

Chapter 23 The Winskill Farms

Appendix 21 for documents

see also www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk, 'The Winskill farms – 400 years of history', T.C.Lord and M.J.Slater, NCHTJ 2011, p7

The Winskill Farms - 400 years of history

Winskill in the Parish of Langcliffe in Ribblesdale is an ancient settlement site. There are Iron Age and Romano-British remains and a burial cairn on a prominent high point in Crutchin Close above Stainforth - crutch means cairn. Winskill is an isolated settlement high above the present Langcliffe village, possibly founded in early medieval times. The land was gifted (about 1240) by Elias of Giggleswick to Sawley Abbey. Elias was Lord of the manors of Giggleswick and Langcliffe. It was consolidated in the monastic period (early 13thC) by Sawley Abbey which held it up to 1536 when the smaller abbeys were dissolved by Henry VIII. The name indicates a windswept shieling - the spellings are various, being Wyndscales at the end of the 14thC. (*P. Hudson, Yorkshire History Quarterly, vol. 6, no. 3, 2001*).

In 1536 Sir Arthur Darcy bought the property from the King and Sir Arthur passed it on to one of his seven sons, Nicholas. Financial problems led to Nicholas having a large loan from Henry Billingsley, alderman and later Lord Mayor of London. The Manor of Langcliffe was security for the loan while Henry Billingsley took (farmed) the rents from 1585. In 1591 Nicholas Darcy with Henry Billingsley arranged the sale of Langcliffe Manor to the tenants. The seven messuages at Winskill and Cowside were sold for £537-12-9 for a 500 year lease (essentially the freehold) dating from 1585 when Darcy had farmlet to Henry Billingsley.

There were four farmsteads in 1591. Now there is one house and farm called Low Winskill with outbuildings which were originally a separate house and barn, and three other properties at High Winskill which are now private houses (one a converted barn). The Low Winskill house has a datestone of 1675 (N B C B) but this has been moved from the south face in a later re-building (*Hudson, Yorkshire History Quarterly, 2001*). (Not 1674 as in previous publications).

In November 1591 Nicholas Darcy sold land and property at Winskill and Cowside to several members of the Foster family and others currently tenants there. The extended family of Fosters were probably tenants of Sawley Abbey over a long period and got together to purchase the Winskill properties. They then divided the properties and sought to sell to other parties to recover their capital in return for long leases. They were

For Winskill, four messuages (see maps)

Gyles Foster	Block A Higher Winskill
Thomas Foster elder and Richard his son	Block B (Richard elder, bp 1563/4 noted in Lord7 in 1651) Lower Winskill
Richard Foster younger	Block C (bp 1573, probably son of Gyles) Lower Winskill
Thomas Foster younger	Block D Upper Winskill

At Cowside three messuages

Christopher Lawson (of Malham)

Henry Paycocke
Michael Saylebanke

(PRO C54/1408 CP 3572 and PC/LAC 13 at Northallerton NYCRO; Lord6 of 1637 notes four messuages at Winskill)

In addition to the purchasers Elizabeth Foster widow was listed as an occupier along with the others.

The genealogy of the many families involved in this story is very complex and speculative and unknown in places.

The identification of the several properties is of interest in itself but importantly the various boundaries determined by using area comparisons with current fields allow consideration of the age of walls since they, or at least the course of the wall, must date back to at least 1591. The presence of large boulders used as orthostats or foundations may be due to field clearance which is only likely to have happened once in the distant past.

The moor and pasture land and field names

In 1591 the sale of the seven messuages included 206 acres 2 roods and 4 poles of pasture *'beginning at a certain close called the Purse and so following the wall and ditch to the west end of one great close of pasture called Henside and from thence following the south side of Hensyde near to a yeate of Hensyde close called the locke green yeate and from thence now to a certain close called Robert Saylebank calf close at Cowside aforesaid and from the same calf close to a certain close called the Cow close and so to the corner of wynscale ynge as measure shall afford the same'* (WYL 163/552).

The identity of Purse presents a question. It is thought to be at the head of a much larger later medieval walled enclosure park (identified by dry stone wall features) running from Stainforth to Higher Winskill. Higher Winskill (across the township boundary) may then be the uppermost set of buildings connected with livestock management of animals in this Stainforth park. Park Head is later taken out of the Purse. From the Purse one then follows the lane wall going east to the edge of Winskill Stones and on to Cowside as described above.

The names Pykedhill and Piget Hill occur in lists of closes in the sale documents and require explanation. Pike can mean a small strip of land next to an irregular shaped field. Pike can also mean a peak, but so does hill. More likely is the definition in the Oxford English Dictionary for pightle (or pingle) which is a small field or enclosure or paddock. Piget Hill occurs also as a close in Cowside hamlet. It is thought that Pykedhill is part of the original Purse.

The other field names are generally self-explanatory.

Property ownership and inheritance

The system of owning property was not that of today. The Crown was ultimate owner and the nobility and wealthy were awarded or bought lands for service from which they collected rents from tenants holding leases of various types. Tenants could sell their leases for capital sums but rents, and fines (gressums) could still be due to the Chief Lord or some other 'owner'. In cases of very long leases of hundreds of years the rents to the Chief Lords became nominal, such as peppercorns and red roses, and often became defunct or made so by the Statute of Uses of 1536. Freehold in the modern sense was not a legal option.

1607 when freeholders dwell out of the mannors whereof they hold and pay unto their Lords but a small acknowledgement as a rose, a pepper corne, a jyllyflower, or some such

trifle, or are to do some service at times, whereof in many yeares has been no use they have not been looked for neither have their suites been continued for a long time inso much as they and their Tenures have grown out of memorie, and their services out of use.

(M.Campbell, 1942. The English Yeoman, publ. Yale University Press)

In medieval times real property could not be transferred by will and land sales were subject to complex procedures. The Statute of Uses 27 Henry VIII, c10 largely determined land transfer law from 1536 to 1833 - 45. Estates held under common law could not be devised by will but the use of land was treated as if it were real property. Common law was too rigid with too many disadvantages; the Court of Chancery upheld the system of transferring the use of land as a matter of equity, providing a common sense, just and equitable process which common law failed to provide. A title of ownership could be held by someone who had parted with the use of land and property; deeds were called Bargain and Sale (created by the Statute of Enrolments, 1535) which are indentures with two parts separated by an indented cut which allowed matching of the two parts.

The Statute of Wills of 1542 had to be followed by 'An Act for the explanation of the Statute of Wills 1542/3'

That all persons having a sole estate or interest in Fee simple of and in any manors, lands, tenements, rents or other hereditaments, in possession, reversion or remainder,shall have full and free liberty, power and authority to give, dispose, will or devise to any person (except bodies politic and corporate) by his last Will and Testament in writing, or otherwise by any acts lawfully executed in his life by himself solely, or by himself and other jointly, all his manors, lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments, or any of them, or any rents, commons, or other profits or commodities out of any parcel thereof, at his own free will and pleasure.

Until 1660 land held under tenure descended automatically to the eldest son and heir *Farm and cottage inventories of mid-Essex 1635-1749, 1969. Steer, F.W., publ. Chichester* and ways around this were developed. A *feoffment to uses* of a will was a normal practice in which the use of an estate was vested in a group of feoffees (or trustees) appointed to carry out the deceased person's wishes - this was to get round the rigid common law rule which excluded younger sons from inheriting any share of real property *(Cornwall, 1974)*. Several of the Winskill indentures involve trustees.

A distinction also has to be made between actual sales of land to new owners and transfer of leases with retention of ownership and rights. It is not always easy to determine conditions of the transaction.

Sale: several or many of the following words are used:

demise, bargain, sell, assign, set over, confirm, give, release, alien, grant, transfer, ratify (for a term usually of several hundred years). The word lease may be used if a peppercorn rent is due and may also occur because of reference to a very long term of lease.

Lease: several or all of the following words are used:

indenture of lease, demise, lease, grant

In some cases the property was sold but with a condition of giving a long lease to the current occupier and possibility of reconveyance to the seller in due course (regrant, reassign, redemise as in Lord7 and WYL 163/553).

The words 'for and in consideration of the natural love and affection' means that no payment was made for the transaction.

Families of Fosters - the first owners

The Parish Registers start at 1558 so it is not possible to determine how the several older Fosters at Winskill were related.

Gyles Foster

Gyles married Anna Kidd in 1560 with several children following. The eldest, Richard, became a clothworker in London and possessed two messuages. Both Gyles (died 1604) and Richard (died 1629) left wills. Anna died in 1574/5 and Gyles was married again in 1577 to Margaret Carr. They had two daughters and a son, Thomas, who drowned in 1605.

Thomas Foster elder and son Richard

Thomas might have been a son of John Foster and Cecilie. His sister-in-law was then Elizabeth, widow of William in 1592, which would account for Elizabeth being mentioned in the sale document of 1591. Thomas married Jane and had a son Richard bp 1563/4. Richard's son Samuel bp 1591 was a schoolmaster and Samuel's son Richard was of Baildon.

Richard Foster younger

He is considered to be Richard son of Gyles, clothworker in London at the time of Gyles death in 1604. In Lord2 a marriage settlement was made in 1607 between Richard Foster yeoman and Robert Carr of Stackhouse referring to Thomas, eldest son of Richard Foster and Katherine Carr. Richard Foster is said to have two messuages at Winskill.

Thomas Foster younger

Thomas younger (bp 1568, bd 1625) was a son of William Foster (junior) bd 1587. William owned a part of Langcliffe Mill according to his will. Thomas bp 1568 had eldest son William bp 1609. William acquired Langcliffe Hall in the early 1600s (perhaps from Thomas Somerscales bp 1596, son of Henry bd 1609); the taxation records first show him assessed in 1629 for £4 and paying 10s 8d, the same as did Anthony Armitstead (also in 1622, 1625 and 1629). William had no sons to inherit his property. His will mentions daughter Mary who married Josias Dawson in 1646. Descendents Frederic and Henry Dawson became owners of Block D in the 1850s.

The individual farms at Winskill

In January 1592 there were agreements by the group of purchasers in the 1591 sale document to transfer individual messuages to the occupiers, for example to Thomas Foster elder and Richard his son jointly (WYL 163/552) and to Gyles Foster (Lord1).

The identification of the four separate holdings at Winskill is best started with Gyles Foster and Block A since most of the named fields of 1592 can be matched with Tithe map and Apportionment List names of 1841/4. Area measurements are on the basis of 40 poles per rood, 4 roods per acre but customary (local) acres are used; Statute acres were defined in the 1700s. The estate maps of William Dawson of 1751 (ZXC, NYCRO) and of Betty Starkie of 1801 (ZXC, NYCRO) both show that a customary acre was 1.62 times larger than a Statute acre in the Langcliffe village area.

Several other maps are helpful in locating properties (in the North Yorkshire County Record Office at Northallerton).

1850 ZXFM 1/7/10 microfilm 2165 frame 151 NYCRO William Foster

1860 ZXFM 1/7/12 mf 2165 frame 155 NYCRO High and Low Winskill and Dawson

1893 ZXFM 1/7/37 mf 2165 frame 494 NYCRO Thomas Stackhouse

The enclosure map of 1793 (WYCRO mic 604) is only useful for the pasture enclosures on Winskill Stones and Gorbeck.

Two map sources allow calculation of the ratio between customary and statute acres, i.e. 1.62 statute acres = 1 customary acre

which in turn means that the length of one customary rod is $16.5 \times \sqrt{1.62} = 21.00$ feet (where 16.5 feet or 5.5 yards is the statute length of the rod). Christopher Saxton used 21 feet/rod on his map of lands near Ingleborough in 1603. This ratio of 1.62 is applied to customary acre areas given in sale documents discussed below. If there are always 5.5 ells per pole as frequently quoted in sale documents, the ell is 3.82 feet or 45.8 inches long. The definition of an ell (originally a length of cloth) is 45 inches (a yard and a quarter) (*//gwydir.demon.co.uk*). At 45 inches the ratio of statute to customary acres would be 1.56.

One possible explanation of the unwieldy length of the rod or pole is that medieval ploughing was done with oxen, up to 4 pairs at a time. The ploughman handled the plough. His boy controlled the oxen using a stick, which had to be long enough to reach all the oxen. This was the rod, pole or perch. It was an obvious implement to measure the fields. (*//gwydir.demon.co.uk*). However, is such a long straight pole easily found in nature?

*(Land belonging to Wm Dawson 1751 Northallerton ZXC mic 2234 frame 189-191
Land belonging to Betty Starkie 1801 (related to Lawsons and Prestons)
Northallerton ZXC mic 2234/ frame 180 - 184
Slater, M.J., Disputed boundary plans of Ingleborough, North Craven Heritage Trust Journal, 2004)*

Part of LangcliffeMoor (Langcliffe Scar 261) adjoining the Ewe Close is quoted as about 50 customary acres and is 84.43 statutory acres, a ratio of 1.69.

(DW 330, 1600/1; Raistrick collection at Skipton Library 743 Indenture William Knipe to Richard Armetstead 1632; PRO C54 / 1419 CP 3572 and Northallerton PC/LAC 13 MIC 1874)

Block A Gyles Foster (Higher Winskill)

Netherynge, Overynge, Parckheade, one parrocke behind or on the north side of the barn, Cakerscarr, Crolthoneclose and one little close or parrocke adjoining on the south side. 10 acres 27 poles (10.17 acres) plus 34a 1r 13p (34.33a) of moor and pasture (Lord1).

1592	1841/4	owner 1841	Tithe number	a	r	p
Netherynge	Nether Ing	A. Stackhouse	237	3	3	29
Overynge	Over Ing	"	238	3	3	6
Parckheade	Park Head	"	247	1	1	10
one parrocke (n. side of barn)	Parrock	"	245	0	1	36
Cakerscarr	Cow Scar	"	239	1	1	37
Crolthoneclose	Crutching Close	"	236	4	3	23
little close	Small Parrock	"	235	0	2	32

Total 12 -14 -173

16.58 statute acres
 10.23 customary acres @ 1.62 ratio
 (cf. 10.17 in sale document or 10a 27p)
 10 acres 37 poles customary

Plus parcel in Brownbanke Close (Cow Pasture 277).
 (40 poles= 1 rood, 4 roods= 1 acre)

Parrock Stones is not claimed by anyone else until 1841 together with the other named fields. The name does not suggest arable land and it is thought to have been woodland. Tithe assessment number 244 is the house and barn on the south edge of Parrock which can be associated with Gyles Foster. Croft 246 of 1r 19p is probably part of the house stead since Anthony Stackhouse is owner in 1841 along with the rest of Block A.

Block B Thomas Foster elder and son Richard (Lower Winskill old house and barn)

From WYL 163/552 we learn that the land occupied was Bothom Close, Parrock (on north side of the great barn), Little Hagg, 1/3 of Fell Close, 1/2 Somerscale Close, 1/3 of the lane leading to these grounds and the common pasture from their dwelling houses.
 (6 a 11p (6.07a) plus 20a 2r 4p (20.53a) of moor and pasture).

Fell Close is assumed here to be at the cliff edge. Tithe number 227, now a barn, yard and other buildings which were once a house, is here associated with Thomas and his son. South Scar Top is considered to be outside the boundary as judged by the age of the wall.

1592	1841/4	Owner 1841/1850	Tithe number	a	r	p
Bothom Close	Bottom Close	W. Foster	222	3	3	28
Parrock (n. of barn)	Little Carrs Scar	"	231	0	2	12
Little Hagg	Haggs	"	213	1	0	16
1/3 of Fell Close	North Scar Top	"	224	1	3	5
	Bottom Close Top	"	225	0	1	33
1/2 Somerscale Close	Farmost Pasture	"	212	2	2	6
				Total		
				7	11	100

10.375 statute acres
 6.40 customary acres @ 1.62 ratio
 6 acres 1r 24 poles customary
 (cf. 6a 11p in sale document)

One third of the Fell Close (North Scar Top plus Bottom Close Top) covers an area of 2a 0r 38p and the two thirds portion (East and West Scar Top) occupy 4a 1r 6p, an almost exact division.

Block C Richard Foster younger (Lower Winskill)

As described in Lord2. Areas not quoted.

1592	1841/4	Owner 1841/1850	Tithe number	a	r	p
Close under Cakerscar	Great Carrs Scar	W. Foster	233	1	2	3
	Rabbit	"	232	0	0	37

lytle close	Croft before door	"	226	0	3	39
the feild	Great Meadow	"	221	4	1	26
	(Higher) Stack Bottom	"	220	2	0	38
Stackbotham and hagge (and house)	Little Stack Bottom	"	215	1	1	5
	Haggs Brow	"	214	1	3	24
2/3 Fell Close	West Scar Top	"	230	1	3	5
	East Scar Top	"	229	2	2	1
1/2 Summerscale Close Far End Meadow		"	216	2	0	27
Purse/Piked Hill	Goose Scar	"	248	2	0	3
Intack	Little Intack	"	249	0	3	11
	(+Goose Scar 250?)					
				Total		
				15 - 18 - 219		
				20.87 statute acres		
				12.88 customary acres @ 1.62		
				(12 acres 3r 21 poles)		

Plus 5 or 6 acres on Brownebanke (1 1/2 cattlegates, Lord8 and Lord15).

Little Intack (a carefully marked out 26% corner of the area) is thought to be part of an intake associated with the Goose Scar pastures shared between several owners.

Rabbit close might be part of a message rather than part of the arable land area.. Fold Pasture 228 near the house is not yet accounted for. It is not clear who it belonged to, but most probably Block C since the areas of Blocks A and B are well accounted for and Block D is not contiguous.

WYL 163/552 describes the pasture land starting at the Purse which is considered to be associated with Park Head and Goose Scar. Richard had two messages - suggested to be at Piked Hill where there are traces of foundations, and one other, perhaps a house on the 'hagge' which cannot now be traced - probably a small shelter or barn. Pykedhill is mentioned in Richard Foster's will of 1626/9. The Great Field was probably originally one very large field now subdivided into several enclosures one of which is now Great Meadow.

Block D Thomas Foster younger

Defined only in the Tithe Apportionment in 1841/4 as the holding of H. and F. Dawson. Tithe number 242 is the house and barn.

1592	1841/4	Tithe number	a	r	p
	Carrs Scar	240	0	2	27
	Rake Scar	218	0	2	30
	Near Garth Nook	241	0	3	27
	Great Field	219	2	1	0
	Garth Nook	217	5	1	8
	Middle Meadow	202	5	2	39

Far Meadow	201	4 0 12
Paddock	203	0 0 34
		16 11 177
	Total	19.86 acres statute 12.26 acres customary @ 1.62 (12 acres 1r 2 pole)

Plus Brownebanke (Cow Pasture 277)

Cowside

The arable fields for Cowside as on the Tithe map are

Brow Meadow	274	6 0 38
Brow Meadow	275	7 3 6
Kitchen Close	276	2 2 9
Bridge Close	279	1 0 19
Far Meadow	280	1 1 7
Little Meadow	281	1 2 27
		34 10 132
		= 35.075 acres statute = 21.65 acres customary @ 1.62

All are held by Christopher Brown in 1841.

Taxation

The taxation records are found in www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/e179 and all those for Langcliffe have been photographed.

Ellys, James, Roger and William Foster are tenants of the Abbot of Sawley named in the list for the forced loan of 1522 and might be identified as being at Winskill.

John Foster paid 2d tax in January 1543 on an assessment of £1 and 1d the following May. John Foster junior paid 2d on £2 assessment. Robert Foster paid 6d on a £3 assessment.

In the tax records Richard Foster's name appears in 1597 (assessment £4), 1606 (£3, 5s paid), 1621 (£3, 3s paid), 1624 (£3, 8s paid). We do not know which Richard is involved but it might be Richard who owned Block C.

In 1606 Henry Foster paid 6s 8d on £4 assessment and in 1624 Thomas Clapham paid 8s on £3 assessment.

In 1628 William Foster paid 10s 8d on £4 assessment. This might be William bp 1609 died 1677 associated with Langcliffe Hall.

The erratic nature of these payments suggests avoidance to some degree. The assessments are probably consistent with one property over some time; the £3 assessment might be coupled with Block C of Richard Foster.

The history of Block A (Gyles Foster)

After the 1592 sale the next event was the death of Gyles in 1604. His will of 1602 requested 5 shillings to the poor of the parish and legacies to family members. His son Richard was a

clothworker in the city of London and was paid his filial due. Gyles' wife and son Thomas were named as executors but Thomas died by drowning in 1605 so Margaret the widow retained the tenement (Lord3). There is no mention of a tenement in the will.

In 1608 Margaret indented with Henry Foster of Winskill who had married Gyles' daughter Jane. Block A plus a parcel in Brownbank Close was transferred to friends in trust for the use of Henry and Jane (Lord3 and Lord4). Their daughter Agnes married Anthony Foster of Rathmell (son of Henry of Rathmell). In 1668 Anthony and Agnes his wife (with a daughter Jane who married John Ibbitson) passed the inherited property via trustees to their daughter Jane 'in consideration of the love and affection they bear' (Lord9). It is stated that the holding was previously in the tenure of Giles Foster, Thomas Foster and Margaret Foster. A close called Intacke was now included (Parrock Stones 234, part of Crutchin?).

A schedule of deeds of 1699 (NYCRO ZXF 1/6/343) is helpful in listing Agnes' right of possession.

By 1677 widowed Agnes had moved from Rathmell to Stainforth. She made an indenture (Lord11) with William Paley of Stainforth and Thomas Clapham of Stackhouse. She transferred the holding to these two on trust for the benefit of grandson James Ibbitson and the children of William Paley (who married Isabel Foster, daughter of Agnes) and of Thomas Clapham (who married Alice Foster, presumed daughter also - see will of Thomas Clapham 1647). Agnes Foster's will of 1686 (or 1688) has not been found.

Alice Clapham (Foster) died in 1690 and left a will; Thomas Clapham was not a beneficiary in the trust deed of 1677 (Lord11) so William Paley became owner after Agnes' death.

The Parish Register contains a note about Alice, bd 1669, daughter of Agnes Foster of Settle but this Alice is probably the daughter of John and Agnes of Settle. The PR also shows £2-10s paid by William Paley for his mother (in-law) Agnes Foster ... *'according to a late Act for burying in woollens'* (a measure to support the woollen industry).

William Paley and Isabel had nine children. The sons and daughters sold to William Stackhouse of Stackhouse in 1696, for £200. The farm was then in the tenure of Joseph Winser (Lord13). Intack was again listed as well as Brownbank. In 1696 one of the Paley children, Thomas Paley of Oulton, was an infant (under 21) so the agreement was delayed until 1697 (Lord14). But it is not clear why Thomas Foster of Stainforth (clothworker) is also mentioned in this indenture.

In 1704 William Stackhouse (slater) mortgaged the property to Christopher his brother (butcher) for £120 at 6% interest for two years (Lord16). A conveyance of 1707 (ZXF 1/6/344, NYCRO) notes that William Stackhouse has transferred a parcel taken off ground called the Intack to Richard Clapham. After walling this was to provide a way leading from Richard Clapham's ground called the Intack to his ground called Goasker. (Is this Little Intack?). William sold to Thomas his elder son (slater) for £60 in 1723 (Lord20).

William is mentioned in 1728 in a quitclaim (NYCRO ZXF 1/6/345) of the right to a seat in the parish church of Giggleswick purchased from Edmund Saunders or his father from Richard Clapham of Winskill and formerly enjoyed as an easement to the messuage at Winskill where William Stackhouse then lived.

The property passed from William to his son Thomas, then to Anthony, Thomas' son, then to John, Anthony's son. John Stackhouse bought the lease of Low Winskill, Block C, from Bernard Preston in 1793 for £920. John's son Anthony left a will in 1860. His sister Elizabeth married William Foster who owned Blocks B and C.

At the time of the Tithe Apportionment of 1841/4 Anthony Stackhouse was in possession as owner. Anthony was great great grandson of William. Anthony purchased Low Winskill, Blocks B and C, from the estate of William Foster (deceased) in 1860, just before Anthony died, thus bringing Blocks A, B and C, High and Low Winskill together. Anthony died in 1860 and the property passed to Thomas Stackhouse who was in possession of Blocks A, B and C in 1893. Then in 1893 reconveyance of Low and High Winskill to John Stackhouse, a son of Anthony, finally took place, he having paid off the loan to Barbara Swale.

The history of Block B (Thomas Foster elder and son Richard)

After the purchase in January 1592 Thomas Foster and his son recovered their capital by selling to William and Stephen Armitstead (of Rathmell and Cattleside respectively) for £30 in October 1592 and ensuring a lease for the remainder of the 500 years and possible reconveyance to Thomas and Richard (WYL 163/553). Then in November 1592 William and Stephen agreed to own half each of the property and to share the rental income of 40 shillings a year and a fine of 40s at the change of every tenant (WYL 163/554).

Richard married Alice, now widow in 1613, and Christopher was their eldest son. Alice transferred the lease (from the Armitsteads) to Christopher, still paying 40s a year rent. Christopher has to pay his mother one penny a year at Pentecost (Lord5). In a deed of 1649 Christopher passed the holding (plus a parcel of a Lathstead) to Samuel Foster (school master of Langcliffe, his brother?), still liable to to the 40s rent, but now payable to William Foster of Langcliffe (Hall) and William Armitstead of Rathmell. Presumably a Foster had married an Armitstead (Richard Foster md. Anna Armitstead 1626 is the only possibility).

In 1652 Samuel and his son Richard Foster (of Baildon) passed the property to Alice Clapham, widow of Richard, late of Winskill, for £76 (Lord7). At this time the farm was lately in the occupation of Christopher Jackes, undertenant of Christopher. The will of Thomas Clapham of 1647 mentions son Richard and daughter-in-law Alice, Richard's wife. This might be speculated to be Alice Kidd (one year younger than Richard). There are only one or two other possible and less likely candidates. The Parish Register data are missing for the period of years when Richard died.

The widowed Alice Clapham then married Thomas Armitstead in 1656 (both of Winskill, Parish Registers p.221). In 1686 we find that Thomas Armitstead sold to John his son (both of Winskill) for £80 - the property is not specified but 40s rent is due to Josias Dawson of Langcliffe Hall (Lord12). This had come about because William Foster's daughter Mary married Josias Dawson of Halton Gill in 1646.

Next, in 1739 (Lord23) John Armitstead for £132 - 10 - 00 sold to John Preston with 40s rent due to William Dawson of Langcliffe Hall (Josias' grandson). John's son Bernard Preston inherited. Bernard sold the lease in 1793 to John Stackhouse for £920. John bequeathed the estate to his daughter Elizabeth who married William Foster.

William Foster was owner by 1841. Indentures of 1856, 1857 and 1858 concerned a loan to him of £10,000 from various people - John Ducker Beckitt, Richard Beckitt, George Pearson Nicholson and Alice Otter. In 1859 William Foster, solicitor of Bowerley in Langcliffe died owing money and his estate had to be sold to satisfy creditors. The case was brought to the Court of Chancery by the Yorkshire Banking Company on behalf of itself and all other creditors. The Bill of Sale (Lord41) shows six lots with Lot 2 being 'A farm, called Low Winskill', in the occupation of Ann Hudson. The fields comprising the farm were listed with names as on the 1841 Tithe map - Blocks B and C. This was bought by Anthony Stackhouse of Settle, gentleman, for £1818 (Lord42e). Bowerley itself was sold to William Coulthurst of the Strand, London, banker for £1000.

Anthony Stackhouse died immediately after the purchase of Lot 2 of William Foster's estate. His will (Lord47) devised the Winskill estate to his son Thomas Stackhouse. Mary Swale of Langcliffe Hall had rights over Low Winskill (late in the occupation of Ann Hudson, now Francis Twisleton) and High Winskill (now in the occupation of William Hunter) because of a mortgage loan of £1300 of 1839 on Low Winskill. An annual quit rent of £1-19s-2d was payable to the representatives of the late Pudsey Dawson (Lord48).

Thomas Stackhouse died in 1877 and Mary Swale died in 1879, with this mortgage loan of £1800 still outstanding. The Rev. Hoggarth John Swale, Mary's brother, was heir; the Rev. John Stackhouse the new owner wished to pay off this sum due to Barbara Swale in Kensington (Lord50) but Barbara died in 1889 with the money still unpaid. The mortgage debt passed to Charles Alured Lambert Swale of Ingfield, Settle. Then in 1893 reconveyance of Low and High Winskill to John Stackhouse, a son of Anthony, took place, he having paid off the loan to Barbara Swale.

The property passed to Thomas Stackhouse who was in possession of Blocks A, B and C in 1893.

The history of Block C (Richard Foster younger)

Richard son of Gyles Foster was probably in London in 1602 but must have returned a little later to arrange his son's marriage. A marriage settlement was made in 1607 between Richard Foster of Winskill and Robert Carr of Stackhouse for Richard's elder son Thomas (perhaps only 15 or 16 years old) to marry Katherine Carr. The land associated with the settlement, Block C, was placed in trust (Lord2).

The agreement mentioned two messuages and the 'Piked hill house' but it is not clear what is meant. It is speculated that Piked Hill in close 246 is the current Low Winskill house. Mention is made of 'hagge and the house thereon standing' but there do not seem now to be any remains of a house on Hagg or Hags Brow - it may only have been a small building rather than a proper house. Richard also owned 5 acres on Brownbank Close (part of Catterigg) and Intack (Little Intack 249?).

The will of Richard of Settle (1626) who died in 1629 noted that he had already passed his estate at Winskill to feoffees in trust for his son Thomas. He had the 'Pykedhill Close with a house therein standing', Intacke and 'ground or pasture gates in the browne banke'. He gave many family details. He also had a parcel on Brownbank (5acres on Catterigg). Richard son of Thomas Foster elder was called Richard elder in 1651 (Lord7) so it is feasible that Richard younger who bought Block C is Gyles' son.

By 1662 Robert Lawkland had possession, formerly in the hands of Richard Foster, but now occupied by Robert Lawkland and Laurence Swainson. (We do not have the indenture between Thomas Foster and Robert Lawkland). The holding was then transferred to Nicholas Bullocke of Tosside for £225 (Lord8). The Purse and Pigethill closes were however in the possession of Thomas Clapham and cattlegates in Brownebanke belonging to Anthony Foster were also excluded. Nicholas Bullocke had also to pay a yearly rent of one peppercorn at the usual feast days if it was demanded by the Chief Lord (and all other duties and services) presumably to the Clifford family as Chief Lords. Nicholas also had to let the current tenant remain for nearly a year to get his hay and straw before Nicholas could plough, sow or fence the land. The present house at Low Winskill has datestone NBCB 1675.

In 1699 Nicholas Bullocke of Boustagill sold his lease for £180 to his son Thomas Bullocke of Winskill, still subject to one peppercorn rent to the chief Lord (Lord15) (except for Piget hill - belonging to Thomas Clapham, and cattlegates on Brown Bank). In 1701 Nicholas

Bullocke and John Battersby of Boustagill leased sheepgates on Winskill Stones to Christopher Metcalfe of Settle for £24-15s p.a. (YAS MD 423/178).

A few years later in 1707 Thomas Bullocke of Settle and John Battersby of Boustagill sold the lease for £80 to Lawrence Bullocke of Hunslet (Leeds), Thomas' son, but only for half the property (Lord17). It was divided into two parts, one half being occupied by the widow Metcalfe. At the same time the other half was sold to John Bullogh of Manningham, Bradford, Thomas's brother, for £80. It was noted that the whole property was formerly mortgaged by Nicholas to John Battersby (no deed found). Lawrence was due to pay the peppercorn rent.

John Bullogh then in 1709 sold to his brother's son Lawrence for £80 the other half of the property. Thus Lawrence held the whole property in 1709. (Quoted in Lord18).

In 1717 (Lord18) Lawrence Bullocke (Bullogh) of Hunslet Layne in Leeds sold the lease to Thomas Clapham of Bradford, Clerk, for £173-4s-6d. Thomas Clapham was the son of Thomas Clapham of Winskill and Alice Foster (widow, of Winskill) and was headmaster at Bradford Grammar School (*Cudworth, W., Round About Bradford*) and Vicar. He attended Giggleswick School and may have been vicar of Burnsall before going to Bradford.

In his will of 1718 (quoted in Lord19) Thomas Clapham was said to have possessed several messuages at Winskill. These presumably included Piget Hill owned by his father Thomas Clapham. His will required his trustees Thomas Paley and Richard Lawson to sell all his property to discharge a large debt and to support his wife and other relatives. Part of the property now called Lower Winskill was purchased by Thomas Preston schoolmaster in Bradford for £201-1s-0d and another part by William Stackhouse (who married Thomas' sister Alice Clapham) for £490 (to include £100 to be paid to Anne Clapham and £15-15s-00d for her dower) (Lord19). Thomas Foster was living in the property at the time of the sale to Thomas Preston, Block C.

Thomas Preston sold Block C, referred to as Lower Winskill again, for £190 to John Preston of Malham in 1725, plus 5s, currently where William Clark was living (Lord21). Meanwhile Block B had descended via Alice Clapham, late wife of Richard; Alice married Thomas Armitstead in 1656 and Thomas sold to John Armitstead in 1686 who in turn in 1739 sold to John Preston (Lord23). Thus by 1739 John Preston was in possession of Blocks B and C.

On John's death his son Bernard Preston of Lower Trainhouse was executor and heir (1778) (Lord30). Bernard then sold the lease in 1793 to John Stackhouse for £920, the current occupier (Lord33).

The will of John Stackhouse of 1828 (in a dwelling house at Winskill) referred to Low Winskill, bequeathed to his daughter Elizabeth but her mother to take the rents and profits until Elizabeth is 21 or she marries. The property then went to grand-daughter Ann Stackhouse, the daughter of her son Anthony (Lord34). In 1837 Elizabeth confirmed that all the actions of Anthony as executor had been carried out (Lord35).

Elizabeth married William Foster of Settle (1838 or 9) and leased Cow Close for a year to George Dudgeon, with Anthony Stackhouse as occupier. William and Elizabeth raised a mortgage on Low Winskill of £1300 in 1839, from Mary Swale of Langcliffe Hall, the farm now in the occupation of Joshua Maudsley as undertenant. In 1844 William got a further loan of £400 from George Dudgeon with the messuage and Cow Close as security - George was now known as George Hartley. These are the first signs of William's financial downfall and the eventual sale of Blocks B and C to Anthony Stackhouse, to bring Blocks A, B and C together in 1860 (Lord45, Lord48).

The property passed to Thomas Stackhouse who was in possession of Blocks A, B and C in 1893. Then in 1893 reconveyance of Low and High Winskill to John Stackhouse took place.

The history of Block D (Thomas Foster younger)

William Foster of Winskill (died 1587) left a will leaving the title and tenant right of his tenements and his part of Langcliffe Mill to Thomas his elder son (Thomas Foster younger in 1592). Thomas married Margareta. William their elder son, bp 1609, bd 1677/8 inherited the property and left a will. William paid tax in 1628 of 10s 8d on an assessment of £4. This William's daughter Mary (of Langcliffe Hall) married Josias Dawson which explains why in 1841/4 and 1860 Frederic and Revd. Henry Dawson were owners of the holding.

The Upper Winskill old house had the initials AC 1650? (Alice Clapham?) inscribed on plaster upstairs but it is now destroyed. In the 1850s the house was tenanted by Twisletons. The associated barn (now converted to a house) has a date on a stone corbel which was under a roof beam - ITC 1659 (Isabell(?) or J... (?) and Thomas Clapham?). It is possible that his wife was Isabell but this cannot be proved due to the absence of Parish Register information 1640 to 1653. The first born child was perhaps Isabell in 1654. There is also a stone corbel marked IS (or JS) with no date, which might relate to one of the Stackhouse family. The Hearth Tax of 1672 shows Thomas Clapham with two hearths. In his will of 1718 Thomas Clapham (his father also called Thomas) possessed several messuages at Winskill.

In 1845 Henry and Frederic Dawson came to agreement with Anthony Stackhouse about a longstanding dispute concerning grazing rights on Brownbank. An exchange for grazing rights for a small piece of land at the edge of Brownbank (shown in a sketch map, Lord39), marked off by a new stone wall was made.

The 1900s

Block A (Gyles Foster)

The house at High Winskill became derelict in the mid-19th century after the Burnistons, man and wife, died in 1853 (said to be as a result of eating a diseased cow meat). Ernest Foster purchased Higher Winskill in the 1960s and it was sold for restoration to a dwelling in the 1970s.

Block B (Thomas Foster elder and son Richard)

Part of the old house and barn north of Low Winskill have been developed as conference and meeting rooms.

Block C (Richard Foster younger)

Lower Winskill was farmed by Jim Lowther from about 1930 to 1958. He kept hens and sold eggs and butter on Settle market. Ernest Foster purchased Lower Winskill in the 1960s and it passed by inheritance to the Lord family.

Block D (Thomas Foster younger)

In the 1900s Block D was owned by the Sharp family of Stainforth and later purchased by Ken Robinson who added the holding to Cowside. For a time the house was leased by Bolton Pothole Club and it later became a private house. The large barn was converted into a dwelling in the late 1980s and is now called Wray's Barn.

Electricity was brought to Winskill in the late 1950s.

Area calculations

Nicholas Darcy sells 206 a 2r 4p of moor and pasture (WYL 163/552) (about 335 statute acres). Only Winskill Stones and Gorbeck were named for grazing for Blocks A and C up to 1725. A digital estimate of areas has been made using Memory-map OS but exact drawing of boundaries on-screen is difficult.

From the tithe map a presumed bounded area comprises:

Winskill

	Tithe no.	a	r	p	statute
Winskill Stones	253	68	3	22	
Stones Pasture	254	41	2	22	
Stones	271	15	3	17	
Stones	272	41	0	15	
Brown Bank	252	6	3	31	
		<hr/>			
		171	11	107	= 174.42 a stat. = 107.67 a cust.
					(digital measure 111 acres cust.)

Cowside

Gorbeck	273	38	3	1	
Gorbeck North	284	87	0	29	
Goose Scar	250	3	0	24	
N. Goose Scar	251	5	0	7	
Low Pasture	283	17	2	24	
		<hr/>			
		150	5	85	(151.78 a stat.) (93.69 a cust.)
					(digital measure 90 acres cust.)

The areas of moor and pasture quoted for Blocks A, B and C in early documents add up to 206a 2r 4p customary (335a statute) as sold by Darcy. The areas noted above add up to 201 a cust. (326 a stat.). The Cowside estimate presents a small difficulty since the probable 1591 boundary on the south side does not coincide with the Tithe field boundaries and 5acres (customary) could be added to take this into account, giving a close agreement.

The total area of arable and pasture land sold by Darcy is 268a 2r 29p cust. (PRO C54/1408). The total arable area calculated from Tithe field areas is

Winskill

A	10.23 acres cust.
B	6.40
C	12.88
D	12.26

Cowside

	21.65
Total	<hr/> 63.42

which is to be compared with 62.16 acres cust. sold by Darcy.

The total areas of arable and pasture are

Winskill

41.8+ 107.7 = 149.5 acres cust.

Cowside

21.7 + 93.7 = 115.4

Total 264.9 acres cust. Darcy quotes 268.5 acres customary, a difference of about 1%.

The total arable plus pasture is digitally calculated to be 427 acres statute (264acres customary). This close agreement suggests that the boundary is very well-defined and the Tithe fields chosen are appropriate.

The areas measured for Darcy were probably made using a 21 foot long rod or short chain. (The unit length was called rod, pole, perch, or fall). Squares of ground might have been counted presumably with estimates made for remaining odd-shaped pieces. A very large rectangle of measured sides could have been surveyed if right angles were determined with instruments. Length errors were involved if the ground were not flat. Only in 1620 did the use of a 22 yard standard chain come into use. The conclusion is that customary acres are based on the ell of about 45 inches as the length measurement and the yard of 36 inches is the basis of the later statute acre but errors in area measurement or a local difference in the exact length of the ell lead to a small discrepancy.

Stinting rights

(A.J.L. Winchester, The harvest of the Hills, Pub. Edinburgh University Press, 2000)

The number of sheep or cattle that could be placed upon the common pasture bought by the group of tenants at Winskill was regulated by stinting rules. These rights resulted in grazing rights or usage being treated as real estate which could be sold independently of land.

The number and type of animals depended on the quality of the grazing. In Malham in 1259 about 1 head of cattle per acre was allowed plus 27 to 54 sheep and a few other smaller animals. In Cumberland about 5 to 10 sheep were equivalent to one cow.

There were various methods of controlling grazing on pastures:

1. No more animals on a pasture than could be fed on the owner's tenement in winter (levancy and couchancy) or pasture without number.
2. Fixed numerical limit - sustainable or limited by stint.
3. Stint determined by rent, e.g. 9 to 12 beastgates per 10s rent in two examples.

Animal allowances were described as whole beastgates for cattle over three years old, one sheep two winters old (twinters) equivalent to two cattle.

	Customary acres		sheep/cattle	
	Arable	Pasture/moor		
Block A	10.24 a	34 1 13	20 / 4	Lord6, 9, 11
			61/12 in 1696	Lord13,14
			21/6 in 1704	Lord16
			22/4+2 sheep in 1723	Lord20
Block B	6.3	20 2 4	-	

Block C	18.0	37	3	17	22.5 in 1701 MD423/178 22.5/9 in 1719 Lord19 22.5/9 in 1725 Lord21 5 on Gorbeck in 1739
Block D	-	-	-	-	-

Block B paid 40s rent for many years.

The Census of 1861

Low Winskill

Ann Hudson farmer of 20a and Mary Hudson her niece (servant)

High Winskill

Francis Twisleton farmer of 80a, wife and 5 children and 2 servants

Cowside

William Hunter farmer of 340a, wife and 4 children