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Oct. 18, 1985

Dear Mrs Sergeant:

Thank you very much for the booklet on Horton and your letter (The former actually arrived a few days before the latter.).

All the information contained in both was most interesting and it does make such a difference reading about the parish, the church and Cragg Hill having seen them last spring. Having spent the past four or five years doing research on several of my family lines, the experience of seeing the homes and villages of some of my ancestors was very exciting and satisfying.

As you requested, I've enclosed a brief resume of the information

I've gathered about my Knowles family of Harton. (It actually contains almost as many references to The Fosters of Staithforth) I hope it will all be useful for your growing collection of material on Harton's history.

If any of your Society's members (or other correspondents) would like more specific details on these families (names and birth dates) of brothers + sisters, etc. I'll be glad to pass along whatever information I have.

Again, many thanks for your letter and the very well-prepared booklet about Harton.

Sincerely

Beverly (Kemp) Brown

JOHN KNOWLES OF HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE  
AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

The first connection of my Knowles family with Horton occurred when John Knowles of Giggleswick (b. 1733 - d. 1795) married Dorothy Proctor of Horton (b. 1736 - d. 1804) in 1772. She was the daughter of John Proctor and he was the third son of Richard Knowles of Rathmell in Giggleswick parish. Although I haven't yet completed all the necessary research, it appears that this Knowles family had long been associated with Rathmell and not Horton.

John and Dorothy resided at Cragg Hill and were survived by two children, Molly (b. 1774) and Richard (b. 1779 - d. 1857). I have a copy of John's will from the Borthwick Institute in which he leaves his landed property, livestock, etc. (in trust) to Richard; an elder son John was to have been educated at Horton School and then for "priest's orders", but he died four years after his father at the age of 22.

Richard married Margaret (Peggy) Foster (b. 1784 - d. 1820) in 1807 and they continued to live at Cragg Hill. Their gravestone in the Horton churchyard (which I was fortunate enough to discover during my visit last May) gives that location for them. Peggy was the daughter of Richard Foster of Stainforth and their branch of the Foster family appears to have been of that township at least as far back as the start of the Giggleswick parish registers.

Richard and Peggy Knowles had four surviving children of whom John, the eldest, is my ancestor (b. 1809 - d. 1877). A younger son, Richard, may have been the one who you mention is listed at Beecroft on the 1851 census. He would have been about 40 years old at that time, and the age indicated on the census might help clarify that.

Young John Knowles left Horton for London in the 1830s to join two of his uncles, Thomas Foster and George Holgate Foster, who were commission merchants. They had founded a company called Foster Brothers in 1828 and the firm had prospered greatly through dealing in imports, largely from Brazil and other Latin American countries.

Around the middle of the century one of these uncles died and the other retired. Possibly neither of the men had male heirs, since the assets of the company passed to John Knowles and another nephew, Richard Foster (a Stainforth descendant), and a new firm named Knowles and Foster was established in 1853. The history of this company was published on the occasion of its centenary and contains some family history of the Stainforth Fosters (though I had to track down the Knowles side of the story myself). At some point after W.W. II, the company was acquired by other interests, the last Foster partner having died in 1930 and the last Knowles partner in 1943.

In 1840 John Knowles married Mary Anne Heming of Banbury and they had eight surviving children born in London and, later, at Herne Hill, Surrey. Although John and his children lived in southern England through the 19th century, they retained both property and sentimental ties to West Yorkshire. In his will of 1877, among other bequests, John left to his various sons several farms in the Ribblesdale area which he had purchased or had inherited from Foster uncles. The one in Horton was Cragg Hill, and the will states:

I devise and bequeath my property called Cragg Hill Estate formerly the property of William Foster, Esq. (an uncle of Stainforth and later London), deceased, and purchased by me in 1859 . . . containing 164 acres, three roods and twenty-four perches . . . being in the parish of Horton in Ribblesdale . . . unto my son James Knowles.

John's eldest son, William (b. 1841 - d. 1889) who was my ancestor, was left a farm named Stockdale "in the parishes of Giggleswick and Kirkby in Malhamdale." When William built a house at Streatham c. 1870 he named it "Ribblesdale."

John's will also offers interesting evidence of the kind of change in fortune that was possible for a yeoman farmer's son during the Victorian period. At the time of his death in 1877 his assets other than landed property were valued at £300,000. He and his cousin and partner, Richard Foster, also illustrate the attitudes of their era with regard to charitable giving. Together they built St. Savior's Church at Walthamstow in memory of their Foster uncles, and Richard was reputed to have made donations of nearly £400,000 to charitable causes during his lifetime. Interestingly, the parish church histories of Horton and Giggleswick make no mention of gifts from these men, at least not in the form of furnishings or memorials. It is possible that Richard Foster may have made some contribution to the building of the new church at Stainforth in the 19th century, but I haven't explored that--perhaps one of your Society's members would have information.

William Knowles (mentioned above) married Emma Letitia Paxton of Little Gaddesden, Herts., in 1866 and died before he was 50 leaving his widow and 13 children who then settled at Hayes, Kent.

One of William's younger sons, Ronald (b. 1881 - d. 1952), emigrated to Canada early in this century--my mother, Muriel (b. 1913), was one of his daughters, and so the story is brought up to the present time.

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6/6/93

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Mrs S. Haywood.  
4 South View  
Horton in Ribblesdale  
Settle, N Yorks, BD 24 0HQ

Dear Mrs Haywood.

I apologise for not having written you before this concerning the Knowles in Horton, but since returning home both my wife and I have been seriously ill.

I did try to get a copy of the history of Horton in Settle, but was unable to do so. Please therefore will you send me a copy. I enclose a cheque for £3.

I am also sending you a copy of the list of Knowles who lived in Horton between about 1570 and 1820. I hope it will be of interest to you.

The entry in the church records re Israel reads - "Israel son of Miles Knowles of Dryload, yeoman was baptised April 7th 1793"

I am interested in getting whatever information I can about both Miles and Dryload.

With Best Wishes

Yours sincerely  
Roy Knowles

with Stamford  
& Zangdoffto Oswalds  
Horton in Ribblesdale

Name	Father / Mother	Sex	Y	C	Date
Agnes	Francis Procter	W	M		20/4/1623
Blanchard	Andrew Greenbank	F	S		
Blanchard	Andrew Greenbank	W	M	1	27/1/1576
Christopher Alceison	Benjamin K/	M	C		15/1/1790
Dorothy	Richard K/ Peggy Foster	F	C		8/10/1812
Dorothy	William K/ Margaret	F	C		13/6/1827
Elizabeth	Edmund Helabouse	F	S		
Elizabeth	Edmund Helabouse	W	M	1	27/10/1360
Elizabeth	Thomas Knowls	F	C		27/2/1668
Elizabeth	George Scelton	W	M		11/8/1660
Frances	George Wilson	W	M		- 18/1686
Isabel	Thomas Knowls	F	C		10/7/1664
Isaac	Wiles K/	M	C		7/4/1793
James	Benjamin K/	M	C		31/7/1795
Jane	John Comelstead	W	M		24/5/1657
John	Randell K/	M	C	1	15/1/1575
John Knowls	John Knowls	M	C		8/8/1773
John Knowls	John Knowls	M	C		9/3/1777
John	Alice K	M	C		24/1/1808
John	Richard K/ Peggy Foster	M	C		8/4/1809
Katherine	John Taylor	W	M		2/4/1662
Lancelot	Francis Ellyson	H	M	1	5/9/1598
Lancelot	Elizabeth Litton	H	M	1	21/11/1597
Margaret Knowls	Roger Procter	W	M		- 3/1686
Margaret Knowls	Benjamin Knowls	F	C		7/7/1793
Margaret	- Alice K.	F	C		28/4/1810
Margaret	Richard K/ Peggy	F	C		23/6/1815
Margaret	John Talham	W	M		1/10/1646
Mary Knowls	James Jackson	W	M		2/2/1670
Mary Knowls	Stephen Woodworth	W	M		13/2/1669
Mary	Wiles Knowls	W	M		18/5/1807
Molly	John K/	F	C		13/11/1774
Myles	- Peacocke	H	M		1/1/1659

Horton in Ribblesdale

Name	Parent/Spouse	Sex	M	C	Date
Richard	John K/ Peggy	M		C	28/3/1779
Richard	Richard K/ Peggie	M		C	11/11/1810
William	Grace Howson	H	M		1/11/1629
William	Richard K/ Peggie	M		C	11/2/1818
William Bladson	Benjamin K/	M		C	13/4/1790

M or F stands for sex  
 C - - - child  
 M - - - marriage

No Georges in Horton in Ribblesdale  
 only one Miles 1793

William m to daughter of Francis Howson Yeoman of Dubcote  
 7 children. lived at Dubcote. £3 each (total £21) @ age 21. Son Bryan Howson to be surety  
 will made 28.10.1648 proved Feb 1659  
 dt. 24 Feb 1648/49  
 will no 24 Left dau Ann Howson 3 score pounds.

William, bro in law of Ann Howson will made 9.4.1650 proved 1657  
 Bro Bryan will no 29 1657 all that I am argent unto 12d each at age 21  
 could be same as above 12d to bro in law William Knowles

Elizabeth dau. of Thos Knowles of Foxup.  
 m James Sigwick  
 will no 44 1718

Peggy, Richard Cragg Hill  
 1820 1857  
 will no 36 78

Richard farmer of 4 1/2 acres. Beech Hall 1857

Also Newells.