



Holiday railway excursions bring many visitors to North Craven and of those who alight at the Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Ribbleshead stations many will pass by this farmhouse, one of the best of its type in the Craven district.

Ingman Lodge, or Lodge Hall, as it is sometimes referred to, is between Selside and Ribbleshead, hidden in a fold of the hill, but frequently visited by ramblers in search of the North Ribblesdale limestone ravines. Now a farmhouse, it has been a fine old mansion and retains an appearance of dignified antiquity.

It was a possession, in monastic times, of Fountains Abbey, and tradition has it that a clump of trees in front of the house marks the site of an ancient burial-place. As the date over the doorway indicates, Ingman Lodge was re-built in 1687. The initials over the canopied portal are those of a local family, the Weatherheads.

Now half obliterated, two large battleaxes are cut in stone on the sides of the doorway, a link, perhaps, with the days when North Ribblesdale was on the marauders'

route from the Scottish Border and when Ingman Lodge represented a dales bulwark.

The Weatherheads, who carried out the 17th Century restoration and left for posterity this charming manor house, lived at Ingman Lodge before 1687. Among wills proved at York is one of Elizabeth Weatherhead, of Ingman Lodge, dated May 11th, 1651. They were an old Craven family, formerly numerous in the Skipton district and still with representatives in Upper Wharfedale.

Ingman Lodge was "appropriated" from the monks of Furness Abbey by Henry VIII, and was then worth £6 6s. 8d. In contrast "Kesden" amounted to £10 12s. 4d.; "Villa de Newby" £9 5s. 11d.; "Newby Coots" £4 1s. 7d.; "Claypham Towne" £2 7s.; "Stakhouse" £5 0s. 8d.; "Southouse" £8 2s. 8d.; "Souterstale" (Souterstale) £13 6s. 8d.; "Brunt Skarre" £3 6s. 8d.; "Wynterstayll" (Winterstale) £8; "Camhouse" £3 3s. 4d.; "Lyngyll et Byrkwith" £6 19s.; "Netherlonge" (Nether Lodge) £3 18s. 8d.; "Thorns" £2 10s. 4d.; and "Beerstong et Coltopke" (Beerstong and Col Park) £5 6s. 3d.