

More Glimpses of LANGCLIFFE

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and various authors July 2002

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In Memory of Joyce



Joyce Leigh 30th April 1934 - 18th August 2002

Joyce was a very active and valued member of Langcliffe Millennium Committee, not just for her own contributions to the books and the exhibition but for her enthusiastic support of others and her willingness to undertake the tedious chores of proof reading, editing, researching and recording.

As deadlines loomed, Joyce could always be relied on to encourage, comfort and soothe the rest of us, rolling up her sleeves and getting on with the job.

The Committee would like to honour Joyce by publishing this special edition of “More Glimpses of Langcliffe”, with this dedication.

Joyce, thank you. We miss you.

Contents

In Memory of Joyce	2
Foreword. <i>Helene Wiggin</i>	4
Langcliffe School. <i>Kate Croll</i>	5
The Langcliffe School Dispute. <i>Helen Jarvis</i>	19
Langcliffe and the Evacuees. <i>Jean Lavelle & Joyce Leigh</i>	23
The Mystery of the Old Village. <i>Jean Lavelle</i>	38
The Letters Patent Text. <i>John H Harrop</i>	41
The Final Concord of 1582. <i>Michael Slater</i>	46
The Natural History of Dales Barns. <i>Terry Whitaker & Gerald Light</i>	50
“This Old House.....” <i>Mary Slater</i>	56
Hophill. <i>Phil Hudson</i>	63
Sir Isaac Newton and the Langcliffe Mathematicians. <i>Michael Slater</i>	65
Warren Compilation. <i>Edited notes from Ken Warren</i>	68
The Quarrymen. <i>Notes from Bill Mitchell's archive</i>	69
A Quaker Marriage. <i>Jean Lavelle</i>	70
The Bridesmaid and The Bell. <i>Jill Pilkington & friends</i>	71
Langcliffe Sports Club. <i>Ex. Craven Herald</i>	72

Cover painting by Val Leigh

Centre illustration - Letters Patent of 1630

FOREWORD

In researching our Millennium book – LANGCLIFFE, GLIMPSES OF A DALES VILLAGE, we were aware that important social topics such as the history of the village school had to be omitted because of shortage of time and lack of space.

The book created a great deal of interest and comment. As a result many other bits of archival evidence and incidents about the history of Langcliffe came to light and some of our members researched long and hard to bring us much fascinating information.

The team were eager to build on the success of their first experience of publication and decided a sequel would complete the project.

Like Topsy, this publication just grew and grew and once again space and budget have been the limiting factors. We are trying to squeeze a quart into a pint pot - with some frustration! Fret not, however, nothing will be lost. We are well on our way to designing a village web site that will contain most of our research in the future.

We make no apology for including articles both detailed and scholarly as well as lighter snippets in this edition and hope you will enjoy the variety. We think it reflects the varied life and interests contained within this Dales community, both past and present.

Helene Wiggin

Langcliffe Millennium Group.

Langcliffe School

The school at Langcliffe has been called variously Langcliffe National School, Langcliffe Provided School, Langcliffe Council School, Langcliffe County Primary School and finally Langcliffe



Langcliffe School in 2001 (Jean Jelley)

Community Primary School, the different names reflecting the many changes which have occurred throughout the history of education.

Unfortunately there appear to be no records of the building and opening of Langcliffe School. A document dated 1894 mentions an old account book, then in possession of the trustees of the school, from which it appears that the school was built by public subscription probably on part of the village green in or about the year 1825. An entry from 1954 in

Log Book 3 maintains the school was opened on 12th May 1834. The school bell has the date 1838 inscribed on it, so the school was clearly established by this time.

Our earliest information comes from the School Log Book which begins on 3rd August 1863, written by the Head Teacher, Mary Chambers. She had 4 classes and a pupil teacher, Sybilla Tennant. Miss Perfect assisted with the teaching of Needlework and the Rev. Mackesay regularly took lessons.

For the remainder of the 19th century, Log Book 1 is our only source. Reading through the beautifully scripted, yellowing pages, an idea of school life gradually emerges. It is often very frustrating. Something is mentioned and then never referred to again.

From the age of 9 or 10, children could work part time in the mill, the other half of the day at school. The mill owners had to make sure that each child had attended school for the prescribed number of hours and so there are frequent references to "the mill book being made up and returned to the mill". At 13 or 14 they left school to work full time. Some of the "big half-time boys" could be a problem and this is acknowledged by Her Majesty's Inspectors when they visit the school each year.

1898
 July 14th Examined the School Register. found same to be correctly entered. The Broadshaw manager
 .. 25th Spencer clearing drain from Closets.
 .. 31st Master absent from duties, suffering
 Feb 7th Miss Mary Agnes Procter took temporary charge of this school. The Master, James Samuel Woolstencroft died on Sunday evening Feb 6th from pneumonia. The school the previous week had been in charge of the Assistant Mistress.
 8th Miss Perfect visited the school.
 9th School closed as it was the day appointed for the funeral of the Master. Notice could not possibly be given to H. M. S. as it was only decided to do so the evening of the 8th Feb.
 10th Miss Ratcliffe visited the Infants.
 11th Miss Perfect visited the Infants & took class I in Reading.

Scripture was very important, the classes being taken by the Vicar. The Rev. Travers McIntire replaced the Rev. Mackesay in 1864 and he was a daily visitor, often accompanied by his wife, sometimes by his daughter and son. He taught the children their Catechism, the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Hymns and songs were learnt each week and on saints' days, the children attended church. Other lessons included reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, dictation, composition, history, geography, needlework and object lessons. The children worked on slates and were examined regularly. The Mistress, Miss Chambers must have worked very hard. She was responsible for the Day School and also for the Night School (for scholars over 13) which seems to have taken place from October and throughout the winter. She also taught the pupil teachers, of whom there were usually two and a monitor. Their lessons were from 6.40 till 8.00 a.m. in the summer months but from 4 till 5 o'clock in the winter. The H.M.I. reports were very complimentary. They wrote of her "*good sense and great kindness*" and that "*the Mistress worked with diligence and skill*".

In 1871 Miss Chambers resigned and was replaced by Miss Sybilla Tennant. From this time children were admitted aged as young as 3. The Misses Perfect and Miss Sedgewick were frequent visitors and often assisted with reading or needlework. Miss Tennant resigned in 1875 and Miss S.M. Palin was appointed in her place.

It is from this time that things started to go horribly wrong. More and more children were admitted to the school from different parts of the country as more mill workers moved into Langcliffe. Often these children could not read, write or say their letters. It would seem from the Inspectors' reports that Miss Palin was not strict enough. Still more children were admitted – unfortunately, there is no mention at this time of the number on roll, but on 14th March 1876 "*the numbers were higher this afternoon, there being 97 present*". The school must have been bursting at the seams and the report of 1877 was very critical of the accommodation, the offices (toilets) and the supply of desks and books. The report also states that the "*teaching of arithmetic is uniformly bad*" and a reduction of one tenth made to the grant for "*faults of instruction in Arithmetic.*" (Following the Revised Code of 1860, a grant was paid by the Government for average attendance and performance in examinations).

Not surprisingly, this was all too much for Miss Palin. She was absent for a week with a severe cold. Then she "*went home for rest and change of air.*" (The underlinings are her's) Six weeks later she was able to return to school. The pupil teachers had been left in charge with the Rev. McIntire coming to assist each day.

At the end of November 1878, school was held in the Reading Room at the mill, while building work was carried out – "*alterations and additions and a heating apparatus put up*". In April 1880 a gallery was put up in the infants' class.

Despite these improvements to the building, matters were to get worse for Miss Palin. The Vicar, who had clearly been such a support to her, retired and was replaced by a very different man, the Rev. Samuel Sandberg.

There were problems very soon after his arrival in November 1880. He seemed to have thought that he was the sole manager of the school. He was wrong in this – (the Rev. McIntire had to swear an affidavit that Hector Christie and Wm. George Perfect were managers too), but in fairness it has to be said that Hector Christie had only visited a very few times and George Perfect not at all, according to the Log Book.

In May 1881, Miss Palin had given the registers and schedules to Hector Christie (the mill owner). On 14th May the Rev. Sandberg visited the school and demanded these documents. "*On hearing they were not in my possession, he threatened to stop the examination which was to take place on the 27th unless I went to the mill and brought them to him. He promised to remain in school during my absence, but on my return the pupil teacher told me he had gone and taken the Log Book and the keys to the school doors*". Mr Sandberg then attempted to lock the managers out of the school. After several requests the Log Book was returned to Miss Palin on 21st June and she was able to update it. The Rev. Sandberg did not visit the school again and he was taken to court by Hector Christie and George

Perfect, who did from then on visit regularly.

When the school closed for the midsummer holidays on 9th July, Miss Palin resigned, but did agree to stay on when school returned on 9th August until 6th September when a new Master took charge of the school – this was Samuel Woolstencroft. He moved from Rochdale with his wife, Annie, who was employed at the school as seamstress, and they lived in St John's Row.

In January 1881 the managers decided to raise the fees paid by the children. Full-timers now paid 3d a week instead of 2½d and half-timers paid 2d instead of 1½d a week. (There were 12d in 1 shilling and that is equivalent to 5p.) In 1882 Thomas Brayshaw joined the managers. When the children were absent, the Attendance Officer visited. There are several examples of parents being fined 5s for the non-attendance of each of their children.

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s the Inspectors continue to be very critical of the school. Every year they recommend the appointment of an adult certificated teacher for the infants, pointing out that the Master would be helped if "*relieved of the instruction of the infants*", but nothing is done. Numbers continued to rise. In November 1886 there were 196 children on roll. In the report of that year, the Inspectors suggested that "*considering the special difficulties of this school, it would be wiser to attempt fewer subjects. Discipline is only fair. The infants are much neglected and in a backward condition*".

Mention is made of the school being flooded several times due to the drain being blocked in the field behind the school. This is to be a recurring problem throughout the school's history. On these days the school was closed. There were epidemics of measles and scarlet fever which closed the school for weeks at a time. The staff suffered from neuralgia, sore throats and colds. On 23rd November 1893 an Inspector called without warning and found "*the schoolroom very cold and the children shivering. The master was ill with a bad cold. The warming of the school should be improved*". Nothing was apparently done.

The reports get worse. In 1892 "*as the infants are so badly taught and managed, I am compelled to declare this department as inefficient under Article 86 and to recommend the withdrawing of grants under Articles 98 and 98b. The situation calls for determined interference on the part of the managers*". In 1896 2 pupil teachers were caught giving "*surreptitious aid*" to children during an examination. "*They should be warned that this is a serious offence against the moral tone of the school*". We can only imagine their desperation. The Inspectors suggested various improvements to the school building – a porch for the children's outer garments, more desks in the gallery and better lighting for the main room.

The picture painted by the Log Book is a desperate one at this time. Why were none of the Inspectors' recommendations acted upon? It must have been incredibly difficult for Mr Woolstencroft trying to cope with large numbers of children aged from 3 to 14 with huge variations in their abilities and with a succession of pupil teachers and monitors, in a cold, damp building. And what of the children? It must have been a cheerless experience.

This terrible chapter in the school's story is brought to an end with these 2 entries in 1898.

31st January (Written in a very shaky hand) "*Master absent from school, suffering.*"

7th February 1, *Mary Agnes Proctor took temporary charge of this school. The Master Samuel Woolstencroft died on Sunday evening from pneumonia*".

The school was closed on the day of his funeral. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Langcliffe Churchyard. He was 59 years old.

His death must have shocked the managers into action. They appointed a new master and two assistant certificated mistresses. During the summer holidays of 1900, the large room was much improved – the roof whitewashed, walls coloured and wainscoted to a height of 4 ft. New books and apparatus were purchased together with 24 new dual desks. The gallery in the infants had proved problematical

and so was removed and the following year a piano was bought with help from Miss Dawson. An evening of Prizegiving was held for both day and night scholars and an afternoon visit to Morecambe for the Perfect Attenders. The H.M.I. report for 1899 states "A very marked and gratifying improvement".

Entering the 20th century, there are other sources available – newspaper articles, parish magazines, photographs and of course the memories of old scholars.

On 1st April 1904, the school came under the control of the West Riding County Council in accordance with the Education Act of 1902. Fees were abolished and grants paid to the school – 22 shillings for Standards 1-7 and 13 shillings for infants. (There were 20 shillings in a pound). The classes were known as standards. The school building was handed over to the WRCC who paid an annual rent of £13 to the trustees of the school. The staff consisted of Henry Woodhead, 3 assistant mistresses, 2 pupil teachers and a monitor. There were 112 children on roll. During this 1st decade, several improvements were made to the building. Moveable screens were put in the main room to separate the classes (these were later made into a permanent partition), a new porch was built with drinking

102

Sept. 1st J. Claude Bennett, commenced duties here this morning as Headteacher
 No. present 119
 No. on Register 126.
 Mr Crabtree (vicar) was in school till 9.30 & explained the Religious working & agreements of the School.
 The scholars appear very bright & the discipline is exceedingly good.
 5th Salary Sheet received. Particulars

Mary M. Brennan	C.A.	£80.(-44)	£6.9.4.
Annie Yeaton	V.A.	£60	£5.
Florence M. Graham	V.A.	£45	£3.15.
C.D. Bennett	H.T.	£120(-5.10)	£9.14.2.
Mary E. Monk	Conduct.	£12	£1.

Received Circular $\frac{11}{64}$ E (Teachers in Charge at Recreation)
 & following organisation arranged:
 Infants: Miss Graham every day
 Girls: Miss Brennan & Miss Yeaton in charge alternate days.
 Boys: Head T. whenever possible.

water and sinks, new windows were put into the main room to make it much lighter and airier, gas lighting was installed and the playground surface improved. Two young ladies were appointed who were to have a tremendous influence on the school and its pupils – Miss Mary Brennan came in 1905 as an assistant teacher and Miss F. May Graham in 1907 as a pupil teacher.

Medical inspections began at this time. They were to take place when the child started school, at ages 7, 10 and before they left. An article in the Parish Magazine of January 1909 was clearly designed to quell parental fears. "Let it be clearly understood that the examination is of a private character. Only the medical officer, parent, teacher and child are present".

Cookery and Gardening began for the older children. In January 1905, 15 girls went to Settle for cookery classes. From the spring of 1908,

the school rented a garden, part of the allotments down Howsons Lane. The boys kept careful diaries, the 1st crop – radishes, were harvested that June. It must have been a good year for vegetables because on 8th September a dinner was held in school for all the pupils. All the vegetables had been grown by the boys and cooked by the girls. The garden continued to be cultivated by the school until 1945.

For the first time mention is made of educational walks to local attractions. Visits further afield too become the norm. Mr Woodhead took 13 of the older children to Bradford, and continued to Leeds by tram. Here they visited the Town Hall, Art Gallery and Museum where they saw mummies from Egypt. At Arnold & Son Works they saw all kinds of school materials being made (the log book was produced there!) and then they were able to spend their pocket money in the shops. Several of the

children had never seen a town before or ridden in a tram. The Parish Magazine records "*They were amazed by the forest of tall chimneys.*" In 1909 20 scholars visited Manchester, travelling by train from Hellifield. A glimpse of the wider world came from the use of lantern slides or magic lantern. Mr Woodhead wrote in the log "*took St. 2 upwards for a sail around England by the aid of lantern slides*". Later they "*took a stroll in the Yorkshire Dales*". Also visited in this way were India, Congoland, the North Pole and Switzerland. Hard to imagine now in our days of television and foreign travel the impact, but it must have been really exciting.

Most of the children stayed at school until they were 14. The Education Act of 1907 provided for the Free Place System. A limited number of scholarship places became available at Giggleswick School for the boys and at the High School in Settle (opened at this time) for the girls. Each year the log



Mr Claude Bennett and the Perfect Attenders in 1911

mentions children aged about 11, who were entered for the County Scholarship, as it was called. Mostly they were successful, but the numbers were very small.

Attendance was an important feature of school life at this time. Despite the continuing problem of diseases like measles, chicken-pox, mumps and scarlet fever which swept through the school (in 1910 the school closed for 4 weeks because of chicken-pox), the attendance record was very good. Each year an

Attendance Banner was presented to the school with the highest attendance record. Langcliffe School was a frequent winner. Those children who did not miss a single day throughout the year were known as the Perfect Attenders. They were presented with a medal and then each successive year, a bar was added. These were given by Miss Dawson. In 1914 Leonard Bannister had not missed for 11 years!

On 23rd March 1911, Mr Woodhead and his staff held an Open Afternoon for the parents to come and see the children working, with demonstrations and work on display. A school library was opened at the same time.

At the end of August 1911, Henry Woodhead left Langcliffe to become Head of Woodlands School. His successor was a young teacher from Skipton – Claude Bennett. There were 126 children on roll and his staff were Mary Brennand (St.1 and class 1 of the infants), Annie Yeadon (Sts. 2&3), May Graham (infant classes 2&3) and Mary Monk was caretaker. Mr Bennett took Sts. 4-7.

Together they continued the good work of the previous decade. The H.M.I. reports for this time are uniformly good. Full advantage was taken when the weather was good with outdoor lessons and nature rambles, but there were still problems with the heating system and it was often very cold in the 3 classrooms.

The annual concerts, begun by Mr Woodhead, were continued, the money raised went towards the summer outings. In 1912 the infant and St. 2 children performed "Witches Play" (a fairy play), whilst the older children sang an operetta in costume called "Princess Ju Ju". The following year it was "The Spirit of the Wood" and "Cinderella".

The educational outings took place after the "*Haytime*" holiday (as Mr Bennett picturesquely called the summer break). In 1912, Sts.1&2 visited Morecambe and Heysham Dock – "*16 children had never*

seen the sea before". Sts.3&4 travelled to Liverpool and saw the Mauritania set sail. But Sts.5-7 went to LONDON! This is their itinerary. "6.05 Arrived at St Pancras, 7.00 Through Covent Garden Market, 7.30 Walk to Cleopatra's Needle. Embankment, Bank, Royal Exchange, Mansion House to London Bridge. 9.15 Up the Monument. 10.00 Tower Bridge. 10.30. Round the Tower of London, 11.30 Round St Paul's, 2pm Round Houses of Parliament, 2.45 Walk through St James' Park, Buckingham Palace, The Mall, Trafalgar Square. 2.15 Round Westminster Abbey, 4.30 Round the Zoo, 7.30 round White City. 12.05 Midnight Left St Pancras". They must have been absolutely exhausted and I do hope they stopped to eat, but what a wonderful experience! They did it again the following year with variations to the itinerary – the afternoon was spent in South Kensington at the Natural History and Victoria & Albert Museums, ending with an entertainment at the Coliseum. Sts.1-4 went to Blackpool where they climbed the Tower for a lesson on the course of the lower River Ribble and had a car ride to Fleetwood to view the Docks.

Sadly, there were to be no more outings on this scale, because the following summer of 1914 saw the outbreak of the Great War. On 9th September 1914, the children of Sts.1-7 went out onto the Green to sing several songs for the recruits leaving for Active Service. Many of the soldiers were old scholars. Claude Bennett joined the Duke of Wellington's Regiment as a Lieutenant (soon to be promoted to Captain) and left the school on 22nd September in the charge of Miss Brennand. He returned to the school on 8th December 1915, with his new wife to join in the Christmas celebrations. He was killed by an enemy sniper at Lagnicourt in France on 17th July 1917.

School continued much the same throughout the war years, with attendance sometimes low in the summer when the boys were needed for haymaking. The children "did their bit" for the war effort. The December concerts continued but the money raised now went to the Princess Mary Fund to buy Christmas presents for the troops. In 1914 £7 was raised. The concert included the singing of patriotic songs, 2 musical plays – "The Smiling Geishas" and "The Chocolate Coons", but the high spot was the parade of the Langcliffe Bantams. These were the youngest children, dressed in khaki, who went through their drill and were so comical that they brought the house down. Eggs were collected and sent to London for the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors – 330 on 18th August and 180 on 7th September 1915. Cigarettes and chocolates were sent to the Royal Engineers and 3 dozen sandbags were made in September 1915. Pound sales were held to raise money to buy wool so that comforts (scarves, mittens, socks and knee caps) could be knitted for the troops. On 30th November 1915, a large parcel was despatched to the men aboard the Battleship 'Victorious'. In 1916 a War Savings Association was formed, which by 1918, had raised £254. 4s in war savings and £1,200 in war bonds.

In February 1915, the school was closed for 3 weeks because of measles, one of the little Bantams dying from measles and pneumonia. He was only 4. A little girl died from diphtheria in November 1917 and many children were sent to the Infectious Hospital after swabs were taken from their throats. Finally the school was closed in March 1918 and thoroughly disinfected and cleaned. All pens and pencils were burnt and the drains overhauled, but the disease continued its grip and the school was closed again in June for 3 weeks. During the week of the Armistice the school was again closed, this time because of influenza (Spanish flu?) for 6 weeks and again in March 1919 for 3 weeks. "*Vermin and dirty heads*" are the cause of great concern at this time and are mentioned frequently. Those children who were found to be thus afflicted were given a yellow card with instructions on what to do.

It wasn't all gloom and doom. On 14th June 1919, the children were given a picnic tea to celebrate the wedding of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dawson from the Hall. This was followed by games and a singing competition. There were more celebrations in September when the school was closed for a week and the village celebrated the Peace.

In December 1919, Miss Brennand ended her duties as temporary headteacher, but remained on the staff as an assistant teacher. Mr Graham Vevers became the new Headmaster with 104 children on roll. In July 1922, Annie Yeadon left and the classes were regrouped with the remaining 3 staff. At some point during the 1920's, the WRCC purchased a house in Craven Terrace, Settle for the

headmaster. It remained the home of the headteachers of Langcliffe School until the 1970's. In 1934 Mr Vevers was replaced by Mr H.H.Bland who remained Headmaster at the school until 1947. His daughter, Mary Atkin, was a pupil during the 1930's and has compiled a fascinating file from her own memories and her father's diaries and records.

Throughout this time Armistice Day and Empire Day were always observed. On 11th November, the pupils would march to the War Memorial for the 2 minutes silence and hymn singing. They would have special lessons that day. Empire Day was on 24th May, again the children would march to the War Memorial with wreaths, flags and flowers. Patriotic songs were sung and in the afternoon there would be games and dancing on the Green, followed by a splendid tea. In 1923, the King and Queen's message was given on the gramophone.

Royal Weddings meant a day's holiday, as did General Elections as the school was used as a polling



station. In 1927, a party of scholars and staff were able to visit the Eclipse Camp to look at the instruments used by the Greenwich Observatory. On 29th June a large party of children and staff left school at 4.40 a.m. for Winskill Crag to observe the total eclipse of the sun. The curious sundial on the playground was made about this time.

As well as Cookery, the older girls now had lessons in Housewifery and Laundry at the Girls' High School. They learnt how to wash and iron and how to clean windows and floors. Sewing and knitting were taught by Miss Graham.

The school day began when the bell rang at 9 a.m. Mrs Irene Bowker (née Marsden) recalls "*we had to line up in the yard and then march in order into the school main room where we always had prayers and a hymn. When I was about 10, as I had been having piano lessons, I was promoted to playing marches for the other scholars to march in to. I continued to do this until I left school at 14*". Mr Albert Cheetham remembers when he was followed into school by the family pig. Miss Brennan gave him a long ribbon to act as a leash.

The school was closed several times because of illness during the 1920s. Children were often away for weeks at a time. If they were ill with scarlet fever or diphtheria, they were taken by horse and closed van to the Fever Hospital at Harden Bridge where they had to stay for about 6 weeks. By the 1930s, the school dentist is a regular visitor as well as the school nurse. In 1935 there is the first mention of immunisation against diphtheria. In 1934, the children were able to pay ½d for one third of a pint bottle of milk and then there was the COD LIVER OIL! Many former pupils remember this

with a shudder. The large bottle was kept on a shelf in the kitchen and for ½d a week they were dosed with a teaspoonful of the stuff once a day at playtime. The spoons very quickly became greasy and oily. It was Rita Ellerington (née Venn)'s job to scald the spoons after use – she can still remember the nauseating, fishy smell.

The health of the children cannot have been helped by the continuing problems of flooding and damp. In 1930 when a new heating plant was installed, it was discovered that the joists under the floor were rotten and decayed. New floors were laid throughout, but the flooding continued. Mrs Atkin remembers a waterfall down the steps into the back lobby. The middle room (now the cloakroom and toilets) and the boiler room were most frequently affected. Every time the boiler room was flooded, the boiler could not be lit and so of course the school was cold. This often meant that the school was closed, much to the delight of the pupils! In September 1936, water was found to be standing under the classroom floorboards and there were real problems with the drains and sewers from the outside privies. When the school approach was flooded, Mrs Kathleen Marklew (née Kitchener) remembers her father giving her a piggyback into school, because the water came up over her boots. You can hear the despair in Mr Bland's writing "*Conditions in school thoroughly unhealthy, damp and foul smelling. Reported again to Divisional Clerk – nothing has been done for 2 months*". The Clerk of Works and Sanitary Inspector do then visit and some work is done but to no avail. From 1936 – 39 there was yet more flooding, more work was done, but the school was flooded again in 1941 and 1944. In 1945, many parents asked Mr Bland to forward letters to the Department of Education, requesting permits to purchase wellingtons for the children. The outcome is not recorded!



R. Marsden, M. McLernon, A.Benson, H.Hocking, L. Benson,
R.West, S.Atkinson, J.Vevers, M.Syers, P.Blades, L.Whaites, E.Potter, N.Frankland
N.Worthington, W.West, D.Peel, H.Cardus, B.Alcock, B.Benson, B.Cardus.

In 1935, Mr Bland attended a lecture about "The New Art", given by the Art Inspector, Miss W. Biggs. She wanted teachers to try her ideas in school. Mr Bland was inspired by these ideas and so encouraged the children to paint from memory, using large sheets of paper, big brushes and poster paints. The results were very exciting and the paintings were sent off to Miss Biggs who exhibited them at the Exhibition of English

Education in Oxford that summer. In October a letter was received from Miss Biggs "*informing us of the interest taken by Lord Halifax (then President of the Board of Education) and Sir Michael Sadler*". Later that week a letter arrived from Sir Michael himself "*Lady Sadler and I were so much interested by the work done at your school and show in Oxford last August that we venture to ask your acceptance of one of our pictures from our collection.*" The painting duly arrived. It was an impressionistic sketch of Tower Bridge and the Pool by Paul Maze. The children's paintings were then exhibited at Leeds so they were able to go and see their own paintings. There were articles in the Daily Express and the Yorkshire Post. Fame at last! But what has happened to the painting? It's there in the background of class photos in the 1950s. Miss Townson remembers it but doesn't think it was there when she retired in 1973. Did it get muddled up with paintings lent to the school from the county pool at Wakefield? We shall probably never know, but it would be wonderful to find it again!

The 1930s saw many improvements. The new heating plant consisted of an enormous boiler and it was the job of the senior boys to shovel the coke into the boiler house on delivery day and then keep the boiler stoked. It heated 6-inch diameter pipes which ran around each classroom. Mr Clifford Fox remembers the times when the water in the pipes got so hot that the pipes started knocking and they had to turn on all the hot water taps in the wash basins. "Pure steam" came out until the water had cooled. The privies (a hole in a seat over a deep, smelly pit) dated back to 1882. They were in the



The missing Paul Maze painting

back playground, one set for the boys and one for the girls, separated by a very high stone wall which also divided the playground. These privies were replaced by flush toilets and a proper sewage system installed. In 1939 the school was wired for electricity and the old gas lights were replaced with electric lights.

The Inspectors continue to visit, of course, but their reports are only given every 4 years. These, on the whole, praise the good work being done. In 1936 there were 77 children on roll. Discipline is one aspect of school life which many of the old scholars have commented on. There is still the record book of corporal punishment which dates from 1907 – 1946. In the early days there are many entries each year. Gross carelessness would earn you 2 strokes with the cane, laziness

during scripture – 4 strokes, playing truant – 4 strokes on each hand and 4 on the seat. Gradually over the years, the cane is used less and less and then only for serious misdemeanours.

Games were played on the Green, although the High School playing field does seem to have been used in the 1920s. Football and cricket were played by the boys, with the girls sometimes joining in with the cricket, but usually it was rounders with netball and stoolball played in front of the school. Earlier in the 1920's, Mrs Betty Sharrott (née Alcock) remembers sword dancing on the Green while Mrs Rowena O'Neil (née West) recalls having to run and dance around the Green in clogs! Mrs Maud Riley remembers team games in the school yard. In March 1942 an arrangement was made whereby the school was able to use the Institute for PT and Games on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 – 3.30. The rent was paid by WRCC Education Department.

During the 1930s and 40s there were several snowy winters. The children would take their homemade wooden sledges to school and at playtime and dinnertime, would sledge down Cowside from the "second gate". Mrs Marklew remembers "a time when compacted snow made it like a Cresta run and almost as dangerous. The Council sent snow cutters and cart to spread ashes on the road – we were all indignant and boys ran home for a brush to sweep the ashes off again. This wasn't well received and they had to stop it." Mrs Atkin recalls in 1940 being able to walk across the fields with her sledge, walking right over the field walls because the snow drifts were so deep. The children made snow houses by tunnelling into drifts. There were days when it was so bad that the school had to close.

The tradition of excellent concerts continued. Mrs Ellerington will never forget the arrival in school of two wooden boxes which, it transpired, contained various percussion instruments packed in straw. Her favourite was the drum. The infants practised under Miss Brennan's tutelage and gave a concert that autumn. Mrs Sharrott recalls a terrible occasion, when a little girl's costume skirt caught fire, but it was quickly put out by the lad who came to help with the footlights. In the 1930s, the older children made a backdrop with pulleys and curtains to draw at the front. A play called "Robin Hood's Mill" was written by one of the boys, based on a local legend and performed in 1937. Puppet shows too were performed.

The school played an active role in the village celebrations for the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 and again in 1937 for the coronation of King George VI. There were visits to the local mills and gas works. In 1935, the seniors travelled to Leeds to see the Art Gallery, Town Hall, Museum and Newspaper Printing Works. Mr James Middleton has never forgotten that trip – he had his 7/6d spending money pick pocketed! Fortunately Mr Bland lent him the money which he paid back the next day. The next year they visited Carlisle and in 1937, they journeyed to Bradford and were able to go into the Lord Mayor's Parlour and see his regalia. Lancaster and Heysham Docks were visited the following year and in May 1939 they went to Liverpool. There would be no more school trips until after the war.

The story of the Evacuees and the War years are written about in another part of this book. Work in the garden increased and a Rabbit Club formed, with the boys making the hutches and erecting a shed.



Mr H.H.Bland

In 1940 a radio set was installed and 10/- paid for its licence. In 1944 school meals were served for the first time – 48 meals were served. They cost 5d for children, 8d for teachers off-duty and were free for teachers on duty and helpers.

On 28th June 1945, Miss Brennand retired. She had given 40 years of service to the school. Many former pupils remember her with great affection. The occasion was marked with presentations and tributes. Mr Dennis Middleton presented her with flowers. Later that year, on 14th November, Miss Brennand returned to take part in the celebrations to mark the end of the Second World War by planting a Copper Beech on the Green. It was named the "Victory Tree" and can still be seen to the left of the road gate at the side of the school. Miss B. Simpson was appointed in her place to the Infant Department.

There is an amusing entry in the Log Book for 21st February 1946 – "*A Banana, the 1st for 6 years came to school today: caused great interest*" The dates of the summer holidays were changed from the end of June – mid August to about 20th July – the beginning of September. The Langcliffe Parents' Association was formed in 1946. The following year, in line

with the 1944 Education Act, the school leaving age was raised to 15. This meant that the older scholars started a course of individual timetables and studies until 1948 when the 14 senior pupils were transferred to Ingleton Modern School.

During the dreadful winter of 1947, it was often difficult to get the dinners to the school, so the boys used to carry the containers up from the main road on sledges. One day the dinners did not come at all and so sledges were taken down to the local shop where potatoes, soup and bully (corned) beef and tea were bought and carried back to school and cooked on the gas stove in the lobby. A letter of congratulation was later received by the school, for its enterprise and effort, from the local Education Officer.

Mr Bland, having been appointed Area Youth Officer for the WRCC, left the school on 30th April 1947. There was of course a presentation ceremony, but sadly no details in the log. He must have been much missed by everyone, having been so much a part of village as well as school life. He was very highly regarded by his former pupils. A supply head took over for a term and then Mrs E.E. Harris was appointed Head Teacher. As Edith Graham she had been a pupil and pupil teacher at the school. There were 53 children on roll.

A Nursery class opened in 1949 with 17 children. This brought the number up to 71 children on roll. There are 2 remarkable events recorded during 1950. A great tit built its nest in the wooden letterbox on the school wall and reared 8 fledglings (in subsequent years the letter box was taken over by

starlings), and a consignment of sweets – the gift of the people of New Zealand, arrived. Each child received ½lb sweets which must have seemed wonderful after all the years of rationing.

In July 1952, Miss Graham retired after 40 years of devoted teaching, spent entirely at Langcliffe School. The occasion was marked by presentations from parents, past and present pupils and the managers. Miss Katherine Townson was appointed to the Infant Department. Miss Townson remained at the school for 21 happy years. She recalls the 1950s in the school as being cold, with an antiquated form of heating (there were serious problems with the boiler and more flooding at this time). As the toilets were still outside, she needed to dress the youngest children in coats and hats before they could go to the toilets in the winter months. In the summer she enjoyed taking her class out – up Cow Close, looking in the stream for caddis worms and water snails, or down Howsons Lane and up to Cat's Steps looking for wild flowers and fauna. Once they found a squirrel's hoard of nuts and acorns.

The late 1950s and 60s are recalled by Margaret Graveson (née O'Neil), Helen Atkinson (née Bean) and Kenneth Atkinson. The



Joe Brown, Jack Hocking, John Middleton, J. Towler, Billy Atkinson, M. Wilkinson.

Dennis Newhouse, John Parrington, Mary Ovington, Mary Redmayne, Ernest Wilcock, Alan Cokell, J. Middleton,

Dot Cutrass, Doris Robinson, M. McLernon, Mary Lambert, Nellie Marshbank, Rita Venn

nursery children were supposed to have a nap on a camp bed in the hall after lunch. Mrs Graveson found it very difficult to go to sleep, covered by "a scratchy red blanket". Both she and Mrs Atkinson remember the Christmas party at school. The partition dividing the hall and classroom was pushed back to make a large open space for games. There were lots of party games and then, to find your partner for tea, you chose a card from a pile – one for boys and one for girls. Each card had a name on it – for example Lord or Lady Langcliffe or Earl Ellwood. There was always masses to

eat for tea. In the evening there was a Carol Concert for the parents, "O come all ye faithful" was always the last carol. At Easter the children made an Easter Garden with models of the tomb and angel, trimmed with moss and leaves. It was taken across to the church for Easter Sunday. They all remember listening to radio programmes like "Singing Together" and "Rhythm and Melody". Mrs Atkinson enjoyed Country Dancing, but Mrs Graveson absolutely dreaded it. Worst of all was Maypole Dancing – the maypole was put up in the playground with some of the big boys sitting on the base to keep it stable. "Round and round we danced getting into some awful tangles which could only be undone by reversing". They would then dance on the lawn at Langcliffe Hall at the Church Garden Party. One year Mr Atkinson was chosen to sing at the Hall.

One of the school inspectors wore a fox fur round her neck. Mr Atkinson can remember hoping it would bite her! Mrs Graveson recalls a big book of "compositions" that was shown to the inspectors. "If your composition was good enough, you were shut in a classroom on your own and had to write it out in the big book with no blots and no crossing out. Two compositions I remember we had to write were 'A day in the life of a penny' and 'The lifecycle of a frog'". She wonders where the book is now. About 1960, the rent paid by WRCC to the trustees for the school building was increased to £50. It

was then used towards the cost of educational outings and such like. At this time there were discussions about buying a plot of land and building a new primary school. The HMI report of 1955 recommended the nursery class should close when all the present children had moved up into the infants. (This happened in 1957). The report was rather critical of the school premises but said that they " *are by no means unsuitable for continued use until such time as a new school can be built.*" About the work of the school it was very complimentary.

Mrs Harris retired in December 1961 after 14 years as headteacher. Mrs Emily Gregory was appointed her successor and remained at the school for 4 years. She was succeeded by Mr Brian Semple in September 1966. Plans to build a new school must have been abandoned, because after years of problems with frozen or flooded toilets, the decision was taken to adapt the middle classroom (now no longer needed as the numbers on roll were around 40), into indoor toilets with a storage area. A staff toilet and storeroom were added soon after, though unfortunately the flooding of the school continued. In March 1970, a TV set and aerial were installed.

The village green was still being used for games – Mrs Carol Cowburn (née Atkinson) remembers playing rugby (and kiss chase!) at this time, but in 1972, 1.7 acres of land surrounding the school were bought. At long last the school had its own playing field and wild life area. The school premises were sold to the Education Authorities for £2,750 in 1973. The money was invested by the trustees who became known as the "Langcliffe School Landlords" and each year an award can be applied for by a school or young person requiring assistance with their education or a travel bursary. In 1974, the West Riding County Council ceased to exist in the reorganisation of local government, and was replaced by the North Yorkshire County Council. Miss Townson retired in 1973 and Mr Semple left 2 years later, both highly regarded teachers. There followed a period of uncertainty, with numbers falling and several staff changes. Settle Middle School opened in 1977 which meant that children their left primary school after 3 years in the juniors, instead of 4. There were serious doubts about the future of the school and many meetings were held between the PTA and the Education Committee. In 1981 it was decided that the school should remain open and Mrs Anne Clements was appointed as a permanent headteacher. She introduced a more open-plan approach to teaching. More work was done to the school building. The ancient coke boiler had been replaced in 1977 by a gas system. In 1982, the partition in the big room was removed and the ceilings throughout were lowered. The old toilets outside were dismantled, a new stone shed erected and the playground tarmaced.

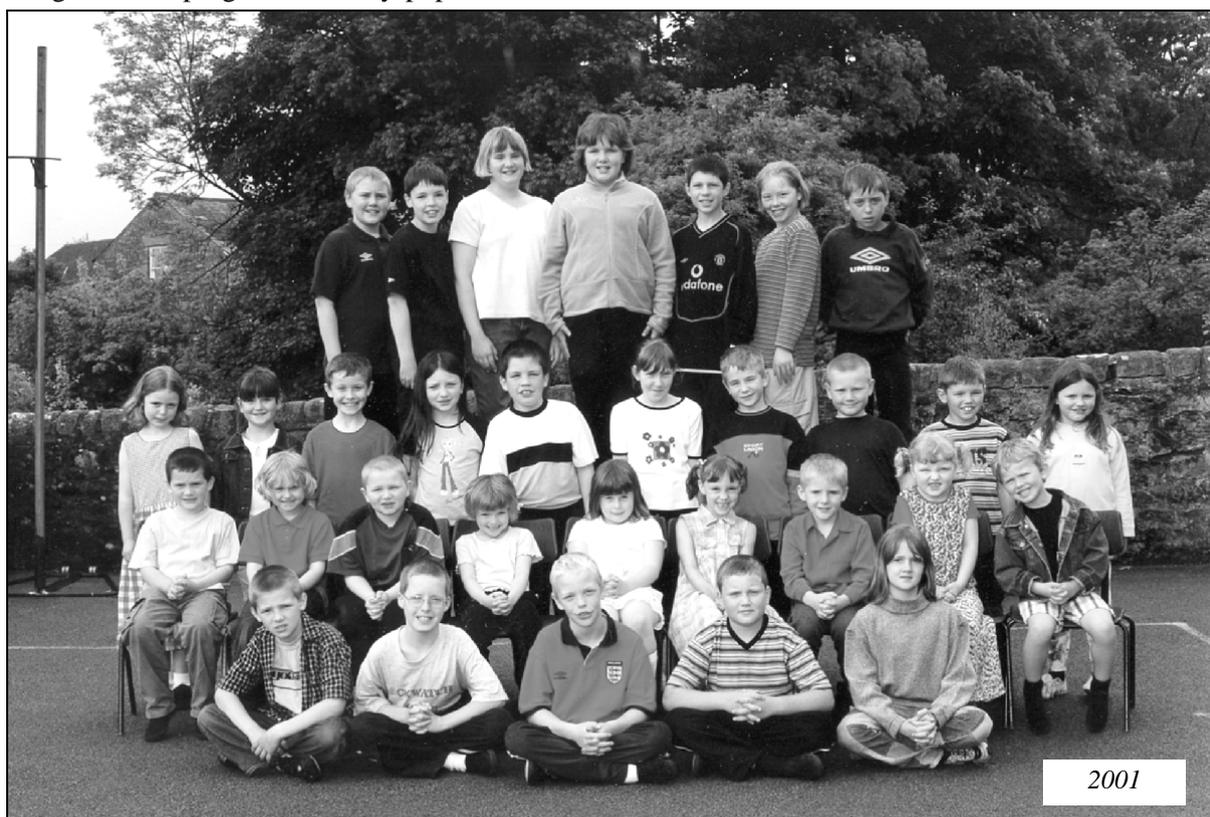


A Class in the late 1920s

Numbers however continued to fall, Mrs Clements left and it was decided that either Langcliffe or Stainforth School should close. Both villages fought hard to keep their school open, but in 1984, Stainforth School was closed. That same year, Mrs Hilary Foster (now known as Ms Macorison), was appointed headteacher with 17 children on roll. School Log Books are rarely maintained nowadays and the last entry in the Langcliffe School Log Book was made on 26th July 1985.

The years since have been busy and successful for the school. The numbers have continued to fluctuate but the school prides itself on its family atmosphere. There have been more improvements to the school building. The old cloakroom/boiler room has been converted to a staffroom, the office has been enlarged, there are new

toilets for the boys and staff, with new ones for the girls due very soon. A special bay has been added for the school's computers. In recent years more work has been done to solve the flooding problem. New drains have been installed at the back of the school and so far these seem to be working. How pleased Mr Bland would be! The surrounding environment continues to be important – a wildlife pond was created some years ago, an event happily recalled by Mrs Hannah Evans (née Wiggin). The gardening tradition is continued and there is a tree nursery supported by English Nature. The school was featured in the BBC's Landmark education programmes. When the Ofsted inspectors visited in 1998, the school received an excellent report and it has just won a School Achievement Award which recognizes the progress made by pupils.



The children of the junior class were asked for their most vivid memory of school. Alexandra remembers coming on her afternoon visit before starting school. *"I was nervous when I walked through the school gates. Then I walked up the stairs to the field holding my mum's hand. A girl called Eleanor asked if I wanted to play and suddenly I was happy"*. Matthew thought how tiny the school was compared with his old one. Nicholas recalled PE lessons in the Institute. *"In winter the Institute is very cold. It is 100 years old. They have some very old pictures. We have PE on Tuesday afternoons. We have skipping for a warm up. We store the mats under the snooker table. The 3rd lesson is catch, the last lesson is dodge ball"*. Tim thought about Christmas – *"We always have a Christmas dinner. Mrs Mezzanotte always makes very nice food for the school. When we are doing our work it smells lovely. Every year we have a party. We have a paper chain race at the start of December and then we hang them down from the roof"*.

Charlotte and Sam remembered Sports Day. *"We have running races, egg and spoon races, sack races, skipping and bean bag races. The last race is the mini marathon – the juniors run all around the field first and then the infants. Some mums help do the barbecue – we have hot dogs, crisps and pop."*

Every year, the Year 5s (10 year olds) have a week at Humphrey Head Outdoor Centre. Imogen recalled *"We went to the dormitory to unpack. Alex and I shared a bunk bed, I was in the top. At night, the teacher said 'good night' and turned the light off. All the girls started to talk, but when the teacher came in, we pretended to be asleep"*. Liam describes the activities – canoeing, rafting, climbing and

the night walk – "*we had a great week.*" Educational visits continue to be an important part of school life. Ben remembered the narrow stairs and slit windows at Skipton Castle. Daniel wore a flat cap, waistcoat, with his trousers tucked into his socks when the school spent the day as Victorians at the Judges' Lodgings in Lancaster. Thomas wrote about a long journey to Sellafield Nuclear Power Station when they were studying energy. "*There was a bike which you had to pedal to make things light up.*" Liam S. enjoyed the visit to the crisp factory but remembers the floor being "*mucky*".

Last term the children worked with the staff of the National Parks on a project about the Hoffman Kiln. David wrote "*The best 2 weeks of my life were when we visited the Hoffman Kiln and then made puppets*". Andrew remembered how dark and spooky it was in the Kiln, even with his torch.

I doubt if Miss Chambers would recognise the school now with its bright and cheerful paintwork and the "cosy" feel that so many of today's pupils remarked upon. So much has changed, but the teachers still work incredibly hard for the benefit of their pupils. Despite all the problems with flooding and heating brought about by the school's site, it has always been a glorious place to go to school when the sun shines. Miss Townson recalled a jovial remark by Sir Alec Clegg, the legendary West Riding Chief Education Officer, that the teachers should pay the authority to work here! Most of the old scholars have written or spoken about their happy memories, combined with affection and admiration for their teachers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SOURCES Langcliffe School Log Books, Langcliffe Parish Magazines 1908 – 1924, The Craven Herald, An Introductory History of English Education since 1800 by S.J.Curtis and M.E.A.Boulwood.

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Kate Croll

The Langcliffe School Dispute

Today, the school in Langcliffe is a lively place of learning. The present harmony between the school, church and village community has not always existed. The “Langcliffe School Dispute” was one occasion when tensions ran particularly high!

The dispute was between the vicar, the Reverend Samuel Sandberg, the mill owner and much-respected philanthropist Mr Hector Christie with his associate Mr George Perfect.

The following narrative has been drawn from the evidence of logbooks and parish records together with some personal and subjective commentary from the author.

In 1861, Lorenzo Christie bought the cotton mill, which had been closed in 1851 as a result of the bankruptcy of its owner Mr Clayton. In 1880 Lorenzo's son Hector bought the paper mill further up the river. Workers flooded into Langcliffe as a result of these initiatives and in 1880 the population of Langcliffe numbered 890. Workers from Christie's mill occupied many of the houses in the village, which belonged to the mill and their children attended the school. By law, children who worked part-time at the mill had to have a specific number of hours schooling each week. The attendance records were very important and the records had to be exchanged between the two institutions.

Samuel Sandberg was 59 when he took up the living of Saint John the Evangelist, Langcliffe in November 1879. Married to Mary, aged 37, he had 5 children. Gertrude (9), Dinah (7), William (5), Frederick (4), and Paul (1). Later in 1885 and 1888, two more sons, Julian and Horatio, were born.

Samuel, the son of a Major General, had been born in Prussia. He served for three years as Chaplain at the Cape of Good Hope. The dispute between the managers of the school happened soon after he took up the living in Langcliffe



A moment from the dramatisation of the dispute

Perhaps Samuel expected respect and had been used to getting it. The people of Langcliffe were not all “Church of England”; there was a large, and independent, Methodist contingent. The school, as it had been built by public subscription, was not a church school, but a ‘Provided School’ and one wonders whether Samuel felt, perhaps, that it should have been. One can only speculate. Did he need to be important? In his previous parishes, as in his own home, had his word been law and did he find the independent Langcliffians difficult to mould to his own notions of respectful parishioners?

In September 2001 we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church and as part of the entertainment Helen Jarvis dramatised the school dispute and subsequent court case. This is a synopsis of the content of the play.

One of the things that irritated Samuel most was the involvement of Hector Christie and George Perfect in the school. The school had cause to be grateful to the local businessmen who were managers of the school and took a real interest, as well as providing some financial backing. As managers they were entitled to see the registers, accounts and log books of the school. Samuel was incensed by this, one can only suppose that in his other parishes his experience had been only of Church schools and that he found it impossible to adapt to the different circumstances of Langcliffe. Being used to getting his own way, and feeling that right, and God, were on his side, Samuel decided to take action.

(He may have also rather resented the fact that the Vicar of Giggleswick, the Rev. William Coulthurst lived at Bowerley and kept a housemaid, cook and butler. This put him on the same social footing as Hector Christie, who kept a parlourmaid, housemaid, cook, laundry maid and kitchen maid. Samuel had no “live in” servants.)

The previous incumbent of St John’s, Rev McIntire had visited the school almost daily and the school had flourished under the joint governance of church and business.

Miss Palin had become schoolmistress in 1875. She soon had to deal with an incident where the student teacher shook 4 year old John Higginson so hard the he fell and broke his leg. It took him from October to January to recover. School Inspectors found the discipline not strict enough. Writing, spelling and arithmetic did not reach the required standard.

The Rev McIntire and his wife give lots of support to the school and are frequently mentioned in the school log.

Another report found ‘arithmetic uniformly bad’ but the McIntires’ help showed in the improved reading. With few resources, Miss Palin perhaps found it difficult to teach this new influx of children, most of whom were illiterate.

On November 1879 Samuel visited the school with Mr Jackman. Like the rest of the village Mr Jackman thought that things between school, church and mill would never change. As they chatted, Samuel’s lack of respect for the mill owners may have worried him.

It seems likely that Samuel decided there and then that the close association between the school and the mill must not continue. He might have felt himself justified as the most recent report had been fairly damning. “Copying amongst the children must be checked. If this happens another year the children will lose their grants. More examinations should be held.”

The report also says that the infants needed a gallery and suitable desks. Much to Samuel’s chagrin Messers Christie and Perfect then criticised the gallery he had ordered and overseen. H.Christie inspected the work on May 5th. He visited all the classes and commented upon their work and progress. This put Samuel in a temper and he decided things could not continue in the present fashion.

On the 14th May he took action. Going over to school he told the Head she must go and retrieve the schedules and registers from the mill where they were regularly scrutinised, saying that the job was the prerogative of the vicar and that she had no business in colluding with Mammon rather than God. She was dubious about leaving the school in his care but agreed to go since he promised to supervise the pupils himself. When she returned he had failed to keep his word and had left the student teacher

in charge. He had taken the logbook and the school keys with him.

That afternoon Mr Perfect came to visit Miss Palin who told him what had happened. He went promptly to the vicarage to ask about the logbook and keys. The Reverend Sandberg said he had the right to have them and that he would return them in his own good time.

Samuel decided that it was time to grasp the initiative and decreed that Messrs Perfect and Christie should be kept out of the school. Miss Palin was in despair. She had never had such a difficult time. Her sympathies were with the other managers but Samuel was frequently in the school.

Despite her fear of the man of God, Miss Palin decided that she would help his opponents to gain access to the school and ignored the instruction to bar the door against them. Hector Christie and George Perfect took radical action. They entered the school and declared that they would remain there to show the Rev. Sandberg that he could not influence their role in the school's affairs. They demanded the return of £39 19s 4d which Samuel had received for use by Langcliffe School. They also demanded the return of the logbooks and the accounts. Reverend Sandberg refused. He gained access to the school somehow. Perhaps he disguised himself as the bearer of much needed food!

Upon gaining entry to the school he must have had a very frosty reception from Messrs Christie and Perfect. They left the school and decided to take Samuel to court.

On the very same day Mr Christie and Mr Perfect brought an action against the Rev Samuel Sandberg. The case was to come to court on 13th July, but on July 9th Rev Samuel applied to the Rolls Court to have the case heard away from Settle. He would be loath to have his parishioners as spectators. He intended to file a counter claim for trespass.

The hearing for this was held on July 30th and, having heard counsel from both sides and various affidavits, the judge dismissed Samuel's counter claim and he was ordered to pay Mr Christie and Mr Perfect the costs of £2. 10s.

In order to forestall having to pay these costs, Samuel filed a petition for liquidation, causing the hearing to be adjourned.



Samuel's bankruptcy hearing was held next day in court at Bradford, where his petition was set aside. He would have to return to court to face the charges levelled against him, this time in Settle!

It must have been with great chagrin that he brought himself to attend the hearing so near his parish, especially in what the Craven Herald of the day describes as "a crowded courtroom".

Mr. Vant, solicitor for the mill owners, detailed the history of the case making much of the trouble and expense caused by Samuel in order to bring him to court.

Samuel had treated the court with contempt and now the court made the most of the case against him! He had forfeited any "special" treatment that might have been accorded to a man of the cloth. Vant

asserted that Samuel had treated the court and the law with contempt and should be committed.

Samuel insisted on being put on the stand. He harangued the court with his own version of events, asserting that he had done nothing that was not his right as the sole manager of the school. He swore that he had taken over the duties as outlined to him as part of his ministry by his predecessor, the Rev. McIntire.

Samuel had said too much. With great aplomb Vant produced a signed affidavit by the Rev. Travis McIntire that clearly stated that first Lorenzo and then Hector Christie had been managers with him. They had been joined by George Perfect in 1877. He also swore that he had sent Samuel a cheque for the remaining monies of the school made out to "The Managers of Langcliffe School". He added that Samuel had written to him "on behalf of the Managers."

Vant said that it was clear that Samuel was, disgracefully for a man of the church, not speaking the truth under oath!

However, Vant went on, his clients would not press for committal for trial but would be satisfied with an apology. Samuel refused.

The judge then gave his opinion. If the learned and well-travelled clergyman thought himself to be the sole manager then it was time that he shared some of the considerable burden. He strongly advised him to invite Christie and Perfect to join him as managers, taking them fully into his confidence.

He also said that he was sorry that Samuel had overlooked the matter of the cheque for £26 and asked that he seek it out immediately he left the court and restore it to the school. He also made an order against him for £26 telling him that he was being let off lightly in not being committed for trial for contempt of court and, potentially, fraud!

The Craven Herald was there, and later reported the case in full. Five weeks later Samuel returned the logbook to the school.

The Head had had enough and stated her intention of leaving the school at the end of the term. Rev. Samuel had driven her out. He had been overbearing and failed to do as he promised on a number of occasions.

Samuel must have made his peace with most of the village as he stayed on as vicar for nineteen more years, having at least two more children. He retired to Brighton after this and died there aged 91.

This recollection of him was revived by research during the Millennium project.

Helen Jarvis

Langcliffe and the Evacuees

At the beginning of the Second World War, children from the major cities began to be evacuated to the country. Langcliffe was one of the places to which the evacuees were allocated. They came from a number of different places, e.g. Hull, Bradford, Brighton and Hove. Some of the children came from homes and orphanages and were moved in small groups. Houses in the village were assessed and if there were extra rooms available it was expected that evacuees would be allocated to them. Mount Pleasant, a large house, at that time belonging to the Misses Preston and unoccupied, was requisitioned as a hostel. Sometimes, as many as twenty-two children were accommodated there. Several other houses had a smaller proportion of children and some evacuees stayed only for a short time. Many children came from very deprived homes; some had head lice, some bed wetted, not easy for a small village community to cope with. Other children came with their parents and stayed for the duration of the war, some never returning to their old homes. The school must have been stretched to the limit. Until 1945, children who did not pass their scholarship to the High School stayed until they left at fourteen. Ninety evacuee children attended the school between the seventh of September 1939 and the twenty ninth of January 1946.

Frances Hailwood, later Mrs Capstick, was asked to run Mount Pleasant Evacuee Hostel. This is her account, in her own words, which she gave us in the year 2000 when she was ninety-two. We have edited the original transcript slightly, in order to avoid confusion and clarify matters.

I lived in Bolton where I had a shop. My husband was called up and then they sent him home. They had too many recruits to deal with at Manchester. He came home for a day. I had a sister-in-law who had fallen off a bus; she was expecting a baby and needed bed-rest. At suppertime, they said, 'Shall we have fish and chips for supper?' I never went out, it was always somebody else. They decided to do the returns, (food ration coupons). I went to the fish and chip shop and while I was there the bomb dropped. It killed my husband, and my sister-in-law was missing for days. We found her in a hospital just outside Bolton.

We had no home. My mother-in-law lived in this house (in Hellifield) and she was looking after my young son, Peter because he had become afraid of the bombing and couldn't sleep. We came here. She took us in as evacuees. We registered as evacuees at Settle. The very next day after I registered,



The sitting room at Mount Pleasant. (Jean Jelley)

they came and asked me if I would help with this hostel. They had a lady called Mrs Gee to do the main job. I said 'Oh, I've never looked after kids and I've no idea what to do. I've always been in business'. 'Well, help us out', they said. And so I did and I stayed five or six years. It was Mount Pleasant. The Town Hall officials ran me up to show me the house, snow was feet deep everywhere but I loved the house immediately. It was called Mount Pleasant and it was well named, with lovely views on all sides. Two Miss Prestons owned it but they didn't live there. It was made out as an evacuee hostel; there

were all little beds in the bedrooms...no amenities at all. Nothing at all. Very basic. Anyway it was a lovely house and I loved it.

We started off with Mrs Gee airing everything and getting everything clean and ready. They had a batch of London mothers with babies and children. One of the mothers was expecting a baby so they asked us if we could have her two children. She went into hospital. A boy came from Hellifield, he was about about fourteen; he was retarded. We had the twins belonging to this lady and a little girl belonging to that family. The boy was all right but when the babies came he was very jealous.

Mrs Gee had three grandchildren. She didn't stay very long and they asked me if I would take it over. 'Have a try', they said so I said 'OK'. My mother was here and my son was here. I asked if they could come. 'I must have my son with me if I'm up there'. He was fine. They allowed it. My mother was poorly. She had a very bad heart and had to go into hospital twice. But we coped. I was paid one pound a week and my mother got ten shillings. There was a Mr Bradley who helped. Mr Bradley used to look after the central heating. There was a Mr Syers who looked after the garden. He was a grand old man. He taught me a lot of gardening. I didn't know a spade from a fork. We all gardened. All the children had a bit of garden.

We had a huge range...it was a good range but the flues had to be cleaned every night otherwise it didn't work. The Coal Board kept grumbling because we were using too much coal. We had no other means of cooking at all. I used to let it go out after lunch but it took until teatime to really go out. It had two hot plates on top with lids and two ovens.

My mother was a cook in a big house years ago and she could make something out of nothing. We had to write everything down in a book, every mortal thing at every meal. It will all be at the Town Hall.

We got our eggs and milk from Clarks. I once went into their farmhouse and it was scrubbed spotless white. Mr Clark used some of our barns. There was a passageway from the house to the farm. We got our bread from the village.

Miss Bilton provided all the groceries; she sent them up in a box. I ordered what I wanted and the Town Hall paid.

We had a lovely big greenhouse on the side of the house, it's not there now, and my mother was a countrywoman from Worcestershire. She washed tomatoes and grew the seeds. We had pounds and pounds of gorgeous tomatoes. We grew vegetables in the orchard. It was full of fruit trees. She used to find all sorts of things, nettles and wild onions. Once we had six children who had eaten Blackthorn berries. They were all really poorly but they got better. We got meat from Settle and fruit and vegetables from the greengrocer and hairdressers next to Garnetts.

Mr Bradley killed a pig and used our cellar for salting it. He gave my mother chitterlings and black puddings with the blood. We had a right good do while he was doing the pig. There were big stone slabs down there. Everybody had a pig in those days. We used to give him all the peelings.

We always had a cooked breakfast – dippy egg from dried egg, tomatoes, sausage, bacon, eggs and fried bread. We had a double porringer on the stove all day. We used very fine oatmeal and it was really creamy. Children came and said they didn't like porridge. So I said, 'Right, if you don't have a spoonful, don't get any fried bread or whatever.'

They forced it down and then had a bit more the next day and then they got to like it. I had to get up at 6.00 am to light the fire to boil a kettle to heat the porridge. Then I went back to bed for an hour, while they were coming on.

My mother used to make the main meal as a rule. She made cakes and pastries and tarts. When I gave the book in at the Town Hall they said, 'It's like a four star hotel!'

There was a big house on the road halfway up the Langcliffe Road. (Taitlands) and two ladies lived there. They had little Poms. We were all going a walk. We passed this house. We had a mother and

child staying. When we got back this mother pulled a hen out of the pram! We ate it; well you couldn't waste it. But I felt guilty and hid all the feathers.

The Americans also sent milk powder, sweets and cocoa. We mixed the milk, cocoa and syrup together and spread it on bread for our supper. The children loved it.

Daily Life

The children started to come in ones and twos. We had as many as twenty-two at one time. Most of the children did most of the jobs themselves. I had never run a hostel or a home so I ran it like my own home. That's what they said in Leeds. Every day, easy, no rules or regulations. The kids were so good really.

We had children from aged about five to fourteen; boys and girls. There was no nonsense like there is today. No problems. I don't know if they were very naïve or not in those days...not like they are today.

We had no punishment book because we had no punishments. We went to the pictures every Saturday afternoon; it was two pence. We walked over the Top Road all together. If they missed that, they were so upset. So I had a good thing. 'Right, so you can't go to the pictures next week'. That was a real punishment, better than anything. I remember we were coming back once and there was a calf being born. It was good for them. I remember when the snow was so high they had to cut a passage through. It lasted weeks, about six weeks. We had to be dug out, but we could still get through to the pictures on Saturday. I used to go with them to see that there were no problems.

We had three sledges, so they could play out in the snow. The millpond was frozen over.

They had sixpence a week from the Council. Four pence for sweets and two pence for the pictures.

We walked everywhere and years later when I saw the footbridge at the Locks was washed down, I was amazed. We trailed that bridge everyday. Nobody ever stopped us. We used to roam like it was a park. I've only just realised farmers own fields. One day someone told us the King and Queen were coming on a train. We all went to lean over the bridge but we never saw a train.

There was one little girl who had tantrums and she did frighten me one day. In the afternoon we always went down to the river with a big basket of sandwiches. It kept the hostel clean, then there's no work. She started throwing a real tantrum, so I said, 'Right, you can't come, you can go upstairs'. My mother was in. this girl opened the window and put her leg out and said, 'I'm going to throw myself down.' Now, today, I would never have dreamt it, but I said, 'All right, you throw yourself down, there's only you will be hurt, nobody else will be hurt'. It worked. I'd know better now but I was only in my thirties and I took it all in my stride. I would be a bit wary today!

The new children were sometimes homesick. I had one little boy and girl come. I gave them their dinner and sent them into the playroom. When I went back the boy was having a fit. I rang the doctor and it was Mrs Hyslop who answered. The doctor wasn't in; by the time the doctor came he was alright again. He never had another. There was no record of fits in his papers. That frightened me. His older sister was just reading and taking no notice of him.

I thought we were going to have one failure with a little boy who was really miserable. It took a month for him to settle. He had been taken out for a ride on a train, as he'd thought. He was very shocked. The family was lovely and caring but they hadn't warned him about where he was going.

We had a girl from The Riddings. (They used to take the babies). I got the children at five years old. She was called Lavinia. She was a little disruptive when she lived at the hostel, and I said she had to go. She went but she turned up one night. She had run away from Hull. She'd come on the train; she had no money. We let her stay and we had no problems with her after that. When I had left the hostel after the war, she turned up at Hellifield and wanted to live with me. I had my son, husband and mother to look after and I couldn't take her in.

There were two boys whose mother asked if she could come and stay for a few days. She was a lovely person – very smart. She bought these children anything they wanted. There was a big fair at Settle. She said they'd had a lovely day there. She came back and said, 'Lord help you. I don't know how you put up with all these children. Thank you for looking after my children so well'.

We always played games at night. And read stories before they went to bed. The little ones got bathed, came down in their nighties and we read a story. The bigger ones played. We had big rolls of kitchen towel from America and our children made a frieze for the playroom. They used to play out in the barns at the back. You could play any sort of game there. The lady from Leeds said, 'You are keeping them so busy, they can't get up to any mischief'.

We got an old pram from the Town Hall. You go up Langcliffe to the wood at the top. Every Saturday morning we filled the pram with wood for the fires. It just lasted a week. We came home to soup and dumplings, always soup and dumplings. They loved that. Our poor old dog was exhausted trying to keep up with us. Saturday morning they had to weed the path, it was full of chickweed.

We never had any sexual problems. The younger ones bathed together, boys and girls, in this huge bath. There was a big airing cupboard with all the nighties hung up. Somebody came from the Council and told me that I mustn't do this because if anyone got impetigo the whole hostel would get it but I didn't take any notice. They had lovely warm nighties.

There was a big cellar and a butler's pantry with a sink. The children made their own beds and washed their own potties. We only had a few potties and the toilet was a long way from the bedrooms. I gave the potties to the girls and I gave the boys two-pound jam jars. Dr Hyslop came one day and he saw all these jam jars and he said, 'What are these for?'

I explained and said 'Quite a lot of the boys came as bed-wetters but they gave over.' Dr Hyslop said, 'I wonder if that would be a good idea for Giggleswick School; they have that problem'.

They cleaned their shoes the night before and set out all their clothes on the bed for morning. They came down clean and bright, set the table, had their breakfast, cleared the table and washed up.

On Sundays they went to Sunday School and after that we went along the river to Stainforth to have a picnic and then we walked back by the road. No traffic in those days. We used to walk to Malham. We did it three times. We set off for the day. My second husband was courting me and he came up a lot. We took a packed lunch. They walked all that way. We had two or three five year olds. Earl helped them a lot. It was tiring coming back and he gave the younger ones quite a lot of lifts. I was amazed. I was a good walker and loved being outside.

They kicked their outdoor shoes off in the kitchen.

The young ones had to go to bed at 6.30 – 7.00. Then they drank cocoa. People gave us books. The Town Hall were very good. They used to collect at Christmas. We used to get about thirty bob.

At Christmas time we used to paint treacle tins, put a hole in the top and put a ball of string in. We collected beechnut clusters and painted them. The girls made dolls for the younger ones out of old black stockings. We used to do all sorts of things like that. They could give these little gifts. We had so much to spend and we put an apple, an orange or a pear in the stockings. We always had a Christmas tree. Peter's Granddad was always Father Christmas – he came up in a taxi with his wife and Uncle Isaac and his wife. They had tea with us. They were so excited. Father Christmas came to the front door and we put little gifts on the tree for them. Earl took over the role when Grandpa died. I never made breakfast. If they wanted breakfast they could get it, otherwise they were eating their stuff out of their stockings. We made a proper Christmas dinner. We always had a turkey.

I didn't choose suppliers. The Town Hall chose them. We never had fresh fish, we were only allowed tinned fish.

They had a rabbit and one or two pets they had given them from various people. They all took them home with them. I just ran it like a house.

They all went to the Methodist Sunday School. On Sunday night we played games with the children in the playroom, Earl and I. If you keep them busy, you can't really go wrong.

Clothes

Some of them had parents who indulged them but some of them never sent them money or clothes or anything at all. Some had a lot and some had a little. Mrs Clay – WRVS would get clothes for the ones who needed them.

There was an orphanage just outside Brighton. I had four girls from there. Anything I asked for, I got. As they grew up and got to thirteen and fourteen, they wanted to get out of their gym-slips. I wrote and asked if they would finance them, I would make them dresses. They said I could get what I wanted. They sent me the money, really understanding I thought. Some never even answered letters. The WRVS provided clothes. My mother used to make stockings by cutting the feet out of one and putting them in another. America sent strong twill trousers with bibs and check shirts. They also provided macs and sent us some lovely bedspreads. Maggie wanted the one with little umbrellas that came up. She stayed with us right to the end. She came to live with me for a bit.

Maggie was an orphan, she didn't know her father or mother. The home she came from was very understanding. They used to send spending money and clothes. I was pleased that they understood that when they got to their teens, they wanted to be different. I was a sewer. I'd put all my stuff in storage but got my sewing machine out. I made her a pleated skirt and went to John Moore's for a red blazer. She was thrilled. Now she's the most exaggerated dresser you ever saw. You talk about those Londoners that dress outrageously, well she does! And they're all from charity shops. She always looks so different and smart and individual. Everybody looks at her.

Health

One night I had trouble with one of the children. She was really poorly. I had no means of making a hot drink or anything. After that, they gave me a little electric ring. I'll tell you what we let the big girls do when we got this electric ring. I let them make chips. They loved it. I said 'As long as you leave everything as clean as you find it'. They were very particular; they wanted to have chips for their supper.

If the children broke limbs, we had that lovely Rolls Royce ambulance. Mr Leonard Wilson drove it. His son was a famous cricketer (Donald Wilson). We had to go to Leeds. We had one broken arm, one broken leg and three with tonsils out. We had a spate of measles; they all had them. We never got hair lice. There was one boy who came and he was writhing with them. Mrs Clay at Stackhouse came. 'Just put some methylated spirits on and tie his head up in a scarf and you won't have any more trouble'. I just washed his hair next morning and he was right. I reported it because it could have gone through all the children.

We had a little girl who didn't like going to school. She had tummy ache every

TELEPHONE NO 3122 2197. TELEGRAMS. PEACOCK, 19, SETTLE.	SETTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
D.F. PEACOCK, SOLICITOR, CLERK.	<i>Town Hall, Settle, Yorks.</i>
(IN YOUR REPLY) PLEASE QUOTE)	7th February, 1946.
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.	
Mrs. Hailwood has for over five years acted as Matron in charge of the Hostel for evacuee-children at Mount Pleasant, Langcliffe maintained by this Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health. She has given complete satisfaction in the discharge of her duties in looking after the welfare of the children, their feeding and management. She has from time to time been commended for her work by the Ministry of Health Officials, and I can say with confidence she has done very good work there. I am satisfied she will prove reliable, conscientious and trustworthy in any duties she undertakes.	
Yours truly, <i>N. Hailwood</i> Clerk.	

morning, so I said, ‘ Right, we’ll ask the doctor to look at you’. He said, ‘There’s nothing wrong with you, you know, but we can put you in hospital if you like’. She mended up after that.

I never had a holiday. I dropped a bed on my foot once. My mother stuck my foot in a bucket of knitbone. Years later at hospital they asked me when I’d broken my foot! They sent me an assistant, but we didn’t like her at all. This assistant ran my stock down, what she’d done with it I don’t know. I tried to teach her but she was hopeless and I also got a parcel one day from the Post Office that she had sent to somebody in Leeds. It was full of rations – bacon, butter, and sugar. She had put a sender’s address on and the Post Office had sent it back to me. The fat was coming through the paper. I gave it her and said, ‘ What is this?’ She said, ‘ Please, don’t report me, I’ll never get another job’. I didn’t report her but we never really hit it off after that. *But, it was wartime* and if you could get hold of something you did. She said it was part of her rations but that wasn’t true because we cooked it all together. We were glad to see the back of her.

The Housework

There were big stone flags. Somebody told me to wash them with milk! I couldn’t waste the milk! The rest was lino. You just went over with the mop.

The Council, Mr Fox, in the Town Hall, came up regularly to check. And a lady from Leeds came; she wanted to stay. All we had were straw palliasses. The big girls slept upstairs in the attic. She went and slept up there with the girls. She didn’t mind. It was a case of having to. We had no means of making a song and dance. She enjoyed it and gave us marvellous reports.

We had no washing facilities. They all washed their knickers and socks. We had lashings of hot water from the range and the central heating.

We had a piece of drugget down the main hall and it was red polished at the side.

It was just a case then of getting on and getting your mop going. On Saturday morning we cleaned the kitchen. We all cleaned it. You’d be surprised at the confidential talk that came out during that. You found out lots of things about where they had been billeted. They forgot themselves. The talk was all about hard work and getting into trouble.

School

They all went to the school...Mr Bland was Headmaster at the school. They were in all the school dramas and concerts and they really enjoyed themselves. Mr Bland was very good. We had no problems at school.

One girl was chosen to sing and tap dance to 'Jealousy' in the school concert. She did so much practice. We dressed her up as best we could. They all came home for their dinner, they played with the schoolchildren and there was no animosity. I never came across any. Everyone was very good and I never heard anybody grumble about our evacuees roaming all over the tops – there was a lot to do.

They did enjoy schoolwork with Mr Bland. Derek Soames went to school with them. He was great friends with Margaret.

Langcliffe Hall

Mrs Dawson said would I like to let one of the older girls go to stay nights at Langcliffe Hall. One of the girls went but she had to come back for a hot water bottle. They filled the hot water bottles at night and then washed with the water from them in the morning. Our girl stayed there quite a long time. She’d come up to the hostel after breakfast. She went back to sleep there. I think Mrs Dawson thought she was doing her bit for the war effort. They all had baths at our house at night. She got on all right. She was very nice was Mrs Dawson.

Mr Dawson was in the study writing when I met him and I've often thought of him when I see pictures of the Prince of Wales, Edward the Eighth. He started it. (Mr Dawson was editor of The Times and had been closely involved with the abdication process).

Mrs Dawson had a horse and trap and if she saw you walking down in the morning, she would pick you up.

Maggie

Maggie calls me Aunty. She wanted me to adopt her at one time. When Maggie got to fourteen they let her work with me.

Maggie looked after a doctor's children at Gargrave. Then she went to a doctor at Skipton. She decided she would go to London. You know Evans? Well she looked after their children. Then she went into an insurance office. She went bell-ringing with the Cambridge Bell Ringers. She invited Earl and me to the wedding. It was in an attic (studio). All her guests were posh girls from the bell ringers and all his guests were sculptors in their working clothes. They were a real mix. They said 'Are you this famous Aunty?' 'She never stops talking about you'. We went to church in the bus and came back on the bus. I thoroughly enjoyed it. She lives in London in a big Victorian house and she has four boys. Two boys and twins. If anything happens to me she's here in a minute. She comes immediately. She's very clever. She was not musical at the hostel but she plays in four orchestras now. She plays cello, piano and flute and she's in a choir. She sings tenor. She's made a lovely life for herself.

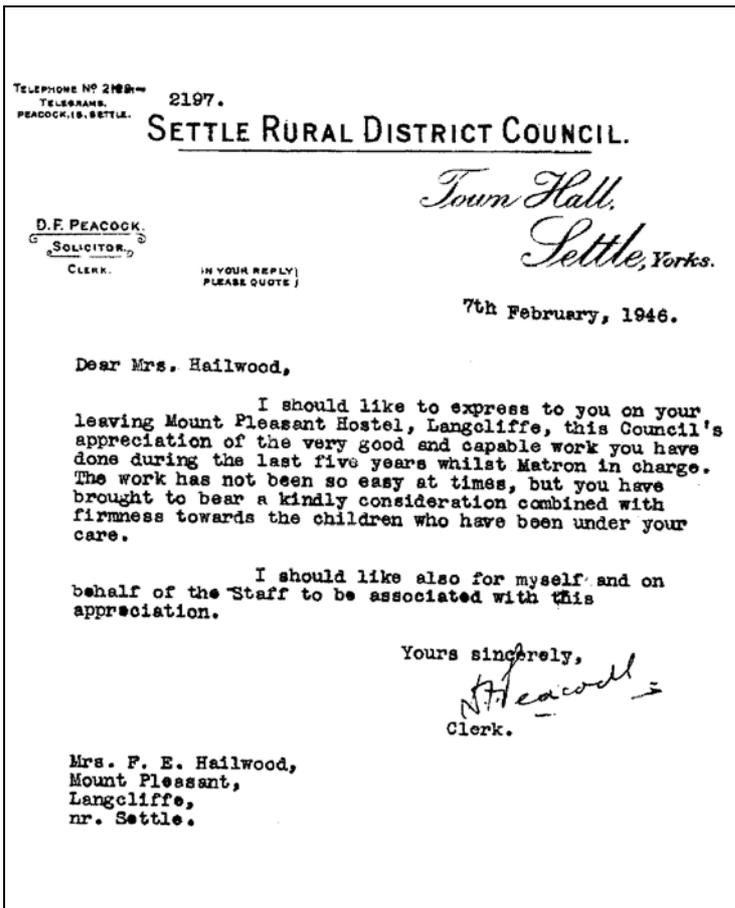
Margaret thoroughly enjoyed her life there. Maggie says, 'When I look at children today being adopted and brutalised, I thank God everyday that I came to you'. She was used to a well-run orphanage at Brighton. Her friend Yvonne, they were great friends, used to drink cabbage water to cure her acne. Four of them came from Brighton. Some of the children got nothing at all – no letters. I don't know what they went back to.

I was at Age Concern. An elderly gentleman came and said, 'You wouldn't have a Mrs Hailwood here, would you?' 'Yes', I was called Mrs Hailwood. 'I'm one of your evacuees' and do you know, we chatted and chatted and he said they had been the happiest days of his life. He said, 'I've never been happier'. His son had brought him and I went up to the house and they let me take pictures of the house. Mrs Middleton had told him where I lived.

Maggie came up a few years ago and called on Mr Roberts and re-visited the house.

I did get one letter from one mother saying how much she appreciated what I had done. She said her son was 'such a fine boy'. Langcliffe was a happy place.

Mrs Hailwood's achievement in managing such a happy and successful hostel is even more remarkable when one considers the difficulties that the foster families faced. A Billeting Officer writing in the Yorkshire Post (August 1940) comments on the problems of billeting evacuees in the Dales villages. 'Two kinds of children came into this district. There was a small contingent of poorly clad, ill nourished, smoke-paled, bewildered children. The hospitality offered by our village was most hearty. The willing care bestowed in enfolding these children in the community has been wonderful beyond praise'. However, some of the more prosperous evacuees demanded a standard of living that their hosts could not supply on the eight shillings and sixpence allowance. 'Parents came in cars and stayed to lunch, there were big boys who could eat more than a grown man.' And some of the hosts felt exploited when their charges demanded 'fancy food, dear fruit, sugar' and their washing doing because, 'you are paid to do it'. Some parents neglected to keep in contact with their children and discipline was often a problem for the foster parents. After a while, parents were requested to pay a supplementary allowance to the hosts and when this happened, many of the evacuees were collected by their parents and returned home. The Billeting Officer proposed the idea of more hostels as a means of solving the difficulties with individual billets. Perhaps he had seen Mount Pleasant!



Personal Accounts from Six Evacuees

Maggie

I was called Margaret Hart, but my name was Marguerite – now everybody calls me Maggie. When I first arrived in Langcliffe, I was devastated. There are window seats in the front room at Mount Pleasant. One side was the dining room and the other side was the playroom and I sat there, on the window seat, sobbing my heart out. I didn't know where I was. I had come from Brighton. I was very naïve and a very young nine year old.

I was born in Lewes, in Sussex. My first memory is of a huge bathroom. They were obviously disinfecting me, (I must have been two or something like that), and of these big knickers with something blazoned across them that you had to wear.

After that I was in hospital quite a lot because I had a tubercular gland in my leg. There was an infirmary attached to

Warren Farm School. I remember one of the women there to this day called Mrs Shearer. She was elderly and she had long white hair.

Initially I was at Wooding Dene, which was a children's home attached to Warren Farm Schools, but then we were moved into two houses in Brighton. I still remember the name of the street, it's funny how some things stick, - Silwood Street. We had a room with a coal fire. One of the girls actually fell in the fire and I remember her name, it was Joan Revell. I think she died eventually.

I was quite ill. I had mastoids, which you don't have now because there are antibiotics. I have two big scars at the back of my ears – I was very sensitive about that you know, I wouldn't have my hair cut off and they all had 'bobs' in those days. One of the things that really upset me was that they called me Margaret when my name was Marguerite Elise. I was made to eat eggs, which made me sick – you were not always treated with respect.

I was in hospital a lot, (I didn't really have any education until I came to Langcliffe School).

I remember the nurses pulling the beds towards the centre of the room. Sometimes they were screaming because they could see the bombs dropping on what could have been their homes in Brighton.

We were evacuated from Brighton to London and then to the North. Apparently the man who organised the evacuations was quite arrogant. He was a military man and he was only concerned with his strategy and not with the children's thoughts and feelings. Sometimes even brothers and sisters were separated. I don't think they were conscious of the children's feelings of loss and of being very, very frightened. I came up on the train and we went to a place called Middleton. There was a hospital there. There were some screaming children who cried all night. We'd done this great journey from London – we'd never really been anywhere before. There were loads of other kids, some very distraught. I don't remember being upset on the train but I remember being very distraught on that window seat in Mount Pleasant!

I went to a place called Cowling first. I was so upset at Cowling because they broke up our little group. My friend was sent off to a farm. I must have been ugly! I was one of those left to the last. I was put with two elderly ladies. They lived in a long narrow street. They were very autocratic and I was not allowed to touch anything. They kept a big bowl of fruit but I was warned not to touch it. In my house now I always have a big bowl of fruit so that the children can help themselves. At school I was told off for sobbing and making a fuss. I made such a fuss because they made me sleep with them. I'd never ever slept with anybody before. I was moved to a blacksmith's but his daughter was jealous of the attention given to me so I was moved again to Lothersdale. I went to two old ladies who had this lovely house in its own grounds with woods and a drive. It was idyllic but we got moved again. I don't know whether the old ladies couldn't cope. I was moved in with a farmer and on reflection there were some things I wasn't happy about. From there I went to Mount Pleasant.

Just arriving there was very alarming. All the children were in school. Frances came and comforted me but she couldn't get too involved because there were other children to care for. The children came home from school and I started playing with them. Gradually I was integrated into the home and I settled down.

Mount Pleasant was a beautiful house to be brought up in: I realise how lucky I was. There were roughly sixteen children there of all ages. There's such a big gap now. There was Joyce and John Go-To-Bed and Elsie and Joan Shoulders. I personally don't remember any serious squabbling or major upsets. I don't ever remember being smacked and I'm sure we weren't angels all the time.



The dining room at Mount Pleasant. (Jean Jelley)

At the back of the house there were outbuildings. We had access to them. The girls played house there. There was an orchard and to the right, at the front we all had little plots where we could grow things. When you enter the hall of the house there's a huge arched window on the first floor – it's beautiful – simplicity itself. It's a very simple house with beautiful proportions. It has a little room, which used to be Frances' room. To the right of the stairs the passage led to the conservatory and the potting shed. Frances' mother used to grow

tomatoes on wooden laths in the conservatory. It had a tiled floor and occasionally we were allowed to play there. The dining room had a marble fireplace and a huge dining table, which we sat round.

There was a huge bathroom. We all used to bathe together - two or three at a time. When the girls got to a certain age they were allowed to sleep in the attic. It was a privilege. We had cast iron beds with bits of brass on them. We looked out of the attic window and fantasised about the house on the hill above Stackhouse. We called it Wuthering Heights.

I always remember Frances reading to us at night - Rupert Bear and Babar the Elephant. I don't think we had many toys.

The food was all home cooked. Frances' mother cooked the food on a huge black range. I don't

remember being cold. There was a big airing cupboard in the bathroom. Some of the children wet the bed and there was always a lot of washing. I don't know how they managed it. We had to take turns at cleaning the shoes.

On Saturdays, we collected wood at Cow Close for elderly people – I still go 'sticking' in Greenwich Park. I do it from force of habit and I'm not embarrassed by it. We always went out with my Aunt (Frances) and we walked to Malham and back. We used to walk to Stainforth, Settle and Stackhouse.

We went to the village school. Really, my four or five years of schooling were here at Langcliffe



Frances and Peter

School. The Headmaster was Mr Bland. He was a very good, kind and considerate man. Even as children you know who the good people are. Generally, the children at the school accepted us. There was a little bit of 'them and us' but I don't think there was any fighting. I remember the Middletons: they were all nice lads. I don't think I went to anybody's house. Auntie wanted to know where we were. We were her responsibility. I never felt inhibited or stopped from going somewhere but we played mostly with the children at home at the hostel. I went in Langcliffe Hall but I can't remember why. It might have been something to do with the Guides. We were dosed with cod liver oil at school – it was awful. We used to go swimming from school. We went down to the river with Mr Bland who changed his clothes under a cycle cape. I recall the sports, the rounders and the fell racing – I was quite good at that.

Bessie Cardus (Lodge), (who only had one arm but managed to ride a bicycle very proficiently), ran the Guides. I went to her house. She organised plays and the maypole dancing on the Green. We enjoyed these.

I wasn't actually a Methodist but Frances sent us to the Chapel Sunday School. We could all read, you know

why? Because we sang hymns and we could read all the words! I know that the classical basic harmony I learned was from the Chapel. It's engrained in you at that early age. We played games and had stories and picnics. Everybody went to Chapel Sunday School – whatever denomination they were. We only went to St John's Church for Geoffrey Dawson's funeral. We lined the path to the church.

Christmas is a vivid memory. We all made our own presents. It might be a tin with a hole in the lid, we'd paint it and put a ball of string in it. My Aunt could sew and we made a lot of things. Making things and doing it *yourself* was important. I still do it to this day. For a month before Christmas and for a month after, you won't get me near a shop. I stay well clear and try to do everything by hand. In London, it's just too commercialised. Children should know that you don't have to go out and buy. It's a very money orientated society. We had innocence in those days and I realise how lucky I was to be brought up in this village.

I can't remember anybody doing anything seriously wrong. I got into trouble a couple of times. Two of us were sent to Settle to collect something from Dr Hyslop. We called him 'High-slop' and then giggled and giggled. He was very angry and told Frances we had never to do it again.

I once spotted a bike and fancied having a try at riding it. I went off down towards Stainforth, I couldn't stop and I crashed into a wall. I did it without permission and I knew I was in for it. It took weeks and weeks of pocket money to pay for the damage.

I was very lucky to be brought up by Frances in Langcliffe. To me, Langcliffe has meant a very

stabilising influence on my life. I often think of the things we used to do and how lucky we were to be brought up in such a peaceful atmosphere, especially during the war. I'm a very keen gardener. We have an allotment, which is just across the road, and from which we harvest all year round. We always win first prize!

Maggie went on to work for two local doctors as a children's nurse. She then went to London to work in a building society office. She left the office to go to art school. She married a sculptor and has four sons. She sings in a choir, plays two instruments and plays tennis four or five times a week.

Dorothy was from Brighton and this is her recollection.

I was in Langcliffe between 1942 and 1944 and as I was only seven years old when I first arrived, I can't remember much. Langcliffe was the third billet I was sent to, though it is the only place that I



Frances Capstick at 90 years old.

(Photo by permission of the Craven Herald)

have fond memories of. I do remember Mount Pleasant very well and it is well named. It was a very happy place.

Mrs Hailwood was a very nice, kind lady who treated us all the same and looked after us all. She had a son called Peter and her mother, who we called 'Gran', did all the cooking. There must have been 14 to 18 children altogether.

We all attended the village school and I remember we had to have a spoonful of cod-liver oil and a spoonful of orange juice every

morning. I think there were two or three classrooms.

There was a farm at the back of the village and we used to go and watch the farmer milking the cows. It fascinated me because I'd never seen a cow before. I came from Brighton originally.

Every Saturday morning, Mrs Hailwood gave us our sweet coupons and we use to go to the sweet shop. I think we were allowed 2oz per week. After lunch, we all walked to the picture house in Settle and then back home for tea.

Every Sunday, we attended church. And when I visited recently, the church and the village were just as I remembered them.

I do know I was very happy there and didn't want to go home when the time came to leave.

Dorothy Richmond. Nottingham.

Memories from some Barkerend Road School evacuees.

Our first memory was of school and Miss Dibbs, the teacher at Barkerend Road School telling us what items of clothing we would need to take with us. When we were evacuated, we really didn't know what this meant. This was 1939 or 1940. We were all at the railway station, Foster Square, Bradford. This train was a 'Special' just for evacuees. We remember our mother coming to see us off. We had

our gas masks and clothes in a parcel.

At the end of the journey we arrived at Settle Station and were then taken by bus to Langcliffe School, Gordon, Jean and myself (Geoff). A Mrs Redfern was to take us to her home at Willowood. Mr Redfern was sitting by the fire smoking a pipe. We remember the three of us sleeping in one room and having to go up the garden to the toilet near the railway line. Mr Redfern had hens and pigs in a hen-run close to the house. We looked out of the bedroom window over fields to the river. We had been used to looking at roof tops in Bradford. We started at Langcliffe School which had only three classes. The evacuees had to have a spoonful of cod-liver oil each morning. The teachers gave it out. The headmaster was Mr Bland. All the children called him 'Gaffer Bland'; we remember him as a very kind man. Miss Graham also taught there and Miss Brennan was the Infant teacher.

We didn't go up to Langcliffe to play, we played with the children nearby. Peggy and Betty's Mum had the shop on Ribble Bank.

We considered ourselves very lucky to be staying with the Redferns. They were very kind people and it was good of them to take us into their home.

When there was an Air Raid Drill and the siren went we all had to go to different houses in the village for the duration of the raid. Jean remembers having to run to Mrs Newhouse at Lower Fold, Langcliffe.

After a while, our mother came to Langcliffe with our baby brother Brian. She stayed with Mrs Benson at Willowood. Our father stayed in Bradford. Bombs dropped on Otley Road very near to our house. They lifted the setts in the road and broke the windows.

We were back in Bradford for VE Day and we all went into town for the celebrations.

Later that year, our father died and the family decided they would like to go back to Langcliffe. My mother wrote to Christie's Mill about work and accommodation. Mr Ingham came to see the family in Bradford and offered Gordon and Jean jobs at the mill and a house at the Locks with an allotment. This was great news. We hadn't seen the house until we arrived with the furniture van. Dolly, our eldest sister had been in the WAAFS and she came to the family in Langcliffe and worked at the mill.

We will always be grateful to the Redferns. We would still be in Bradford if we hadn't been evacuated to such a great, friendly place 62 years ago!

Geoff Craven, Jean Saffrey and Brian Craven. (Edited)



Mount Pleasant 2000. (Jean Jelley)

Langcliffe School and the Evacuees.

There are two recurring comments about Langcliffe School during the war years. One is the goodness and kindness of Mr Bland and the second is about the dreaded, compulsory dosing with cod-liver oil! The extracts from the school log are quite terse but they do convey the mood of the time and one can almost hear sigh of relief in the last entry.

Extracts from Langcliffe School Log

20th July 1939	Mr Bland, the head teacher of Langcliffe School attended a meeting in Settle Town hall about the evacuation of children in an emergency and the duties of an evacuation officer.
3rd Aug 1939	Broadcast message stating evacuation from large cities will commence tomorrow. Children's respirators checked.
1st Sep 1939	School open for the reception of evacuees from Bradford. Head Teacher acting as Reception officer and Billeting officer. Staff assisting.
3rd Sep 1939	State of war exists between Britain and Germany as from 11am.
4th & 6th Sep 1939	School closed
7th Sep 1939	School reopened at 9.00am. 15 evacuees attending school from Bradford area, separate registers used.
11th Sep 1939	Two evacuees from Hunslet (Leeds) admitted.
15th Sep 1939	School nurse inspected all children this a.m. and again on the 21 st .
22nd Sep 1939	ARP practice
25th Sep 1939	Meeting of parents, relatives, neighbours. Head Teacher outlined the plan for dispersal of children in the event of an Air Raid Warning, plan approved and co-operation willingly offered.
26th Sep 1939	ARP Children rehearsed dispersal. Time 3 minutes.
29th Sep 1939	ARP practice at playtime. Several visits from Miss Dibb, Head Teacher of Barkerend School in Bradford, re. Evacuee children.
2nd Oct 1939	Visit from Miss Dibb, Headteacher of Barkerend Rd School, Bradford, followed by regular visits through the year.
4th Dec 1939	School nurse visited re. Babies' Gas Masks.
20th Dec 1939	Rev Hervey called re. the Black Out.
22nd Dec 1939	Mr Kaye, Billeting Officer, Settle, called and left 4d each for the evacuees – a contribution from the Bradford Lord Mayor's Fund.

8th Jan 1940	Miss Mayoh of Barkerend School has been in charge of 7 Bradford evacuees for a week. One evacuee has returned to Bradford.
24th Jan 1940	No of Bradford evacuees on role = 11.
26th Jan 1940	Meeting of parents and foster parents (of the evacuees) about communal meal.
29th Jan 1940	Attendance in school down to 38% because of severe weather.
26th Feb 1940	Miss Pettit, Bradford Invigilator visited school to see Bradford Scholarship candidates. ARP practices held regularly.
7th July 1940	19 cases of measles, 1 of whooping cough and 1 of scarlet fever.
25th Sep 1940	1.55p.m. Air Raid Warden informed us that an Air Raid warning had been given. As he spoke, the 'Raiders Passed' siren was sounding. Note: Siren went at 1.40p.m. No one in school heard it; for fifteen minutes we were ignorant of the warning siren. 20 th November. The Head Teacher interviewed Sgt. Scott of the ARP Settle and discussed the question of the school's reception of the Air Raid Warnings. Siren often not heard in Langcliffe. Head Teacher asked for suggestions to give greater margin of safety for school population.
14th Feb 1941	ARP Wardens examined all gas masks. ARP rehearsals.
21st Mar 1941	Visit by psychiatrist to evacuees followed by subsequent visits during the year. One evacuee from hostel left for Special School.
1st April 1941	'Alert' sounded 3.25p.m. Children dispersed to houses immediately. 'All Clear' 4.4.p.m. regular inspection of gas masks, gas mask drill and ARP drill.
1st Dec 1941	Mrs Hailwood, Matron of Langcliffe Hostel withdrew all Hostel children as a precautionary measure. One child suspected of Scarlet Fever
5th Nov 1942	All school windows now protected with anti-splinter netting.
25th Feb 1943	Two Brighton evacuees sit for Special Places exam. 5 th march, an evacuee from London takes same exam. 9 th March 1 candidate for West Sussex Special Places exam.
18th May 1943	School concert for 'Wings for Victory Week'
11th Jun 1943	ARP rehearsals. 'Rabbits' (take cover). 'Scatter' (to houses) and 'Down' (get down flat).
23rd Aug 1943	London Evacuee awarded LCC Junior Technical Scholarship.
20th Oct 1943	PC Carman inspected and repaired gas masks.
29th Oct 1943	17 certificates for Supplementary clothing coupons issued to children.
16th Nov 1943	Special place examination for Brighton Education Committee – 1 candidate.

16th Feb 1944	Brighton Entrance Examination – 1 candidate.
7th Mar 1944	School Nurse inspected children. Ministry of Food (Welfare Scheme) commenced today, orange juice and cod liver oil for children under 5.
21st Mar 1944	Bradford Education Committee Entrance Examination – 2 evacuee candidates
22nd Mar 1944	1 Scholarship awarded.
6th June 1944	Invasion of Europe, D Day. Children listened to the 3.00p.m. European News BBC.
22nd Sep 1944	Trip via caves to Malham YHA, stayed overnight, Head Teacher and wife, 7 old scholars, 8 seniors and 6 senior evacuees.(3 from Brighton, 1 from London, 1 from Portslade, 1 from Hull)
8th Dec 1944	The last of the Bradford evacuees, who came to Langcliffe in September 1939, left today.
8th May 1945	VE Day Holiday
20th Jun 1945	11 London evacuees return home.
15 / 16th Aug 1945	Surrender of Japan, Holiday.
21st January 1946.	Ministry of Health hostel, Mount Pleasant, closed down, all evacuees (9) transferred. The school has now no evacuees in attendance, the first time since 1939. 90 evacuees have attended the school in the period 7.9.39 – 29.1.46.

It was a very difficult time but the people of Langcliffe obviously 'did their bit'. Mrs Hailwood, Mr land, the Redferns and the other unsung heroes and heroines who welcomed and enriched the lives of the displaced children are remembered with pride and admiration.

Jean Lavelle and Joyce Leigh

The Mystery of the Old Village

There has long been a tradition that an older village existed, half a mile north of the present village of Langcliffe. When we first started our research, this was the topic foremost in our minds. Our enquiries just led to more questions.

Langcliffe existed in 1087. Domesday - “**Lanclif Feg. 111 car ad gld**” (In lanclif, Feg had 3 carucate* to be taxed). * A carucate for tax was the equivalent in taxable value to an arable carucate, namely, the amount of arable land that could be cultivated by one plough in one year. On poor land with difficult topography it would represent many more acres of land.

Where was **Lanclif**?

In 1690, William Dawson, a fourteen-year-old pupil at Giggleswick School, wrote a Latin poem describing the destruction of the former village by the Scots and its resurgence in a better place.

In Laudem Langliviae

Non procul a gelidis Belisamae fluminis undis,
Monte sub aereo clivoso tramite terrae,
Subsidit Langcliff; Paulo quoque vergit ad Austrum.
Est locus inter agros vicinos nomine Selburn:
Agricola, hic quando terram molitur aratro,
Ferreā, quae prosunt agrestibus, invenit arma;
Palas, asciolas. Ollae vilisque supellex
Effodiuntur ibi: juxta quoque garrula conjux
Gesta refert nuper dilapsi pluima secli.
Illic (ut perhibent) villae primordia nostrae
Fauste florebant, donec regnante secundo
Eduardo, rabiem ac Scotorum passa furorem
In cineram deducta fuit: sic gloria prisca
Ruderibus jam tecta suis: sic omnia fatis
Succumbunt, nec vel minimis fera parcat Erinnyes.
Nunc seges est ubi parva stetit sine flumine Langcliff
Ast ubi turpe pecus Cravenae liquerat arva,
Rusticus et postquam crudeli funere stragem
Fleverat infandam, subito Phoenicis ad instar
De cinere exurgens, positu meliore, revixit:
Atque ubi defectus lymphae nunc fluminis undae:
Hic vivi fontes, huc montibus amnis abundans
Elicitur, tremula et resonant sua murmura tectis.

Nec tamen alma Ceres, nec deserit humor arenam.
Si tibi fert animus colles invisere celsos,
Invenies ibi pingue solum, nivibusque sub ipsis
Gramina luxuriant, corrient pascua amoena.
Hic pascuntur oves, quales non Arcades olim
Spectarunt, quales nec habet Campania dives.
Hic errant armenta boum salientibus agnis.
Hic Pan tuque Pales, montanaque numina cuncta.
Atque inter scopulos aderit resonabilis Echo.
Hic ludunt, hic nocte pecus timidumque tuentur,
Postquam adiit canibus cogentibus oppida pastor.
Olim tempus erat quando clarissimus ipse
Perceius villam nostram fundumque tenebat;
Ille tamen Monachis, quo nescio numine ductus,
Sawleis concessit agros. Non ulla relicta
Jam spes libertatis erat; Cromwellius ille
Abbatiam tum stravit humi, tum tradidit arva
Darceio, sed adhuc nostris dominatur in oris,
Vivitur exiguo, sunt sordida tecta, quot annis
Impiger agricola ardoremque et frigora sentit,
Atque labore suo domini compleverat arcas,
Libertas, sed sera, tamen respexit avitos
Indigenas; illis Darcy sua vendidit arva
Vivitur ingénue, nunc candida tecta resurgent,
Nunc lautae mensae, nunc rerum copia abundans;
Incola, non dominus, spatiosis imperat arvis.

William Dawson 1690.

In Praise of Langcliffe

Not far from the chilly waters of Belisama
beneath a lofty hill on a steep track of land,
sits Langcliffe; it also faces slightly to the south.

There is a site among the neighbouring fields called Selburn;
When a farmer was working the land here with his plough,
He came upon some iron implements that are useful to the countryfolk,
Some spades and some hoes. Pots and cheap utensils were dug up there and nearby a talkative housewife tells
of the numerous events of a time long past.

There, as men say, the early period of our village flourished and prospered until
In the reign of Edward the Second, suffering the fury and frenzy of the Scots, it was reduced to ashes; thus was
it now covered in its own debris, thus did everything submit to the fates and the cruel Fury did not spare even
the most insignificant things.

Now there is standing corn where little Langcliffe had stood away from a river; but when the foul brutes had
quit the fields of Craven and after the countryfolk had wept over the abominable destruction and cruel deaths,
suddenly rising from the ashes like the Phoenix, it lives again and in a better position.

And where there had been shortage of clear water were the waters of a river; here were fresh springs and here
gushing streams were produced from the hills and their tinkling sounds re-echoed in the houses.

Here too, if you gaze at the meadows over a great extent and at the heavy crops and the flourishing fields, the
land is joyous; the open country had no fear of scars from the plough once a year; it shrinks from lying idle and
knows not how to become hard by disuse, but gentle Ceres and moisture do not abandon the ground.

If your inclination urges you to visit the rising hills, there you will find rich soil and the grass is lush beneath
the falls of snow and delightful pastures smile at you. Here graze sheep the likes of which neither the Arcadians
gazed upon long ago nor did rich Campania possess. Here roam herds of cattle and lambs gambol. Here is Pan,
you too Pales and all the spirits of the hills, and among the rocks will be resounding Echo. Here they play and
here at night protect the timid flock after the shepherd has headed for the towns with their dogs urging them on.

Once there was a time when the celebrated Percy owned our village and farming land, but he, induced by some
influence or other, granted the fields to the monks of Sawley. No hope of freedom was now left; Thomas
Cromwell levelled the abbey to the ground and handed the lands over to Darcy but was still powerful in our
area. Life existed on little and dwellings were squalid in all the years that the energetic farmer felt both heat and
cold and had filled his master's coffers with his own labours.

Freedom, although late in coming, was mindful of their forebears who had been born there. Darcy sold his land
to them and they lived as free men. Gleaming dwellings now appeared again, and now there were splendid
spreads and an abundant supply of everything; instead of an overlord, the inhabitants now rule over the extensive
fields

WD 1690.

We are grateful to Alan Miles for this translation.

Comments and Questions

Was he writing about an existing tradition, or did he start it? In 1690 were there obvious ruins to be seen?

Have these remains been destroyed by the Craven Lime Works, the new Turnpike road, the Settle Carlisle Railway and the extensions to the paper mill? (*see centre colour pictures*)

Was the Roman pottery discovered in the spoil heaps of the Craven Lime Works, a relic of a Romano-British settlement under the 'lang clif'?

Who cultivated the 'lazy beds' at the end of Pike Lane?

What was in Pesber's field? It looks like a stepped mound from across the valley.

It was sold at the beginning of the nineteenth century as a discrete section of property.

Was it a pre-Monastic farmstead?

Are the bumps in the field at the end of Pike Lane significant or are they the work of the limeburners collecting lime for the little field kiln near the bench, under the thorn tree?

The interpretation of the aerial photographs by archaeologists is 'settlements' of various historical periods from the bronze age to the late medieval.

Is 'village' too grand a name? There are features, which could be interpreted as platforms, a possible tomb, bank boundaries and strange shaped fields, an ever-flowing spring and a network of ancient tracks.

Alas, we can't draw a conclusion and we are no nearer to confirming or denying the existence and location of the old Langclif.

Jean Lavelle.



View of 'medieval' fields and ploughlands, banked feature in the curve of Pike Lane and Peasbers field in the high ground to rear - right.

The Letters Patent Text

The North Craven Heritage Trust recently purchased a document referring to the transfer of land in Langcliffe in 1582. The document is dated 1630. We are grateful to John Harrop for this translation and his analysis of the format.

Parchment, approximately 17¾ ins. (45 cm.) high x 24¼ ins. (61.5 cm.) wide.

In places where the text has suffered damage through fading or abrasion, particularly at folds, readings have so far as possible been recovered or confirmed by the use of ultra-violet light. In this transcript the following editorial conventions have been adopted:

Words contracted or suspended in customary form have been extended as context, syntax and medieval precedent require. Initial ‘ff’ has been transcribed ‘F’; ‘&’ has been retained wherever it occurs; and the start of each new line has been indicated thus: /2/,/3/ etc.; in addition:

[abc] *indicates words or letters defective, damaged or not completely legible;*[.....] *words or letters completely lacking, with no evidence to support conjecture;*

(xyz) *conjectural extension of a contracted form; (...)* *uncertain extension of a suspended word.*

Carolus dei gracia Anglie Scocie Francie & Hibernie **Rex** fidei defensor &cetera Omnibus ad quos presentes littere nostre peruenerint **Salutem** Sciatis quod quidam finis cum proclamacionibus inde /2/ factis Secundum formam statuti in huiusmodi Casu nuper editi & prouisi leuatus fuit in Curia domine Elizabethe nuper Anglie Francie & Hibernie Regine progenitricis nostri coram tunc Justiciariis suis De Banco /3/ apud Westmonasterium ^(a) termino Sancte Trinitatis Anno regni sui Vicesimo quarto Tenor **Cuius** sequitur in hec Verba **Ebor’ ??** ^(b) Hec est finalis Concordia facta in Curia domine Regine apud /4/ Westmonasterium in Crastino sancte Trinitatis Anno Regnorum Elizabethe dei gracia Anglie Francie & Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris &cetera a Conquestu ^(c) Vicesimo quarto Coram Edmundo Anderson’ Thoma Meade /5/ Francisco Wyndam & Willelmo Peryam’ Justiciariis & alijs domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus Inter Ricardum Cutt(es) ^(d) Junioem Armigerum & Raphaelem Pemberton’ Generosum querentes Et Henricum /6/ Darcy Militem Thomam Darcy Edwardum Darcy Arthurum Darcy Nicholaum Darcy J[ohannem D]arcy & Franciscum Darcy Armigeros deforciantes **de** Manerijs de Langclieff’ & Nappay cum pertinenciis **Ac** /7/ **de** quinquaginta mesuagijs triginta Cotagijs quadraginta toftis Vno Molendino aquati[co c]olumbar(iis) quadraginta gardinis duobus Millibus acrarum terre trescentis acris prati duobus Millibus /8/ ^(e) [acra]rum pasture triginta acr[is b]osci [..... ..] acrarum [..... ..] quatuor ^(f) li[b]ra[tis] reddit(us) cum pertinenciis in Langclieff’ & Nappay **Vnde placitum** [convencionis summonitum] ^(g) /9/ fuit inter eos in eadem Curia Scilicet **quod** predicti Henricus Thomas Edwardus Arthurus Nich[olaus] Johannes & Franciscus recognouerunt predicta Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis esse ius ipsius Ricardi **Vt illa** que ijdem /10/ Ricardus & Raphael habent dono predictorum Henrici Thome Edwardi Arthuri Nicholai Johannis & Francisci Et **illa** remiserunt & quietumclamaverunt de ipsis Henrico Thoma Edwardo Arthuro Nicholao Johanne & Francisco /11/ & heredibus suis predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi imperpetuum Et **preterea** idem Henricus concessit pro se et heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /12/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra

predictum Henricum & heredes suos imperpetuum Et **Vlterius** idem Thomas concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /13/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Thomam & heredes suos imperpetuum Et **insuper** idem Edwardus concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /14/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Edwardum & heredes suos imperpetuum Et **eciam** idem Arthurus concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /15/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Arthurum & heredes suos imperpetuum Et **eciam** idem Nicholaus concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /16/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Nicholaum & heredes suos imperpetuum Et **eciam** idem Johannes concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /17/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Johannem & heredes suos imperpetuum Et **eciam** idem Franciscus concessit pro se & heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis Ricardo & Raphaeli & heredibus ipsius Ricardi predicta /18/ Maneria & tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Franciscum & heredes suos imperpetuum Et pro **hac** recognicione remissione quietumclamacione Warantia fine & concordia ijdem Ricardus & Raphael dederunt predictis Henrico /19/ Thome Edwardo Arthuro Nicholao Johanni Francisco septingentas & quadraginta libras sterlingorum Tenor **proclamacionum** huius finis sequitur in hec verba **Secundum formam statuti** Prima /20/ proclamacio facta fuit Vicesimo septimo die Junij termino sancte Trinitatis Anno Vicesimo quarto Reg[in]e infrascripte Secunda proclamacio tricesimo die Junij eodem termino Tercia proclamacio secundo die Julij eodem termino /21/ Quarta proclamacio quarto die Julij eodem termino Quinta proclamacio facta fuit Vicesimo primo die Novembris termino sancti Michelis Anno Vicesimo quinto Regine infrascripte Sexta proclamacio Vicesimo tercio die /22/ Nouembris eodem termino Septima proclamacio Vicesimo sexto die Nouembris eodem termino Octava proclamacio Vicesimo octavo die Nouembris eodem termino Nona proclamacio facta fuit quinto die /23/ Februarij termino sancti Hillarij Anno Vicesimo quinto Regine infrascripte Decima proclamacio septimo die Februarij eodem termino Vndecima proclamacio nono die Februarij eodem termino Duodecima /24/ proclamacio duodecimo die Februarij eodem termino Terciadecima proclamacio facta fuit sexto die Maij termino Pasche Anno Vicesimo quinto Regine infrascripte Quartadecima proclamacio octavo die /25/ Maij eodem termino Quintadecima proclamacio decimo die Maij eodem termino Sextadecima proclamacio terciodecimo die Maij eodem termino In **Cuius** rei testimonium sigillum nostrum ad /26/ brevia in banco predicto sigillanda deputatum presentibus apponi fecimus Teste T: Richardson apud Westmonasterium xxix^o die Novembris Anno regni nostri sexto

Cla(r)ke

Seal missing. On the seal tag in a different hand: [R]ex and a monogram.

On the verso in a much later hand: A Fine / of the Manors of Langcliffe / & Nappay.

Notes To The Text

- (a) Ms. *Westm'*, and so wherever it occurs.
- (b) In this context ?? is simply a paragraph mark such as ¶ .
- (c) *Sic*, see note to translation.
- (d) The mark of suspension after *Cutt* may represent *es* or *is* or another element.
- (e) Line 8 is badly damaged by abrasion along a horizontal fold. Although all that remains visible of the first word is the ending *-rum*, the context would require *acrarum*.
- (f) From the *Licence to Alienate* of May 1582 the gaps in this line may now be taken as: [*duobus Millibus*] *acrarum* [*iampnorum & bruere trescentis acris more &*] *quatuor* ...
- (g) Though the last two words of this line are completely illegible, they may confidently be supplied as forming part of the regular expression in this context.

Translation

Charles by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etcetera, to all to whom our present letters shall come, Greeting. Know that a certain fine with proclamations thereof made according to the form of the statute lately ordained and provided in a case of this kind was raised in the Court of lady Elizabeth lately Queen of England, France & Ireland, our progenitor, before her then Justices of the Bench at Westminster in the term of the Holy Trinity in the twenty-fourth year of her reign, the tenor of which follows in these words:

York

¶ **This is a Final Concord** ⁽¹⁾ made in the Court of the lady Queen at Westminster on the morrow of Holy Trinity (*11 June*) in the twenty-fourth year (*1582*) of the reigns of Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etcetera, from the Conquest,⁽²⁾ before Edmund Anderson, Thomas Meade, Francis Wyndam & William Peryam, Justices, and other faithful (subjects) of the lady Queen then there present between Richard Cutt(es)⁽³⁾ the younger, esquire, & Raphael Pemberton, gentleman, plaintiffs, and Henry Darcy, knight, Thomas Darcy, Edward Darcy, Arthur Darcy, Nicholas Darcy, John Darcy & Francis Darcy, esquires, deforciantes, concerning the Manors of Langclieff & Nappay with appurtenances and concerning fifty messuages, thirty cottages, forty tofts, one water mill, [*two*] dovecote(s) forty gardens, two thousand acres of land, three hundred acres of meadow, two thousand [acres] of pasture, thirty acres of wood, [*two thousand*] acres [*of furze and heath three hundred acres of moor and*] four [pounds of rent] with appurtenances in Langclieff & Nappay whence a plea of covenant was summoned between them in the same Court, namely that the aforesaid Henry, Thomas, Edward, Arthur, Nicholas, John & Francis have recognised that the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances are the right of Richard himself as the things which the same Richard & Raphael have by gift of the aforesaid Henry, Thomas, Edward, Arthur, Nicholas, John & Francis, and they have remised and quit-claimed them from Henry, Thomas, Edward, Arthur, Nicholas, John & Francis themselves and their heirs to the aforesaid Richard & Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself for ever. And moreover the same Henry has granted on behalf of himself and his

heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid Henry and his heirs for ever.⁽⁴⁾ And further the same Thomas has granted on behalf of himself and his heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid Thomas and his heirs for ever. And besides the same Edward has granted on behalf of himself and his heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid Edward and his heirs for ever. And also the same Arthur has granted on behalf of himself and his heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid Arthur and his heirs for ever. And also the same Nicholas has granted on behalf of himself and his heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid Nicholas and his heirs for ever. And also the same John has granted on behalf of himself and his heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid John and his heirs for ever. And also the same Francis has granted on behalf of himself and his heirs that they will warrant the aforesaid manors and tenements with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and Raphael and the heirs of Richard himself against the aforesaid Francis and his heirs for ever. And for this recognition, remission, quitclaim, warranty, fine and concord the same Richard and Raphael have given to the aforesaid Henry, Thomas, Edward, Arthur, Nicholas, John, Francis seven hundred and forty pounds sterling.

The tenor of the proclamations of this fine follows in these words: Following the form of the statute the first proclamation was made on the twenty-seventh day of June in the term of Holy Trinity in the twenty-fourth year of the within-written Queen. (1582)

The second proclamation on the thirtieth day of June in the same term. The third proclamation on the second day of July in the same term. The fourth proclamation on the fourth day of July in the same term. The fifth proclamation was made on the twenty-first day of November in the term of Saint Michael in the twenty-fifth year of the within-written Queen. The sixth proclamation on the twenty-third day of November in the same term. The seventh proclamation on the sixth day of November in the same term. The eighth proclamation on the twenty-eighth day of November in the same term. The ninth proclamation was made on the fifth day of February in the term of Saint Hilary in the twenty-fifth year of the within-written Queen. (1583) The tenth proclamation on the seventh day of February in the same term. The eleventh proclamation on the ninth day of February in the same term. The twelfth proclamation on the twelfth day of February in the same term. The thirteenth proclamation was made on the sixth day of May in the Easter term in the twenty-fifth year of the within-written Queen. The fourteenth proclamation on the eighth day of May in the same term. The fifteenth proclamation on the tenth day of May in the same term. The sixteenth proclamation on the thirteenth day of May in the same term. In witness whereof we have caused our seal appointed for sealing writs in the aforesaid bench to be affixed to the presents. Witness T. Richardson at Westminster on the 29th day of November in the sixth year of our reign. (1630)

Cla(r)ke

Notes to the Translation

(1) A *Final Concord* of this kind was a property transaction which for the sake of increased security took (by a legal fiction) the form of a law-suit in court, in which the purchaser(s) [*plaintiff(s)*] sued the vendor(s) [*deforciant(s)*] for the property in question. The action was then settled by a *plea of covenant* which was *summoned between them* in which the vendor(s) *recognised* that the property was *the right* of the purchaser(s), and *remised* it to him/her/them, in return for all which the payment of a consideration was recorded. [See Sir Henry Spelman's *Glossarium Archaiologicum* (3rd edn. 1687) pp. 228-9.] In this case, warranty clauses are also inserted, see (4) below.

(2) The expression *from the Conquest* is here redundant, being applicable in a context where a monarch such as Edward needs a number, and where another of the same name ruled before the Norman conquest, e.g. *Edward the third after/from the conquest*.

(3) The suspended form used here leaves the intended spelling of this person's surname uncertain, though perhaps most likely *Cuttes*.

(4) A *Warranty* was a guarantee by the grantor/vendor that if the grantee/purchaser should lose the property through a successful claim against the grantor/vendor's title to it, then he/she/they or their heirs would replace it by another property of equivalent value. The normal form of words in such a clause ran: *And I/we and my/our heirs will warrant* [the property] *to* [the grantee/purchaser] *against all people* [*contra omnes gentes*]. The series of warranties here is unusual in that each of the vendors warrants against himself and his own heirs.

Text, translation and notes ©John H. Harrop.

The Final Concord of 1582

Any attempt at understanding this unusual document has to be prefaced by a short history of the ownership of the Manor of Langcliffe by various parties and its sale to the tenants from 1591 onwards. The concepts of ownership of property and land, the farming of rents to make it pay its way, and the methods of transferring ownership by sale are not those used today. The law concerning these matters developed only slowly and to modern readers some aspects are bizarre. Nevertheless it had developed over the previous four hundred years and was robust law in its time, if cumbersome; only in 1833 was a new system of land transfer devised. The Final Concord of 1582 plays a part in the transfer of the ownership of the village houses and land from Nicholas Darcy to a small number of villagers who in turn were required to sell property and land to other tenants when they could afford to buy and become freeholders. A mortgage to allow Nicholas to raise money is a possible explanation of the Final Concord in 1582 because we know there is the sale to the tenants in 1591. The explanation proffered here may not be correct but nevertheless an interesting picture of those distant times emerges.

Sawley Abbey, its dissolution, and the transfer of the Manor of Langcliffe to Sir Arthur Darcy

William de Percy founded the Cistercian Sawley Abbey in 1148 and it was to the Abbey in about 1240 that Elias de Giggleswick granted his land in Langcliffe with full manorial rights. The Abbot of Sawley was the Lord of the Manor of Langcliffe until the time of Henry VIII. Two events were important in the eventual sale of the Manor of Langcliffe to villagers, the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1535/6-9) by Thomas Cromwell for Henry VIII and the Pilgrimage of Grace (1536). The monasteries had built up consolidated estates and at the Dissolution these were returned to the Crown. In turn many of these old estates were sold to London merchants and speculators who sold on to local gentry, tenants (generally in trust for all the tenants of the manor, who became freeholders), or other speculators.

As a result of the Dissolution of Sawley in 1535/6 the Darcy family became the next owners of the Manor of Langcliffe. They played an important role in national affairs in the 16th century: Lord Thomas Darcy (1467-1537) was a statesman and friend of Thomas Cromwell with land and properties in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Thomas Darcy was involved in parliamentary matters and the rebellious Pilgrimage of Grace; he was decapitated for treason in 1537. His elder son Sir George Darcy was the heir and the younger son Arthur was given an appointment by Cromwell despite the behaviour of his father. As a reward for helping to pacify the rebels in the north of England Henry VIII in 1535 sold (granted in fee simple – then the securest form of tenure) to Sir Arthur Darcie and to his heirs and assigns for ever the Monastery of the Blessed Mary of Sawley according to Letters Patent of 1538 (N.Yorks. CRO ZXF 1/32/3) ‘by the authority of Parliament lately dissolved and suppressed with all houses and idifices situate and built upon and with the same and all singular demesne lands and tenements aforesaid of the late Monastery and also the Lordships or Manors of Staynforth Langclif and Stanton (and Gisbourne) within the appurtenances..... etc.’.

The value of all the property involved was £147-3s-10d a year. The price was ‘*in capite* for ever by the service of a Knight’s fee and by the annual rental of £25-8s-10d. To be paid to the Treasurer for the time being of the Court of Augmentation of the Revenues of our Crown.....’. In a letter written February 1536/7 to Cromwell (YAS vol. 48) Sir Arthur describes how he took possession of the Abbey from rebels. In 1543 Sir Arthur requests of the King to purchase the Manor of Nappaye in Craven, Gisburne, etc., late of the Monastery of St. Leonard in York. (Nappay is shown on a Saxton map of Yorkshire in 1577 as being just south of Hellifield and on the river).

Sir Henry Darcy and the Final Concord of 1582

Sir Arthur was therefore the first grantee of the Manor. He died in 1561 and left a will. He had ten sons and five daughters and of these Henry, Thomas, Edward, Arthur, Nicholas, John and Francis are named in the Final Concord of 1582 under consideration. His daughter Elizabeth married a Sir John Cutte, a relation of Richard Cuttes of about the same age; Richard is one of the parties of the Final Concord.

The will of Sir Arthur Darcy is fortunately available to us (Surtees Society [121](#), 1912). Sir Henry his eldest son is given 'all the site and demesne landes of the late monasterie of Salley' and various manors. Thomas, Edward, Arthur, John and Francis are given manors and a monastery. Most importantly we learn that Nicholas inherits the manors of Langcliff and Nappay with a yearly rent of £38-9-8 'whereof yearly paid to the Collectors of St. Lenard in the City of York to the Queens Majesties use 21 shillings'. In 1560/1 it was found by Inquisition Post Mortem (PRO Court of Wards vol.8 no.102) that amongst other bequests Nicholas held the manors of Langcliff and Nappay of the Queen, *in capite*, by Knight's service.

There is a Licence dated 2nd May 1582 granted by Queen Elizabeth to 'Henry Darcy, knight, and Thomas, Edward, Arthur, Nicholas, John and Francis Darcy to alienate the manors of Langcliff and Nappay, Yorkshire, and lands (described) including two water-mills in the same to Richard Cuttes, the younger, and Raphael Pemberton, and the heirs of Cuttes. For £12-6s-8d.' (Calendar of Patent Rolls 1580-2, HMSO; PRO C66/1221/MEM15). Such a licence to sell property was required from the Crown because Knight's service was involved. Then in June 1582 there was a transaction by Final Concord before the Court of the Queen's Bench between Henry Darcy, Knight, with his six brothers and Richard Cutt(es) junior, esq. and Raphael Pemberton gent. (PRO CP25/2/251/24ElizITrin). This is further recited in the Letters Patent dated 1630, reproduced in this book, purpose unknown, which contains a copy of the agreement made 11th June 1582. The transaction involved land and property in Langcliff and Nappay. The document seems to concern the sale of the Manor of Langcliff to Cuttes and Pemberton which is at odds with the certain knowledge that it was Nicholas Darcy who was still involved in the sale in 1591. What follows is speculative comment on its possible significance.

The document is a Fine with proclamations known as '*sur cognizance de droit come ceo qu'il a de son done*'. The Darcy family appear to be agreeing to transferring the manors of Langcliff and Nappay through 'an amicable agreement, whether real or fictitious, between a demandant (plaintiffs, Cuttes and Pemberton) and tenant (owner Darcy), with the consent of judges....'. 'The Darcys have recognized that the manors and tenements involved are the right of Cuttes which Cuttes and Pemberton have by gift of the Darcys and they have remised and quitclaimed them from the Darcys to Cuttes and Pemberton for ever'. The properties are stated by the original agreement in 1535 with Henry VIII to pass to 'Sir Arthur Darcie and to his heirs and assigns for ever'. It may be that although Nicholas was the current holder of the manor his six brothers had also to agree to give up their rights as potential inheritors. At this time a method of conveyance by Fine was used for property sales and mortgages and breaking entails. The purchaser (plaintiffs, Cuttes and Pemberton) alleges fictitiously that the deforciant (Darcys) has agreed to convey the property but has failed to do so. Before judgement the parties come to an equally fictitious agreement whereby the seller (the Darcy family) acknowledged that the property really belonged to the purchaser (Cuttes and Pemberton). This agreement was written out three times - the bottom part (the foot) of the Fine was kept by the court, the other two parts, left and right, by the parties. This bizarre procedure gave Cuttes and Pemberton the fee simple (the most complete tenure known to the law). In the light of later events in 1591 it is considered that the Final Concord concerns a mortgage; a Fine alone does not reveal the purpose of a transaction and it was usually accompanied by a private deed giving full details of the transaction. With such a mortgage Nicholas still holds the title in law but the use with all income and profits is the right of Cuttes and Pemberton. The value was £740 and the manors were security for a loan of this money needed by

Nicholas. We know that Nicholas Darcy owed money in 1583 and 1584 (see below) so a mortgage seems to be the most likely explanation of the Final Concord. Unfortunately no documents have been found concerning the reconveyance when the loan was repaid.

The Cuttes family with property in Arkesden, Debden and Matching in Essex is almost certainly the one involved. Richard Cutte of Arkesden and Debden who died in 1592 was a colourful character and held an important State office; the family was wealthy. Richard Cuttes the eldest son took his BA at Christ's College Cambridge 1576/7 and was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1578; he died in 1607. The painted monumental family tomb in Arkesden church notes the family achievements. The spelling of the name varies partly because of the handwriting characteristics of the time. Raphael Pemberton (1543 – 1627) also came from a family with very prominent members. He was well-connected by marriage – it appears that his second wife Mary was linked to John Cutte, a forebear of Richard. Both men were therefore in a position to lend money to Nicholas Darcy and indeed this was a method of making money earn 'interest' at that time.

Henry Billingsley, Nicholas Darcy and the money lender Lawrence Atwill

In 1583 Henry Billingsley appears on the scene. Henry Billingsley was the son of Roger of Canterbury. Henry went to Cambridge in 1551 and also Oxford but did not graduate. He became apprenticed to a London haberdasher and rapidly became a wealthy merchant. He was chosen Sheriff of London in 1584 and was elected Lord Mayor in 1596; he was knighted in 1597. From 1589 he was a farmer of customs duties at the Port of London. He died in 1606.

It is known that by Statute Staple (a very secure bond) Nicholas Darcy was bounden to Henry Billingsley for £1000 on 18th November 1583 and £1200 on 14th August 1584. A few months later in 1584/5 (9th February) in a key document leading to transfer of the manor we find that Nicholas Darcy is jointly bound with Henry Billingsley (as security?) to Lawrence Atwill (citizen of London and a scrivener, died 1588) for £1400 endorsed for payment on 31st November 1585 of £863-6-8. Nicholas Darcy is stated as the sole and lawful owner of the Manor of Langcliffe in fee simple for 500 years (so presumably by now has repaid the mortgage to Cuttes and Pemberton?). He proposes to farm-let the manor to Henry Billingsley (presumably to pay his debts to Billingsley) if the part payment to Atwill is not made by November 1585. However the agreement is void if the part payment is made by November 1585. Billingsley must then be given the lease of the Manor in May 1586 and within two months Darcy must give all deeds to Billingsley. A deed of 8 August 1586 quotes the above agreement and states that Darcy failed to pay the £863-6-8 by the agreed date. Billingsley is forced to pay the sum to Lawrence Atwill and so Darcy confirms the lease of the manor to Billingsley. The manors of Langcliffe and Nappay are indeed farm-let to Billingsley by Darcy as recited in the indenture between William Carr and Thomas Lawson in 1611. Whether Nicholas had got into debt or wished to raise money to invest in other supposedly more profitable ventures (usually at high risk) is not known; however, he seems to have tangled financial affairs.

The sale of the Manor of Langcliffe

In 1591 a key series of transactions were made by Nicholas Darcy and Billingsley, on 29th November, to transfer the manor of Langcliffe and its property to villagers (and other local people). At this point the complicated financial arrangements between Darcy and Billingsley may have been settled.

The most important deed concerns Darcy alone of the one party and nine men of the locality of the other party. These were

Richard Foster of Stainforth (died 1603) and Chris. Sailbank of Stainforth (died 1600),
James Carr of Stackhouse (died 1654) and Richard Clapham of Stackhouse,

Lawrence Lawson of Giggleswick (died 1617/8),
Adam Browne (elder) (de Winskall died 1622/3),
John Wildman (?de Stackhouse died 1608, ?de Giggleswick 1625, ?de Rathmell 1639),
William Lund of Settle (died ?1600),
and William Bank of Huggon House, Rathmell (died ?1608, ?1622, ?1654).

These nine men appear to be feoffees acting on behalf of a large number of villagers purchasing (for an undisclosed amount) the "whole manor". The feoffees were required to sell to tenants on demand by the tenants or their heirs. The 24 villagers named are

Henry Somerscales, Richard Somerscales, William Armysteade, Christopher Armysteade, Thomas Kydde, William Browne, Richard Kydson, Thomas Sowden, Antony Armysteade, Mathew Giggleswick, Richard Foster, Gyles Foster, Henry Paycocke, Michael Saylebanke, Thomas Foster elder, Richard Lawson, Bryan Cookeson, Thomas Newhouse, Thomas Preston, John Lupton, William Carre, John Brayshawe, George Lawson and Lawrence Iveson.

The agreement excepts seven messuages in the tenure of Lawrence Swayneson, John Kidde, John Armysteade, Richard Brayshawe, Margaret Iveson widow, Thomas Carre and Robert Saylebanke. Further excepted were 101 acres of land in the tenure of Nicholas Darcy and these seven people.

Why were Letters Patent needed in 1630, reciting the Final Concord of 1582? At this date James Carr of Stackhouse might have been the last surviving feoffee. Perhaps he as trustee and the villagers had to establish the previous owners and the right of James to continue the sale of properties to remaining tenants and act alone. Other questions also remain to be answered.

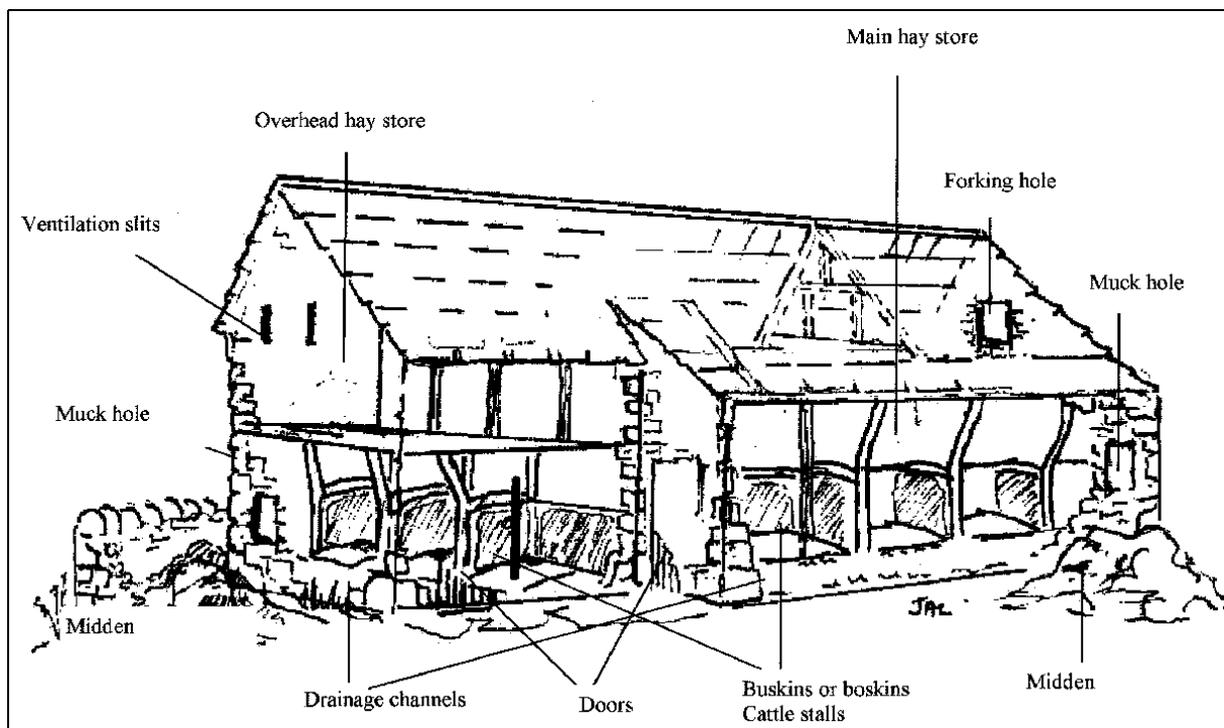
Further deeds are extant which show details of the land and messuages involved in many of the later transactions. But that is another story.

Michael Slater.

The Natural History Of Dales Barns

Many people in Langcliffe will have noticed Swallows flying in and out of valley barns in the summer, or perhaps the watchful Little Owl around Leys Barn on the Malham road. Such sightings are the visible tip of the natural community which can flourish in these Dales buildings. Barns provide shelter or breeding or hibernation space for a variety of birds and mammals, concealment for insects and their allies, and stonework for mosses and lichens to grow on. Many barn lodgers feed elsewhere but a surprising number find food in or on them. This food could be plants, other invertebrates (creatures without backbones) or decaying matter, or for predators like the web spinning spiders it could be other animals which live in or enter the building. If barns have been used for domestic animals, the associated midden offers a further nutrient rich opportunity for plants and insects.

Most remaining barns in Langcliffe are stone built, with timber rafters and slate or stone slate roofs. Whether as a result of the original construction or through subsequent weathering there are often holes or cracks in the structure which allow mammals or birds to gain access. Even a well maintained wall is not without its nooks and crannies and within the two stone skins of most barn walls is a loose rubble fill with plenty of gaps. Within these walls the faunal community resembles the 'crypto fauna' found under stones, logs and in rock screes. The spaces form a hideaway for myriads of invertebrates and their eggs, including Slugs and Snails (*Mollusca*), Woodlice (*Crustacea*), Springtails (*Collembola*), Millepedes and Centipedes (*Myriapoda*), and Bees and Wasps (*Hymenoptera*).



Outside, the barn structure itself can be considered as a surrogate limestone cliff. In pollution-free areas like the Yorkshire Dales the first colonisers of the structure are algae and lichens (few of which have vernacular names), and traces of these may well have been present on any weathered stone used in the barn's construction. The algae tend to prefer the more shady northern aspects reflecting their

susceptibility to dehydration, and their need to be in areas that are damper and cooler. The lichens although very slow growing gradually colonise all exposed surfaces of the stones and often form artistically attractive crusts. Some specialist species are confined to particular micro climates, in habitats with different aspects. For example the yellow crustose lichen *Xanthoria parietina* is typically found widely on the parts of the ridge and roof slates perennially enriched by bird droppings. The circular more yellowy orange leafy patches of *Xanthoria polycarpa* like cracks in lime mortar. Brighter orange still is *Caloplaca aurantia*. Much less eye-catching are the small grey patches of *Physcia adscendens*, again favouring lime mortar, and the browner patches of *Collema multipartitum* which prefers damp, shaded corners. Two more generalist examples are the irregular blackish patches of *Placynthium nigrum* and the even light grey crust of *Aspicilia calcarea*.

Little Owl

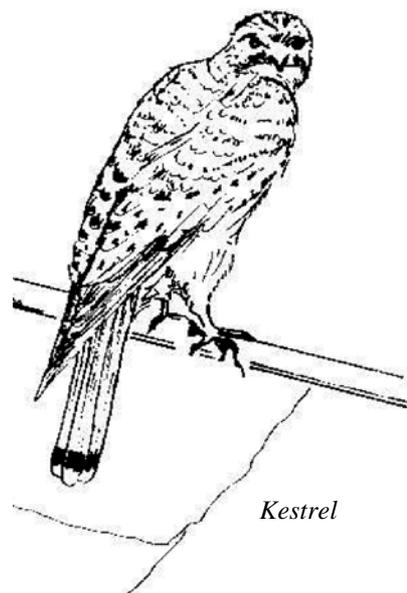


Particularly where barns have not been re-roofed, it is possible to see how feather and cushion mosses such as *Homalothecium sericeum* and *Tortella tortuosa* follow the lichens. These early colonisers, aided by the accumulation of other organic detritus such as dead leaves, gradually build a compost in the fissures on which ferns and higher plants can gain a foothold. Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), Wall Pennywort (*Umbilicus rupestris*), Pellitory-of-the-Wall (*Parietaria judaica*) and Biting Stonecrop or Wall Pepper (*Sedum acre*) are frequent examples, together with various garden escapees such as Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) which find barn walls or copings to their liking.

As the stonework is colonised, these plants provide food for invertebrates. The herbage is grazed by the slugs and snails that emerge from their damp crevices to feed at night and other specialist species such as some of the smaller moths have particular mosses and lichens as their food plants. Most of the Scoparid Pyralids (little triangular salt & pepper coloured moths) are moss feeders. Another moth locally common in the Dales is the delicate Muslin Footman (*Nudaria mundana*) whose caterpillars feed on the grey-white foliose lichens (*Leucanora* species) found on old walls. On suitable walls after an evening shower in late May, the lightly hairy larvae emerge from their hiding places to feed on the now swollen and juicy lichen.

Where trees are scarce birds of prey such as Kestrels and Little Owls use the roof ridges as a vantage point or occasionally as a plucking platform. The Little Owls, which feed mainly on insects and earthworms, also use the inside of the barn roof for nesting and are regularly visible in summer near barns in which they breed. The nest site is usually a hole in the stone or timber work or perhaps in an angle of the rafters. Stock Doves choose similar nest sites, although they may be unwilling to share a barn with an owl as there is a risk of the latter preying on the dove's nestlings. Elsewhere Kestrels and Jackdaws will also sometimes breed in holes in buildings, but in Langcliffe the ample supply of preferred nesting sites on crags and quarry ledges makes choice of a barn relatively infrequent.

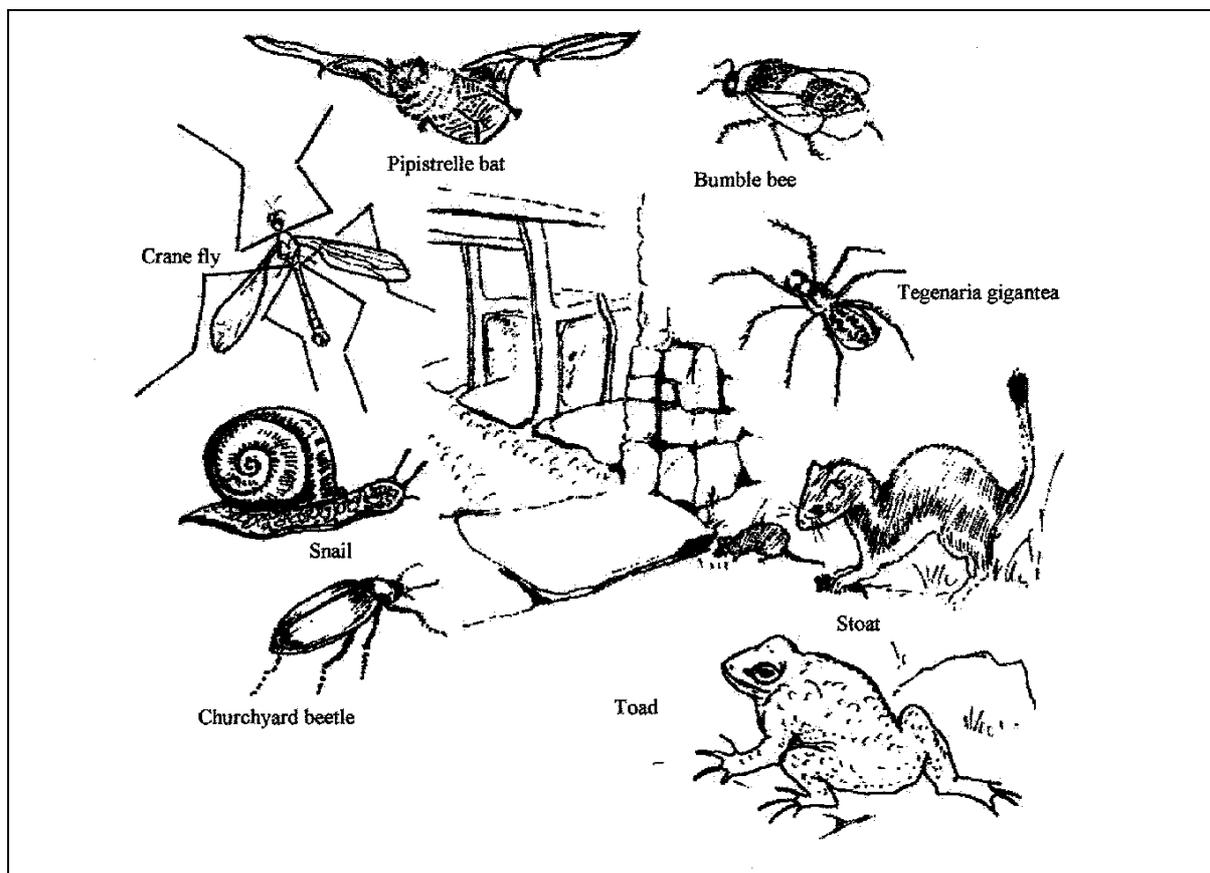
Particularly at valley level smaller birds which might nest in barns include Starlings, equally at home in the roofs of barns as they are in accessible roofs of houses, and the sadly declining House



Kestrel

Sparrow. Pied Wagtails and Wrens may also build their nests, the latter's neatly domed, in holes in the building, and the opportunistic Robin can try anywhere. Swallows on the other hand build nests of mud, held together with bits of straw, and usually placed on the rafters. Some of these species, such as Little Owl, Starling, House Sparrow and Wren, may also use the barn as a roosting site in winter.

The roof space of barns also provides roosting space for the Pipistrelle bat, as do confined spaces around the outside of a building, particularly behind any boarding. Older buildings may contain well established colonies. The usual indicator of their presence in summer is the sight of droppings (crumbly aggregations of insect remains which make good garden fertiliser) beneath their favoured entrance. Pipistrelles, like other bats, hibernate during winter and this is often in crevices in barns or other buildings.



Other mammals which may seek shelter in barns include the House Mouse, and perhaps in Winter, the Long-tailed Field Mouse. The latter is browner above and paler below than the grey-brown House Mouse, and has larger eyes and ears. In any barns formerly used for storing grain the House Mouse would have been as much of a pest as the Brown Rat which may still be present. Unlike birds and flowers, recording small mammals is not a popular pastime and their current status in the parish is not well known. However mice do attract carnivores such as Stoats or Weasels, which sometimes use holes in stone walls for nesting and winter shelter. Toads, which are amphibians rather than mammals, can be found under flagstones where mice or rats have excavated tunnels.

On the outside of the barn during the warmer months of the year between May and August, jumping spiders chase after their prey on sunny walls. The Zebra Spider (*Salticus scenicus*) with its black and white diagonal stripes and four huge forward-facing eyes (like car headlamps) is a fast moving hunter,

pouncing on to a wide variety of flies as prey. The very long-legged Harvestmen or *Opiliones* are relatives of true spiders and by contrast can be seen resting on walls in August or September when they mature. They are mainly nocturnal hunters and scavengers. Adult Crane-flies also rest on outside walls, as do several semi-cryptic species of moth such as the Silver-ground Carpet (*Xanthorhoe montanata*) or the Garden Carpet (*Xanthorhoe fluctuata*), blending in with the stones and their lichen cover.



Shelter found in crevices in the stone walls is the main attraction for some insects. Earwigs (*Forficula* species) and black Churchyard Beetles (*Blaps mucronata*) for example feed by scavenging at night but need to hide away by day to avoid falling prey to birds. The shelter in walls or in dark corners is also important for winter hibernation to various species of fly and to several butterflies which over-winter as adults. These include the Red Admiral, (*Vanessa atalanta*) Peacock (*Inachis io*) and Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) which investigate any dark spaces from early September onwards. The Red Admiral does not survive the winter in our area and we are dependent on immigrants from further South, usually from the continent. Other moths including the Herald Moth (*Scoliopteryx libatrix*) commonly hibernate in cool, dark, still areas. The Herald Moth is so called because when at rest the deep orange, purple blotched and grey and white lined

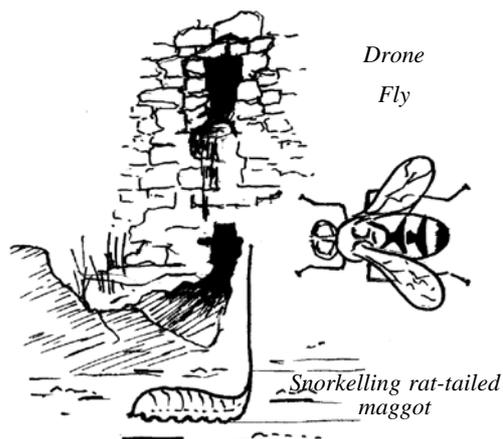
scalloped wings rather fancifully resemble a heraldic coat of arms. The only British lacewing (Family *Neuroptera*) that hibernates as an adult, the Green Lacewing (*Chrysoperla carnea* agg.), is common in Langcliffe, and may be found in barns and outbuildings in this area during the winter months.

Of the other arthropods, centipedes (for example *Cryptops hortensis* and the long-legged *Lithobius* species) also seek shelter behind stones or in cracks in the walls and they are fierce hunters of other small insects and woodlice. Woodlice abound in damp areas of the walls usually adjacent to rotting wood and detritus where they feed on the decomposing material and its associated fungal hyphae. The Shiny Woodlouse (*Oniscus asellus*) and the Rough Woodlouse (*Porcellio scaber*) are the commonest species but the Rosy Woodlouse (*Andoniscus dentiger*) can be present in wall rubble as well as its more common habitats of quarry rubble and scree. Woodlice in their turn form the exclusive prey of the six-eyed spiders of the genus *Dysdera* notable for their specialised pincer-like fangs.

In dry soil under stones or flagstones around the walls of village barns the Black Ant (*Lasius niger*) nests. This species is most often noticed in late summer when the winged fertile males and females (flying ants) emerge *en masse* for mating flights during hot and sultry afternoons.

The wooden structures inside the barns are just dead trees to many species of wood boring beetles. The larvae of these beetles burrow through the wood and turn the interior into a mass of tunnels blocked by their frass (saw-dust like droppings). Wood is not very nutritious and despite the help of cellulose digesting symbiotic micro-organisms in their gut, the larvae can take several years, usually three in the case of the Woodworm (*Anobium punctatum*), to reach the state when they can pupate and the adults emerge to bore out to the surface and mate in the open, making the familiar 'worm holes'. They and the aptly named Powder-post Beetle (*Lyctus* spp) can be common in softer woods and the surface of oak beams that are subject to wet. In oak, their burrowings are restricted to the surface layers but the dreaded Death-watch Beetle (*Xestobium rufovillosum*) penetrates deeper and can totally destroy main structural timbers.

Less restricted to particular niches, the funnel-web or cobweb spiders (*Agelenidae*) are found in many types of outbuilding, their webs most obvious in late summer and autumn. They build a sheetweb or cobweb which is rolled up on one side to form a funnel-shaped retreat, usually into a crack in the wall. Crawling or flying insects landing on the web trigger the spider to drag them into its hole to be devoured at leisure. *Tegenaria gigantea* is a typical house spider species, which can take up to three years to become mature. Many other spiders spend the winter as eggs, again often to be found in a dark corner of the barn.



Several species of social bees and wasps, the (*Aculeate Hymenoptera*), are associated with barns. The wasps most commonly nesting in barns are the Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*) which builds its paper nests in cavities in the walls and two other very similar looking species the Red Wasp and the Norwegian Wasp (*V. rufa* & *V. norvegicus*). These build their paper nests in the open air under projecting stones or free hanging from beams. Bumble bees, especially *Bombus pratorum* and *B. hortorum*, can occasionally be encountered nesting in old hay or straw but other species nest in holes near ground level. Associated with these bees and wasps are a variety of similar looking cuckoo bees and wasps which lay in the nests of a specific host species, often killing the queen whose workers then rear the young cuckoos. A few solitary bees and wasps nest in holes in the walls but the warmth loving mason bees are not common in Craven. The other large group of *Hymenoptera* are the *Parasitica* which as their name suggests are parasites of a great variety of insect larvae. Most of the insect species whose larvae feed in barns are subject to specific or general parasitism by various internal parasitic larvae of Ichneumon or Braconid wasp species that eventually kill them.

Inside the barns detritus and fodder debris which may be found there is associated with several small moths. The larvae of a rather dingy Pyralid moth, the Large Tabby (*Aglossa pinguinalis*) live in silken galleries amongst hay refuse and also sheep dung in dark corners. They are slow growing probably because of the low nutritive value of their food, and can take up to two years to develop. The adults fly at night mostly inside the buildings and if disturbed from rest often run rather than fly away. The species is reported less frequently now, probably reflecting the disuse into which many barns have fallen.

Feathers in birds' nests or fur and feathers in owl pellets are another food source for Larder Beetles (*Dermestes* species) and small moths with scavenging larvae. Corpses of rats, mice and other animals in barns attract carrion breeding flies like the grey Fleshflies (*Sarcophaga* species) or the Bluebottle (*Calliphora* species). Actually within the stone walls, corpses may mummify and then are often broken down by the larvae of Larder Beetles.

Magpie Moth



Many species of a wide variety of families of micro-moths have made the transition from fresh leaves to dead leaves and some of these are also associated with birds nests and animal detritus in barns and outbuildings. The Brown House Moth (*Hofmannophila pseudospretella*) and the White-shouldered House Moth (*Endrosis sarcitrella*) although found in houses are more often associated with birds' nests. Members of the family *Tineinae* feed

on fibres of vegetable and animal origin: these moths are now very rare locally probably reflecting the change to synthetic fabrics and the disuse of barns. Indeed many Tineid moths such as *Monopis laevigella*, *Tinea trinotella* and the Tapestry Moth (*Trichophaga tapetzella*) are now only found reared from owl pellets or birds nests.



Swallow

If domestic animals still use the barn many associated species of fly can be found including Blow-flies, Bluebottles and Fleshflies of the family *Calliphoridae*. A closely related fly, the Biting House-fly or Stable-fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) can be a pest to animals and humans alike. Its larvae develop in old hay or straw impregnated with animal excretions but never cattle dung. The eggs and larvae of some fly species have morphological adaptations to live in liquid manure. The eggs of the Lesser House-fly (*Fania canicularis*) have two floats which keep them at the surface and the larvae have outgrowths on each segment which aids their movement through the medium. A similar adaptation helps the snorkelling rat-tailed maggots which mature into the attractive Drone fly (*Eristalis tenax*) which is very common around Langcliffe between April and October. Various insects may be associated with spilled feed, such as the

Tenebrionid Beetles including the Mealworm (*Tenebrio molitor*) and some of the grain beetles.

Barns used in the traditional manner with hay above and cattle in a cow byre below usually had manure heaps or 'Muck Middens' close by, usually found under a hole in the wall from which the droppings were shovelled. The nutrients from manure promote a rich and long lasting growth of nettles, thistles and docks and these attract many common moths and butterflies to lay eggs on them. These include the common Vanessa butterflies Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell which also hibernate in barns. Several common moths are found in every nettle patch; these include the Small Magpie (*Eurrhynx hortulata*) and the brown and metallic golden-green Burnished Brass (*Diachrysis chrysitis*). The spotted White and Buff Ermine Moths (*Spilosoma lubricipeda* & *S. luteum*), both common members of the tiger moth family, have hairy caterpillars which feed on dock.

Of course not all of these species, faunal or floral, are found in every barn. The location of the barn in relation to other buildings, or to patches of woodland, its height above the valley floor, the use to which it is put and the condition in which the building is maintained, are just some of the factors which affect an individual barn's richness of wildlife: it's biodiversity in modern parlance. What the remaining barns do is to allow local populations of the species which use them to be maintained at higher levels than would otherwise be the case, thereby providing some extra protection to our local fauna and flora as environmental conditions become increasingly adverse. May the pleasure given by watching those Swallows and Little Owls long continue.

Terry Whitaker and Gerald Light

“This Old House.....”

Three old properties look out onto the Stocks Tree and fountain in the heart of the village of Langcliffe. (Fig. 1). The one now known as the Old Vicarage is well known to have been the home of the Paley family. Mount Pleasant Farm has a doorhead on which the initials LRM (for Richard Lawson and his wife Margaret) are accompanied by the date 1681. But the third building, Manor Farm, now divided into a house and cottage, is more discreet. Clearly old - mullioned windows and blocked in window surrounds can be seen as well as the more modern sashes - it is evident there is much history within it which is not apparent from the village centre.

The house itself really faces west, away from the rest of the village. This frontage, or what remains of it between two later projecting extensions, shows the original windows of the 17th century building. The interior of the house has an inglenook fireplace, exposed beams (some decorated with a painted design) and carved pendant kingposts in the roof space. The doorhead datestone proclaims that the house was built in 1678 by CLI. (Figs. 2 and 3).

Who were L and I C? What was their connection with the manor of Langcliffe that the property should become known as Manor Farm?

The Giggleswick Parish Register transcripts for the appropriate period reveal the burial in 1692 of Isabella Carr, wife of Leonard Carr, gentleman, of Langcliffe. Leonard himself was buried in 1696. He is referred to in various documents as ‘Mr.’ and ‘gentleman’, indicating a relatively wealthy man. He must indeed have been of some standing to build a house with such splendid detailing, rather more than the ordinary yeoman farmer might aspire to.

What follows is the story of the Carrs’ and others’ involvement with the property which came to be known as Manor Farm. It is a story which has ‘probables’ and ‘possibles’ due mainly to the numbers of people sharing similar names. There will be inaccuracies and omissions to be corrected, but the broad outline is clear.



Fig.1

A will of the period shows that Leonard was the son of William Carr of Langcliffe who died in 1674. There were three William Carrs in Langcliffe listed for the 1672 Hearth Tax (six years before the new house was built). Leonard's elderly father was probably the wealthiest one, having three hearths, the others only one apiece. The Paleys and Armisteads also had three hearths but only Josias Dawson and Lawrence Swainson had more. In his will of 1673, William made provision for his other three children but to Leonard, his eldest son, he left his whole estate within Langcliffe, together with three parts of Langcliffe Mill and a turbary on Capanahill, and he also left a new house and shop in Settle which Leonard was at the time occupying. William, Leonard's father, was described in his will as a merchant, and in another document as a merchant adventurer (a member of a powerful trading organisation dealing mainly in cloth), and was obviously a man of substance. He was in fact a Newcastle Merchant Adventurer, and it appears that Leonard was admitted to the Association also, by patrimony, in 1670.

Leonard was one of a large clan of Carrs. His greatgrandfather is likely to have been Thomas Carr who married Agnes Paley in 1581. Thomas may have acquired his property in Langcliffe as a result of the share-out of the manor after 1591. Sir Arthur Darcy had obtained the Manor of Langcliffe after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536-9, and after it had been passed to members of his family, leased to Henry Billingsley (later Lord Mayor of London) and other complex transactions, former manorial tenants or their heirs gradually acquired their own property and land. James Carr of Stackhouse was the last survivor of a group of feoffees, or trustees, who bought Langcliffe manorial rights in 1591. So, by some route, the land on which stood the principal farm of the manor and the Mill had come into Carr possession.

The 1670s, ten years after the restoration of Charles II, were a time of increasing prosperity, when all over Craven there were new stone houses being erected in place of the old wattle, rubble and thatch structures, and when local fashion was to have decorated and dated doorheads to show a certain status. So having come into his Langcliffe inheritance, Leonard together with his wife Isabella built a handsomely detailed three-celled two-storeyed house befitting a gentleman farmer of excellent local standing, a merchant owning also property in Settle and a major share in the local mill, and a sometime member of the Giggleswick Select Vestry.

The house comprised the housebody, parlour, kitchen, buttery and several other chambers including servants' and maid's chambers. The value of Leonard's property in Langcliffe relative to others in the village may be judged by a valuation made in 1692. This placed Leonard (at £15.5.10) second only to Christopher Dawson (£16.16.8) and if the mill valuation is added, greater than Dawson.

After Isabella's death, Leonard married again in 1694, a Martha Steward of Badsworth, near Wakefield. It is likely that she was a house servant and he married her for care and respectability in old age, as he died two years later. His will makes provision for Martha, both a lump sum of £20 and £15 a year during her lifetime. There were other monetary bequests to family and friends including John Paley and the Swainsons. Even his parish apprentice Agnes Cort was remembered with a bequest of £3. No direct descendants are mentioned and his remaining estate and chattels were left to his nephew William Carr.

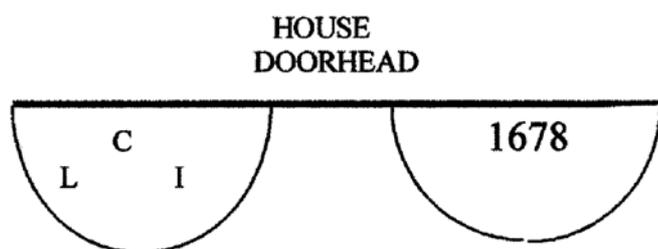


Fig 2
Detail of Manor Farm
House doorhead

A probate inventory of Leonard's goods and chattels was made and gives a good idea of the rooms in the house and other buildings and their contents. (Fig. 5).

This William Carr was the son of Leonard's brother Thomas. William was a minor at the time of Leonard's death, having been baptised in 1682. Thomas died probably in 1699 but the law required William to have two 'tutors, curators or governors' until his majority at 21 years of age (in 1703).

In due course, in 1705, William married Gracia (Grace) Claphamson, and presumably they were resident at the farmhouse in Langcliffe. A daughter Catherine was born, followed by other daughters and sons including William the male heir, although it is difficult to say with certainty from the Parish Register how many children in total, as there were other William Carrs in Langcliffe, Giggleswick and Settle.

In 1718 a trust settlement was made by William to secure the continued use of the house and land for his descendants – he conveyed the estate to two trustees who would hold it for his use while he lived, then to the use of his heirs. Provision was made for the house to be divided at its north end by construction of an 'upright wall next the fire', the smaller northern part to accommodate Grace in possible eventual widowhood. This is how Manor Farm is now divided into house and cottage. The land and buildings belonging to the farm were also to be apportioned between the two parts of the divided house.

Deeds of the period show that William had other property interests in Settle. He also owned two further dwellinghouses in Langcliffe, occupied at various times by Robert Wilson, Henry Lawson, Roger Gorman and William Bradley. There was farm land attached to both the main house and these two other houses.

During the late 1600's and early 1700's there were problems at the water corn mills in the area. Profits for the millers were down in the mid 1600's because of the disturbed times and ownership changes. A group of four partners rented several mills in the area and closed Langcliffe mill so that local residents had to grind locally grown corn at the Settle mill where they also increased the multure, or toll payable to the miller. This was not to the liking of Samuel Watson at Knight Stainforth who in 1652 brought an action against William Carr, the owner of Langcliffe Mill and the four tenants of the other Giggleswick parish mills. As Lord of the Manor of Knight Stainforth he claimed a quarter

of the



Fig 3

*Rear View
of the old
house*

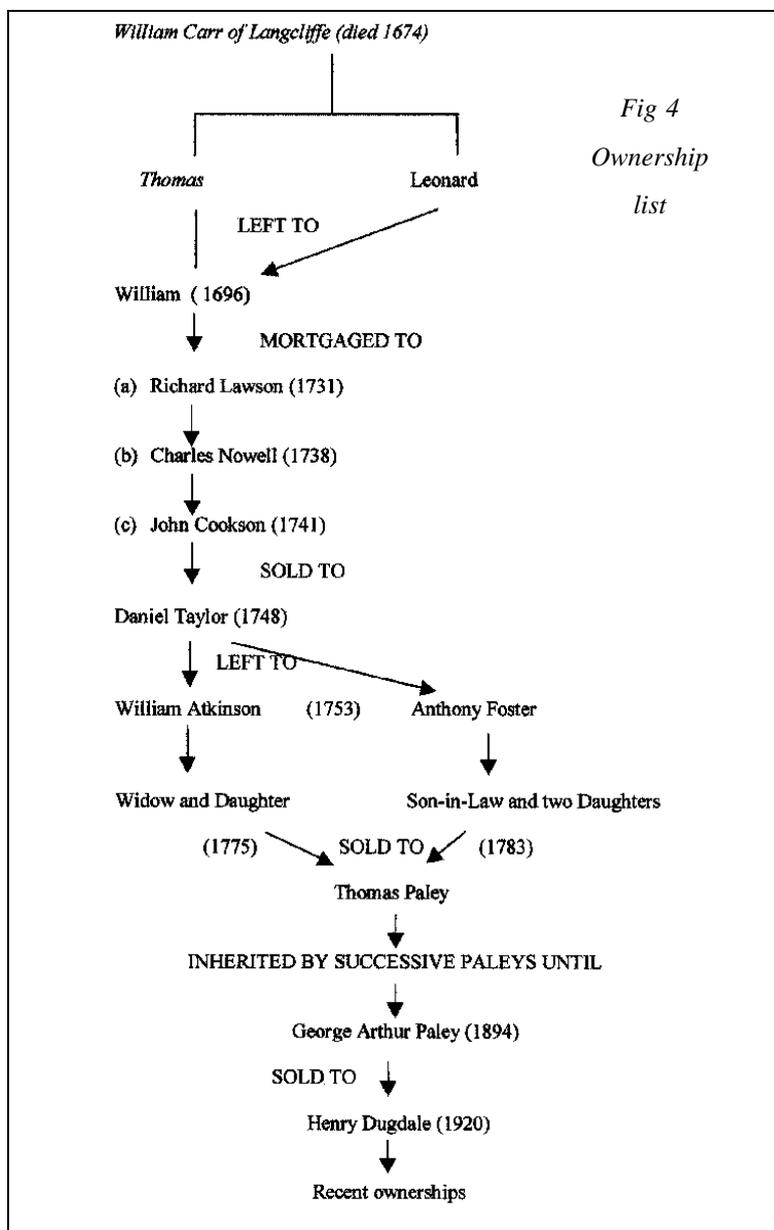
Langcliffe water corn mill (later known as Langcliffe Old Mill) sited near the Langcliffe/Stainforth boundary – perhaps this was the one part *not* left to Leonard in William Carr’s will of 1673. Anyway, Samuel Watson lost his case and was, due to “one Carr”, imprisoned in York Castle where he famously became a Quaker.

Difficulties continued as more grain was being carried to Settle from elsewhere and sold in the market – the milling of this was not tied to the Settle mill. Much, including barley for brewing, was being sent to Carr’s independent mill in Langcliffe and he encouraged this by ‘greasing palms’ in Settle. So in 1720/1, Benjamin Ferrand, who currently held the tenure of the Settle mills, brought an action against the Settle innkeepers who brewed their own beer and arranged their own barley milling. It isn’t known what was the outcome of this, but in any case the writing was on the wall for the water corn mills locally with the new turnpike road facilitating transport of grain into the area in the mid-1700’s, followed by the industrial revolution.

The early 1700’s were times of insecurity in trade and disastrous financial speculation, and with the troubles in corn milling as well, times were probably hard for William at this period; in fact he was getting into debt. One hopes that the William Carr of Giggleswick who in 1723 had a bastard child

(Joshua, baptised at Linton) by Mary King and paid the overseer of the poor at Grassington for her confinement and upkeep was *not* the husband of Grace. If he were, it would be yet one further expense he had to face. He may still have been paying the annual amount due to Martha, Leonard’s widow. He may have been paying Giggleswick School fees for one or more sons. So in 1728 he, together with the co-owner Charles Nowell of Cappleside, a kinsman, sold Langcliffe Mill and about 1.5 acres of land by the mill, together with everything belonging to it, to Benjamin Ferrand, of St. Ives, Bingley, for £120.

The tenant at the mill, John Fisher, was transferred to Ferrand. (Later, in 1792, Benjamin Ferrand, the son of the previous Benjamin, sold the site of the mill, by then being then referred to as ‘Langcliffe Old Mill’, and the 1.5 acres, as well as two further mills in Settle and Giggleswick, to William Sutcliffe of Settle, surgeon and apothecary and son of the well known local apothecary Abraham Sutcliffe, for £1,300, and in 1793, Robert Salmon of Hollingbourne, Kent, bought the site of the Langcliffe Old Mill for



A True and perfect Inventory of all the Goods Chattels and Credits of Mr Leonard Carr late of Langeliff deceased as they are Apprized by us whose names are underwritten this 18th day of December 1696

	£	s	d
In primis his Apparell and money in his purse	5	0	0
Item one Horse and one Mare with saddle and furniture	7	0	0
Item three Cowes and one Calfe	11	0	0
Item in hay and strawe	2	13	4
Item one Arke with other Utensells standing in the Barn	1	0	0
Item one Chist with other things in the stable	0	2	6
Item in Ash and Oakewood Carts and wheeles and other husbandry geare	6	4	8
Item one Hogg	0	11	0
Item one Clock one Jack with tables and other furniture in the body of the house	4	12	0
Item in Booss	0	16	0
Item one Ark with Brass and breweinge vessels with things in the Kitchinge	3	11	8
Item one gimlin with Barrells and Basons and other things in the millhouse	1	2	0
Item in Tables and Chaires and other furniture in the Parlor	2	10	0
Item one table readinge desk and books in his Closset	1	6	0
Item one Cubbord with pewther and all other things in the Buttry	3	3	4
Item in plate	4	0	0
Item one pair of Bedstocks with Bedinge and all other furniture in the bedchamber	4	1	0
	£	s	d
Some	58	13	0
Item all the goods in the servants Chamber	2	0	0
Item all the goods in another Chamber	0	10	0
Item all the goods in the Maids Chamber	1	0	0
Item all the goods in his own Chamber	4	2	0
Item the goods in the great Chamber	1	2	0
Item all the goods in John Proctors (?)	0	5	0
Item in Linin	7	1	6
Item one (?) of slate	0	10	0
Some	22	0	6
Debts owinge to the Deceased	249	0	6
	£	s	d
Some total	330	1	7
John Paley			
William Paley			
Richd. Lawson			
Tho. Swainson			

Fig 5

£400, and it began its new life as a paper mill).

In 1729 a request for a legal opinion was made concerning William's trust settlement arrangements, and it is stated that he had contracted many debts, his creditors were calling for their money, and he had prevailed upon Thomas King of Skellands, Kirkby Malham, and Charles Nowell to pay these on his behalf. He needed to provide security for this loan, which he had done with the two smaller Langcliffe properties. He then, in 1731, mortgaged his main farmhouse, its outbuildings and fields, to Richard Lawson. The mortgage was transferred in 1738 to Charles Nowell, and yet again in 1741 to John Cookson of Wakefield, a Doctor in Physick, probably a relative of the local Cookson family.

A further deed of 1744 links the names of William and Grace Carr, Charles Nowell, John Cookson and others with that of 'William Carr of Slaidburn, Clerk, only son and heir of the said William Carr'. This William, the son, was probably the William Carr who attended Giggleswick School and was admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge, at the age of 19 in 1735, matriculating the next year and obtaining his BA in 1739/40. The Slaidburn Parish Register shows a Mr. William Carr, clerk, marrying Ann Blezard in 1748 (followed by the baptism of yet another William in 1749). He probably was *not* the Rev. William Carr who in 1740 was headmaster at Slaidburn Grammar School but *was* the curate noted in the Register in 1754.

By 1747, William Carr, (Grace's husband and father of William of Slaidburn), was no longer living in the main Langcliffe house, when all the Langcliffe properties and a turbary at Kirkby Malhamdale were signed over to John Cookson. A year later, Cookson sold them on to Daniel Taylor, also a Doctor of Physick, of Boar Lane, Leeds. Grace died in 1756 and her burial was recorded in the Giggleswick register. It must have been about this time or earlier that the cottage was divided off from the larger part of the farmhouse, and an extension built on to it to the west. It may well be that William and Grace had been living in this cottage for the last few years. A fireplace of early eighteenth century style is found upstairs in the cottage extension, and an oven was built by the fireplace in the main house at this period.

There is no record in the Giggleswick Parish Register of William's burial. However, his and Grace's son William moved on from Slaidburn to become Vicar of Mitton in 1760 and the church register there records the burial of a William Carr, Gentleman, in 1766. Records of later property transactions referred to below indicate that he finally relinquished contact with the Langcliffe lands at some time between 1764 and 1767. The Vicar himself died and was buried in Mitton in 1771, and his tombstone may be seen in All Hallows' churchyard inscribed 'His Abilities Integrity & Attention to the Duties of the Function entitle his Memory to the just Tribute of grateful Respect'. Presumably when he died his wife Ann (Blezard) left Mitton and returned to Slaidburn, where the death of an Ann Carr is recorded in 1775.

On his marriage to Elizabeth Pease (a member of a prominent Leeds family) in 1751 Daniel Taylor made a trust settlement concerning his property including that in Langcliffe and Kirkby Malhamdale. (Elizabeth Taylor was recorded as being 'in possession' at some period before 1767). He died soon after, in 1753, and it appears that the property passed jointly to William Atkinson, clothdrawer, of Leeds, and Dr. Anthony Foster, an apothecary of Otley. In 1775 William Atkinson's widow and daughter sold their half-share to Thomas Paley who was farming in Langcliffe - Thomas was the brother of Richard Paley, soap-boiler, of Leeds, who later founded the Bowling Iron Works in Bradford. Then in 1783 the late Anthony Foster's son-in-law William Robinson (surgeon and apothecary of Ripon) and two unmarried daughters sold their half-share to Thomas Paley. Thus the Langcliffe Carr property came into Paley ownership.

Thomas (Lawson) Paley died in 1808 and his son George who succeeded to the Paley farm in Langcliffe died very shortly after. George's brother John Green Paley then took over the farm. By 1841 he owned a large amount of the land in Langcliffe township as is shown in the Tithe documentation. The Tithe map for Langcliffe village centre shows what is now Manor Farm House

and Cottage, Barn and yard as 'house, barn, yard, etc.', an area of 1 rood and 7 poles, and being John Green Paley's, 'in hand'. But he was a partner in the Bowling Iron Works and ultimately retired to Harrogate, and therefore became an absentee landlord, though still describing himself as 'of Langcliffe'. His son, the Rev. George Barber Paley, and grandson, John Paley, lived in Suffolk, but similarly described themselves.

A poster of 1842 advertised two farms to be let. In 1871, during George Barber's ownership, the three largest farming tenants were William Marchbank, Christopher Jackson and Thomas Maudsley.

By 1894, on the death of John Paley, there were two large tenants, Samuel Preston and Christopher Jackson, and details of their occupation were listed. Samuel Preston occupied many fields and a garden, together with a house, barn and outbuildings of 1 rood, 7 poles. Christopher Jackson occupied various fields, a house and paddock, garden, and site of buildings. Preston's acreage was 505 acres, and Jackson's, 341 acres. Previously, in the 1885 Register of Electors both these farmers had had the address 'Paley's Farm' (each comprising land and a tenement). But Preston's (previously Marchbank's together with Maudsley's) was the tenancy including what is now the Manor Farm house. Many of Preston's fields listed by name correspond with the old Carr field names given in previous deeds.

Some time in the early to mid-nineteenth century considerable work was done on the house. The east elevation to the Green was improved by the insertion of sash windows to the main house, and doors to both house and cottage. Some rebuilding to the south and east corner of the house is apparent. In 1878 work was done to the roof when, it is recorded, the date was written in some plaster. The second extension to the west side was probably made in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. It would be interesting to know by and for whom these various works were done.

John Paley left property in Bradford, Harrogate, Malham, Kirkby Malham and Langcliffe to his son George Arthur Paley. He was only twenty and still at Trinity College, Cambridge, at the time of his father's death. The property was left in trust until 1900. Between then and 1921 George Arthur (by now living in South Africa) sold off various parts of the estate. In December 1920 the Manor Farm, named as such, was sold to Henry Dugdale of Cleatop Park for £3,250, the sale including the farmhouse with cottage adjacent, (in the occupation of a sub-tenant), and all outhouses, buildings, barns, stables, farm, and inclosures, pasture, meadow and arable land then 'in the joint occupation of the Purchaser and Robert John Sutton or their under tenants' and two other cottages, the present Bow and Arrow Cottages, adjacent to Paley's Farmhouse. There had been a tenancy agreement for Manor Farm between Paley and Dugdale/Sutton in 1912. Robert Sutton was married to Louie, Henry Dugdale's daughter, and in 1936 ownership was transferred to Louie.

Between 1945 and 1962 the property was farmed by Forsters and in 1962 Louie Sutton sold to William Towler. In 1964 he conveyed the farmhouse and yard to John and Mary Towler. The piece of land called the Croft was sold in 1966, a smaller barn in 1974 and the great barn in 1978, for houses. The original 17th century Manor Farm property with its barns, gardens, orchards, fields and mill was now reduced to what is now the house and cottage and the old foldyard to the west side. Two further conveyances find the old Carr 'Manor Farm' house today in two separate residential ownerships, but more than three hundred years on, still standing close to the Paley and Lawson homesteads, all three a testament to the confidence and foresight of those yeoman farmers.

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Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, University of York.

Mary Slater, 2001

Richard Preston's Will - Hophill

The recent discovery of the will and inventory of Richard Preston - reputedly the richest man in the Parish of Giggleswick when he died in 1695 - has one entry that is relevant to Langcliffe Village.

Listed under his property is a small farm named 'Hophill' valued at £5 - identified as present day 'Hope Hill'.

This building is still extant but nothing of the late 17th.c. structure seems to have survived - it is lost in amongst more recent farm buildings built on the site and several phases of improvement to the dwelling house.

The image shows a handwritten entry from a 1695 will inventory. The text is written in cursive and reads: 'Hophill in Langcliffe' followed by a horizontal line and the value '5^l. 00^s. 00^d'. Below this, there is another line of text, possibly a signature or name, which is partially obscured and difficult to read, but appears to end with '...'. To the right of this second line, the value '00^s. 00^d. 00^d' is written.

Copy from the will inventory of 1695

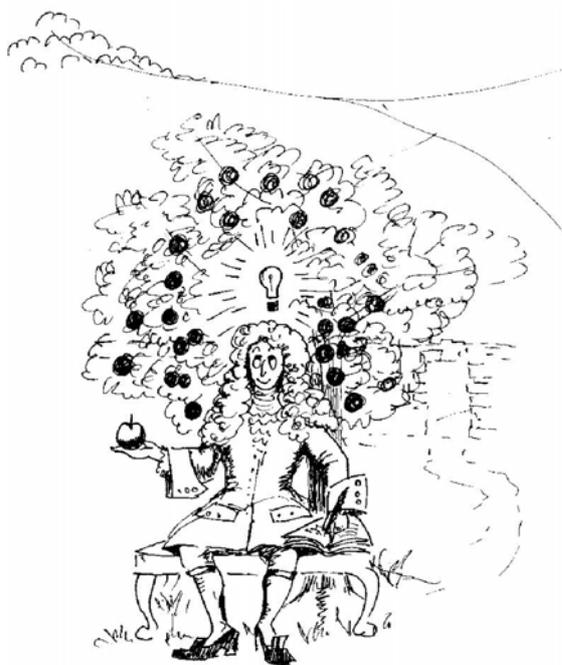
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Sir Isaac Newton and the Langcliffe Mathematicians

The ancient small village of Langcliffe near Settle in the Craven district of Yorkshire is graced by Langcliffe Hall, a building probably altered from an earlier one on the site by Henry Somerscales in 1602; the first Dawson to occupy the hall as a family seat was Christopher Dawson (1647- 1693) probably a lawyer. It is claimed by several authors of books on the region that his son William Dawson was a noted mathematician and scholar and a friend of Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), who visited Langcliffe Hall. However, the very extensive literature on Sir Isaac Newton contains no reference to any such visit or to friendliness with the Dawson family and indeed Sir Isaac had no interest in travelling far from his homes in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire where he was born, Cambridge where he became Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, or London where he was Warden and Master of the Mint. Travel by stagecoach started in 1658 in Yorkshire on very rough roads with risk of robbery – London to York or Wakefield took four days. He is known to have visited friends in Stoke Park, Towcester, for two weeks in 1672 and to have stayed at Oates near Harlow in Essex to philosophize with John Locke in later life, after 1693 or so, but otherwise no other trips out are recorded. So what might lie behind these intriguing comments about a visit of Newton to Langcliffe?

Dr T. D. Whitaker, author of *The History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven in the County of York*, (first edition 1805), made the cautious remark “Major (William) Dawson was a man of talents



and literature, and is said to have been one of the first persons in the North of England who understood Newton’s *Principia*”. The same statement was made in the later editions of 1812 and 1878 with apparently no challenge to its accuracy (S. Craven, 2000). W. Howson in his book *An Illustrated guide to the Curiosities of Craven* (1850) comments that “Sir Isaac is said to have been an occasional visitor at Langcliffe Hall, and to have made an arbour, still existing in the garden, his favourite retreat for philosophical meditation”. He admits indebtedness to Whitaker’s book so this comment is not new. H. Speight in *The Craven and North-West Yorkshire Highlands* (1892) is more effusive. “He (William Dawson) was a man of high classical attainments, and, it is averred, was one of the very few persons living at that time who could comprehend Sir Isaac Newton’s *Principia Philosophiae*, an erudite and once much-talked-of work, which unfolds various mathematical principles of philosophy, the chief novelty or discovery being that of the principle of universal gravitation, as deduced from the motion of the moon.

This important book was published in 1687. The great philosopher is said to have been an occasional visitor of Major Dawson at Langcliffe, who had an arbour purposely constructed in the garden for him, wherein he is said to have passed many hours in solitary meditation, and also not unfrequently in learned converse with his friend over a mutual pipe. Before the re-arrangement of the gardens and outbuildings there was a rookery and a small orchard at the north side of the house, where the kitchen garden now stands, and two old apple-trees yet remain. It is here where Newton’s arbour stood, and the two fruit trees are credited with having sprung from cuttings derived from an old tree planted by the Major to commemorate the philosopher’s great discovery of the law of gravitation, from the well-known story of his watching an apple fall while sitting alone in his home garden at Woolsthorpe, in Lincolnshire.”

Further relevant information is found in John Peile’s *Biographical Register of Christ’s College 1505-*

1905 and of the earlier foundation, *God's House* (1910). "Dawson William, son of Christopher, born Langcliffe, Giggleswick School under Mr Armitstead. Admitted pensioner under Mr Lovett January 1691/2 age 15. BA 1695/6. Admitted Gray's Inn October 1693. Married Jane Pudsey. Friend of Sir Isaac Newton who visited him at Langcliffe. Perhaps he is the author of some very good hexameters describing the older village of Langcliffe which was destroyed in a Scottish raid in the time of Edward I". (Due to the calendar change, 1691/2 refers to the period 1 January to 25 March of what we would now call 1692).

In *A History of the ancient parish of Giggleswick* by T. Brayshaw and R. M. Robinson (1932) the story is modified to "(Major Dawson) was noted for his classical and scientific attainment and is said to have been one of the first in the North of England to understand Sir Isaac Newton's *Principia*. Dr Whitaker, who was born before Major Dawson died and was acquainted with the family, states that Sir Isaac Newton visited him at Langcliffe, and an old arbour in the orchard, which fell to pieces some years ago, was always pointed out as the philosopher's favourite resort for study or writing during his stay".

All this information is seen to be based solely on Whitaker's statement, elaborated by Howson. Whitaker was born in 1759 and Major William Dawson was born in 1676 and died in 1762. The story was therefore told to Dr Whitaker by later family members, maybe by William's son Ambrose, (who joined Cambridge a few years after Newton when Newton was Lucasian Professor of Mathematics), and so may have become distorted or misunderstood and embellished. If Isaac Newton did visit Langcliffe, as a dinner, bed and breakfast guest he may have left something to be desired. There is no evidence that he ever washed or bathed (public bathing in pools or the river was forbidden by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge and punished by public whipping). His eating habits were careless, he forgot to eat or sleep when in a brown study, his dress slovenly – shoes down at heel, stockings untied, his head scarcely combed (the typical undergraduate one supposes). What lies behind this legend is however illuminating if the wider context of Newton's world and that of the villagers of Langcliffe and the parish of Giggleswick in which it used to lie is considered. The story becomes a remarkable one with a theme of mathematics and natural philosophy – which in Newton's time was essentially the unfolding of our understanding of forces which hold the universe together and motion of heavenly and other bodies, described mathematically.

In the second half of the 17th C. there was an intense appreciation of mathematics throughout Europe, especially England. DeMoivre, Leibniz, l'Hôpital, McClaurin and Taylor are well-known mathematicians of this time who contributed, amongst others, to modern mathematical techniques still in use. Yet other philosophers and mathematicians concerned with understanding natural phenomenon such as Bernoulli, Biot, Fermat, Flamsteed, Hooke, Huyghens, Halley, Mohr, Pascal and Wallis were prominent men. Newton overshadowed most of these with his insistence on rigorous experimental observations to support scientific theories. The educated men of Langcliffe must have been aware of this intellectual ferment in the land.

Newton was born in 1642, a time of civil war, and was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1661 at the age of 18 (older than the usual 15 or 16). He was resident there in various capacities until 1696. He did not make friends easily, being of a studious, silent, sober nature, absent-minded and paranoid at times, but he did evidently enjoy drinking and buying clothes. From a meagre student allowance from his grudging mother of £10 a year, he spent £10 on acquaintances at taverns, 17 shillings and sixpence to celebrate his BA in 1665, and lost 15 shillings at cards. "He conversed cheerfully with his friends assumed nothing and put himself upon a level with all mankind". (R. S. Westfall, *Never at rest*, 1980). Several students from Giggleswick School went to Christ's College or were in residence at about the same time as Newton: Roger Altham, Hugh Armitstead (BA 1672/3), Robert Armitstead (BA 1662/3), Robert Banks (BA 1670/1, MA), Henry Bradley (BA 1670/1), John Carr (born Langcliffe 1630? son of William, MB, MD, Fellow 1662-5, FRCP 1669/70, Regius Professor of Physic), John Carr (BA 1664/5), Richard Carr (BA, MA 16??), Thomas Catterall (BA 1666), Oliver

Craven (BA 1665/6), Christopher Dawson, Thomas Gibson, Edmund Green, Thomas Paley (BA 1671/2), Ambrose Stackhouse (BA 1670/1, MA), and Richard Tennant. Christopher Dawson, born in Langcliffe in 1647, went to Giggleswick School and was admitted to Christ's College as a pensioner under Mr Stanford in 1663, (in common with many other students he did not graduate), and should therefore have been aware of Newton's presence and could have made friends with him. In due course Christopher's son William also went to Christ's College, in 1691/2 and became BA in 1695/6. William could well have made friends with the much older man Newton, now highly respected for his work, at this time in Cambridge, recalling acquaintanceship with his father Christopher in earlier times. Furthermore, Newton moved to London as Warden of the Mint early in 1696 and William was admitted to Gray's Inn in October 1693. Newton is known to have had a circle of young friends in London so William may well have been welcomed – particularly if he did have exceptional mathematical ability and understanding to discuss weighty mathematical, theological and philosophical problems with Newton and others in the coffee houses of the day. Since 1690 as a Member of Parliament Newton “found new acquaintances under whose encouragement his accustomed reserve began to melt” (Westfall, 1980). In about 1706 in London Newton would wait for Abraham DeMoivre in a coffee house to discuss mathematics; DeMoivre was one of the young men in London, disciples really, with whom Newton found companionship possible in a way it had never been in Cambridge (Westfall, 1980).

After 1687 and the formal publication of the *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (Samuel Pepys as President of the Royal Society signed the imprimatur in 1686) Newton became the most famous intellectual in England and became increasingly known to the wider world after he left Cambridge in 1696 and it is not surprising that many of his acquaintances would have told their friends and offspring about such a great man. Among the stories may have been that about the apple: the story unfortunately is not well-founded and Newton's predilection for sitting in orchards is probably more apparent than real, yet Langcliffe Hall orchard appears in the tale!

In the search for other possible reasons for a visit of Newton to Langcliffe one finds a reference to Newton's friendship with Samuel Pepys in later years in London. Pepys had a brother John admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge in 1660 who took his BA while Newton was there, later a nephew (admitted 1695) and a cousin, Roger Pepys, who married Anne Bankhouse of Giggleswick in 1640. A little further afield, in Bradford, Abraham Sharp (1653-1742) had his home in Little Horton (Horton Hall in which he was born and returned to in 1694 was demolished some years ago). Abraham Sharp was assistant, astronomical instrument maker and confidant to John Flamsteed the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich and was a very able mathematician. His mural tablet in Bradford Cathedral says (in Latin) “He was rightly counted among the most accomplished mathematicians of his day. He enjoyed constant friendship with the very famous men of the same repute, notably Flamsteed and the illustrious Newton. He drew up the description of the heavens made by the former of these (Flamsteed) in (astronomical) tables of the greatest accuracy; he also published anonymously various writings and descriptions of instruments perfected by himself..”. However, relationships (after 1694) between Newton and Flamsteed were rather acid and there is unfortunately no reason to suppose that Newton would have troubled to visit Sharp in Bradford on the way to Langcliffe on the stage coach. Were there perhaps other first class mathematicians Newton would have liked to confer with in and around Langcliffe to make a short visit worthwhile and relaxing after a period of intense work in the university or in the Mint? Newton certainly absented himself from Cambridge many times for a week or two, sometimes his whereabouts unknown. Surprisingly the Parish of Giggleswick produced a number of mathematicians of notable ability during Newton's lifetime (1642-1727) and after.

Giggleswick Parish Church of St Akelda contains a plaque commemorating “Thomas Swainson, son of Laurentius Swainson of Langcliffe, and who ‘knew arithmetic, geometry and astronomy perfectly’ died 1733 Aet. 70.” (So born 1664, baptised 1672(?)). A Thomas Swainson was a Governor of Giggleswick School in 1721 and 1730 but there is no record of his attendance at Giggleswick School

as a pupil or at University. Thomas's father was a haberdashery merchant in London and paid tax for five hearths in Langcliffe in 1672, so was wealthy. No more is known of Thomas in the mathematical archives but being 22 years younger than Newton must have known of his work. Thomas was contemporaneous with and 11 years older than William Dawson (1676-1762) and on a social par so could be expected to have discussed the mathematics of the day together. Thomas and William are mentioned in Parish Memoranda of 1723 so they certainly knew each other.

The district of Craven is notable in England for a number of families who have been resident in this small area for many centuries – Armitsteads, Brayshaws, Brownes, Carrs, Catteralls, Claphams, Dawsons, Fosters, Ivesons, Kings, Kydds, Lawsons, Nowells, Paleys, Procters, Stackhouse, Swainsons, Tennants and a few others. Many of these families intermarried extensively; many of the children went to Giggleswick School and were fortunate in having a scholarship available, set up in 1616 by Richard Carr, to go to Christ's College, Cambridge. John Peile's record of the very many admittances to Christ's College shows how nationally important a school Giggleswick was at this time. Giggleswick was one of about 40 schools in England sending pupils to Oxford and Cambridge Universities around 1700. Schooling at a good local grammar school cost only about 1% of the income of a squire or gentleman but nearer 10% for a farmer. At this time Giggleswick School was purely a classical school so mathematics was not taught.

In Langcliffe village there are three houses next door to each other – The Old Vicarage (modified c. 1676) (at the time a farmhouse belonging to the Paley family), a house belonging to the Lawsons (1681, built by Richard and Mary Lawson), and the Manor Farm House built by Leonard and Isobel Carr in 1678. The nearby Swainson house built in 1660 by Lawrence and Margaret Swainson (parents of Thomas the 'perfect mathematician') was unfortunately pulled down in about 1860 (the 'Naked woman' datestone remains displayed). Brayshaw and Robinson tell the story that William Paley (born in Langcliffe) as a boy attending Giggleswick school was neighbour to young Alice Lawson in the house next door. These two went their separate ways in marriage, Alice becoming a Starkie, and both had sons. In 1763 William Paley's son William became Senior Wrangler in Cambridge, the topmost student in the first class of the final mathematics examinations. In 1771 Alice Starkie's son Thomas astonishingly became Senior Wrangler also. But Alice went further. In 1803 her grandson Thomas reached the same pinnacle of achievement. Apparently this 'record' has not been broken. The Starkie family eventually inherited the Lawson property and it passed by marriage to the Prestons of Mearbeck, yet another family with deep roots locally. The Langcliffe Carrs in the Manor Farm House may have been wealthy but showed no signs of academic achievement (although Leonard did possess a "reading desk and books in his Closset" as noted in his will) and in about 1730 the house passed to others. Dissenters were excluded from schools and universities until the early 1700s but it is not clear that the Carrs were Dissenters. A distant relative John Carr (of the Stackhouse side of the family) baptised 1785, died 1833, did however, become a second Wrangler at Trinity College Cambridge in 1807 and became Professor of Mathematics in Durham University.

The intriguing possibility that Sir Isaac Newton came to Langcliffe and passed the time of day with villagers, academically-minded or otherwise, during a stay at the Hall is hard to let go of, but there is no evidence from letters to or from Newton in the large quantity of correspondence extant that supports the legend. Nevertheless Langcliffe's claim to be a hotbed of mathematics is a strong one!

Michael Slater

Some notes from Ken Warren.

My grandfather, William Warren, came from Bunwell in Norfolk to work as a slater and plasterer in Langcliffe. After the death of his first wife, he married my grandmother, Annie Huddleston who, at the time of her marriage was employed at Langcliffe Hall as a cook.

My grandparents' home was number nine, St John's Row. At the time when my family spent holidays there, the cottage consisted of a living room, a kitchen, two bedrooms upstairs and an outside toilet. My father was one of the younger members of a family of thirteen. Presumably, the children of my grandfather's first marriage had left home before the younger ones were born. Two adults and thirteen children in a cottage that size doesn't bear thinking about. My father was born in 1892 so his memories of Langcliffe go back to the turn of the century. He recalls being dressed up in a sailor suit to celebrate the end of the Boer War

(William was obviously very bright and gained a scholarship to Giggleswick School)

After he left Giggleswick School he taught locally before moving to Horsforth.

Some Langcliffe Characters Remembered.

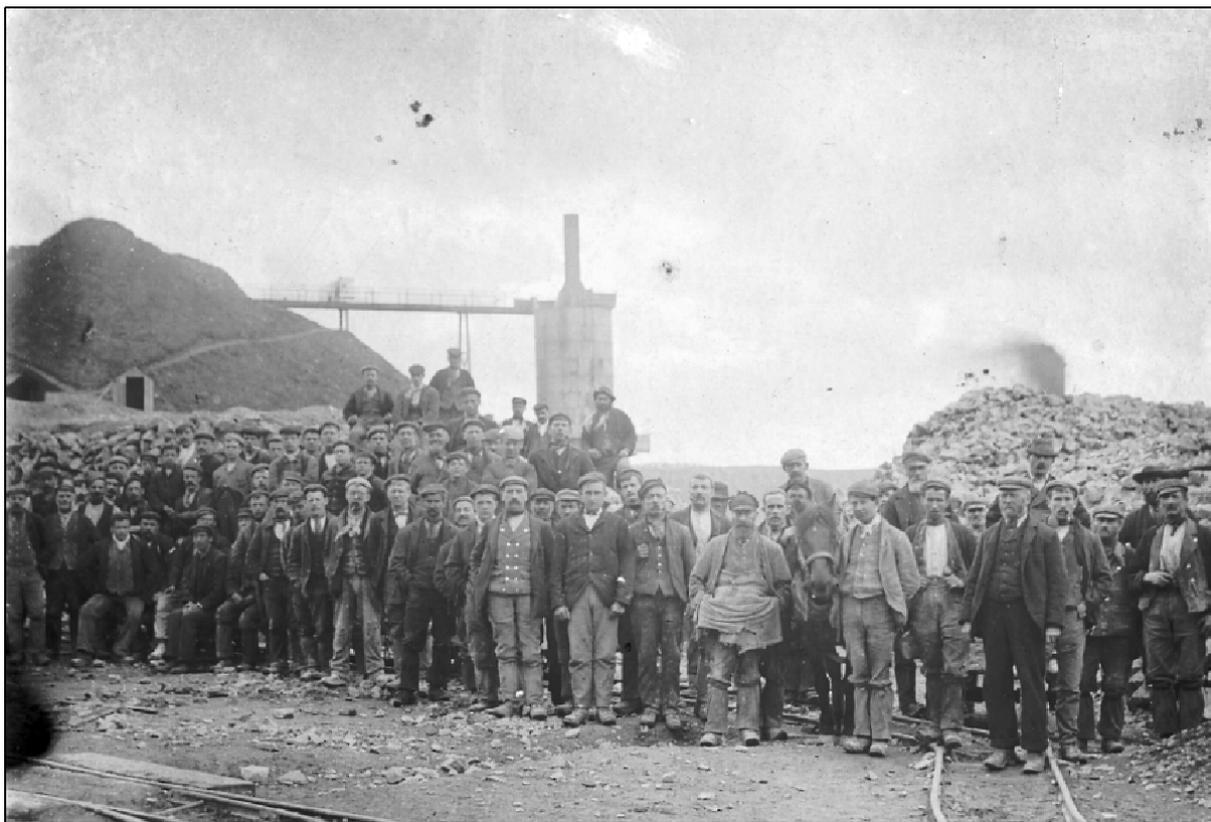
Tommy Edmondson was a postman and used to push his bicycle from Langcliffe to Malham twice a day to deliver the post in the days when Walter Morrison lived at Malham Tarn House. In the First World War he was going up the line near Fricourt when he passed my father without recognising him. Dad was smeared with mud and had several days' growth of beard. Very soon after that meeting, Tommy had both legs damaged by shellfire. Dad met him years later and recalled the incident.

Billy Kitchener started work as a gardener at the Hall at the age of twelve and, with a break only for war service, worked there for seventy years. He was still working full time at the age of eighty two when an accident compelled him to retire. He had two children, Ernest and Cathie. He was a good billiards player.

Gilbert Lee ran a boys' group, which included some sort of drilling – perhaps inspired by the Boer War. He used to make a Guy Fawkes, which he used as a model to demonstrate points of boxing technique.

Workers at the Hoffman Kiln and Quarry at the turn of the Century.

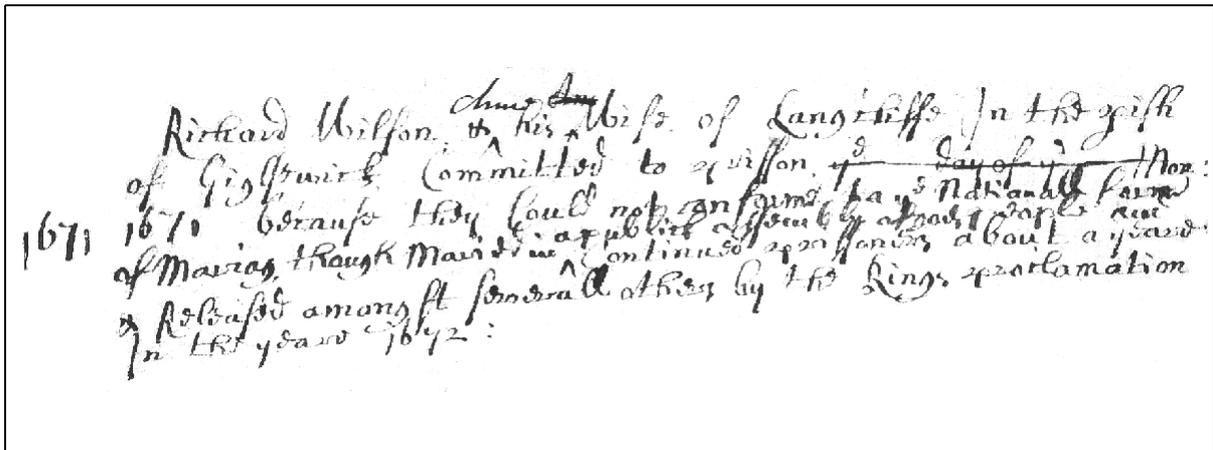
The firemen, packers and drawers all worked in tough conditions but the men who drew burnt lime from the kiln risked a particular danger. They handled the hazardous burnt lime, which became corrosive when 'slacked' or 'slaked'?, i.e. broken down by chemical reaction with water. Their own sweat could set off this reaction and cause burns to the face, lower arms and navel. Some men lost an eye. As a safeguard they stretched pieces of leather over their hands before they touched the blocks of lime. The leathers were made from the uppers of clogs and shoes. A lime-drawer spread lanolin on his skin for added protection. Sometimes, as he heaved his barrow of lime, (weighing two hundredweight), to the waiting coal truck, the contents would still be burning. In the course of a day he drew sixteen tons of lime. The men sweated profusely and needed to replace the lost fluid. The manager brought round drinks of barley water with lemon or a mixture of oatmeal and water; water alone was considered weakening. Two pints of beer at night was regarded as a necessary treatment so that next day you could, 'Sweat the beer out, not the man'. In 1937, a lime-drawer was paid fourpence halfpenny a ton, (30 pence a day in today's currency).



Acknowledgements to W R Mitchell's archive.

A Quaker Marriage

In the seventeenth century, after the restoration of the monarchy, it was an offence to refuse to take the Oath of Allegiance. Everybody was required to attend the re-established Anglican Church and to use the form of services as set out in the Prayer Book. If five or more visiting Quakers over the age of sixteen met together, it was regarded as an unauthorised act of worship. A Langcliffe couple who were married at such a meeting fell foul of this law and suffered severe consequences.



An entry in the Sufferings of Friends within Settle Monthly Meeting tells their story.

This passage has been reproduced with the permission of the custodians of the Carlton Hill archives of the Society of Friends, deposited in Leeds University Library.

(Photocopy of extract)

Richard Wilson and Ann his wife, of Langcliffe in the parish of Giggleswick, committed to prison 1671 1st day of ye month (struck through) because they could not conform to ye National form of mariag, though married in a publick assembly of said people, and continued prisoners about a yeare and released amongst several others by the King's proclamation in the year 1672'.

Tradition has it that Richard and Ann had to walk to York in order to serve their sentence.

Jean Lavelle

Bridesmaid and the Bell -

a tale of heroism and of the defiance of politics and gravity.

In September 2000, during the period of the petrol refinery blockades and unofficial petrol rationing, Alex and Kerry were preparing for their wedding in Langcliffe Church. The bellrope in the church had rotted and snapped. A replacement rope had been made by the Ropemakers at Hawes but it was a fifty mile round trip to Hawes to collect it and nobody wanted to use their emergency supplies of petrol. The bride, escorted by bridesmaid Jill collected the rope themselves and even managed to purchase ten pounds worth of petrol for the wedding vehicle which was a recently restored short wheelbase Mark 1 Land Rover.

Alas, there was nobody available to fix the rope. Undaunted, the Usher-to-be, the Bridesmaid and wedding supporters Podge and Jo set off to the church with a thirty five foot extendable ladder on the car roof rack. They placed the ladder behind the beam just below the rotten section of rope, which was still attached to the bell ringing chain. A first attempt was made by Podge, well renowned for his climbing abilities and his 'no fear' attitude. However after a brief half-way encounter, he decided the job was not for him. A second attempt was made by Greg who upon reaching the top of the ladder decided that the gap between wall and beam was somewhat narrower than his midriff!

And so it was left to the girls and the third and final attempt was made by the bridesmaid. Jill, with rope in mouth and Stanley knife in back pocket, scaled the ladder and squeezed between wall and beam to sit among the sparrow muck to commence the somewhat tricky cutting and knotting process to secure the new rope, whilst being especially careful of her freshly manicured finger nails. After knotting the rope tightly to prolong its life, Jill climbed down to safety.

The wedding day went perfectly and on the third of April 2002 Alex and Kerry became the proud parents of Henry Albert Pilkington.

Jill Pilkington and friends



Langcliffe Mills Sports Club.

10.06.1927 A large gathering of workpeople and friends attended the official opening of the Langcliffe Mills Recreation Club on Wednesday, June 1st. The grounds, which have been generously given by the Fine Cotton Spinners Association, are delightfully situated. There are three hard tennis courts, a full size crown green bowling green, and a putting green. Tastefully arranged paths and rose covered trellises add charm to its precincts, and in a commanding position, set amid a fine rockery and plants is a large pavilion, comprising an assembly room, cloak rooms, a cooking kitchen and the usual offices. Mr W Ingham of Langcliffe Place was in the chair and said he hoped the young people would thoroughly appreciate what had been done for them and would take full advantage of the many benefits offered by the scheme.

Mr W Howorth, (Chairman of the Fine Cotton Spinners Association) said that at headquarters they had a motto which said, 'There is that scattereth and yet increaseth' and he found that it was a very sound one to work upon. He pointed out that by these gifts, the Masters were not trying to exploit the workers but sought to produce a better spirit and a stronger feeling of confidence between master and worker. He was glad to know that the membership had already reached nearly two hundred and hoped that the number would grow still bigger. Good health and happiness, continued Mr Howorth, were essential to life and a spirit of good fellowship tended to promote happiness whilst clean recreation was an undoubted asset to health. In conclusion, he said that these gifts were a way of expressing the firm's appreciation of the workers and he hoped they would be received in the same spirit as that in which they were given. (cheers).

Mr Emmanuel Hayes, one of the Association's oldest and most valued servants (now retired after fifty years service) proposed a vote of thanks to the promoters. He recalled the transference of the mills to the Association some years ago and confessed that although at the time he had grave doubts as to the advisability of the plan, the change had been for the good. The welfare movement and old age pensions scheme were worthy of more consideration from the workers than was being given at the present and he urged all to take advantage of the superannuation scheme, which was a boon to look forward to when working days were over. Mr Hayes also compared the old dining rooms, often dim with smoke and grime from the boilers beneath, with the magnificent new canteen where meals were served today.

Mr T Howson, the oldest employee at Langcliffe Mills, briefly seconded and added thanks to the committee of ladies who had catered so well for the gathering that day.

Right

Higher Theaps: Built as the Sports Club Pavilion



Left

*Group outside the Sports Pavillion.
Presentation of long service awards 1920-21
(By permission of the Craven Herald & Pioneer)*