

## Chapter 13 Old Houses

*See Appendix 8*

### Langcliffe Hall

The history of Langcliffe Hall is closely entwined with the history of the Dawson family who have lived there for most of the last four centuries, this being their main residence. Extended members of the family have occupied other large houses at various times throughout the period including Bolton Hall in Bolton by Bowland, The Folly in Settle, Marshfield House in Settle, Hornby Castle, Townhead House in Stainforth and Manor Farm in Halton Gill.

But Langcliffe Hall was here before the Dawson family arrived. The local historian, Thomas Brayshaw thought the Hall may have originated as a Grange for Sawley Abbey (Salley) and certainly Sawley owned this property before the dissolution. It is thought that most properties in Langcliffe were obtained as a block on the dissolution of the monasteries by Lord Thomas Darcy. Later Nicholas Darcy 'sold' most of the land on 500 year leases mainly in 1591. The earliest date stone in the Parish is now displayed above the Hall's main doorway showing the initials of S (for Henry Somerscale) 1602 E.R.44., (Elizabeth Regina 44th year of her reign since 1558) so the Hall is technically Elizabethan but the main early fabric is typically Jacobean in style. The Somerscale family also owned Stockdale House in Settle and had the living of Gargrave. This Henry Somerscale was a Giggleswick School Governor in 1599 and 1604, but by the time of the Hearth Tax Roll of 1674 there were no Somerscales in the district.

It is thought that William Foster acquired Langcliffe Hall some time between 1621 and 1627 as in the latter year his Lay Subsidy payment became the highest in the township. These Fosters were thought to be descended from the tenants of Sawley Abbey at Winskill, and who obtained the manorial leases in 1591 from the Darcy family. It is with the marriage of William's only daughter Mary to Josias Dawson of Halton Gill that the Dawson family first became involved with Langcliffe Hall.

The first Dawson we have dates for is Christopher, 1531-1625, farming at Halton Gill as tenant of Lord Clifford. This farm later came into ownership of the family and is still part of the Langcliffe Hall Estate today. In 1642 Josias Dawson, great-grand-son of Christopher, married Mary Foster.

Josias' elder son, Christopher was at Cambridge with Isaac Newton, and is said to have been 'visited by him in later life at Langcliffe Hall'. His second son William inherited Halton Gill and continued the line there. Josias' grandson, William Dawson (1676-1762) who lived at The Folly in Settle, married the heiress to Bolton Hall in Bolton-by-Bowland. William's second son Ambrose (1707-1794) thus inherited both Langcliffe Hall and Bolton Hall. He lived at Langcliffe Hall for a short while but then moved to Liverpool where his son Pudsey was in business. Ambrose's son Pudsey I (1752-1816) was mayor of Liverpool in 1779 and 1780 and had diverse business interests. When Pudsey Dawson inherited the estate he already had a town house in Liverpool and a country house in Bolton-by-Bowland, so only used Langcliffe Hall as

a shooting box. It is believed that on his death Langcliffe Hall Estate (but not Marshfield) was sold by his son Pudsey II (1778-1859). This Pudsey Dawson had been involved with a long court case involving the rightful ownership of Hornby Castle, which he eventually won. It was he who renovated Hornby Castle and made it habitable for himself. He was also a founding Director of the North West Railway and was recorded as cutting the first sod on 28th. September 1848, then there was a 'bit of a do' for 150 guests (recorded in the Diary of George Smith of Homby).

After Pudsey II's father died in 1816 Langcliffe Hall and estate was sold to the Swale family of Settle. Mrs. Swale died in 1860 and Miss Elizabeth Hutton Dawson of Marshfield, Settle bought the estate back for the Dawson family, re-uniting the Halton Gill and Langcliffe Hall Estates, as she was the last surviving member of the Halton Gill branch of the family and also cousin to Pudsey. Her three brothers, two sisters and an uncle had all died childless. She had been living at Marshfield House in Settle for many years, but had probably heard that the railway was to be built very close to this house, so wanted to move out. Elizabeth embarked on a major refurbishment of the Hall when she bought it, so may have inherited quite a lot of money from her relatives, or alternatively may have obtained a very good price for land compulsorily purchased by the railway builders, or both! She was a great benefactor to several of the local churches and other good causes during her lifetime.

The Hall probably originally had small mullioned windows and none of the rooms are very large. It is not a "grand" house as may have been built in other districts, but a modest squire's house. The stable block and coach house were added in the 18th. century. There was a major refurbishment to the house in c1860, when bay windows were added to the front, other windows were altered and a kitchen and other utilities added to the rear. The refurbishment also included internal features such as the Library shelving.

Elizabeth died 1866 and left the Hall to her cousin William Mosley Perfect Jnr. William had to change his name to Dawson to enable him to inherit the Estate in 1869. He died unmarried in 1900 and the Hall then went to his sister Margaret Jane Perfect, who also had to change her name to Dawson. She was also unmarried, so on her death in 1917 the Hall was left to her nephew Geoffrey Robinson, though her unmarried sister Katherine (known as Aunt Kitty) Perfect continued to live at Langcliffe Hall until her death in 1934. Geoffrey also changed his name to Dawson to enable him to inherit in 1917 at the age of 42.

George Geoffrey was born 25th. October 1874 the eldest son of 'Colonel' George and Mary Robinson of Skipton. In 1851 'Colonel' Robinson was involved with the banking company of Messrs. Alcock, Birkbeck & Co. at Settle, becoming Managing Director of the Craven Bank in Skipton. He married Mary Perfect of Langcliffe Hall, third surviving daughter of William Moseley Perfect Snr. banker of Pontefract and Solicitor in Blackburn.

Geoffrey spent his childhood at Dynley House, Skipton until his father built 'Overdale' on the Skipton-Bolton Abbey Road. His nurse was a young Cumberland woman called Margaret Nicholson, who later became Housekeeper at Langcliffe Hall. Geoffrey's brothers and sister appear to have been less fortunate than he, three of them died early, while his younger brother Ralph was afflicted with a terrible stammer.

The next major alterations to the Hall were in 1936-38, after Aunt Kitty had died, when the front door was moved from the south facing side to the west-facing side in the stable yard, which had previously been the servants' entrance. The yard was also enlarged by demolishing an old cottage and moving the southern wall forward by 20 feet. The door on the south side of the house now leads straight into the gardens which were redesigned at this time by Sir William Milner. A new "Servants' Hall" was added at the eastern side of the house. Inside, the Oak hall was enlarged by moving the wall to the left of the entrance, and the reduced room to the left of that became a study for Geoffrey Dawson.

A telephone was installed and some bathrooms were also added at this time. The previous driveway access, which had come off the High Road between Settle and Langcliffe and traversed the parkland, was removed, so, that the main entrance was now straight off the main road.

Geoffrey Dawson was Editor of The Times from 1910 till 1942 (with a short break between 1919 and 1922). This brought him into close contact with the leading politicians of the day and he was particularly influential in the 1930s at the time of the Abdication in 1936 and the lead-up to World War II. Though business frequently kept Geoffrey in London his happier days were spent on his moors on the Langcliffe Hall Estate.

Geoffrey Dawson died in 1944 but his widow Cecilia remained at Langcliffe Hall till her death in 1969, though she also had a house in London. Michael Dawson, their son, inherited the property then but he died unmarried in 1975. The property then passed to Michael's nephew Robert Bell (who has not changed his name to inherit!).

In 1978 further alterations were carried out when the Victorian kitchen and the 1938 extension were demolished. The house has been a full-time home for Robert Bell and his family since 1988.

### ***Recollections of Ina Hoggarth***

Ina came to Langcliffe Hall in 1927 aged 14 years to work as "House Parlourmaid" to Aunt Kitty Perfect. She arrived at Settle Station from Sunderland to be met by William the gardener with a pony and trap, but on not immediately seeing him caused much merriment by asking a local which number tram went to Langcliffe.

### ***The staff at Langcliffe Hall in 1927***

Head Housekeeper - Mrs. Nicholson (she had previously been nurse to the Robinson family).

Cook - Mrs. Thompson a Scottish lady

Young Kitchen Maid - shared a bedroom with Ina

Head Housemaid - Ena Davidson

Young Housemaid - Ina Hoggarth

Washerwoman - Mrs. Jackman

Head Gardener - William Kitchener

Assistant Gardener / boot boy - Herbert Hocking

Groom - Donald Green.

There was no electricity or telephone in the Hall. Gaslight was used in the main house rooms, but servants only had candles. There was no car, only a pony and trap. But when Geoffrey and Cecilia Dawson came up from London to stay, they would be driven by his chauffeur (Homer) and would also bring a parlour maid with them so the servants' hall was frequently busy with the staff of visiting guests. During the 1930s there were many distinguished visitors at the Hall particularly politicians, including Mr Baldwin the Prime Minister; Lord Halifax the Foreign Secretary and his family would come for riding holidays; Lord Trenchard the Air Minister would come for shooting parties.

Sometimes a minister's "Red Box" was sent up from Whitehall, London; it had to be brought to the hall from Settle, with a policeman accompanying the postman!

Lord Halifax, a very tall man, had been given a fancy green dressing gown by an Indian Prince. He gave it to Cecilia Dawson who had it made into an Altar Cloth for Langcliffe Church, and it is still in use today.

During the war the Hay family (Cousins of Cecilia Dawson) moved into the Hall, complete with governess and servants. There were also three evacuee children from Bradford.

Soldiers in transit regularly slept in the loft above the stables.

*Robert Bell*

### **Cock House and Grisedale Cottage**

The building now known severally as Cock House and Grisedale Cottage was built in 1809 on the waste of the Manor to serve as a village workhouse and overseer's cottage. The workhouse was used to give employment hand finishing cotton when the mills on the Ribble could not work because the river was too low.

The Poor Law Act of Amendment 1834 closed down such small village schemes and centralized the workhouses. After this at various stages the workhouse part - now Cock House, became a Post Office, a village shop and teashop. There is very little direct evidence about any of this because unfortunately in the building's rather chequered history the older deeds have been mislaid. It is a listed grade II building and the oldest institutional building in the village.

### **Manor Farm 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. (Fig. 2).

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.

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 Cappanahill, 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 1670's, 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. 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. 3).

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 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.

A deed of 1724 (Wakefield Deeds T265 359) refers to an agreement made in 1723 concerning William Carr of Langcliffe and Agnes Clapham wife of William Clapham of Stackhouse. It refers to a messuage in Settle where John Armitstaed now lives with a shop or warehouse in the west, all of which was purchased by Leonard Carr uncle of the said William Carr from John and Richard Brown, since let or occupied. Also noted is a garden purchased by William Carr from Richard Brown and a small parcel of land from Ralph Baynes used as a way to the garden.

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 Cappsleside, 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 £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 deed of 1743 (SS114 164) concerns houses in Settle lately owned by Charles Stewart and William Weatherhead but now owned by Nicholas Thornber and Grace Carr.

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 turbarry 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 (Wakefield deed 1.303.107 of 1/1/1921). 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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*Mary Slater*

## **The Cottages on The Green**

The date of construction of this block of cottages is partly post-1800 since the road diversion map of 1800 shows cottages (now Holly and Fountains) surrounded by an enclosure now occupied by Tallow, Chandlers, Wicklow and No.1 The Green. The layout is complex. Some of the walls are 1m thick and some chimneys are large. There might have been a long upper gallery which could have been a sail loft (P. Hudson) since flax/linen was a local trade with other flax mills near Bentham for example.

It may have been in whole or part a tallow factory, making candles since animal products were a mainstay of local agriculture over many centuries - with tanpits under St John's Church and the trade of glover being known in the village. This might explain the large fireplaces but the whole building is rather large to have been a factory perhaps.

At one time in the 20thC the cottage names (facing the Green) were those of the tenants but later they had new names - Tallow, Chandlers, Wicklow and No.1 The Green.

### **A Cottage in Main Street**

A search for a home in Langcliffe led to ownership of No. 2 Main Street, and the start of another quest - to try and find out more about the property. The deeds covered the twentieth century only - what was the cottage's earlier history? My search for information about the building itself yielded very little. But what did prove interesting were household details about the families who lived in this and other cottages nearby in the nineteenth century.

As far as the building is concerned George Sheeran in 'Good Houses Built of Stone' points out that terracing of cottages began in the mid-eighteenth century. Short rows of three or four were linked together and this style continued until the 1830s or 1840s. The style of the front of the terrace of three cottages of which the present No. 2 Main Street is the central one suggests a date of around the 1830s although the back is lower and looks older. Perhaps an older building was improved at that time.

The earliest map I have found which shows the village buildings in detail is the *Tithe Map* of 1841 with its accompanying *Apportionment* of 1844. This shows land, the site of the present terrace of three cottages, to be 'houses and yard' in the ownership of Christopher Wright, and in the occupation of Thomas Lofthouse, Richard Wilson and Sarah Bank, implying three cottages at that time. A 'house and garden' to the west, running through to Stainforth Road, was also in Christopher Wright's ownership, but occupied 'in hand'.

At the time of the *1841 Census*, Christopher Wright was listed as aged about 45, and in a household of three, all cotton spinners. Documents in the West Riding Registry of Deeds show that in 1829 he had been a mule spinner and by 1834 a cotton spinner and churchwarden. Thomas Lofthouse, about 40 years old, headed a household of nine. He and his eldest daughter were cotton spinners, the next daughter being a cotton piecer. Richard Wilson was about 35, and in a family of four, but apparently sharing a house with three young men, one of whom was a cotton dresser. Sarah Bank was a widow aged approximately 40, with five children, the eldest girl being a cotton piecer, and the eldest boy a blacksmith's apprentice. Thus each cottage held from six to nine persons.

At this time in the village, virtually everyone was Yorkshire born. The main employment was in Clayton's cotton mill, though some people worked for the paper maker Thomas Bell.

By the *1851 Census* Christopher Wright, now 57, was a beerseller in New Street, married to Agness, aged 47. Richard Wilson, now 48, had a wife and three children, and one lodger. Of the six, four were at the cotton mill. Thomas Lofthouse was now a 50 year old widower. His eldest daughter acted as housekeeper, four other children were in the mill (the youngest being 13), and three were still at school. One wonders if his wife died in childbirth -

she would have been about 44 at the time of the birth of the youngest. Sarah Bank still had four children living at home, the eldest now qualified as a blacksmith, the three younger ones all in cotton work.

People in the village were still basically from the locality - from Ribblesdale, Ingleton, Embsay, Sedbergh and Bentham. But things were changing in the 1840s. There had been a trade slump and villagers migrated, many to Lancashire. Claytons went bankrupt in 1849, and the mill was sold to Richard Bashall. The population of Langcliffe which had been 664 in 1841 dropped to 601 in 1851, and by 1861 had plummeted to 376, and a third of the houses were empty. Despite this, the new church had been built, the gift of John Green Paley, and consecrated in 1851.

The year 1859 saw an improvement beginning when Lorenzo Christie leased the mill from Bashall, and later bought it in 1861. With trade increasing again, he now needed to import workers. The *1861 Census* showed many from Lancashire, Derbyshire and Norfolk, although the total population of the village was still low. The co-operative shop was re-established in 1861.

One must not assume that a rapidly growing family stayed in the one home. Workers' housing was mostly rented and 'flittings' were common. In view of this and the slump years, it is no surprise that in 1860, in a memorial (in the Deeds Registry) of a document which appears to relate to Christopher Wright's parcel of land mentioned above, there is mention of six cottages comprising three in the possession of Christopher Wright, beerhousekeeper, and unoccupied, and the remainder now in the occupation of Alice Batty, John Bradley and John Lawson.

By 1862 a document relates to the same six cottages as now being occupied by Ann Hudson, Elizabeth Yeoman, Edward Lund, Henry Wolfenden, John Bradley and William Lawson. So between 1860 and 1862, with Lorenzo Christie at the mill, the three unoccupied cottages had been tenanted. Elizabeth Yeoman was a charwoman, her daughter aged 11 was a cotton thread poster, and she had four boarders including an 8 year old half-timer - all in the mill. John Bradley and Edward Lund were agricultural labourers, the latter having two sons and a boarder in the mill. William Lawson was a retired farmer.

The decade 1861 - 1871 saw many changes. The *1871 Census* showed that although the total number of houses was only three more than in 1861 the population was up to 665. However, 124 of these were due to a transitory factor - the construction of the Settle to Carlisle railway between 1869 and 1876. Some railway workers boarded locally, but many, sometimes with families, lived in hutments, for example Langcliffe Huts and Ofgang Huts. The Census shows their southern origins - for example Bedford, Oxford, Northamptonshire, Kent, Essex and Lincoln - and occupations such as platelayers and brickmakers. The cotton workers on the other hand came from Lancashire, Worcestershire, Cheshire, Westmorland and Warwickshire.

Christopher Wright did not feature in the 1871 Census. The Yorkshire Post that year reported that in January he had, at the age of 76, a one-armed man, been assaulted in his beerhouse, the Bay Horse, by a drunken railway navvy, and died a few days later of his injuries. The labourer was sent for five years penal servitude. Wright's widow Agness was described in the Census as 'late beershopkeeper'.

It is impossible to tell exactly from the Censuses which families were in which cottages in the village. Up to 1871, only the big houses (e.g. Langcliffe Hall and Place) were named, the rest being merely listed, apparently with little order, as 'village'. In the *1881 Census*, however, more detail is given, for instance Low Fold, Barbary Fold, Middle Fold and New Street are listed. But it is still impossible to tell from it who were the particular occupants of the terrace of three cottages known today as 1, 2 and 3, Main Street. It can be seen though that many households were headed by labourers, while the younger women of the families were in the cotton mill. The families were brought in during the previous decade by Hector Christie (Lorenzo's son) from Cornwall, Norfolk and elsewhere for the mill. The school had to be enlarged in 1879.

In Middle Fold in 1881 lived the Hilton family, John, 38, from Manchester, an overlooker, Margaret, 25, a cotton yarn examiner, and two children, the three year old born in

Langcliffe. In New Street, William Mortimer, 29, a general labourer from Norfolk, and his wife, a dressmaker, had four small children, the eldest six, all born in Langcliffe. In another cottage, location unspecified, Frederick Hocking, 24, a general labourer from Liskeard in Cornwall, lived with his wife, a cotton doubler, and small baby. By now, cotton jobs were more specifically described. The paper mill, which in 1871 had employed 2 men now employed 15 including an engine driver from Scotland.

Despite the fact that the railway was finished in 1876 and the transitory population gone, there were 683 people in the village - more than in 1841 or 1871 - and a dozen more houses than in 1841. The labour-intensive Craven Lime Company's Hoffmann Kiln had been established in 1873.

By the *1891 Census*, John Hilton and one son were still in the cotton mill, a family of three. William Mortimer was a labourer in a stone quarry. The eldest son was a page boy (presumably at one of the local big houses), three children were cotton doubler/doffer/roller cleaner, and there were three younger ones at home - nine under one roof.

John Wain, a stone quarry labourer from Derbyshire and his family of five were listed in 1891 between Hilton and Mortimer. Two daughters born locally were in the cotton mill. His wife was from Norfolk. In New Street, Fred Hocking was also in the stone quarry, and one daughter was a cotton doubler. The family now totalled six.

In the *1910 Valuation Book* three cottages similarly valued, probably 1, 2 and 3 Main Street, and related houses accessing Stainforth Road were shown as in the ownership of Hector Christie. The three cottages were occupied by John Hilton, William Mortimer and Fred Hocking. They would now be about 68, 58 and 54 respectively.

The *1915 Electoral List* included William Mortimer, Margaret Hilton and Fred Hocking as three Main Street cottage occupants qualified to vote. Presumably John Hilton had died. The names Hilton, Mortimer and Hocking still appeared on Main Street in the *1920 Electoral List*.

Hector Christie died in 1915 but the cotton mill continued as Fine Spinners and Doublers Ltd. The cottages were rented up until 1955. In that year, a statutory declaration was made by the cashier at the time at Fine Spinners, (by now part of Courtaulds), that the three dwellinghouses fronting Main Street, and also three properties at their rear, all on a site running through from Main Street to Stainforth Road (and defined on a plan), had been in the company's possession since at least 1907, and he had collected the rents. The properties were sold off in 1955 and the cotton mill was closed.

The interesting question is when did ownership of the cottages pass from Christopher Wright and to Christie's? It might have been after the death of Wright in 1871. This was a period of prosperity at the mill and he had early on been a cotton operative. Perhaps he had lost his arm at the mill and Christie bought the cottages to help out his widow. But this is pure conjecture.

*Mary Slater*

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Various records in:

Bradford Central Library

Leeds Central Library  
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West Yorkshire Archive Service Headquarters, Wakefield

### **Swainson's Farm**

Lawrence Swainson married Margaret Armitstead and the stone dated 1660 remains on the rebuilt house on the site.

### **Lawson**

Mount Pleasant has date stone 1681. The Starkie family eventually inherited the property and it passed by marriage to the Prestons of Mearbeck.

### **Barrel Sykes**

Taylor

Straubenzee 1804?

### **Hope Hill**

The will of Richard Preston who built the Folly in Settle shows that he owned a small farm named Hophill valued at £5.

A series of owners can be identified:

in 1695 Richard Preston (of the Folly)

before 1740 John Brown (?married Isabell Armitstead 1717/8)

in 1740 Henry Armitstead bp 1685 bd 1745 yeoman

1756 Mary Lister/ Thos. Salisbury

Catherine Armitstead and William Stead/Richard Parkinson et al.

after 1764 Robert Roberts bp 1704? died before 1775, of Settle, currier

in 1775 Mary Roberts spinster bp 1745

in 1798 Thomas and Mary Brayshaw (née Roberts probably) were owners

The Parish Register for Giggleswick gives further details for the Armitsteads and Roberts in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Henry bp 1685 was the son of Richard Armitstead of Langcliffe. Henry's wife was Katherine who died in 1726. Henry owned Hope Hill in 1740; he died in 1745. It is probable that it was their son Henry who married Katherine Ste(a)d in 1728 who was involved in the 1756 transaction (with William Stead). Their children were Ellin bp 1730, Catherine bd 1732, Henry bd 1745.

Robert Roberts bp 1704 married perhaps 28 years later and had children Margaret bp 1734, Richard bp 1736, Robert bp 1740 bd 1756, Margaret bp 1740, Betty bp 1743, Mary bp 1745, John bp 1749, bd 1749 . Mary Roberts spinster was owner of the property in 1775.

The Wakefield Deeds supply more information.

In 1708 Richard Armitstead of Langcliffe with his son and heir Henry lease to Joseph Preston of Rough Close on Malham Moor

*A mansion house in Langcliffe where Richard and Henry now dwell with two barns and one stable, one turfe house, three gardens and several closes.  
(Details in Wakefield deeds A359 554)*

In 1727 Thomas Carr of Settle left in his will his house in Settle to his mother Mary Carr. She was husband of William Carr, deceased, mercer of Settle.  
*(Deed in possession of C.Ellis of Langcliffe).*

In 1735 Mary Carr sold the house in Settle to Robert Roberts, currier and John Binns of Settle gent. for £104-15s.  
*(Deed in possession of C.Ellis of Langcliffe).*

In 1740 Henry Armitstead of Langcliffe yeoman leases to John Lister of Settle mercer the messuage where Henry now lives, except a certain messuage or tenement called Hope Hill lately purchased by Henry of John Brown.  
*(Wakefield deeds OO 324 468)*

The will of John Lister of Settle 1746/7 shows that the lands and tenements purchased from Henry Armitstead in Langcliffe are charged with the legacies to his two daughters, Mabella and Mary.  
*(Borthwick vol. 90, fol. 73).*

In 1756 Mary Lister, (widow), and Thomas Salisbury of Settle gent. sell a property to Robert Roberts formerly belonging to Henry Armitstead. It comprises  
*messuage with one turfehouse, one stable, two barns, one croft, one garden plus several closes and pasture.  
(Wakefield deeds AM 503 677)*

In 1775 Margaret Roberts of Settle, widow, passes to her daughters Elizabeth and Mary (spinsters) her property in Langcliffe, including Hope Hill. The deed states that Robert Roberts held the fee simple for several long terms of years of property formerly belonging to Henry Armitstead which was then purchased by Robert Roberts from Mary Lister and Thomas Salisbury.

Elizabeth is given  
*messuage, one turf house, one stable, two barns, one garden, one croft now called Armitstead's house plus land.*

Mary is given  
*Also one other messuage called Hope Hill one barn adjoining, one garden wherein the dwelling house and barn are situate and one other garden on the north side purchased by Robert Roberts from Catherine Armitstead and William Stead. Alsoa barn and stable, formerly a dwelling house called Parkinson's and a croft lying on the north end and a garden on the east side, purchased by Robert Roberts from Richard Parkinson.  
(Wakefield deeds BX 330 473 and in possession of C.Ellis of Langcliffe)*

These two when added correspond to the 1708 lease with Richard and his son Henry perhaps living in adjacent houses.

In 1798 Thomas and Mary Brayshaw (presumably Mary was née Roberts) had the property late of Robert Roberts. They leased *Uphill House* in Langcliffe to William Lawson of Giggleswick and John Tennant of Riddings, Long Preston. This was late the property of Robert Roberts and now in the occupation of James Slater at £21 rent. It must be presumed that Uphill House is Hope Hill.  
(*Wakefield deeds EA 378 601*)

## **St John's Row**

### **The history of St John's Row, Langcliffe, numbers 7 to 9**

**Michael J. Slater**

**August 2010**

(Courtesy of Mr and Mrs I. Johnson)

For some unknown reason the houses on St John's Row, Langcliffe were originally numbered in the opposite direction so that Number 1 was originally the house nearest the church and is now number 9. The change took place after about 1969 so the reader of legal documents needs to take this into account.

The site of houses now numbered 1 to 6, was referred to in 1767 and eventually houses there were owned by Hector Christie who presumably needed them to house mill workers.

The Church was built in 1851 so the name St John's Row is later than this date.

The houses are sited on the old road from Settle to Langcliffe and would have overlooked a stream crossing the Green.

### **The Tithe Map and Assessment**

The earliest reliable map of the village centre is the Tithe Map of 1844. Two earlier maps are only sketches and prove nothing about the date of construction of any of the houses in the row.

The Tithe Map (1844) and Tithe Apportionment (1841) give plot numbers, owners and occupiers.

Plot 9 is now occupied by modern numbers 1,2,3 and 4, owner William Clayton	
Plot 11 is now 5 and 6	owner Jonathan Jackman
Plot 12 is now 7,8 and 9	owner John Green Paley

All three are called 'Houses and Gardens'.

John Green Paley owned the field Tithe number 13 which is now partly the allotment land behind the houses.



The occupiers were

Plot 9 Richard Foster, George Duxberry, Adam Carr

Plot 11 Jonathan Jackman, William Wilson

Plot 12 Mary Wearing, Thomas Ellison, Thomas Wright

Plot 10 Jonathan Jackman

In 1841 it appears that there were three tenants in Plot 12, current numbers 7,8 and 9, so presumably there were three separate dwellings, the door to no. 8 being now blocked up. Nevertheless, it is possible that a single three-cell house was the original building.

*Image Tithe Map 1844*

*Image G. A. Paley map 1912 Lots 1 and 2 (West Yorkshire Registry of Deeds, Wakefield, vol.34, page371, no. 140)*

### **Hector Christie – plots 9 and 11 (now 1 to 6)**

Hector Christie bought Langcliffe Place and Langcliffe mills as recorded in Wakefield Deed of January 9th 1865. He bought two cottages on plot 11 (5, 6) (mortgaged to Dewhurst and Charnley) formerly the property of Jonathan Jackman and afterwards of William Clayton, premises on the east side of the rivulet in Langcliffe. Wakefield memorial of May 16th 1878 confirms the sale on redemption of the mortgage.

*Shortened version of Indenture of 29 October 1884 In Possession of No. 4 St John's Row.*

Christopher Wright late of Langcliffe beerhousekeeper was at the time of his death owner of six cottages on St John's Row for the residue of 500 years (created by an indenture of 1767 and made between William Hall Gentleman of the one part and John Birkett Yeoman of the other part) free from all incumbrances except a mortgage to the said John Robinson of 1862 and made between William Robinson of the first part the said Christopher Wright of the second part and the said John Robinson of the third part for securing to the said John Robinson the payment of the sum of £265 and interest. Christopher Wright made his will in 1861 whereby he bequeathed all his estate to John Atkinson and Thomas Horner upon trust to pay the income to the testator's wife Agnes during her life or widowhood and after her death or marriage to his son John Wright. His wife Agnes died in 1884. John Atkinson has with the consent of the said John Wright agreed to sell to Hector Christie for £650 all six cottages or tenements situate in Langcliffe on the east side of the Road there leading from Settle to Stainforth and formerly occupied by John Robinson William Harrison Elizabeth Thornton Alice Batty John Bradley and William Lawson since by Ann Hudson Elizabeth Yeoman Edward Lund Henry Wolfenden John Bradley and William Lawson and now by Richard Camm William Syers John Howson Thomas Hayton John Wain and William Mortimer together with all outhouses yards gardens frontages easements and appurtenances to hold for the residue of 500 years.

Wakefield Deed of December 15th 1884 registers the sale of these six cottages on the east side of the road from Settle to Stainforth.

### **Paley ownership (now 7,8,9)**

John Green Paley was the owner of a large part of Langcliffe in the 1840s. The estate passed to George Arthur Paley, of Ampton Hall in Suffolk, who in the early 1900s disposed of all the Langcliffe holdings (except the Old Vicarage which was entailed) and then moved to Melton Wold in South Africa to start sheep farming.

In 1912 George Arthur Paley sold three cottages (Lot 1, currently nos. 7,8 and 9) together with Lot 2 (the allotments) and several other Lots elsewhere in Langcliffe, all for £800, to Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers Association. Presumably the houses were needed to house mill workers. The houses were occupied by William Frederick Warren (9), Walter Hartley (8) and James Henry Moyle (Wakefield Registry of Deeds vol. 34, page 371, no. 140).

William Warren was a churchwarden at Langcliffe for some 40 years, having moved here from Norfolk, a builder by trade. Mrs Soames lived at no. 3 (7) for many years; her father or grandfather-in-law came from the West Country.

### **1923**

The marriage settlement of June 1919 between Geoffrey Dawson and Margaret Cecilia Lawley vested a plot of land at Scar View, Settle (on Langcliffe Road opposite the mill) in the Trustees for the benefit of Dawson. In May 1923 the Trustees for George Geoffrey Dawson exchanged the plot at Scar View in Settle for the allotments in Langcliffe, of equal size of 4018 square yards. The allotment land was at that time held by The Fine Spinners and Doublers Association Ltd. bought by them in 1912. The deed for No.2 Scar View, the property of Mr John Reid, shows the plans for the land at Scar View and the allotments in Langcliffe.

### **1928 allotment transfer to G.G. Dawson**

The Trustees transferred the allotment property to Geoffrey Dawson.

### **1955 Sale by Fine Spinners and Doublers**

Fine Spinners and Doublers (FSD) sold the houses, now numbered 7,8 and 9 as follows:

No. 9 (1) to George Frank Bromley Lupton, a farmer in Linton, near Skipton. He sold immediately to a sub-purchaser Phyllis Mary Bullock, spinster, for £250.

FSD sold no. 8 (2) directly to Miss Bullock for £350 (Wakefield Register vol. 132, page 257, no. 124). She therefore was in possession of nos. 9 and 8 and perhaps combined them into one house after this time.

FSD sold no. 7 (3) to Mr George Lupton and Maud Annie Marion Lupton, his wife, for £400. In 1965 Maude Lupton sold to George Lupton for £400.

### **1969 sale of Nos. 9 and 8 (1 and 2)**

In 1969 Miss Bullock died and Sylvia Mary Southwell, executor, sold nos. 9 and 8 with gardens to Richard Vernon Hargreaves and his wife Norma, of the Crown Hotel in Horton, for £2140.

### **1971 Allotment sale**

Michael Dawson, son of Geoffrey, had inherited the Dawson estate and he sold a portion of the allotment land above the garden of the now nos. 9, 8 and 7 to Mr and Mrs Hargreaves for £50.

### **1982 Sale of No. 7 (3)**

In 1967 Mr Lupton died and his executors were R. G. Rowley (solicitor) and E.G.Sharp. Mr Sharp died in 1979 and Mr Rowley sold no. 7 (3) for £12,000 to Mr and Mrs Hargreaves. The three properties nos. 7,8 and 9 with allotment land above no. 9 were now united in the hands of one party.

### **1986 sale**

Mr and Mrs Hargreaves sold the three properties 7,8 and 9 to Mr and Mrs J.H. White.

### **The problem of dating**

No early deeds have been located at the Wakefield Register Office (opened 1704) to determine if John Green Paley bought the houses from a previous owner. This suggests that the houses may have been owned by the Paley's for a considerable time, and possibly built by them. Architectural details may have to be used to make an estimate of building date.

The alignment of houses in the row is irregular in 1844 but is straight in 1912, showing that the modern numbers 1 to 6 have been rebuilt since 1844.