selling, and coal mining since the 16th century, and in some areas, since the 13th century. The increasing dominance of stone or mineral coal over charcoal in the Industrial Revolution led to the first appearance in print of 'charcoal burner' in 1841[15], and widely adopted thereafter. An on-line etymological site[16] added (charcoal maker) colliers 'were notorious for cheating their customers'.

Hudson (1998)[17], in his history of coal-mining in the Lune Valley, refers to the cross-over from 'colliers and Coalpits' meaning charcoal burners and their pitsteads to the terms being used in relation to 'boring for coal' in the Tyldesley diaries of 1712-14 (p. 112). He also studied parish records, including those of Thornton, Ingleton and Bentham, finding that across the district, distinctive coal-mining families emerged. Nevertheless, it is possible some of these families also had their roots in harvesting and producing charcoal, which further research may uncover.

However, Hudson overlooked one particular occupation mentioned alongside the colliers in the Thornton register, that of 'wood monger'. Wood mongers were sellers of wood, principally fire-wood, and in modern references are mistakenly referred to as timber merchants. Historically, they appeared to have a poor reputation for trickery in raising prices, as a 1653 pamphlet makes clear[18]. Thomas Robinson of Burton in Lonsdale may have been an honest tradesman, but it has proved difficult to trace him further in later documents. However, his presence suggests wood was still in use as fuel locally in 1803, when his daughter was baptised. So where did it come from?

Why an historical ecology?

Filling in the historical detail of land-use and resource management has a value in itself. It could help understanding the current low levels of tree cover in North Craven, increase awareness that 'it wasn't always like this', resulting from human interaction with the environment rather than being a feature of the environment itself, and therefore reinvigorate interest in increasing tree cover in the future.

Finding where woodlands have been is also finding where woodlands can most easily be re-introduced. It is one of Rackham's most quoted maxims that woodlands have always had the capacity to regenerate themselves. If they are not regenerating in a particular area, it is because of some environmental barriers to regeneration: they are too far from other woodland, there are too few jays or other species to carry seeds to the area, or something is eating regenerating trees, from fungi to large herbivores. Remove the barriers, and trees will grow. Rotherham and collaborators have shown that fencing off upland areas of ghost or shadow woodlands rapidly leads to tree growth; that growth is promoted by the legacy 'woodland' ecology present in the soil, and the growth is from within the seed-banks remaining within the woodland area rather than being imported. Apart from the fencing, it would seem the new woodland is almost cost-free[19].

If you would like to be involved with or contribute to any aspect of this project, please contact Ken Timms, Convenor, North Craven Woodland Research Group, Collections Team, The Folly Museum, Victoria Street, Settle, or by email to ken.zeon@gmail.com.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Caitlin Greenwood, Heritage Development Officer, Folly Museum, for support and help in structuring this article.

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Notes

1 This section is based on a review of a variety of resources, and reflects a general, historical consensus, much of which is a reflection of Oliver Rackham's and George Peterken's work.

2 Rackham, O. (1990) Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape. Phoenix Giant, London

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10 Lord, T. (2017) Wood pasture in Upper Ribblesdale (summary) in Atherden, M. & Wallace, V. eds. (2017), Yorkshire Woodlands. PLACE; York, p48.

11 Hetherington, D. A., Lord, T. C. and Jacobi, R. M. 2005. New evidence for the occurrence of Eurasian lynx (Lynx lynx) in medieval Britain. J. Quaternary Sci., Vol. 21 pp. 3–8.

12 Howard, C. & Gordon, S. (eds) 2015 Voices From The Past: Inventories & Wills From The Parish Of Ingleton, 1548 To 1700. Ingleborough Archaeological Group: Ingleton

13 Rackham, O. (1980) Ancient Woodland: Its History, Vegetation and Uses in England. Edward Arnold, London

14 Ingleborough Archaeology Groups excavations that find iron was being smelted or smithed on site, also suggest where woodlands were likely to have been close by.

15 https://www.oed.com/dictionary/charcoal-burner_n. Accessed 12:38, 14/11/25

16 https://www.etymonline.com/word/collier Accessed 11/11/25

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18 https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo2/A95422.0001.001?rgn=main;view=fulltext Accessed 11/11/25. Interestingly, one of the ploys from the Chandler (sea-coal merchant?) in conversation with the Wood Monger was to emphasise to customers the rate that English woodlands were being destroyed.

19 Rotherham (2005) see note 4

Gordon Sanderson and the vernacular architecture of Craven

Michael Pearson

Over the years many accounts of local houses and their occupants have been published in the Journal. But even earlier, in 1910, Gordon Sanderson wrote and illustrated a book about architectural features he had observed within a ten mile radius of Settle. He included houses such as Lawkland Hall [Fig 1] and the Folly, cottages, churches (Horton) and barns. The drawings ranged from elevations of the whole building to sketches of windows, door heads, chimneys, finials and sundials. [Fig 2] Whilst most of the buildings he described were already old he included the recently built Giggleswick School Chapel and Hellifield Church, as examples of the new architecture he admired.



Fig. 1

So who was Gordon Sanderson and what was his connection with Craven? He was born in Scarborough on 6th November 1886 where, according to the 1891 census, his father William was a school teacher. By the next census, Gordon was attending Oakham School in Leicestershire. It was here that he edited *Study Echoes* which was the unofficial school magazine. (Campbell) In 1903 he left school and went to work in the Borough Engineer's Office in Scarborough. He stayed for two years before spending a year attending the Architectural Association Day School in Westminster. While here he won the Association's silver medal for his essay *The History and Development of Chimneys*. This was later published in instalments in the Association's journal. Then, in 1906, at the age of nineteen he moved to Cairo where he was employed by the Department of State Buildings until 1909.

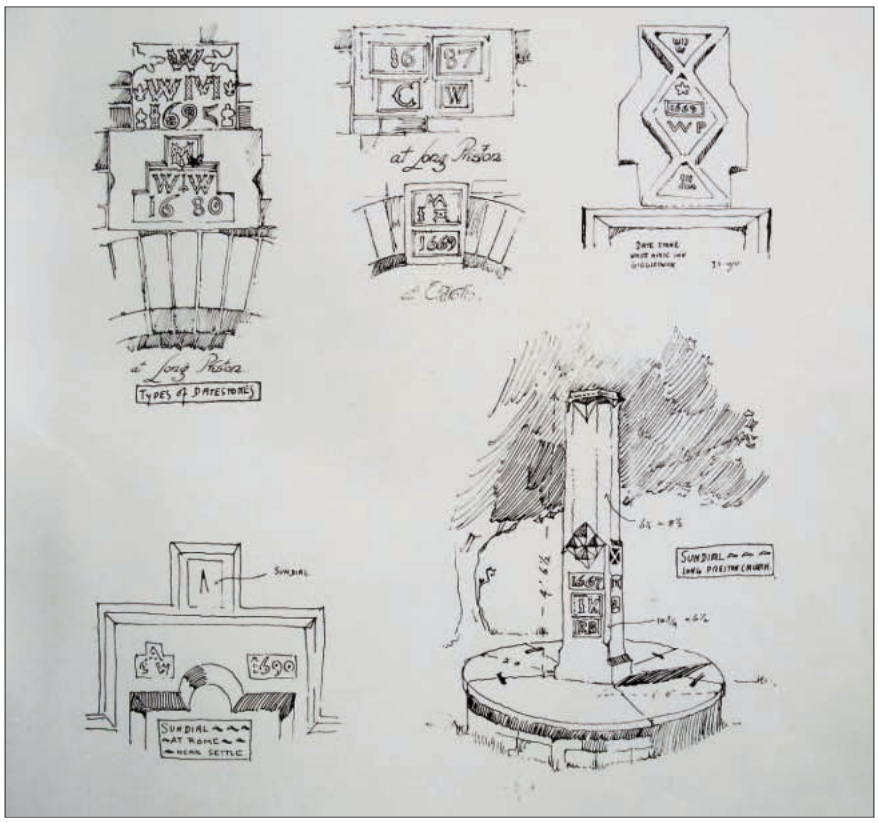


Fig. 2

Back in England, he married in August 1909, wrote his book on Settle buildings and worked for the architect James B Dunn in his Edinburgh office. Dunn designed a number of major commercial buildings as well as private houses and churches. He was among more than 40 architects who were listed as subscribers to Sanderson's book.

Having developed an interest in Islamic architecture in Cairo, Gordon applied for a post in India. At the end of 1910 he arrived in Calcutta to take up his post as Assistant Superintendent with the Archaeological Survey of India. However, within days of his arrival he was sent to Agra as Superintendent of 'British and Mahommedan' monuments. This rapid promotion was not due to any experience or knowledge in this field but simply due to the sudden death of his predecessor. But where he lacked experience he more than made up with enthusiasm and energy. Anyone

who has experienced India will appreciate the effort he put into his new employment.

One of his first tasks was to undertake a photographic survey and compile a report on modern Indian buildings. Published in 1911, it included ninety photographs taken on visits to Delhi, Agra, Allahabad, Lucknow, Ajmer, Bhopal, Bikanir, Gwalior, Jaipur and Udaipur. Simultaneously, he was collecting antiquities for an exhibition to be held in Delhi to mark the Durbar. This involved collecting over a thousand objects as well as producing a lavish catalogue. He was also appointed curator of the Delhi Museum.

Held in December 1911, the Durbar was the official recognition of George V's accession to the throne as king and emperor. Part of Sanderson's duties was to guide Queen Mary around the various historic monuments. This imperial visit resulted in a renewed impetus for the restoration of archaeological sites and also coincided with the announcement of the movement of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. The creation of New Delhi was an enormous project involving the clearing of the land, and Sanderson was given the responsibility of recording and conserving all the monuments within the area. Although not involved in the design of the new capital Sanderson contributed to the debate with a publication in *The Builder* of 'What not to do at Delhi' with illustrations of examples where combining European and Indian building styles had not worked. These examples reflected the qualities and character of neither Indian nor British architecture.



Fig. 3

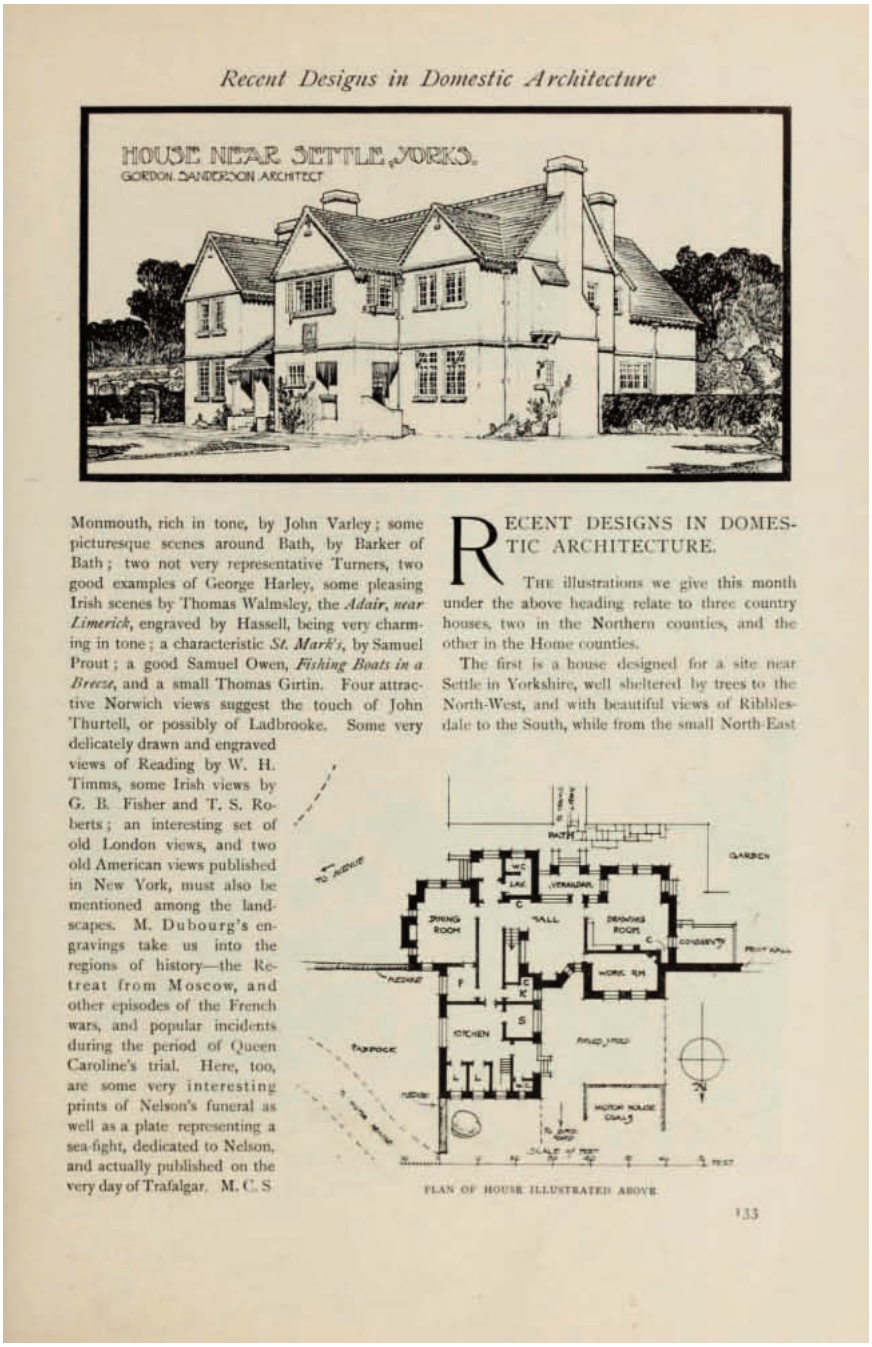
At the start of the First World War, Sanderson enlisted and was commissioned in the King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles. Back in Europe, he served in the machine gun company and was killed on 13th October 1915 during the battle of Loos. According to the records he was hit in the head by a fragment of shell whilst looking through a periscope. He is buried at the Gorre British and Indian Cemetery in France. He left a widow and a newly born daughter. This barest outline tells us little about the man and his short life. James Dunn designed the wooden memorial which hangs in Holy Trinity Church in Rathmell. [Fig 3]

The Sanderson connection with Craven is easier to solve. The 1901 census shows the Sanderson family still living in Scarborough but in 1906 his parents were retired and were living at Field House in Rathmell. So presumably from 1909, when he left Cairo, to 1910 when he left for India, Sanderson stayed with his parents in Rathmell. All the illustrations in his book are indeed dated to this period with the book being printed in 1911. But the volume is more than just illustrations and in the text he explained his philosophy that there is an intimate connection between landscape, culture and architecture. As he stated 'The architect can find as much to study in these simple moorland cottages as he can in the greatest Gothic cathedrals and they have a great lesson for all. They are the embodiment of true architecture'. It was at this time that he submitted an article to *The Studio* describing a house near Settle which he had designed. [Fig 4] It was modern in style, and he positioned windows in the dining room to take advantage of views of Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough. He intended to use local stone rough cast in white, with slate weatherings and local slates for the roof. Internally the plan 'permits access to the front door for servants without disturbing the privacy of the hall'. The floor above was not shown in the plans but included four bedrooms, a dressing room and boudoir, box room, bathroom, linen closet, lavatory, as well as two servants' bedrooms. Externally a Motor House (garage) with drive was marked on the plans, which was a novel feature then, when other houses in the vicinity were still including stables. It is unclear whether the house was ever built and all attempts to locate it have been unsuccessful. A search in the Building Development Plans for Settle Rural District Council failed to show any houses associated with Sanderson as architect. It has been suggested that the house may have been part of the Mains development in Giggleswick. However, the Register shows that work on the Mains Estate started in 1905 and was completed by 1908. The architect was identified as James Hartley. Crucially during this period, Sanderson was out of the country.

Along with other architects, Sanderson also submitted a design for a village hall to the magazine. The reviewer, whilst praising the design, thought that Sanderson had underestimated the cost of building!

In her paper, Professor Deborah Sutton of Lancaster University, provides a detailed account of Sanderson's work in India. As well as his surveying work he was also busy writing a guide to Delhi fort, conservation notes on the archaeological buildings of Delhi, types of modern Indian buildings and the arts and antiquities of India.

All of Sanderson's books are rare though some have been reprinted in India. His Settle volume is a gem which records how some of our buildings looked at the start of the twentieth century. If you have not already come across it, it is well worth a visit to Skipton Library.



Recent Designs in Domestic Architecture

HOUSE NEAR SETTLE, YORKS.
GORDON SANDERSON, ARCHITECT

Monmouth, rich in tone, by John Varley; some picturesque scenes around Bath, by Barker of Bath; two not very representative Turners, two good examples of George Harley, some pleasing Irish scenes by Thomas Walmsley, the *Adair, near Limerick*, engraved by Hassell, being very charming in tone; a characteristic *St. Mark's*, by Samuel Prout; a good Samuel Owen, *Fishing Boats in a Breeze*, and a small Thomas Girtin. Four attractive Norwich views suggest the touch of John Thurtell, or possibly of Ladbrooke. Some very delicately drawn and engraved views of Reading by W. H. Timms, some Irish views by G. B. Fisher and T. S. Roberts; an interesting set of old London views, and two old American views published in New York, must also be mentioned among the landscapes. M. Dubourg's engravings take us into the regions of history—the Retreat from Moscow, and other episodes of the French wars, and popular incidents during the period of Queen Caroline's trial. Here, too, are some very interesting prints of Nelson's funeral as well as a plate representing a sea-fight, dedicated to Nelson, and actually published on the very day of Trafalgar. M. C. S

RECENT DESIGNS IN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE.

THE illustrations we give this month under the above heading relate to three country houses, two in the Northern counties, and the other in the Home counties.

The first is a house designed for a site near Settle in Yorkshire, well sheltered by trees to the North-West, and with beautiful views of Ribblesdale to the South, while from the small North-East

PLAN OF HOUSE ILLUSTRATED ABOVE.

133

Acknowledgements

Professor Deborah Sutton's paper on Sanderson's career in India provided a wealth of detail on the colonial and social history of the time. Sue Shepherd, church warden of Holy Trinity, kindly gave permission for the photograph from Rathmell church and generously loaned Niall Campbell's memoir of his grandfather. Many thanks to all those on facebook who provided suggestions on the locality of Sanderson's design for a house near Settle. Professor Richard Hoyle suggested that I consult the Building Development Plans for Settle Rural District Council, at the North Yorkshire Records Office.

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The Chatsworth Inspeximus and the Percy landholdings

Michael Slater

A document dated 1593 held by the Duke of Devonshire in the Chatsworth archives is catalogued with mention of rents paid in Settle and Giggleswick. It was hoped to add something to our knowledge of inhabitants of these townships to be found in the rental lists in the Percy fee in 1499 and later lists made for the Cliffords in the 1500s. However, it was found that the 1593 document is an example of what is known as an Inspeximus – a charter in which it is declared that an earlier charter or letters patent, here quoted or summarized and dated 1529, has been examined and its validity confirmed. A sort of insurance policy update!

The original charter has not been traced.

The document was photographed by a researcher contracted to go to Chatsworth for one day and paid for with a grant awarded by NCHT. It is written in Latin but relatively easy to read and understand the relevant parts apart from a couple of creased lines and some words not understood. It was issued by Queen Elizabeth in 1593 listing the manors in Yorkshire held by the Earls of Northumberland and affirms ownership by the then current 9th Earl (1564-1632). Henry

Percy the 5th Earl of Northumberland died in 1527 (noted as the late Earl, *quondam* or *nuper* in the Latin text). His manors were inherited by Henry Percy the 6th Earl of Northumberland, 1502 -1537, (noted as the now or current Earl, *nunc* in the Latin text). A charter dated 1529 (time of Henry VIII) was copied into this 1593 (time of Elizabeth) document to confirm his holdings. By 1593 when the Inspeximus was written, Henry Percy the 9th Earl of Northumberland had inherited the properties listed which are further confirmed by Elizabeth and her officials. Such documents were of interest to the Crown when the landholder died and the question of taxation – death duties – arose, as revealed in any Inquisition Post Mortem listing property and rents.

There is other information available concerning the Percy landholdings, starting with the Domesday book 1086. Further information is found in the Inquisition Post Mortem of Henry 2nd Baron Percy in 1314/15. Eleanor, late wife of this Henry, received the revenues of many of these manors as her dower. A deed of 1536 or 1537 (at the time of the Dissolution) notes most of the manors held by Henry Percy 6th Earl from King Henry VIII. The Percy holdings were mainly in Northumberland (e.g. Alnwick, Warkworth, Prudhoe, Brotherwick), Cumbria (e.g. Cockermouth, Egremont, Eskdale, Wasdale) and Yorkshire.

The people in the 1529 charter

Many of the most important people in England in 1529 signed the first charter.

William Warham Archbishop of Canterbury 1450-1532, Archbishop 1530 – 1532

Sir George Nevill(e) c.1469-1535 was 5th Baron Burgavenny Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. He was granted the castle and lands of Abergavenny in 1512.

Sir Richard Brooke (died 1529) was an English judge who served as Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. In 1510 he obtained a royal exemption from becoming serjeant-at-law, an honour then conferred only on barristers of at least sixteen years practice at the bar. Perhaps he was deterred, as others had been, by the great expenses attending the promotion.

Sir William Blount de Mountjoy, 4th Baron Mountjoy c.1478-1534

Nicholas West Bishop of Ely 1461-1533

John Rous c.1411 or 1420 – 1492 was an antiquary and historian. Maybe one of his sons was the serjeant at law noted in the Inspeximus. Alice de Ros married William de Percy 3rd baron.

Sir Robert Rede (died 1519) was an English Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Henry Percy 5th Earl of Northumberland 1477-1527
Henry Percy 6th Earl of Northumberland 1502 -1537
Thomas Percy 7th Earl of Northumberland 1528-1572
Henry Percy 8th Earl of Northumberland c1532-1582
Henry Percy 9th Earl of Northumberland 1564-1632

See https://percyfamilyhistory.com for family history and portraits.

The copied charter is dated 1529 by which time Sir Richard Brooke and John Rous had died.

The 1593 charter

The charter begins with the royal greeting and names of those who granted the 1529 charter.

'**Elizabeth** by the grace of god Queen of England France and Ireland defender of the faith and to All to whom these present letters shall have come greetings **We have inspected** a certain indented writing made by Archbishop William of Canterbury, Sir George Nevell de Burgavenny, Sir William Blount de Mountjoy, Bishop Nicholas (*West*) of Ely, Richard Brooke formerly (*he died in 1529*) the lord King's chief baron of the exchequer, John Rous serjeant at law, and William Staple cleric, Henry the late Earl of Northumberland (*Henry 5th Earl died 1527*), and signed by themselves the Archbishop, George de Burgavenny, William Blount, the Bishop of Ely, Richard Brooke, John Ros and William Staple sealed as said in these words (*the previous charter is copied*).'

A further set of people, representatives of the church and legal profession, are also named in 1529, in the presence of Sir Robert Rede, English Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, as follows.

'Christopher Brsewyke cleric, John Collet cleric, Sir Robert Sheffeld, Sir John Penyton, Sir Thomas Curwen, Guy Plames lately serjeant at law, Thomas Pygot lately serjeant at law, John Carell lately serjeant at law, John Grulye lately attorney to the lord king, John Goringe, Richard Green cleric, and Richard Gowge now deceased in the presence of Sir Robert Rede and his associated Justices of the said lord king of his whole bench of judges.'

In the 1593 charter several legal representatives are named and enabled to check the manors named. 'William Danby Ambrosius Irton and Thomas Johnson our and your and lawful Attorney together and [ ] to enter instead of us and in our name'.

The manors

The Percy noble family held manors all over England. The fifty-five manors listed in this charter are said to be mainly in the county of York. The number of properties and extent of land (rather approximate) are also given: 'And two hundred messuages two thousand acres of land one thousand acres of meadow three thousand acres of pasture one thousand acres of woodland four thousand acres of heather and heath one thousand acres of moorland and forty pounds of rent mainly in the county of York'.

All the manors except Erghus can be identified with modern names. The YAS catalogue of Yorkshire charters for the 1536/7 Hilary term in the reign of Henry VIII lists a charter granted by the King to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland in which most of these manors are listed. The list includes 'Rybblesdale and the Office of Feodary of Spoffurth'.

The Ribblesdale manors, about ten, were in Percy hands by 1499 as shown by the 'Percyes land in Craven Survey and Rentalls' (YAS DD121/32/1). Starbotton and Stainforth are listed in 1499 but missing from the other lists.

The Domesday book of 1086 shows that William de Percy held thirteen out of the fifty-five

at that time. Six more held by Roger de Poitou, mainly now in Giggleswick ancient parish, were later acquired by William de Percy.

Inspeximus 1529 and 1593	**Modern**	**Percy** 1536	**Percy** 1499	**Domesday Book** 1086
Nafferton	Nafferton	x		King, Wm de Percy
hundmanby	Hunmanby	x		Gilbert de Ghent
Wannysford, Wannesford	Wansford	x		
Gymlyn	Gembling	x		Archb. York
Semer	Seamer	x		Wm de Percy
lancliff	Langcliffe	x	x	Roger de Poitou
Clethop	Cleatop		x	
Settill	Settle		x	Roger de Poitou
Giggleswеke in Craven, Giggleswyke	Giggleswick		x	Roger de Poitou
Todcaster	Tadcaster	x		Wm de Percy
Catton	Catton	x		Earl Hugh, Wm de Percy
Poklington	Pocklington	x		King, Wm de Percy
Erghus	unknown	x		
Waplington	Waplington	x		King
Letheley	Leathley	x		King, Wm de P, Gilbert Tison
kildale , kildall	Kildale	x		King's Thegns
lynton iuxta Spofford	Linton	x		Wm de Percy
Gristwhaite	Gristhorpe	x		King
Astanby	Asenby	x		Wm de Percy
Preston in Craven	Long Preston	x	x	Roger de Poitou
Bukden	Buckden		x	
Uptershawe	Oughtershaw		x	
Bekemotes	Beckermonds		x	
Grenfeld	Greenfield (Langstrothdale)		x	
Depedale	Deepdale		x	King
Chappel, Chappell	Chapel Haddlesey		x	
Crey, Cray	Cray		x	
Birkei, Birk	Birkin		x	Ilbert de Lacy
Mydelsmore	Middlesmoor		x	
lanstrothdaile in Craven	Langstrothdale		x	
Thornton	Thornton	x	x	Wm de Percy
Gribthorpe	Gribthorpe	x		Ralph de Mortimer
lofthouse	Lofthouse			King
Spofford	Spofforth	x		Wm de Percy
Arlethorpe	Allerthorpe			King
Topcliffe	Topcliffe	x		Wm de Percy
Wresill	Wressell	x		Gilbert Tison
Brighton	Breighton			Ralph de Mortimer
Newsham	Newsham	x		King
Leckingfeld	Leconfield	x		Count Mortimer, Wm de Percy
Arom	Arram			Drogo de la Beuvriere
Acom	Acomb			King's Thegns, Archb. York
Irton, yrton	Irton			Wm de Percy
Gisburne	Gisburn	x		Wm de Percy
Rothemell	Rathmell		x	Roger de Poitou
Beverley	Beverley			Archb. of York
Thurstanby	Throxenby	x		
Fangfosse	Fangfoss			Count Mortimer et al, King
leke	Leake			
kyklevington	Kirkleavington	x		Roger de Poitou
yokingwhaite	Yockenthwaite		x	
Raisegill	Raisgill		x	
kerkgill	Kirk Gill		x	
Brynde	Brind	x		
Benlay	Bentley			Archb.York, Roger de Bully

The Percy family clearly accumulated much wealth by one means or another, taking rents and other manorial court dues and fines for tenant misdemeanors. They took care to make sure of their legal right to retain their holdings by getting documentary agreements from the Crown, since it was the Crown who actually owned all the land in England and could dispose of it as they wished at any time. Dispossession was one tool to keep mighty subjects under control.

Acknowledgement

The NCHT grant made from the Historical and Archaeological Projects Fund for financing the contract with Celia Renshaw, professional researcher, is gratefully appreciated. The full document transcription in Latin and a translation are to be found in the NCHT archives. Dr Mike Spence solved a particular problem in the text.

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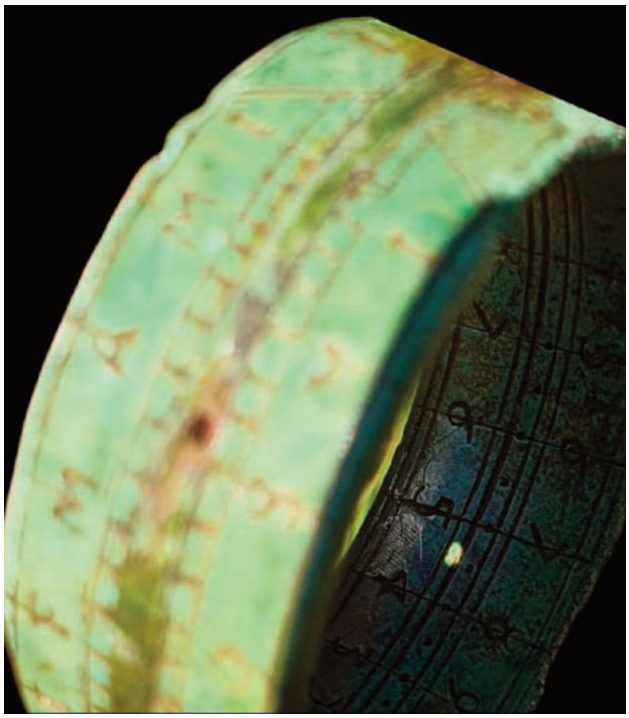
TNA C134/41/1 Inquisition Post Mortem of Henry de Percy 1314/15

Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Special Collections held at Leeds University, DD121/32/1

A recent detectorist find from the area

Chris Eccleston







This well preserved pocket ring dial, otherwise known as a poke dial or a traveler's sundial was found recently. They were particularly popular in Europe from the late 15th to 18th centuries. However, most of those that have survived date from 16th to 17th centuries.

The key feature of the design is that it is a ring dial adjustable only for the month, the solar declination and not the latitude. The adjustable sliding boss has a pinhole which acts as the gnomon. The months are abbreviated using the classical Latin alphabet. On one side is January to June with the other side showing July to December.

So to operate the sundial you have to align the pinhole with the current month and then the ring is held vertically, suspended either from a finger or a string through a small loop. A spot of sunlight falls on the inner band, which is engraved with hour lines in Arabic numerals with further subdivisions to mark the half hour.

These dials were made for a specific latitude which is usually engraved somewhere on the dial. They work reasonably well within about three to five degrees of that latitude, with a precision of about plus or minus a quarter to half an hour.

A Village Schoolmaster

Sheila Gordon

The diaries of the Giggleswick schoolteacher William Lodge Paley (1785-1847) are not unknown locally. Extracts were printed as newspaper columns between the wars when the surviving diaries were in the possession of Dr. Buck of Settle. These extracts have been drawn on from time to time but the diary deserves a proper edition and this is now well advanced.

William Lodge Paley was born on 13th January 1785 in Walden, Wensleydale to John Paley and Annas Lodge. He was one of five siblings and had many nephews and nieces who were spread far and wide throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire. William was very much involved with his family, corresponding regularly with any number of them and he became very irritated if they did not reply speedily.

Of his early years we know very little apart from some hand-written notes in his Commonplace Book (a collection of songs, poems, epitaphs and quotes from various local newspapers, similar to a scrap-book). From these we learn that he was teaching at Tatham School by 12th July 1803 and that from there he left to teach at Lodge in Nidderdale. He later moved to Long Preston School before coming to Giggleswick in 1812 to begin teaching in the newly formed National School. These schools were founded in the 19th century in England and Wales to provide elementary education for the children of the poor, in accordance with the teachings of the Church of England.

As far as we can ascertain William started writing diaries around 1810, shortly before coming to Giggleswick and he was to continue this practice until his death in 1847. Sadly however, only six diaries have survived and there are gaps in the sequence: a four year gap during his early teaching years up to 1814, five years between 1815 and 1821 and an even larger interval of twelve years between 1830 and 1842. Fortunately for us William made a practice of copying all his letters to both family and business colleagues into 'Letter Books', covering the period 1816 to 1847 with only a couple of small gaps in that sequence. These Letter Books have been invaluable in providing information covering the periods of the missing diaries and, along with other miscellaneous papers, help to form the basis for this article. They provide a unique opportunity to glimpse life in a market town in the Yorkshire Dales during this period as seen through the eyes of a schoolmaster. We hear of the trials and tribulations of a teacher but also of his other occupation as a book-seller and occasional money-lender.

The diaries were usually written in the evenings and were fitted in-between his other business correspondence, for example when ordering books from his suppliers and organising deliveries of the same. These tasks were done in the parlour of the Black Horse Inn in Giggleswick, which is where William lodged until early in 1839. He seems to have been quite happy with his lodgings for many years apart from a few minor irritations. On one occasion the arrival of a detachment of the North Lincoln Militia caused him to move out for a few nights as accommodation at the inn was limited; and when twenty-four Cordwainers (shoe-makers) came to stop over he again had to give up his bed. He also resented it when some of his friends came to join him for a drink in the parlour and kept him talking whilst he was trying to write letters. Unfortunately the Diary for the period when William left the Black Horse is missing and we only learn of his departure from the inn from a copy letter in which he states that he had changed his lodgings 'and had got a more quiet and comfortable one' (1839-1846).

The early years of William's teaching career at Giggleswick were quite challenging in many ways. After two years he was asked to attend a practical lecture on Dr. Bell's system of education by two of the school subscribers, Mr. Clapham and Mrs. Bolland. He was so enthusiastic about the new system he immediately started to put the method into practice the following day. Following on from this he was asked to go to Skipton National School for instruction; there he spent seventeen days studying new methods which involved printing in sand boxes, writing figures on slates, the use of leaf cards and various ways of reading, spelling and dictation. He also learned new ways of teaching religious education as part of his job at Giggleswick was to teach the catechism each week at Sunday School.

Around this time the subscribers who financed the school decided that a new larger schoolroom was needed in Giggleswick and by February 1815 the Settle solicitor John Hartley had marked out additional land for this new building behind the Ivy Court Houses. The building moved on apace and by July that same year William was able to move in, albeit on a temporary basis (the building still stands and forms part of the Giggleswick Primary School). He describes how he taught in the new school for a couple of hours before Mr. Parker came in to put up the scholars desks and then altered the ink stands to fit. By August the end was in sight, the coal house had been slated and Messrs Redmaynes had delivered two cart loads of coal.

As the years progressed William became exasperated by the conduct of some of the children both in school and in church on Sundays: 'the cares & vexations of my Scholars harras my mind more than a little' (March 1821). There were complaints from some parents of him using the 'rod of correction' particularly in church, although beating pupils was quite usual during this period. There are several examples of this in the Diaries 'went on tolerably except in the Case of James Taylor whom I corrected slightly for levity, & more severely for impudent talking again, he finally ran away …. he had even the assurance to say his Brother would beat me for beating him, of course I beat him worse for that' (Mar. 1822).

One of the most remarkable things to come out of the diaries was the huge amount of walking involved in William's everyday life, both in delivering his goods to customers and as a leisure activity with friends in the evenings. His longest walking episodes came when he went to visit his family in Wensleydale, especially his annual Christmas visit. Over the fourteen years for which we have diaries he made this journey

no less than twelve times and we have no reason to think that he didn't make this annual trip during the missing years. On these festive trips he would usually stay with his sister and brother in law who lived in Burtersett originally before moving to Burton.

One of his longer journeys was in 1817 when he travelled on foot from Burtersett back home to Giggleswick in one go. He later related his trials on that occasion in a letter to his sister, 'I had rather a rugged passage up Widdel that day I left your hospitable roof, but was able to keep my Umberella up on that side the Snow came which was of very great service to me. Got some excellent hot Ale, & Rum & eat the bread & Cheese your kindness supplied me with at Newby Head which place I left at 10'clock, walked on in good Stile, was at Selside before three…… (he had intended to stay at his uncle Procter's but as the weather was now better he pressed on) … .I trudged on at good speed & though I could have called at Stainforth or Stackhouse, chose to jog on and reached home before 6 o'clock and found our People at Tea' (1816-1818). He'd covered a distance of over twenty-four miles.

William would get permission to close school for two weeks every July to go on his annual holiday. We first hear of this in 1818 when he called on his cousin W. H. Lodge in Barnsley before travelling onwards to Hull to visit his cousin Jane. The highlight of this holiday was a sail on a Steam Packet up the rivers Humber and Ouse. He was to make one more journey to Hull in 1829 to visit cousin Jane before returning home via Beverley and York. Between the years 1821 and 1828 he spent his holidays bathing in the sea at Hest Bank on the Lancashire coast. He would lodge at Mr. Leck's in Lancaster and then regularly walk the couple of miles to Hest if the weather was favourable. The health benefits were an important part of his ritual, even to the extent of drinking the salt water, some of which he would take home with him afterwards. The sea was often cold; 'Walked by Slyne and Hest to Sea Coast but only washed my Legs at [as] the Water was cold' (July 1822).

He used whatever mode of transport was available whilst on these trips, combining walking with journeys by coach, chaise or post gig and on one occasion catching a lift in a porter cart. By 1842 after a gap of sixteen years in the diaries, we find that the holidays to Hest Bank had ceased and that William spent his summer holidays visiting family in Wensleydale instead. He does however make a journey to visit his extended family in Burnley in 1844, calling on his niece Annis and spending a couple of days in the area. He gave his niece a book as a parting gift and then caught the Mail Coach to Thornton before walking on to see his cousin William Lodge and then making his way home.

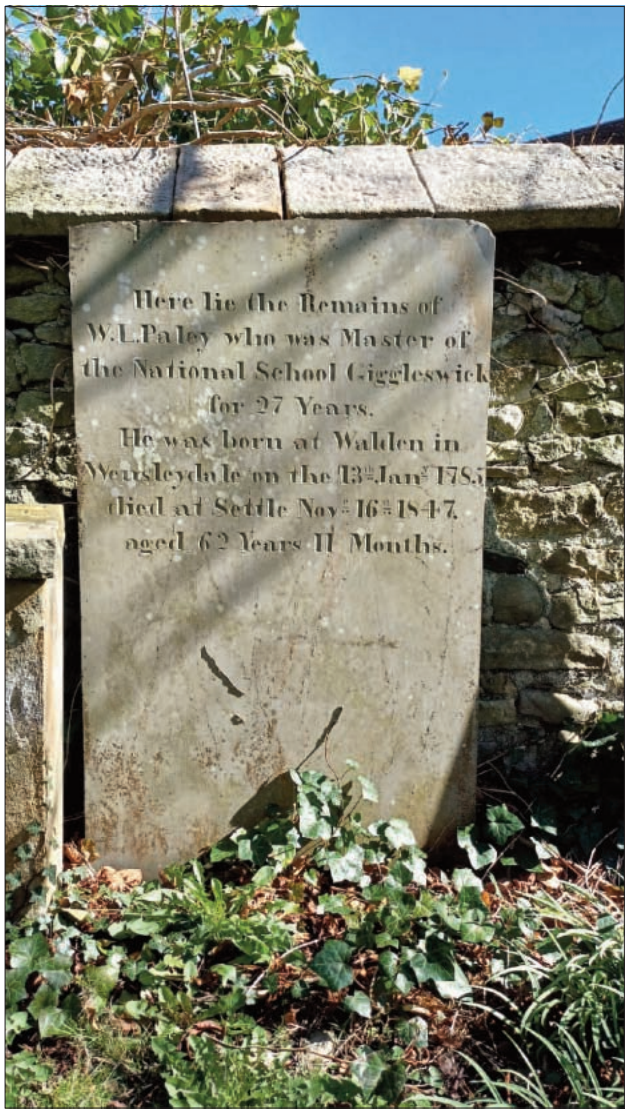
William mentions his ailments continually throughout the Diaries. During this period modern medicine was in its infancy and so home remedies recommended by his friends and by his doctor were the norm, some of which seem absurd to us now. Dental problems had also to be dealt with by the local doctor and so when he had pain in his gums in May 1827 Doctor Robinson advised him to rub them with brandy at bed-time. The pain continued intermittently throughout June, July and August despite William following Dr. Robinson's further advice to put a roasted potato sprinkled with ginger on his face. Eventually the doctor found a bad tooth which he extracted and the problem was solved!

The book-selling business seems to have started quite early in William's career, though on a much smaller scale. However when he came to Giggleswick and after encouragement from his friends he decided to develop his business further and wrote in his diary, 'Have got Books, & Stationery Sold here, put above school door' (Aug.1815). Gradually the business increased and he wrote to his cousin Lodge at Barnsley 'I am generally fully engaged, particularly since the Grammar School recommenced… have had my own School to attend too, to supply the Young Gents. at Grammar School with Books & Stationery & keep account of the same' (1816-1818). His chief supplier for his monthly book order was a Mr. Richardson of London, but he also bought books and stationery on a regular basis from Mr. Foster of Kirkby Lonsdale.

William's book-selling business brought him an additional income to supplement his teacher's salary but it took up a huge amount of time. He walked many miles delivering books and magazines, handing out catalogues and collecting orders and all this was fitted in during the evenings and on Saturdays, Sunday being reserved for religion only. Even on his annual holidays or when visiting family in Wensleydale he took the opportunity to incorporate his business in one form or another. He did use local carriers whenever possible, including Dowker's Carts, Gill's, Marsden's and Sedgewick's Wagons, all of which were listed in Baines' Directory of 1822 but the majority of local business was done on foot and in all weathers. On occasion the items were too heavy for him to carry and an alternative had to be found. In January 1821 he had problems with an Encyclopedia weighing 4st. 9lb. which was destined for Mr. Maudesley of Israel – in the event Mr. Maudesley had to come and collect it himself.

Another part of William's business was as a money-lender, which appears to have been quite lucrative, apart from the occasions when the borrower could not or would not repay either the interest accrued or part of the capital. A case in point was his relative William Lodge who failed to pay interest on his loan in September 1823. This had happened several times but William felt guilty about asking him for it because he was family, - 'Saw William Lodge in Settle Fair but could not even get the Interest but promised to call next week & pay me as he came from Clitheroe, if he do not shall begin to think much worse of him' (Sep 1823). The amounts of money lent to his customers varied enormously, from a £20 loan to Cousin Hattersley of Blackfriars who wanted it because her husband was ill and the rent was due, to a £400 loan to Thomas Elison who needed money for a mortgage to buy Butch Ings.

William never married although he had high hopes at one point. He was attracted to a Miss Alice Rumney whom he met whilst delivering books to Mrs. Preston of Stainforth; he remarked in his diary that night, 'should fancy Miss Alice for a Wife' (Oct. 1814). However nothing further is mentioned on the subject for about eighteen months. He'd been very busy setting up the new school so maybe it just slipped his mind but after his friend Mr. Robinson got married he notes, 'My Intimate Friends marry so fast, I must seek a Mate also, or new Intimates' (July 1816). Five days later he plucked up the courage and wrote Miss Rumney a letter of his intentions and, having delivered it, he rapidly disappeared. Nine days later, whilst visiting the Prestons again he tells of an interview



with her in the garden – 'judge my feelings (for I cannot describe them) when she said she was engaged, & only delayed that Mr. Preston might not be deprived of her services, how amiable, I had hoped to spend many happy days with her! How transitory are all earthly expectations of enjoyment!!!' (Aug 1815).

By the end of Diary Five he has become even more disillusioned than usual with his role in school and his ability to deal with unruly children. He frequently became exasperated on Mondays after the pupils had had the day off, - 'Alas! my Monday trials with ill got Tasks & unmanageable boys rob me of what good I get on Sunday night' (Nov 1828). A position at Settle Post Office had become vacant a few months earlier and he considered applying for the job. As he was also becoming unsettled with his lodgings at the Black Horse, moving into the Post Office in Settle could have been a neat solution to his problems but he procrastinated too long and some-one else got the post.

The year 1830 marks the end of Diary Five and there then follows a twelve year gap before we pick up the details of his life in Volume Six. By then he was no longer teaching at the National School nor was he lodging at the Black Horse; his latest landlord was William Tennant, master shoe-maker of Duke Street Settle. The first problem we hear about is that of William's sleep being disturbed by the constant noise of the cobblers above his bedroom. 'Was much annoyed & prevented sleeping last night, by Tennants Coblers till after Midnight' (Aug 1842). His landlord dutifully moved the cobblers to a room over the wash-house but two years later it was the tailors who were creating a similar disturbance. However his main grievance was that he frequently had to share a bed with any one of Mr. Tennants three sons. He'd occasionally had to share his bedroom when he was at the Black Horse in Giggleswick but he was now 58 and was becoming less tolerant of this kind of situation.

During these final years he continued with both his book, stationary and money lending businesses. But he was beginning to feel his age and relied increasingly on whatever transport was available on his long journeys, often borrowing a pony from one of his relatives whilst in Wensleydale. His final visit to the dale was in September 1844 when he was on his way home from Middleham. He borrowed his nephew's pony to take him over Stake Pass to reach Uncle Ottewell's home at Scarr House, near Hubberholme in Wharfedale. However he still managed to walk the fourteen miles home to Giggleswick the following day, calling at Sannat Hall for refreshments and arriving home in time for tea.

The last words we have of William's come from a letter sent to an unknown business colleague in October 1847 when he complains about the lack of Penny Magazines received in his last order, especially the Christian Penny one. He continues, 'Our Intercourse as I intimated before is likely soon to be closed, & mine with the World,….. have made a Will & all just Debts will be paid, find myself getting weaker. You have done shamefully in sending an Invoice by Post, & then at least could have known it was coming, but must conclude. Settle October 23rd. 1847.' He was about to send the supplier an invoice so maybe this was the reason for his sharp discourse but he was never a man to mince words anyway. He died approximately three weeks later aged 62 and lies buried in Settle church-yard.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to Tom Lord for permission to quote extracts from the Diaries and Letter Books and for the use of images from Paley's miscellaneous papers. Thanks also to Professor Richard Hoyle for all his work in photographing the diaries and other letters and miscellaneous papers to enable a transcription of the diaries to be made. The complete text of the diary has been accepted for publication in the Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series.

The Tathams and the Thompsons –
Settle's pioneering family of botanists

Rebecca Bennion

The Settle area has long been famed for its great natural beauty and the wealth of its native flora. Several famous botanists originated from this area, many of whom hail from the same family dynasty: the Tathams and Thompsons. Across three generations in the 19th and early 20th centuries the Tatham-Thompson botanists went from successful grocers collecting plants as a hobby, to scientists of international renown, giving the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures – a remarkable trajectory. The achievements of the first botanist in the family, John Tatham Jr, have already been summarised by Beckett.1 However, this article aims to expand upon the rest of the family's scientific contributions.



Image of John Tatham's shop on Market Place, Settle (now Castleberg Outdoors). SETCL 2001.4.19

John Tatham Jr (1793-1875) & Susanna Tatham (1798-1893)



Image of Susanna Tatham taken in June 1868 by Anthony Horner, Settle. SETCL 2022.1.68.13SETCL 2001.4.19

John Tatham Jr was born in Settle to a Quaker family. His father, John Tatham Sr, owned the draper's shop on Market Square. John Jr was apprenticed for seven years to the pharmaceutical chemist Thomas Thompson in Liverpool before rejoining his father in Settle in 1816. They expanded the business to include a pharmacy and grocery. It was during his apprenticeship with Mr Thompson that John was introduced to botany.[1]

His knowledge of the plants of Settle and North Craven was unmatched: 'He knows more about the botany of Settle than any living botanist'.[2] He contributed to several books (e.g. Windsor's *Flora Cravoniensis* and Baines' *Flora of Yorkshire*) but rarely wrote articles himself. He was clearly a keen collector, and in 1858 he enrolled as a member of the Botanical Exchange Club (Thirsk branch) and distributed specimens to other people's herbaria whilst also maintaining an impressive collection of his own.[1,3] After his death, he was remembered not only for his expertise in Craven botany, but also his kindness and generosity in sharing that knowledge with others.[4]

The survival of his herbarium and archives (in the collections of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew) is due to his family, particularly his second wife Susanna (née Ecroyd). Susanna and John had three sons, in addition to the five children from John's first marriage to Maria Horsfall. Susanna and John's sons Joseph and Richard were two of the founders of Settle's Adult School, providing free education to over 100 men, women and children in the Mechanics Institute and Quaker Meeting House.[5] The botanist William Whitwell records Susanna as having a great interest in her husband's botanical work, preserving his herbarium 'with great care'.[6] It could also be argued that John's greatest botanical legacy was the knowledge that he shared with his family, who would in due course continue his work.

Bridget Thompson née Tatham (1825-1891) & Silvanus Thompson (1818-1881)

John Tatham's daughter, Bridget, shared his love of botany and often accompanied him to collect plant specimens across the Pennines.[7] Through these botanical rambles she became acquainted with Silvanus Thompson, the son of John Tatham's former apprentice master, and in 1848 the couple married at the Friends Meeting House in Settle.[7] The couple's individual herbarium collections were combined upon their marriage,[6] and whilst Silvanus contributed to various

academic publications[8] it is this joint collection which is their lasting international legacy.

The couple moved to York, where Silvanus became Master in the Friends School in Bootham. Several of his pupils at the school went on to become botanists, including notably Gilbert Baker (Whitwell 1893). In 1864, Mr Baker's house at Thirsk burnt down, destroying his collections as well as his recent work on the flora of North Yorkshire. Silvanus and Bridget donated their joint collection to Mr Baker. In 1866, Baker went to work at the herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew and with such a world-leading collection at his fingertips no longer needed one of his own. Baker's collection was purchased by Sir James Hector, the director of the then Colonial Museum in New Zealand (now Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand).[6,9] Known as the Baker-Thompson Herbarium, it became an important reference collection of typical British plants to aid with the identification of non-native plant species which were becoming established in New Zealand. A lack of trained botanical staff at the museum meant that the collection was not fully appreciated until the mid-20th century. Later authors sometimes neglect the fact that 'Thompson' refers to two people, and do not give Bridget the credit she is due.[10] However, recent studies are beginning to see the value in the collection for scientific research and are recognising the role of all the individual collectors behind it.[9]

Before it was sent to New Zealand, a selection was taken from the herbarium to join the collections of what is now the Natural History Museum in London (NHM). The NHM has an online collections database and, whilst it is incomplete and only represents a fraction of their collections at present, a search recovered 28 specimens from Silvanus. These came from around the UK (and one from Zimbabwe, which may be misattributed), and include the orchids *Epipactis atrorubens* from Giggleswick Scar and *Coeloglossum viride* from Settle.[11] Some sources record specimens from the Thompsons also going to Melbourne, Australia.[8.] However, a search on the Australasian Virtual Herbarium database was unable to confirm this.

The seven children of Silvanus Sr and Bridget visited Settle frequently during their childhood, where 'their interest in botany was stimulated by searching for the rare Tatham fern, or some other plant first discovered by their grandfather'.[7] Both Silvanus and Bridget were to die in Settle, in 1881 and 1891 respectively. Whitwell remembers their 'perfect gentleness and sweetness of character, warm, self-forgetting friendliness, and bright thoughtful sociability, their names will be long cherished – by the writer and by many others who had the privilege of knowing them'.[6]

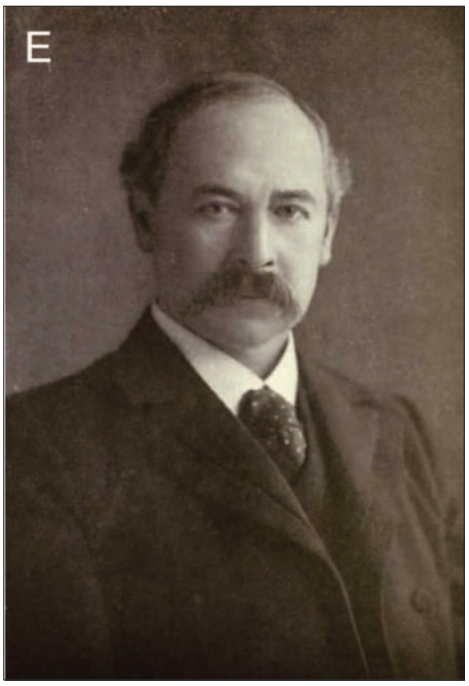


Image of Silvanus P. Thompson. Public domain.



Image of Rachel F. Thompson from her obituary in Wings, used with kind permission of the White Ribbon Association.



Herbarium specimen of Aspidium rigidum (now identified as Dryopteris submontana) collected near Settle by John Tatham Jr. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, K006478095



Herbarium specimen of Habernaria viridis (now Dactylorhiza viridis) collected near Settle by Silvanus Thompson. Natural History Museum London, BM001002702

The Thompson siblings: Rachel (1856-1906), Frances (1862-1946) and Silvanus (1851-1916)

Four of the Thompson siblings went on to follow scientific pursuits, including three with an interest in botany. Two names in particular crop up in museum herbarium collections: Rachel Ford Thompson and Frances Phillips Thompson. The two sisters appear to have often collected specimens together, and were responsible for passing on the knowledge contained within Tatham's collections to larger studies such as Lees' *Flora of West Yorkshire*.[6]

Like the rest of her siblings, Rachel Ford Thompson was born in York. She moved to Settle in 1880 and worked for the Temperance movement and Adult Technical School, presumably assisting her brother-in-law Ellwood Brockbank.[5,12] Rachel never married and lived for the rest of her life with Ellwood and Maria Brockbank, relocating with them to London in 1895 and to Stockport in 1904.[12] She was a prominent member of the Women's Total Abstinence Union – as a member of the WTAU Executive Committee she is recorded as having worked with such intensity that she drove herself to burnout.[12] She suffered from ill health for much of her life. It seems that Rachel kept the various aspects of her life separate, as her obituary in the Women's Temperance Association journal *Wings* does not mention her botanical contributions. It observes that some felt they barely knew her personally, but all remember her commitment and hard-work and to those who knew her closely 'the *depth* of her affection was wonderful'.[12]

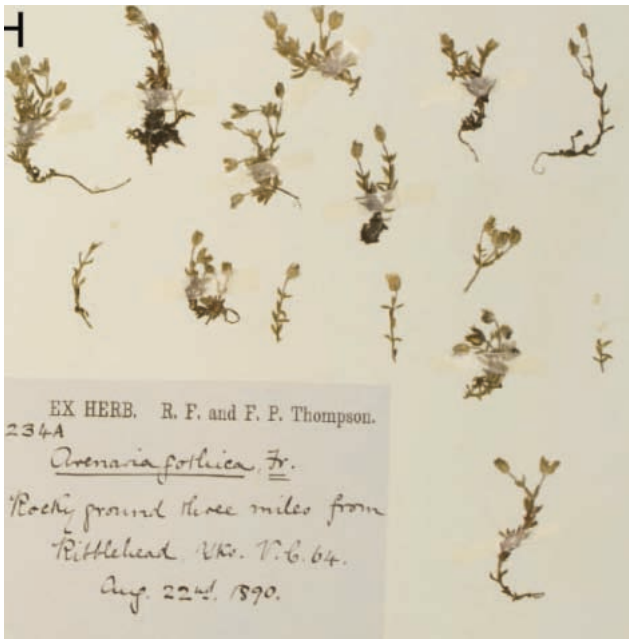
Her botanical expertise was focused on the *Hieracia*, or hawkweeds, a group of plants closely related to dandelions. She worked closely with the botanist F.J. Hanbury, assisting him with his *Illustrated Monograph of the British Hieracia* and the ninth edition of the London catalogue of the Boswell Herbarium.[13] A recent study of botanical collecting networks found Rachel to be one of the most well-connected women in UK botany in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.[14]

It is difficult to disentangle the scientific contributions of Frances from those of her sister Rachel, as their discoveries are often simply attributed to 'Miss Thompson'.[15] Both clearly played an important role in the recognition of their grandfather, John Tatham's collections, and are credited with contributing his records to Lees for *The Flora of West Yorkshire.*[6] It is likely that Frances and Rachel collaborated on many aspects of their research, and Frances may also have contributed to Hanbury's work on the *Hieracia* from North Craven.[16] Frances is known to have collaborated and corresponded with notable botanists of the day.[17] and donated specimens of her own to what is now the Natural History Museum – mostly from North Craven, but also from elsewhere in the British Isles.[18,19]

Frances married the Congregationalist minister Rev. John Loosmore in 1892 and they had a son, John Horton Loosmore, in 1895. After her marriage it is hard to trace whether Frances continued to collect botanical specimens – the records of her herbaria come to an end after 1891.[20] A Mrs J. Loosmore was recorded as a member of the Yorkshire Naturalists Union from 1891-1894,[21] and a Mrs Loosmore contributed a record of *Saxifraga granulata* to a study of plants in Derbyshire in 1899.[22] There is no proof that these records relate to Frances, and it may be that after marriage she no longer had the time to continue her botanical pursuits. Either way, her previous correspondence and museum donations make it clear that she deserves to be called a botanist in her own right, independent of her sister Rachel.



Herbarium specimen of Anagallis tenella collected by Bridget Thompson. Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, WELT SP103925



Herbarium specimens of Arenaria norvegica collected from near Ribblehead by Rachel F., Frances P., and Silvanus P. Thompson. University of Birmingham Herbarium, BIRM 003005.

Frances and Rachel's brother Professor Silvanus Phillips Thompson was a true polymath – not just a botanist, but also engineer, physicist, mathematician, historian of science, teacher and advocate for technical education, artist, lecturer, Quaker preacher, and campaigner for women's rights. He was renowned across the world for his discoveries, and his many

accolades included the title of Fellow of the Royal Society; he also delivered the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures in 1896 and 1910.[7,23] His scientific research focused on light and electromagnetism, but he had a strong interest in botany – no doubt thanks to his family. Whilst he did not live in North Craven, he clearly retained a love for the area and visited frequently both for research and on holiday. This included a trip where he reportedly introduced 1¼ pounds of uranin (a fluorescent dye) into one of the Malham Tarn Sinks in an effort to track water flow down into Malham Cove.[24] Following in the footsteps of his family, he also collected herbarium specimens from the area, and in 1890 he identified a new locality for *Arenaria gothica*, a species Rachel had earlier discovered close to Ribblehead.[7,25] His four daughters were also keen naturalists, and the family made many trips, often accompanied by Rachel, during which plants were recorded and sometimes important discoveries made[7]. Silvanus encouraged two of his daughters to study science: Dorothea went on to become a sanitary inspector, and Helen studied Natural Sciences at Newnham College, University of Cambridge. It is notable that Helen went to the University of Cambridge forty years before women were formally accepted as students, reflecting Silvanus' commitment to education for all.

The fourth scientist amongst the siblings was Dr John Tatham Thompson (1858-1911), a renowned ophthalmologist and surgeon. There are no records of him continuing his family's botanical research. However, his obituary mentions that 'his mother was the daughter of John Tatham of Settle, a respected botanist'.[26]

Conclusions

Herbarium collections are important records not only of scientific data on biodiversity, but also of social history.[27] Two factors stand out as key to the scientific success of the Tatham-Thompson family: firstly botanical science as a family pursuit, and secondly their Quaker background.

The later generations of botanists in the family were clearly proud of their relationship to John Tatham Jr as a botanical pioneer. Successive generations of children within the family were brought up not only with a love of the natural world, but first-hand field experience in the area around Settle. The wives and daughters of the family played an essential role not only as preservers and disseminators of John Tatham's work, but as botanists in their own right. Like many other female scientists of the time, their contributions are sometimes rendered 'invisible' by their association with a male colleague or family member. [28] Bridget is often relegated to the role of 'a botanist's daughter' or lost in the shadow of her husband. It is clear that without the work of Susanna, Frances and Rachel, the botanical legacy of John Tatham would have been lost.[6] Furthermore, Bridget, Frances and Rachel went on to fulfil Tatham's legacy through their own individual work and collections. Specimens collected by John, Silvanus Sr, Frances and Rachel can now be found in herbaria across the UK and the world.[9,30]

Quaker religious beliefs not only stress equality between men and women, but also the importance of education for people of all backgrounds. The Tathams and Thompsons played an integral role in the development of adult education in Settle, with later generations expanding this legacy across other parts of the UK.[7] An interest in science and the collecting of natural history specimens was widespread amongst Quakers in the 18th and 19th centuries, with many Quakers making significant contributions to museums and learned societies despite being barred from taking university degrees until the 1870s.[23,30]

The Tathams and Thompsons, alongside other prominent Quaker dynasties such as the Brockbanks, left a considerable legacy in North Craven – from education to science, from religious life to business and enterprise. Without them, our understanding of plants in North Craven and the Yorkshire Dales would be greatly diminished, and the collections they donated to museums continue to have an international impact on science today.

Acknowledgements

The online databases of the Natural History Museum and Royal Botanical Gardens Kew were very useful for this work, despite only a small percentage of their collections being currently accessible. I would also like to acknowledge how useful herbaria@home and the Biodiversity Heritage Library were as sources.

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A detectorist's find and the subsequent archaeological excavation

Eddie Burrows

Over many years of metal detecting I have found some amazing finds, and any day can bring a surprise. On this particular day I decided to explore a boggy area where I had previously found a lovely Roman brooch which, due to the anaerobic conditions, still had some of the enamel inlay intact. [Fig 1] Finding a Victorian sixpence on my way to the site I thought boded well for a good day out.

Detecting in marshy conditions is difficult but there are usually more promising higher and drier areas. On this winter's day the reeds were low, some helpfully trampled or nibbled by sheep, and so there were larger areas where I could swing the detector easily. Within five minutes there was a signal from the detector. I usually only find shotgun cartridges and horseshoes in this area but the 'ping' this time was a little different. I dug down and found a Roman brooch. Although the pin was missing and the surface, originally probably silvered, was worn, it was nevertheless a fantastic find. I would have been happy to go home then but, as I had only just started, I carried on moving into area by a broken-down drystone wall. Here I got another louder signal. After lifting the turf, numerous pieces of copper could be seen poking up from the ground. My first thought was that this was farmyard rubbish but, after digging around and lifting the mass as a whole, I could see a claw-like lump of iron nestling between horseshoe-shaped straps of copper. Even after I had put them



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

to one side there was still a strong signal from the hole. I removed another piece of copped and then a circular strap fitting. I was now feeling very excited. As Iron Age and Bronze Age artefacts had been found in the area this could be something exciting. The strong signal continued and I lifted out of the mud what proved to be a terret ring. [Fig 2] As I had found an Iron Age terret ring and lynch pins a few years earlier I started to think that I had found the remains of a chariot. [Fig 3]

As I continued to get a strong signal I knew it was time to stop and inform the Finds Liaison Officer. Later that month the archaeologists from the Yorkshire Dales National Park visited the site to assess the find and then a month later they started excavating. A trench, one meter square, was dug and, over the week, all the items were removed and taken for detailed examination which is still on-going.

Official announcement of the discovery has yet to be made and the site location must obviously remain confidential. However, I can give you some interesting morsels to feast upon. The round strap fittings are thought to be Phalera. which are decorative discs used to adorn horse harnesses. The x-ray examination revealed hidden details, not apparent under the mud. [Fig 4] The two terret rings are thought to be of European design. The iron lump is possibly a bundle of tools that have corroded. At the time it was unclear whether the pot or bowl, lifted as a block was made of stone or pottery. Subsequent x-ray examination has shown items inside, suggesting it may be a cremation urn.

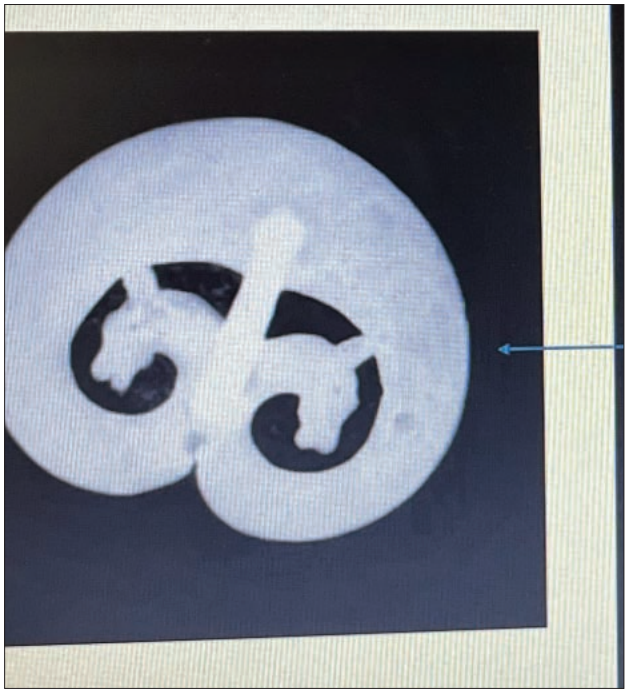


Fig. 4

At the base of the dig there was one more amazing find, a standing stone, possible Bronze Age, which had fallen over and become buried. [Fig 5]

There is still much to discover about these items but a representative of Historic England thought that the find is of national importance. So eventually, when the studies are complete and the final report is published, we will have a better picture of what was found that day. We will keep you all updated.



Fig. 5

Dr Buck's Socketed Bronze Axe Head

Tom Lord

Dr Buck (1851-1932), the Settle physician, loaned a bronze socketed axe head to the Settle and District Arts and Crafts Exhibition held in Settle from 23rd to 28th June 1898. This is the delightful front cover of the exhibition's catalogue printed by J.W. Lambert & Son, Settle, and on sale for 6d. [Fig1]

The exhibition was opened by Walter Morrison and afterwards a summary report was published where we can read the Treasurer's account of expenses. This came to £165 7s 9d or worth nearly £25,000 today (based on the Retail Price Index, measuringworth.com). As well as a total of 1052 exhibits in the arts and craft section, the exhibition hosted a working potter and hand loom weaver in the Adult School Room.

If that was not enough, there were a further 1145 loaned exhibits, showcasing local collectors and their collections. A truly staggering amount of stuff giving a fascinating glimpse of what late Victorians round about Settle kept at home. With material ranging from Mr Edward Taylor's leg pulling loan of a 'Mummified Rat', exhibit number 562, to Mr John Waugh's one up manship loan of forty eight Egyptian antiquities including canopic jars, amulets, and toilet articles and a further forty four letters by luminaries such as Dr Johnson and Charlotte Bronte. A photograph of the Craven Assembly Rooms shows part of the loan section with numbered exhibits filling bench tops and walls, and on the floor the Settle stocks [Fig2]. Amongst the ten items loaned by Dr Buck, exhibit number 557 is described as a 'Socketed Bronze Celt, found at Boostergill'.

After the exhibition a summary report was produced, printed by J.W. Lambert & Son with a more business style front cover, and there in the comments about the loaned exhibits we find more details about Dr Buck's axe head. 'The Bronze Age' we read, 'was represented by a fine socketed celt lent by Dr Buck; it was found in making a drain in Boosterghyll, near Rathmell, by Mr. John Robinson, in the year 1840. It was lying under four feet of peat.'

Now we have the place and date of the discovery of Dr Buck's bronze axe. It had been found near Rathmell, whilst a drain was being dug, some fifty years earlier, under four feet of peat in 'Boosterghyll'. Its discovery was very likely the result of putting in new field drains in the period of more intensive land use during the mid-nineteenth century, known as 'Victorian High Farming'. The last remnants of Giggleswick tarn disappeared as a result of draining in the 1860s, revealing a well preserved medieval log boat. Preserved with copious applications of linseed oil by Joseph Jackson, better known for his work at Victoria Cave, it was taken by train to Leeds and displayed in the City Museum.

For those visitors to the Settle Exhibition in 1898, Dr Buck's bronze axe head illustrated how bronze, in replacing the use of stone in prehistory, gave its name to the Bronze Age. The Victorians came to view the past as a sequence of ever more technologically sophisticated eras.



Fig. 1

There the story of Dr Buck's axe head might have ended, but for the Rev Addison Crofton (1846 – 1904). Folklorist, polymath, and the then vicar of Giggleswick he is the subject of ongoing research by Dr Rebecca Bennion at the Folly Museum. Addison had a private museum in the outbuildings of his home at Linton Court in Settle. We get a sense of it from the exhibits numbered 662 to 705 which he loaned to the exhibition. They are described as 'Forty-four cases (glass tops) containing local and other Fossils and Minerals: Bones and Teeth of Cave Animals: Implements of the Stone and Bronze Ages: Ancient Pottery and Glass, Etruscan, Greek, Roman; Sponges and Corals, recent & fossil; Fossil Ferns, &c.' Addison also entered drawings and watercolours in the Arts and Crafts section of the exhibition, mostly created on his trips to Italy with titles such as 'Santa Agnese' and Isola dei Pescatori'.

As it happens, Addison painted Dr Buck's socketed bronze axe the year before the exhibition. Addison had pasted the watercolour into his notebook of local archaeological finds, and there it survives with his comments and dated 1897. [Fig 3]

Addison's life sized watercolour of the axe head is sufficiently detailed to identify it as a mainly northern form of Late Bronze Age socketed bronze axe made sometime between about 1100 BC to 800 BC. This was a workaday tool

used in the shaping of structural timber for use in construction, the making of heavy duty wooden tools or fittings and even simply chopping wood. They are often found in locations that at the time were wetland and even open water. The deep peat overlying the find spot of Dr Buck's bronze axe suggests it was deposited in wetland. They are often interpreted as having been intentionally deposited in watery locations as some form of offering, but more prosaic explanations are possible. Addison's water colour of Dr Buck's axe head gives us a tantalizing glimpse of its ancient history, so do we know what became of it after 1898? Yes, we do. It stayed in Settle and became an exhibit in Tot Lord's Pig Yard Club Museum, on the ground floor of his home at Townhead, in the late 1940s.

On the topic of museums, the summary report of the 1898 exhibition has this concluding paragraph: 'It is perhaps not too much to hope that the Exhibition may have some permanent result in the way of a formation of a museum for objects of local interest, where not only would the Archaeology and Natural History of the neighbourhood be represented by a typical collection, but where meetings might be held from time to time in connection with the specimens, loan collections might be exhibited, and visitors to the place enabled to see what capabilities were offered for the pursuit of their various hobbies'. Might we call this today a community museum? My guess is Addison Crofton wrote this paragraph. He is someone we should know more about.

Thanks to Dr Buck, Addison Crofton and Tot Lord it has survived. [Fig 4] We can trace its history in modern times back to its discovery by one John Robinson whilst digging a drain beneath deep peat at Boostergill, Rathmell in 1840. It is an interesting object that shares an ancient and more recent history, and tellingly for us it reveals something of people's curiosity and identity as they experienced modernity in a small market town in the Yorkshire Dales.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Populations of Giggleswick and Settle townships

Michael Slater

A question was recently posed about populations in Giggleswick and Settle townships in medieval times. Various estimates have been made and reported but not compared in a digestible form. There are numerous problems with counting specific people of a particular status and projection of these numbers to population size. Commonly historians have used a multiplier of 4 to 5 times the number of heads of household to estimate population sizes and in the numbers suggested here a value of 4.5 has been used. Totals are rounded to the nearest 10.

The Poll tax data for 1379 are treated slightly differently since couples and single people are listed separately. The number of taxpayers in 1379 is surprisingly substantially larger than the number of tenants in 1315 despite the effect on families of the Black Death of 1349. It is suggested that halving the factor 4.5 to 2.25 might be more appropriate to apply to taxpayer numbers, bringing the changing local population estimates more in line with national figures. A reduction of say 25 to 50% in the general population due to the Black Death is likely. This estimate of the impact is based on the mortality records of clergymen. Unfortunately the records for northern England are incomplete, but there is no reason to believe that the north fared any better than the south.

The Hearth tax data for 1672 can be used by multiplying the number of hearths by 4.5.

The resulting numbers can only be approximate, guessed to be within +/- 10 to 20% of the actual values. The numbers are consistent and lead to a conclusion that Settle always had slightly larger numbers of inhabitants than Giggleswick in High Medieval times with a slow increase in both townships over 300 years.

Current populations (2011 census) are about 1000 in Giggleswick and 2500 in Settle.

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Documents can be seen at www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk.

Inquisition post mortem of Henry de Percy, 1315

	Giggleswick	Settle
free tenants	5	8
at-will tenants	26	28
total tenants	31	36
population estimate	**140**	**160**

Poll tax 1379

	Giggleswick	Settle
tax	21s - 8d	17s - 10d
no. taxpayers	53	52
population estimate	**110**	**100**

Percy rentals 1499/1520

	Giggleswick	Settle
free tenants	11	22
at-will tenants	c. 40	c. 36
total tenants	51	58
total rents	£33-6-6	£38-1-9
population estimate	**230**	**260**

Giggleswick Court Rolls Verdict 1579

	Giggleswick
population estimate	**200-400**

Giggleswick and Settle Court Rolls

		Giggleswick	Settle
1547	free tenants		16
	at-will		69
	total tenants		85
	population estimate		**380**
1553	free tenants		15
	at-will		73
	total tenants		88
	population estimate		**400**
1579	free tenants	9	22
	at-will	75	76
	total tenants	84	98
	population estimate	**380**	**440**
1583	free tenants	9	24
	at-will	74	76
	total tenants	83	100
	population estimate	**370**	**450**
1600	free tenants	21	28
	at-will	72	75
	total tenants	93	103
	population estimate	**420**	**460**

Hearth tax 1672

	Giggleswick	Settle
	420	**470**

CONTRIBUTORS

Rebecca Bennion

Originally from Whitby, Rebecca has lived in Steeton near Keighley since 2020. She carried out her PhD in geology at the Université de Liège in Belgium looking at the skulls of fossil marine reptiles and whales in museum collections. Following her PhD she left academia and moved into a career in the heritage sector. She currently works at the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly as their Documentation Officer on a Dynamic Collections Project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Ed Burrows

Is a retired firefighter who served for over 30 years in Hampshire and Cumbria. He now enjoys his hobby of history which includes metal detecting, attending archaeological courses and digs.

Chris Eccleston

Is the village postman for Austwick and has been fascinated by history since first seeing a metal detector being used at Blackpool beach forty years ago. At the age of 12 he was given his first detector by his uncle and has been searching ever since.

Sheila Gordon

I've lived in Giggleswick with husband and artist Frank Gordon for more than 26 years and am a keen gardener and walker. I became involved in local history through the late Phil Hudson and the North Craven Historical Research Group. This led eventually to my involvement with a group transcribing the wills and inventories for the Ancient Parish of Giggleswick. Subsequently I was involved in transcribing the Wakefield Deeds for that same area and am now working on the deeds for Long Preston.

Pam Jordan

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

Heather Lane

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

Tom Lord

Has a small farm on the limestone ground above Langcliffe where he now keeps a rare breed of sheep called Whitefaced Woodland. After inheriting much of ehat had been his grandfather's, Tot Lord, eclectic museum collection in the 1970s, he has beavered away ever since trying to make sense of them. In between he publishes research about the cultural and environmental history of the Dales' limestone uplands.

Phillip Murphy

A geologist with a fascination for underground spaces, both natural and man-made. His first caving trip, to Kingsdale Master Cave, was with the Scouts and they have a lot to answer for. He undertakes research on paleoclimate records, as preserved in the caves of the Yorkshire Dales, and is currently Associate Professor of Geology and Environmental Education at the University of Leeds.

Michael Pearson

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

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.

Mary Slater

Despite dropping history before O level, a degree in Geography introduced Mary to the interesting study of landscape and settlement history. After a short dalliance with town planning as a career, she spent a number of years working in the library of a Yorkshire Higher and Further Education college. The move to two successive properties in Langcliffe initiated research into their history and then the broader local picture, and she enjoys exploring whatever interesting historical alleys present themselves.

Ken Timms

Ken was born in the same Oxfordshire village as Edward the Confessor, but some years later. Having retired in 2015, he worked with and ended up running Malvern Community Forest, an urban and peri-urban community woodland charity. With the opportunity offered for reflection by the Covid-19 pandemic, he and his wife decided to return to Yorkshire, if only to help address the treeless-ness of the Dales and to get away from Elgar. Both of them now volunteer with the Collections Team in the Museum of North Craven Life, and Ken is also warden and work-group lead for a Woodland Trust plantation near Thornton in Lonsdale

Catherine Vaughan Williams

A retired medic living in Austwick.

Frances Wilson

Previously taught IT at the Northern Regional College, Coleraine, but now devotes some of her time to local history research in the north coast area, the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District.

Peter Wilson

Is Emeritus Reader in Quaternary Change at Ulster University, Coleraine. He continues to undertake research in aspects of physical geography but is also interested in maps and the map-making process as undertaken in the early yeas of the Ordnance Survey.

MEMBERSHIP

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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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Contents

	Author	Page no.
Chair's Report	Pamela Jordan	1
Editorial	Michael Pearson	1
Obituary: Elizabeth Anne Read	Heather Lane	2
Obituary: Ken Pearce	Brenda Pearce & family	3
Bench-marks in the Dales – heritage worth protecting	Peter & Frances Wilson	5
Lost show caves of the Yorkshire Dales	Philip Murphy	10
Coal mining trials in Giggleswick & Settle	Mary & Michael Slater, and Michael Pearson	14
Acquisitions at the Museum of North Craven Life in 2025	Heather Lane	17
Our lost orchards	Michael Pearson	18
Farther Rome, Giggleswick	Catherine Vaughan-Williams	20
Where have all the woodlands gone?	Ken Timms	24
Gordon Sanderson and the vernacular architecture of Craven	Michael Pearson	30
The Chatsworth Inspeximus and the Percy landholdings	Michael Slater	32
A recent detectorist find from the area	Chris Eccleston	35
A village schoolmaster	Sheila Gordons	36
The Tathams and the Thompsons – Settle's pioneering family of botanists	Rebecca Bennion	39
A detectorist's find and subsequent excavation	Eddie Burrows	43
Dr Buck's socketed bronze axe head	Tom Lord	45
Populations of Giggleswick and Settle townships	Michael Slater	47
Contributors		48

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.

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