

Y The Yorkshire Dales Review

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**JOHN DAWSON OF GARSDALE
SETTLE - CARLISLE — DOOM OR REBIRTH?
THE ROPEMAKERS OF HAWES
BARGUEST OF TROLLERS' GILL**

30p.

THE YORKSHIRE DALES REVIEW is the quarterly journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society, and is published by the Society with the help and financial support of the Countryside Commission, who contribute support to the development and work of the Society. Views expressed in the REVIEW are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

Jobs or Beauty?

Whenever anyone wants to do something nasty to the countryside, whether it be a new road, reservoir, enlarged quarry, industrial or housing scheme, or large scale afforestation, the word "jobs" is used to justify perhaps unwelcome change.

And though the unemployment situation in the countryside isn't anything like as severe as in the cities, it's a brave person, in the bleak 1980s, who can pretend to ignore such a persuasive argument.

So where does an organisation like the Yorkshire Dales stand with the twin aims of keeping the Dales countryside unspoiled and of keeping local jobs? Which is more important, jobs or beauty?

The answer, surely, is neither - in an area like the Dales they are strictly complementary. The beauty of the Dales countryside actually creates jobs - in tourism, in recreation, in education, in countryside conservation and management. Not only are many people in employment in the Dales, from a National Park Department to a small hotel, but many other people, particularly those with small businesses, are dependent to a considerable degree upon the beauty and inherent interest of the Dales landscape. The grocer, the garage mechanic, the builder, the printer, the publisher, the publican, even the farmer who sells milk or beef to a local hotel, gain from the tidal wave of visitors who come to enjoy the beauty. Even the "permanent" visitors who buy that dream cottage enjoy standards of service impossible without the wealth tourists create.

So anyone or anything which destroys the unique Dales heritage - its landscape, its history, its flora - also destroys other peoples' income and jobs.

But this isn't the whole answer. As Dr Peter Annison has argued (see opposite page) tourism is seasonal and dangerously susceptible to economic and social pressures - a bad summer, energy shortages, economic difficulties. There must be enough 52 weeks in the year jobs in the uplands to enable young people to live and work without migrating to the cities. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the Dales had a strong industrial base. There was lead-mining and smelting, textiles, a host of small scale manufacturing industries. Only agriculture and quarrying remain on any significant scale, together with some building. If we are to keep the balance we need, to ensure a proper balance between young and old, to ensure the sound of children's voices is still heard in village school playgrounds, there needs to be a revival of small scale manufacturing activity in the Dales.

In the long term, this is as important as any other task that may face the Yorkshire Dales Society in working to safeguard the Dales heritage.

COLIN SPEAKMAN

Cover picture: Beth - of Dent

(Liza Forder)

The Ropemakers of Hawes

(photo: Geoffrey N. Wright)



At first glance, it might read like a modern fairy-story. Two College lecturers, on holiday in Wensleydale during the summer of 1974 got into conversation with one of the last surviving practitioners of a traditional rural craft - ropemaking. Within months they had given up the safe academic life, and without any previous knowledge of ropemaking or business experience they had bought the business and moved to Wensleydale. Eight years later, the thriving business, now providing three full time jobs and twelve part time jobs, was a runnerup, specially commended, in the Shell UK's "How's Business?" competition, at Durham University.

But between the dream and reality, romance yields to a hard-headed mixture of guts, determination, hard work and acquired skills. Peter Annison was a textile chemist, quick to seize opportunities offered by new man-made fibres; Ruth, with journalistic and other skills, developed ideas about marketing to promote a wide range of new practical and decorative products.

In The Hawes Ropemakers Ruth Annison and Lesley Chapman tell the fascinating story of the ropemakers of Hawes from the early church bell ropemakers to the Wharton and Outhwaite families in Hawes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. How fascinating to read, for example, of John Wharton who retired from ropemaking to breed poultry in 1905, going for walks around local lanes with pocketfuls of snowdrop bulbs to plant in random corners. Or of Mr Tom Outhwaite going to the Great Yorkshire Show with 12 dozen cow halters which he intended to sell for 4/6d but which were sold for £1 and many more orders to fill; suffice it to say that the present day business is equally fascinating, and hints on knots and macramé indicates the kind of new directions which the new ropemakers might take as the century progresses. The booklet is available from Hawes ropeworks, price £1.25 (by post £1.50 from W.R.Outhwaite & Son, Hawes, North Yorkshire) or from local bookshops.

Given the considerable interest in the success of this Dales enterprise, it was no coincidence that Dr Peter Annison was asked to lecture to the Yorkshire Dales Society at its Annual General Meeting in October on the theme of Industry in Rural Areas.

In his lecture, Dr. Annison emphasised the need to bring back small scale manufacturing industries to the Yorkshire Dales. Important as tourism was, it was seasonal. Much of its labour requirement was relatively low paid, low skill or appropriate for women working part-time. Young men, in particular had limited opportunities. Given the state of the economy it was unlikely that service industries, especially public services, could expand, and farming, capital intensive, was vulnerable to changes in EEC policies. The return of small scale manufacturing offered the best hope of keeping a balanced community. Delightful as it was to live and work in a rural area, there were problems of transport, of communication - every phone call is a long distance call. Help and advice was available from many sources, but the sheer complexity of finding a way through the various agencies and organisations towards appropriate sources of help were formidable.

The success of the Hawes ropemakers should act as a beacon for many other men and women of courage and determination to achieve independence and a freedom in an area like the Dales. But it cannot be achieved in a harsh climate - economic as well as meteorological - without the detailed and hardheaded approach, and the careful planning - "talk to your accountant first" - which the Annisons were able to put in.

Could the Yorkshire Dales Society have a role, here, perhaps in helping to bring together the information and expertise which is available to those who would bring new life to the hills?

Coolscar — Judgement is Awaited

One of the longest and most contentious public enquiries in the history of the Yorkshire Dales National Park ended a few weeks ago. It concerned Coolscar Quarry, in Upper Wharfedale, close to the well known landmark of Kilnsey Crag, and the historic Mastiles Lane.

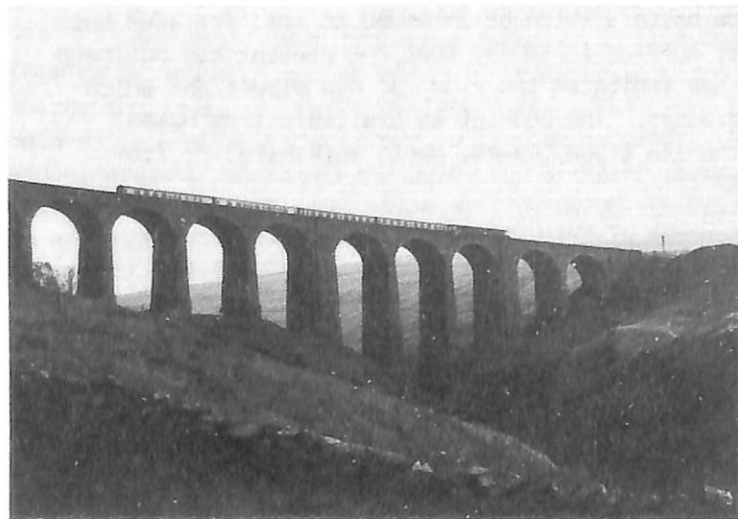


The quarry company, Eskett Ltd. had originally applied for permission to quarry a either an 8 or a 23 acre site adjacent to their existing permission - the first new permission since the National Park was established in 1954. Given that the Initial National Park Plan, published in 1977 says quarry development will only be permitted "in the most exceptional circumstances where it has been proved after exhaustive survey: a) that there are not alternative sources of supply or substitute materials which could be obtained elsewhere at less social and environmental cost; and b) any economic or strategic benefits outweigh the environmental costs" the application was turned down.

Naturally, Esketts decided to appeal, but before the public inquiry the National Park Committee met in secret session and agreed to reverse the decision over the 7 acre application. Outraged, the amenity societies, spearheaded by the Council for National Parks, successfully called for a public inquiry. Supported by the Countryside Commission, the Council fought the case on a question of fundamental principle - should new quarrying be permitted in the heartland of a National Park, with all the environmental problems such activities bring. The quarry company, supported by the National Park Committee and the County Council, defended the application on the grounds of local employment opportunities and national need for pure limestone for industry.

On both sides, the outcome is awaited with trepidation and widespread interest.

Settle - Carlisle — Doom or Rebirth? ?



(photo: Colin Speakman)

Closure notices will, by now, be posted on stations announcing the closure of "England's greatest historic railway" from Settle to Carlisle. The Yorkshire Dales Society will be joining forces with many other bodies to help save this superb line.

There seems little doubt that British Rail no longer wish to operate the line except, in effect, as two long freight sidings to Ribbleshead and Warcop. But in an unprecedented show of unity, all the major public authorities along the line, led by Cumbria County Council, are combining resources to commission expert consultants who will examine the railway not just as a transport link, but in the wider context of its potential to serve local needs, to provide access to the

countryside, to be developed into a major national tourist attraction, capable of bring new jobs to the Dales and east Cumbria. The Yorkshire Dales Society warmly welcomes this initiative, and hopes to play an active part in this study. We believe that this great monument to Victorian engineering is a vital part of our heritage, and need to be preserved, not as a static museum piece, but a working, functioning railway enabling people to come and enjoy the Yorkshire Dales, and for Dalesfolk to enjoy a valuable local transport link to the cities. DalesRail has proved that it can be done in spite of the many formidable problems if there's sufficient imagination and political will. It's far too early to be optimistic, but given the committed interest of so many people, from our local MPs downwards, the seemingly impossible can be achieved.

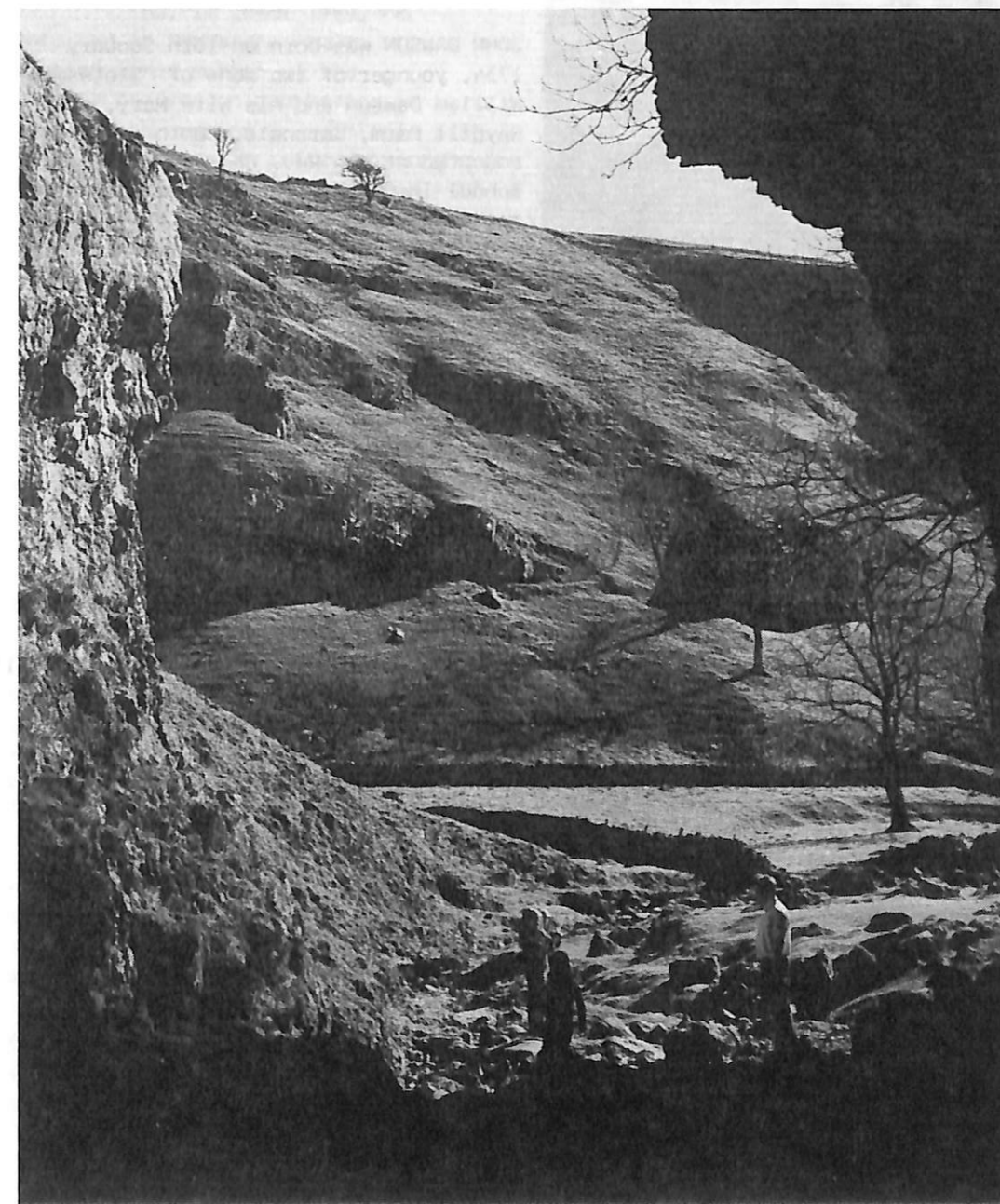
Watch this space!

The Barguest of Trollers' Gill

Christmas cannot go past in the Yorkshire Dales without at least one small ghost story, and Enid M. Pyrah recalls a popular Wharfedale tale which has enjoyed a surprising recent revival . . .

Many parts of England have legends about Spectral Hounds; all large dogs of frightening aspect and dubious pedigree. The Hell-Hound of the Yorkshire Dales is called the Barguest and is said to live in Trollers' Gill, which is a pleasant limestone valley, near to Appletreewick in Wharfedale. At the far end of the valley a steep sided ravine has been cut by a small stream which then meanders slowly down to the Wharfe beyond. During wet weather the stream becomes a torrent, and its pent-up waters roar between the constricting rocky cliffs. Tradition tells that it is here that the Barguest has its gloomy lair. People who saw it, and lived, described a huge woolly dog, with coloured eyes as large as saucers. Others, not so lucky, were found dead with great marks on their chests, and were assumed to have been killed by the animal.

Sightings of our hairy relative of the Hound of the Baskervilles have been remarkably scarce in recent years, but the old legend has been revived by the Burnsall Morris Men, who include the Barguest of Trollers' Gill in one of their dances. He weaves dramatically in and out of the crowd before being finally brought to the ground, surrounded by a circle of water, for according to



tradition the Barguest is unable to cross streams. In this way, the old customs of the Morris Men combine with a traditional story for the enjoyment of young and old at Shows and Events throughout the Yorkshire Dales.

ENID M. PYRAH

"Watch out for the Barguest"

- the romantic gorge of Trollers' Gill

(photo: Clough/Pyrah)

John Dawson of Garsdale



Over the centuries, the Yorkshire Dales has produced many gifted scientists and scholars - including such men as JOHN DAWSON of Garsdale, who, in spite of humble origins, became a giant of eighteenth century science. In this article by Chris Hollett, based on material by Michael Jackson, and taken from a longer article in the Sedbergh and District History Society's Newsletter No 8 (available free of charge to members or price 40p including postage from Mr Hollett, Greenbank, Sedbergh, Cumbria LA10 5AG) we look at the life and achievement of this remarkable Dales figure.

JOHN DAWSON was born on 10th January 1734, younger of two sons of "Statesman" William Dawson and his wife Mary, of Raygill Farm, Garsdale. Both sons were educated at the Rev. Charles Udale's school in Garsdale, the elder son receiving more tuition than the younger, who had to work on the family farm. It was John, however, who showed more aptitude for learning; despite soon leaving the school, apparently because of the severity of treatment he received (Rev. Thompson described Udale as being of "the flagellant order of dominies") he borrowed his brother's books, and bought more with the money he earned from knitting while looking after the sheep on the fellside.

Tradition states that he watched the flocks and worked whilst sitting on that outcrop on the moor between Garsdale and Dentdale now known as "Dawson's Rock.". He studied especially during the long winter evenings, working by the light only of a peat fire and, according to a contemporary account in the Lonsdale Magazine (Vol II No 13 1821) "the painful stooping posture necessary for availing himself of the light occasioned a violent bleeding of the nose, which for more than a year prevented him from lying down in bed, and brought him to so low a state of health that his life was despaired of." It was at about this time of constant studying in every spare moment that he worked out for himself a system of Conic Sections, a highly original and extremely complex mathematical formula.

By the time he was entering his twenties, Dawson was already able to obtain work locally as an itinerant teacher of mathematics; he would stay for two or three months in one house teaching the children of the family, and then move on to another. In 1756, John Haygarth, also of Garsdale and about to enter Cambridge, came to him for coaching, as did Richard Sedgwick of Dent, later to be father of Adam Sedgwick, the famed geologist. Richard Sedgwick was tutored for several months by Dawson before he matriculated at Cambridge in 1756 as a sizar of Catherine Hall.

His elder brother had by now attained the respectable profession of exciseman, and it had become obvious to his parents that John, too, was not cut out to be a farmer. They therefore sent him to work as general assistant to Dr. Bracken of Lancaster. Henry Bracken M.D. (1697 - 1764) has attained considerable fame throughout the north as a surgeon and author of both medical and veterinary subjects, and was Mayor of Lancaster in 1757/8. Imprisoned for abetting the Jacobite rebels, he was fond of horse-racing, drinking and smuggling; his books were written in a rough, unpolished style, but were full of sound sense.

This then was the tutor chosen for John Dawson, and very congenial he proved to be. Dawson picked up the essentials of the surgeons trade rapidly, and despite long hours of work, was also able to continue his studies in mathematics, optics and philosophy. Three years later he returned to Sedbergh and set up his own apothecary's business. He had no formal medical qualifications, however, and so by dint of hard work and frugal living, and again by taking pupils in mathematics, he saved up some 100 guineas over a period of three years and, as Adam Sedgwick relates: "these he rolled up and stitched in the back of his waistcoat; and then with stout shoes and sturdy staff, and having in hand all the baggage he possessed, he strode off to Edinburgh and was entered in that honoured University as a medical student". At Edinburgh, he took a course of medical instruction and doubtless mathematics also; by continuing to live frugally he somehow made his guineas spin out until he gained his diploma. Then, staff in hand, he returned on foot again to Sedbergh, where he resumed his practice as surgeon and general practitioner. The business flourished and again by dint of hard work and by coaching pupils he this time saved 300 guineas. Leaving the apothecary's business in other hands, he set out again, this time to London, travelling partly on foot and partly by carrier's waggon. Life in London was more expensive than in Edinburgh, and he was increasingly sought after by the leading scientists and mathematicians of the day; among them was Dr. Waring, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge from 1760 to 1798. He was, however, able to complete one good course of surgical lectures before his cash again ran out.

So, in about 1764, he returned to Sedbergh, now a distinguished member of the medical profession and having more than a nodding acquaintance with many learned men of letters throughout the country. This business he had left behind had languished without him, but he soon remedied the position and within a short period had built up an extensive practice without the neighbouring dales, and at time further afield. In 1767 he married Ann Thirnbeck of Ellers in Middleton, and on January 15 1768 was born their only child Mary (known in the family as Poll) who was to be a great solace to him in his declining years.

For the next 20 years or so, he remained in practice in Sedbergh, gaining an increasing reputation and keeping abreast of the latest medical and scientific advances. He utilised the theories of his old pupil John Haygarth and the measures he took to ensure "isolation, cleanliness and ventilation" when one John Airey died of smallpox, prevented an epidemic in the town. In March 1785 he attended the birth of Adam Sedgwick at Dent vicarage. Sedgwick was later to say of him: "It was said of him, perhaps in jest, that he could solve a problem better when riding up the dales on his saddle than when sitting at his private desk. At any rate he made himself master of every standard mathematical work known in the scientific literature of the country, and he was counted among the very first analysts of his day." His reputation as a teacher grew and pupils came to him from far and wide. In the early years he fitted them in where he could, charging as little as 5/- per week, for which sum he would give as much instruction as his pupils would take.

He retired from medical practice in 1788, but continued to teach and study mathematics until 1812. Through the connection of Sedbergh School with Cambridge, his teaching was especially sought after by Cambridge undergraduates. At this period outside coaching was essential for those taking the prized Cambridge Mathematics Tripos (an exacting seven-day examination) and Dawson taught eleven "Senior Wranglers" (the best mathematician of their year). The first came in 1771, the last in 1807, and among them were John "Jockey" Bell, born in Kendal and later a famous Chancery barrister and King's Counsel, Sidney Butler who was to become Headmaster of Harrow and Dean of Peterborough, and John Palmer a future Professor of Arabic. He had hoped to make up the dozen Senior Wranglers among his pupils, but Bland, on whom he had pinned his hopes, only came second (1808). Also among Dawson's pupils were Thomas Garnett of Barbon, first lecturer at the Royal Institute of Great Britain, Dr George Birkbeck of Settle, founder of the Mechanics Institutes, and the great geologist Adam Sedgwick, who greatly admired Dawson. Indeed, all his pupils idolised him, to the point that they subscribed to "an elegant service of plate" in gratitude for all he had done for them.



Dawson's Rock, Garsdale (E.Gower)

He was certainly a fine teacher, but still found time for learned correspondence with other mathematicians, and some famous names - John Playfair of Edinburgh, Lord Webb Seymour and Lord Brougham among them - visited Sedbergh to see John Dawson. But "whether he was combating the notions of Dr. Stewart respecting the distance of the sun, or controverting the Rev. Mr Wildbore's views about the evacuation of vessels in motions, or correcting Mr Emerson on the subject of fluxions, or debating with Mr. Priestley the high theme of philosophical necessity, John Dawson always appeared to advantage". Adam Sedgwick's account of his personality cannot be bettered:

"Simple in manners, cheerful and mirthful in temper, with a dress approaching that of the higher class of the venerable old Quakers of the Dales, without any stiffness or affectation of superiority, yet did he bear at first sight a very commanding presence, and it was impossible to glance at him for a moment without feeling that we were before one to whom God had given gifts above those of the common man. His powerful and projecting forehead and well chiselled features told of much thought and might have implied severity, had not a soft radiant benevolence played over his fine old face, which inspired his friends, of whatever rank or age, with confidence and love."

Dawson published little "such was his extreme diffidence, simplicity of manners and unambitious views", but he wrote several valuable papers on mathematical subjects. In 1763 he published (anonymously) a pamphlet entitled "Four Propositions" - a dissertation on a serious error in Stewart's calculation. He contributed to Hutton's "Miscellanea Mathematica" under the anagrammatic pseudonym "Wadson" and he issues other pamphlets discussing Newton's "Principia".

Dawson's wife, Ann, died in 1812, but his daughter remained at home, unmarried, to look after the now elderly and increasingly infirm doctor. By this time his mental faculties were becoming impaired, and when he finally ceased taking pupils, he had completed some sixty years of teaching. Sedgwick gives a moving account of the last stirring of the intellectual embers when he went to see him shortly before his death in September 1820, at the age of 86.

He was buried at Sedbergh, and his pupils subscribed to a fine bust sculpted by Sievier, for which "Jockey" Bell wrote an appreciative inscription:

"In Memory of John Dawson of Garsdale

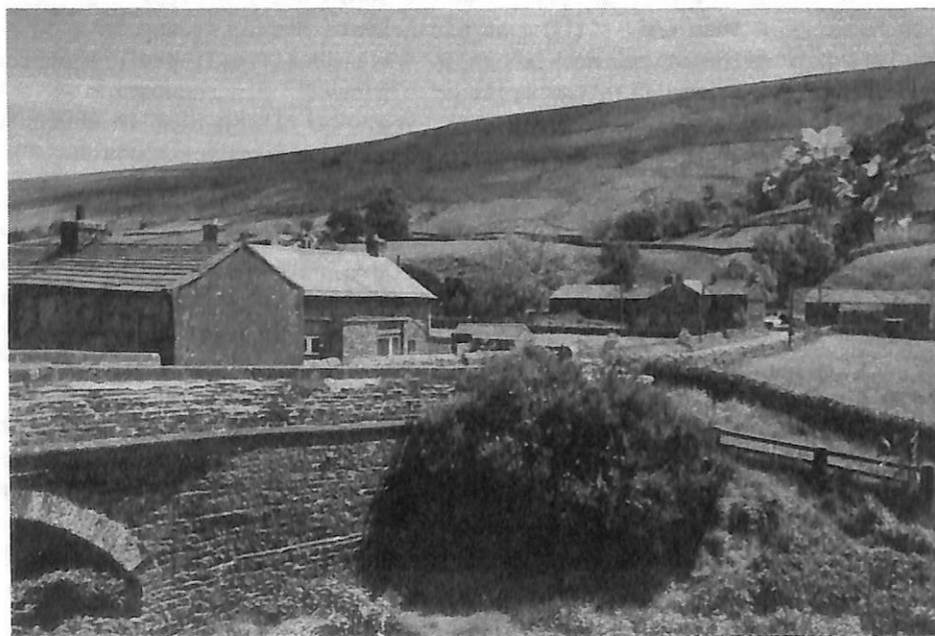
Distinguished by his profound love of mathematics,
beloved for his aimable simplicity of character and revered
for his exemplary discharge of every moral and religious duty."

The bust can be seen today on the south wall of the nave in Sedbergh Parish Church.

C.G.HOLLETT

Sources:

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Clark & Hughes <u>Life & Letters of Sedgwick</u> 1890	Wilson Rev. T. <u>Memoirs</u> (Chetham Soc) 1875
Platt <u>History of Sedbergh Grammar School</u> 1875	Ashby & Anderson <u>Introduction to Sedgwick's Discourse</u> 1969
Sedgwick A <u>Supplement to the Memorial etc</u> 1870	Dictionary of National Biography
Lonsdale Magazine II,13 1821	



Garsdale village (Geoffrey N. Wright)

Books

Mines and Miners Malham Moor - Arthur Raistrick
(George Kelsall, Littleborough £1.50)

Dr Raistrick once again has taken the lid off a whole undiscovered area of Dales history in presenting a study of the copper, calamine, lead and coal mines of Malham, unravelling a complex story with all his usual mastery and attention to detail, with a mass of hitherto unpublished and unavailable material. Anyone who has walked above Malham, seen the strange, lone chimney on Malham Moor, puzzled at the shafts and levels of Pikedaw or scratched their head at the coke oven on the top of Fountains Fell, will realise the significance of this delightful little volume. Amazing to realise that vast quantities of calamine used for brass making were transported to Gargrave to be shipped by barge to Cheadle in Staffordshire, or that Tarn House, Malham Tarn, now the Field Studies Centre, was originally the mine agent's house.

The publisher and designer have done Dr. Raistrick proud with a well illustrated, well laid out book for an authoritative little work which will be a standard text for anyone trying to interpret the Malham area. Why not buy your copy direct from the Yorkshire Dales Society (add 20p postage) to make a welcome extra small contribution to our funds ?

CS

Two Lives - Winifred Haward Hodgkiss (Yorkshire Arts Circus, 5 Hall Royd Walk, Silkstone Common, Barnsley, South Yorkshire £2.00 add 30p p & p)

This is an account of two remarkable people born in the early years of the century: Winifred herself, and her husband, Louis, who braved the entrenched conventions of their day and formed a harmonious partnership enduring almost thirty years. Two contrasting lives; two contrasting backgrounds with much telling detail given with great economy of means. Louis, a formidable fighter, from Lancashire, using fists and clogs, and a great drinker, was at the same time a man of principle and great sensitivity who stoically endured privation and hardship in his earlier careers of miner and sailor. Winifred Haward, from a more affluent and sheltered background in rural Suffolk, nevertheless showed similar qualities of courage and integrity. We follow with interest the Girton scholarship girl at Cambridge (where on one notable occasion the disappointed men students look in vain for signs of incipient hysteria among the females when a rat appears on the scene - "the unwomanly women" had arrived), then the young Bedford College lecturer, who finally turns to a successful career as the BBC Manchester North Region Talks Producer.

Louis and Winifred meet through writing and broadcasting, and decide to move to a cottage in the Yorkshire Dales - to Hawkswick, in Littondale, where Winifred still lives - where they struggle to develop a market garden. As Northern suspicion against "offcundens" begins to thaw, they live for the rhythm of the changing seasons:

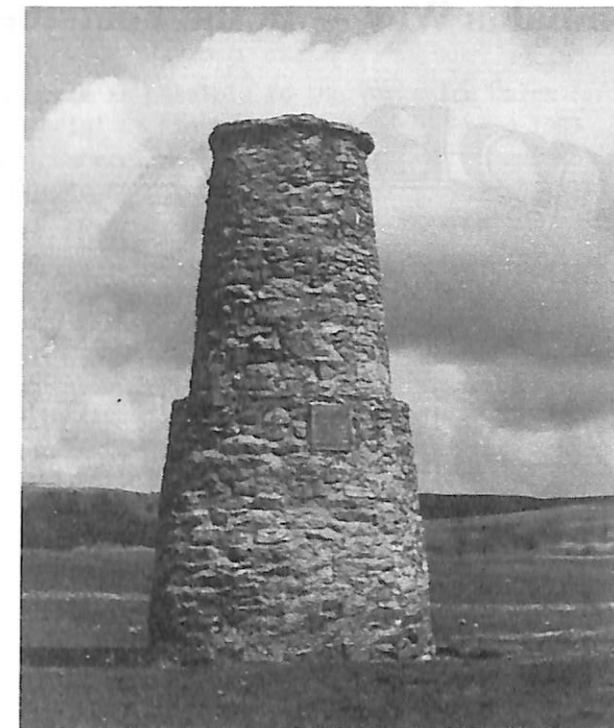
"In town, winter is no more than turning on the lights and putting on a thicker coat. In the country, the whole world swings over."

FLEUR SPEAKMAN

Wildest Britain - a visitor's Guide to the National Parks - Roland Smith and Mike Williams
(Batsford £10.95)

Though, inevitably, only 10% of this book covers the Yorkshire Dales National Park, this book provides an excellent introduction to all ten of our national parks, with inevitable opportunity to compare other National Park areas with our own. Roland Smith's informed text, complemented by Mike Williams' superb and stylish photographs, many in colour, gives a clear account of that muddled British compromise which are neither "national" nor "parks" in the normally accepted use of the word; nor does he avoid the political issues, the compromises and missed opportunities as well as the triumphs. To complain that "Britain" excludes Scotland and Northern Ireland (wildest places ?) is to quibble (they have no National Parks); in any case would we not claim that much of our grandest landscape in the Dales are beyond that meaningless line of a Park boundary?

CS



(Photo: Colin Speakman)

Rombalds Way — in the Footsteps of History



The Aire Gap is surely the natural gap between the predominantly gristone South Pennines and the lighter limestone country of the Yorkshire Dales; so a walk along the southern edge of the Dales, looking across into Wharfedale and Bolton Abbey and Great Whernside; to Barden Moor and Fell, Sharp Haw and Weets Top, and over Pendle, Bowland and Lancashire, and south into the crags and chimneyed valleys of the South Pennines must be of interest. And if it happens to follow the line of a possible Bronze Age Ridge Way, by ancient Swastika Stones and cup and ring stones where walking sticks held like divining rods swing with mysterious power, or a medieval packhorseway between Bolton Priory and Riddlesden Tythe Barn through Windgate Nick (was it coincidence that the sun lit up Bolton Priory through the haze as our party descended over the "Roman Ford" at Addingham and the long straight track to

Skipton Moor followed by the Legions, or down the "steepest hill" that Poet Thomas Gray ever saw to Short Bank road into Skipton Town - "the gateway of the Dales" , then you've got something a little special. If you weren't with those thirty people who enjoyed a blue sky and glorious colour of a perfect autumn day with the Yorkshire Dales Society on the inaugural walk of Rombald's Way pick up the leaflet or send for it by post, for a mere 50p (15p postage) to the Secretary.

No less than 18 photographs, ten miles of walking, buses to and from each end (trains too!) and even a bus half way if you're tired -splendid winter walking. Published by Pennine Heritage in association with the Yorkshire Dales Society, proceeds of all sales for the Society.

Grass Wood is Protected

Grass Wood Reserve, "the jewel in the crown" of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (formerly the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust) was formally handed over to the Trust in a ceremony held in the wood on November 4th, 1983. Watched by a representative gathering of members and friends, Mrs Joan Duncan, Vice President of the Trust, received the Deeds of Grass Wood from Mr John Spencer, Conservator of Forests for North east England. The Trust already owned one area and leased Dewbottom Scar and the Fort on Far Gregory from the

Forestry Commission. Now the total area of 196 acres is in the care of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In future conservation will be the primary concern in the management of the wood. Mrs Duncan thanked all contributors to the special Appeal by the Trust. The long term plan is to restore the wood to its former deciduous character. It is a fine example of ash woodland on the Great Scar Limestone, with a south-west slope running down to the River Wharfe about a mile west of



Photo: David Hyde of Skipton

Grassington. It contains cliff, pavement and consolidated scree, and its woodland is being allowed to regenerate naturally. Its plant and animal life are typical of limestone woodland.

The Reserve is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr E. Wilfred Taylor of York, a founder member of the Trust and active member of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union for nearly 70 years. Their joint memorial to him was a contribution to the purchase of Grass Wood. Dr. Taylor's son, Mr Julian Taylor unveiled a notice board and gave a delightful reminiscence of his father. Access to the wood remains the same: visitors are welcome but are asked to respect the plants and animals living there.

AUDREY GRAMSHAW

Subscriptions Slashed by a Third!

In a determined effort to attract as wide a range of people as possible to the Yorkshire Dales Society, and following the tremendous success of the special £3 "introductory offer" during 1983 (which attracted well over 100 new members), the Annual General Meeting of the Society agreed to reduce the £6 ordinary membership to £4, retired members to £4 per couple and family members to £5 per household.

We did so because we believe that £5 is an important psychological barrier when times are hard. We're running the Society on the mythical shoestring, but printing, postage and other costs must be met. The "price cutting" is done in the hope that it'll attract many more members to support the work of the Society.

We've a number of excellent ideas in the pipeline to help people living in the Dales (for example with transport problems), to achieve more effective environmental protection, to help visitors to the Dales. We hope to enlarge and expand the Review and get involved in other publications. There's reports to write, press releases to circulate, voluntary action to organise.

But we need your support. Please renew your membership, if you haven't already done so for 1984, (a membership/publications order form is enclosed) and pass on a membership form to a sympathetic friend. Bankers' Orders are a tremendous help to us. If you already have a Bankers' Order at the 1983 subscription rate, there's still time to change it, but should you keep it at the old rate, that will be a welcome donation for us.

1984 is a critical year for the Society. Only if we can achieve that rate of growth we need, will the Society, and the new ideas and initiatives it could represent for the Yorkshire Dales, survive. It's a unique and challenging venture - and we need your support.

So fill in the 1984 membership form without delay and get it in the post.



Wild Boar Fell, Mallerstang, from the ancient Highway, a packhorseway from Hawes to Kirkby Stephen. The Settle-Carlisle railway provides access to this magnificent countryside. Photo by Geoffrey Berry from his book Across Northern Hills (Westmorland Gazette £4.50) which describes the Eden Way (Hawes to Wetherall) among others.

Events for a Dales Winter

Though the days are short, the Dales countryside is entrancing in winter - a quietness and soft beauty . And superb in snow. But if you can't get out and about we've a full programme of winter events to give you an opportunity to meet other members and share interests.

Thursday January 12th Transport in Wensleydale and Swaledale Thornborough Hall, Leyburn 7.30pm. Disappearing buses and long vanished trains have made the northern Dales a difficult place to live for people without cars. Dr Ian Strong, the new Director of Yorkshire Rural Community Council will be with us to meet local people and to consider what solutions, if any, can be found to the rural transport problem. How can the Society help ? All welcome - refreshments available.

Saturday January 14th An evening of Dales music and entertainment Buckden Institute, 7.30pm Trevor Sharp and Tim Boothman invite members to a traditional Dales evening of music and entertainment. The evening will start with Trevor's evocative Song of Upper Wharfedale - an illustration of a Dales folksong - followed by a social evening with local musicians. Supper by Mrs Hird of The White Lion, Cray - bar available until midnight, and if you are worried about the weather or driving back late, we can arrange bed and breakfast for you to make it a superb weekend in the Upper Dales. Tickets £3 - advance booking essential. See booking form inside, or details from the Secretary.

The enchanting Dales

To give members a chance to meet, and overcoming the problem of distance in the winter, months, we've arranged a programme of four slide lectures, about the Dales, given by members of the Society. Enjoy some glorious slides of our Dales countryside, and have an opportunity to learn a little more about the Society, and perhaps give us your ideas and suggestions for the future. The lectures will be free of charge to members, but we hope you'll take the opportunity to bring along a friend or friends who are interested in joining - for these we'll charge a nominal 50p to cover room hire. Watch the local press for details - we hope to see you there !

Tuesday January 31st Geoffrey Wright, photographer, writer, journalist, naturalist will present a lecture on the Landscape of the Dales - The Methodist Hall, LEYBURN, 7.30pm.

Thursday February 16th Colin Speakman, YDS Secretary on The Enchanting Dales in The Refreshment Room, The Town Hall, SKIPTON, 7.30pm.

Wednesday February 29th John and Eliza Forder, Dentdale photographers on Old Dentdale in the Sedgwick Memorial Hall, DENT 7.30pm

Wednesday March 14th Colin Speakman, YDS Secretary on The Enchanting Dales 7.30pm Pudsey Civic Centre LEEDS (close to junction of Leeds Ring Road A6120 and Leeds Bradford Road A647 - ample parking at Centre. 5 minutes walk from NEW PUDSEY railway station, MetroBus 72, 8/ 9 Ring Road, nearby).

We look forward to seeing you there !

Officers and Committee of Management 1984

Chairman: Keith Lockyer (Grassington)

Vice Chairman: Ken Willson (Addingham)

Hon. Treasurer: Chris Alder (Threshfield)

Secretary: Colin Speakman (Grassington)

Membership Secretary: Fleur Speakman (Grassington)

Committee of Management: Ruth Annison (Askrigg); Ann Carr(Settle); David Clough (Skipton); Maurice Cowen (Ilkley); Henry Disney (Malham); Diane Elphick (Hawes); Laurie Fallows (Gayle); John Gramshaw (Menston); David Higgins (Leeds); Peter Leach (Skipton); Gerry Pearlman (Leeds); Enid Pyrah (Skipton); Trevor Sharpe (Bradford); Lesley Todd (Pudsey); Geoffrey Wright (Askrigg); Delwyn Bushell Roberts (Malham).

Colin Speakman
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