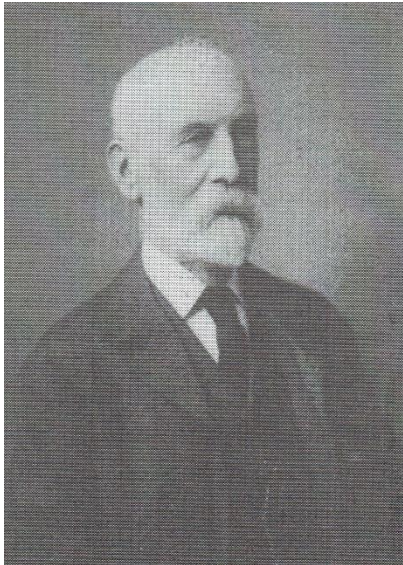


Hector Christie of Langcliffe

Hector Christie was born about 1829 in Lenton in Nottinghamshire. His father Lorenzo Christie was also born in Nottinghamshire (in 1802) and Hector's mother was Ann (born 1798). Lorenzo had owned cotton mills at Edale in Derbyshire since 1834. In 1859 Lorenzo leased Langcliffe High Mill, the existing but closed cotton-spinning Langcliffe High Mill and its dam, from Richard Bashall which had failed commercially by 1855 after a well-documented long history. In 1861 Lorenzo, with trade improving, began to rebuild the industry locally using much labour imported from Cornwall, Devon, Lancashire and Norfolk. Hector Christie succeeded his father in managing the business.



Hector Christie 1829-1915 (*photograph in Langcliffe Village Institute*)

Hector Christie played a part in local government and was chairman of the Governors of Giggleswick School. In 1898 Fine Cotton Spinners, and Doublers Association was formed with Hector as Vice-Chairman and Langcliffe Mill was one of 31 companies that joined this combine.

With the purchase of Langcliffe High Mill other properties were included (Bridge End Mill and the Weaving Sheds) and land adjacent to the Ribble and through which ran the leet from High Mill to Bridge End Mill. In particular the large house Langcliffe Place was bought and Hector lived there until near the time of his death at Jervaulx to where he had removed. Lorenzo lived at Carrholme in Stackhouse.

The mill needed to house these new workers so properties were bought at Holme Head by the weir in Langcliffe and St John's Row in the village centre. Hector was a good business man, a fair employer, and became a Justice of the Peace. The Christies are thought to have built the bridge over the railway (after 1869) to allow workers to reach the mill from the village more easily and quickly. Hector paid for the construction of the Langcliffe Village Institute in 1899, which included a well-used library. He was a manager at the Langcliffe village school. Hector, of Langcliffe Place, Settle, was a member of the Society of Arts in 1872 at least, as were many industrialists keeping abreast of progress in manufactures.

Hector married Mary Elizabeth Simpson (1829-1868) in 1852.



*Langcliffe Churchyard of St John the Evangelist.
Grave monuments of Lorenzo Christie and members of the Christie family.*

A series of relevant connected Memorials of Indentures are known in the Wakefield Registry of Deeds.

On 18th August 1864 a deed (Book YL no. 277) concerns Hector Christie ‘(who was married to his present wife at Saint John’s Church Broughton near Manchester in 1852’ of Oak House Pendleton in Lancashire (cotton spinner)). This deed (registered 9th January 1865) is a Memorial between George Charnley Dewhurst (Agent) of Manchester and William Charnley of Preston (Gent) and Hector Christie and notes ‘all that Mansion House called Langcliffe Place ... And also all those Mills called Langcliffe Mills and the Reservoir and Weir ... Engine House, Gas House, Counting House ... And all that New Weaving Shed on the west side of the Highway leading from Settle to Stainforth ...’ Details of all the mill equipment are listed, as well as many closes of nearby land. In addition are the eight cottages, formerly fourteen, at Holme Head. ‘And also all that Cotton Mill or Factory called Bridge End Mill with the Weir Waterrace Reservoir Warehouse Cottages ... and the Water Wheel ... And also all those two pews in the North gallery of the Parish Church of Giggleswick ... occupied with the said Mansion House.’

Langcliffe houses now called St John’s Row are included; ‘And all those the Messuages or Dwellinghouses Buildings ... on the East side of the Rivulet in the Village of Langcliffe formerly the property of Jonathan Jackman and afterwards of William Clayton.’

A Plan of all the properties was attached to the deed with numbers taken from the Tithe Assessment.

Some of the property concerned was 'granted and demised by a certain Indenture of Lease dated the first day of January 1835 ... (deed) to be made by John Hartley and William Clayton'. It was granted that a fall or weir across the Ribble could be erected.

A few days later in 1864 (27th August) Oliver and James Farrer of Ingleborough sold to Hector Christie of Oak House Pendleton in Lancashire (cotton spinner) 'All those eight cottages formerly occupied as fourteen cottages situate at Holme ... And also all those four several pieces of land ... now comprise Stackhouse Holme ... part of the reservoir belonging to the said Hector Christie ...' (Registered Memorial of deed January 9th 1865, Book YL no. 278).

Then on the 29th September 1864 (registerd 9th January 1865, Book YL no. 279) Hector Christie made a deed with George Charnley Dewhurst (Agent) of Manchester and William Charnley of Preston (Gent) confirming the sale of all the properties mentioned above.

Some years later on the 29th of March 1878, referring to the Indenture of 29th September 1864, Hector Christie of Oak House, Pendleton, Lancaster, and George Charnley Dewhurst (Commission Agent) of Manchester and William Charnley of Preston (Gent) memorialized a deed referred to and registered as Book YL Page 275 No. 279. This 1878 deed numbered 81 (Book reference unknown) was registered on 16th May 1878 noted as between Dewhurst and Christie. It confirms that all monies had been paid for the properties listed.

Finally we have a Memorial of a deed made the 29th of October 1884 (no. 545 registered 15th December 1884) between the Revd John Robinson late of Settle (now of Sidmouth), John Atkinson of Settle, shopkeeper, John Wright of Heaton near Bolton, farm servant, and Hector Christie of Langcliffe Place, Esquire. This concerns six Cottages or tenements situated in Langcliffe ... on the east side of the road leading from Settle to Stainforth and formerly occupied by John Robinson, William Harrison, Elizabeth Thornton, Alice Batty, John Bradley and William Lawson (and) since by Ann Hudson, Elizabeth Yeamons, Edward Lund, Halfenders (*sic*), John Bradley and William Lawson, and now by Richard Camm, William Syers, John Howson, Thomas Hafton, John Wain and William Mortimer ...

The original deed was held by Mrs M. Sowerby of 4, St John's Row, Langcliffe and has been transcribed in full. Many extra details are found in the full deed and some of the names are spelled or listed differently (Elizabeth Yeoman, Henry Wolfenden, Thomas Hayton). It refers to the Memorial in Book 915 page 417 number 545 15th December 1884.

Indenture

**Rev. John Robinson, John Atkinson, John Wright and Hector Christie
29 October 1884**

Courtesy Mr and Mrs Sowerby of 4, St John's Row, Langcliffe. Now displayed in Langcliffe Village Institute.

This Indenture is made the 29th day of October 1884 **Between** the Rev. John Robinson late of Settle in the West Riding of the County of York but now of Sidmouth in the county of Devon Clerk in holy orders of the first part John Atkinson of Settle aforesaid shopkeeper of the second

part John Wright of Heaton near Bolton in the county of Lancaster farm servant of the third part and Hector Christie of Langcliffe Place in the township of Langcliffe in the parish of Giggleswick in the said West Riding of the County of York Esquire of the fourth part. **Whereas** Christopher Wright late of Langcliffe aforesaid beerhousekeeper was at the time of his death hereinafter recited possessed of or well entitled to the premises hereinafter described and assured for the residue of a term of 500 years (created by an indenture of demise dated the 9th of June 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 thereof to the said John Robinson dated the 11th of March 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 thereon. **And whereas** the said Christopher Wright made his will dated the 27th of March 1861 whereby he gave devised and bequeathed all the real estate and chattels real of or to which he should die seized possessed or entitled or have power to dispose of by that his will unto the said John Atkinson and Thomas Horner their heirs executors administrators and assigns Upon trust to pay the income thereof to his the testator's wife Agnes during her life or widowhood and from and after her death or marriage again which should first happen Upon trust for and testator gave devised and bequeathed his said real estate and chattels real unto his son the said John Wright absolutely And he appointed the said John Atkinson and Thomas Horner to be trustees and executors of that his will. **And whereas** the said testator died on the 15th of January 1871 without having revoked or altered his said will and the same was on the 3rd day of March 1873 duly proved by the said John Atkinson one of the executors thereof in the Wakefield District Registry of the Court of Probate (power being reserved of making the like grant to the said Thomas Horner who has never proved). **And whereas** the said testators said wife Agnes died on the 24th day of February 1884. **And whereas** the said sum of £265 is still due on the security of the said Indenture of Mortgage of the 11th of March 1862 but all interest for the same has been paid to the date of these presents. **And whereas** in order to pay off the said mortgage debt and to enable him to discharge other liabilities against the estate of the said testator the said John Atkinson has with the consent of the said John Wright testified by his executing these presents agreed to sell the said premises hereinafter described to the said Hector Christie for the sum of £650 and it has been agreed that the said sum of £265 should be paid to the said John Robinson out of the said purchase money. **Now this indenture witnesseth** that in consideration of the sum of £265 to the said John Robinson paid by the said Hector Christie with the concurrence of the said John Atkinson and John Wright (the receipt whereof the said John Robinson hereby acknowledges) and in consideration of the sum of £385 to the said John Atkinson paid by the said Hector Christie with the consent of the said John Wright the payment and receipt in manner and aforesaid of which said several sums of £265 and £385 making together the said purchase money of £650 the said John Atkinson and John Wright hereby respectively acknowledge). The said John Robinson as mortgagee by the direction of the said John Atkinson and John Wright respectively hereby assigns and the said John Atkinson as such trustee and executive as aforesaid by the like direction of the said John Wright hereby releases and assigns and the said John Wright as beneficial owner hereby assigns unto the said Hector Christie his executors administrators and assigns **All** those six cottages or tenements situate in Langcliffe aforesaid and 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 the same belonging or appertaining. **To hold** the aforesaid premises unto the said Hector Christie his executors administrators and assigns

for all the residue and remainder now to come and unexpired of the said term of 500 years and for all other the term or terms of years estate and interest of the said John Robinson and John Atkinson and John Wright and every of them therein and absolutely discharged from the said mortgage debt of £265 and all interest for the same and all claims and demands on account thereof. **And whereas** the said premises are held without any trust or equity of redemption affecting the term or terms for which the same are holden in favour of the freeholder or respective freeholders or other person entitled in reversion expectant on the said term or terms and without any rent having money value incident to the reversion or reversions and such term or terms is or are not liable to be determined by reentry for conditions broken and the same term or terms is or are capable of being enlarged into a fee simple under the Conveyancing Acts 1881 and 1882 and the said Hector Christie is desirous of enlarging the same accordingly. **Now this indenture further witnesseth** that the said Hector Christie does hereby declare that from and after the execution hereof the said term or terms for which the said premises hereinbefore assured is or are now holden shall so far as regards the same premises be and the same is or are hereby enlarged into a fee simple and that the same premises shall henceforth be held in fee simple accordingly. **In witness** whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

(Signed)

John Atkinson John Robinson John Wright Hector Christie

verso

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named John Robinson in the presence of John Foster Settle Accountant

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named John Wright in the presence of Charles E. Bygrave Clerk to Mr Hartley Solicitor Settle

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named John Atkinson in the presence of Charles E. Bygrave

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named Hector Christie in the presence of Solicitor Settle

G. M. Hartley Clerk to Mr Hartley Solicitor Settle

Received the day and year first within written from the within named Hector Christie the sum of £265 the consideration money within mentioned to be paid by him to me

witness

John Robinson John Foster

Received the day and year first within written from the within named Hector Christie the sum of £385 the consideration money within mentioned to be paid by him to me

witness

Charles E. Bygrave John Atkinson

Dated 29th of October 1884

The executor of the will of the late Christopher Wright and others to Hector Christie Esquire

Assignment of 6 leasehold cottages in Langcliffe in the West Riding of Yorkshire and enlargement of the leasehold term into a fee simple

A Memorial was registered at Wakefield the 15th of December 1884 at 10 in the forenoon in Book 915 page 417 number 545

William
Deputy registrar

Sources of information

Ancestry.co.uk

Brayshaw, T., Robinson, R. M., 1932. *A history of the ancient parish of Giggleswick*, Halton & Co., London

Craven Herald <https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8008141.from-the-archives-of-the-craven-herald/> 24 October 2003 (Surely incorrectly suggesting that the bridge was erected in 1857 before the railway existed).

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