Families in Giggleswick parish over the ages

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The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick comprising Giggleswick, Langcliffe, Rathmell, Settle and Stainforth has not seen industrial development experienced by many other townships in Yorkshire. Freedom of movement of tenants was limited under the feudal manorial system. Manorial control broke down after about 1600 in this area; tenants were able more easily to purchase freehold of their land-holdings or long leases, and people became able to move between parishes. As far as the prevalence of family names is concerned it is the movement of men, perhaps finding new jobs or marrying outside their own parish, which brought about changes. In later centuries it is industrial practice, the cotton and weaving mills requiring labour, which caused large influxes of people from different parts of the country.

It is noticeable that in our area some family names have persisted over many centuries. Giggleswick parish has the benefit of having access to a good collection of historical documents which help to identify family movements and the influence of import of labour. The availability of genealogical information developed in recent years on predominance of particular family names in different counties is helpful.

Surnames may be divided into categories such as patronymics (son of …), homestead/location, trades, appearance, and derived variants hard to explain. Examples are:-

Armitstead	Redmayne, Rydhowt (redhead)
Brown	Robertson
Clapham	Swainson
de Carr	Tailliour
Forester, Forster, Foster (forester)	Walesman
Geldart (swineherd)	Webstre (weaver)
Milner	Wilson (William's son)

Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this originated with the Poll Tax of 1379. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to 'develop' often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

The Poll Tax returns, 1379

The 53 people named in Giggleswick in the Poll Tax returns (written in Latin) show remarkably many, nearly half of the 36 family names noted, as of a place, e.g. de Bolton, de Laukland, de Bank, de Bentham, de Langclyff, del Armetsted, de Palay, de Norham. Of the 52 people named in the Settle list one third are of a place, e.g. de Ottlay, de Langeclyffe, de Oversetle, de Watre, de Lyyton.

In Giggleswick 28% of the family names are found in later documents and only 10% of the Settle family names are found in later lists. This suggests substantial changes in the nature of the population after 1379, not a relatively stable set of families controlled by the lord of the manor with little inflow or outflow of people of servile status as might have been expected from the literature on medieval life.

Giggleswick Parish Register

The Register covering the period 1558 to 1669 has an index of family names which reveals the relative number of records of a name in the parish over this time period, presumably all related, if distantly. The names with most mentions in order of decreasing numbers of records of baptism, marriage and burial are:-

Armitstead, Carr, Foster, Brown, Lawson, Paley, Preston, Banks, Brayshaw, Iveson and Newhouse

Less frequently noted but in large numbers are:-

Stackhouse, Taylor, Cookson, and Clapham

Another 14 names are commonly mentioned, then a multitude of other names occur.

Settle and Giggleswick manor records

The Percy family lords of the manors made lists of rentals of their tenants, particularly for 1499, 1552/1553 and 1572. The names are written in Latin in the 1499 Percy rental list but none are given in the manner of a place, e.g. Johannes de Bolton, as in the 1379 Poll Tax lists. There may have been an influx of people from other places to the locality following the Black Death of 1346-1353, with place of origin surnames, and this practice largely but not completely died out in the1400s. With relatively few surnames, and indeed Christian names, identifying individuals living in different townships was occasionally an issue, as in the parish registers for instance.

The same family names are to be found in all these rental lists and comprise more than one third to one half of the names. The remainder are not consistently found in these lists suggesting considerable changes in tenancies over 70 years in the 1500s.

We also have lists of tenants in the manor court records for Settle and Giggleswick manors but the only overlap in time between the two manors is from 1580 to 1598. The court lists for 1580, 1588 and 1598 have been analysed. There are 35 family names in Giggleswick (out of about 85 tenants) and 44 (out of about 120 tenants) in Settle; some of these are shared between the two manors and 56 names are unique.

Eight family names found in the rental records for 1499, 1552/1553 and 1572 also occur in the period of court records 1580 to 1598. By comparing the court list of 1580 and the rental list of 1552/3 about one third of the total family names occur in both lists.

Just eight family names appear consistently over the 18 years in both manors at the same time, and apart from Sailbank, are those most frequently noted in the Parish Register:-

Armitstead, Carre, Browne, Lawson, Paley, Preston, Newhouse and Sailbank.

About one third of the names found in Settle and Giggleswick appear only once or twice in 18 years, suggesting that tenancies been relinquished, perhaps by consequences of death, by moving elsewhere or by pauperism. Families passed on their tenancies where possible but lapses in tenancies were inevitable. Ten family names appear only in Giggleswick (out of 35) and 22 (out of 44) only in Settle. There is therefore considerable change in tenancies taking place, but a small number of family names remain firmly settled in one manor or the other.

There are long lists of taxpayers in the 1500s and 1600s which, apart from Langcliffe, are not yet available, being held in The National Archives as hundreds of documents which would need to be photographed.

Wills

The wills made between the early 1500s and 1750 are notable for the large numbers made by Carr (69), Armisteads (61), Foster (43), Brown (38), Paley (36), and Preston (24). Other common names include Lawson (20), Banks (18), Iveson (13), Brayshaw (12), and Newhouse (6). There is a remarkably good correlation of the number of wills made up to 1750 and the extent of index entries between 1558 and 1769 found in the Giggleswick Parish Register for each of the 18 largest different families which were considered. This suggests that there is no significant difference in attitude towards will-making due to status or wealth of these families over a long time period.

Langcliffe

Further consideration of the five townships can be made in following centuries using data from many sources. Langcliffe can be exemplified but is a special case. There was no manor court for Langcliffe while Salley Abbey was in charge until Dissolution of the monastery in 1536. From then on, the manor was left to its own devices by the Darcy family as absentee landlords only interested in the rents. A group of tenants bought the manorial rights in 1591 when Nicholas Darcy defaulted on a mortgage loan.

The Poll Tax of 1379 lists 23 people in Langcliffe. Most of the names are unhelpfully in the form 'Willelmus filius Thome' (William son of Thomas) for example. The recognizable full names are:-

Willelmus Fyschr	Johannes de Armetstede
Willelmus Prest	Matilda de Thorp
Thomas Forester	Emma Fyscher
Ricardus de Carr	Matheus Fyscher
Edmundus Suerdson	Agnes Prest
Thomas Ineson	Patricius Syke
Thomas Robertson	

Three of these have the ending 'son' similar to Scandinavian practice. Prest may perhaps derive from Priest-son eventually becoming Preston. One has to wonder if Ineson has been misread for Iveson, an easy mistake to make; the name Iveson is commonly found in later years.

The Percy family rentals do not concern Langcliffe since the lord of the manor was Salley Abbey until Dissolution in 1536.

The Flodden Roll of 1513 lists nine men all with seven recognizable surnames: Browne, Kydd, Kydson, Kyng, Pacock, Stakhouse, Yveson. These of course will be just the able-bodied men of the village. The Craven Muster Roll of 1539 lists eight Langcliffe men:-

 Roger Browne, William Iveson, Robert Kydde, Robert Kydson, Richard Kyng, Henry Pacock, John Stakhowse and Roger Iveson.

These will be the militarily capable men only.

Further lists of names are found in the taxation Lay Subsidies from the 1520s, some few being extensive. The ones with longer lists of names are those of 1522, 1543, and 1606 to 1628. The parish register dating from 1558 often gives names noted as 'de Langcliffe', particularly as confusion with the multitude of Armitsteads, Carrs and others for example was possible. The Hearth Tax list of 1672 has 15 family names. Three houses in Langcliffe with known owners have dated door lintels or beams – 1676, 1678, 1681. There is the Land Tax valuation list in 1692. There is then a gap until the census of 1841 and then every decade following. Although we have indentures concerning land transactions in Langcliffe dating from 1600 with many named persons it is not usually clear where these people are resident.

In the 1591 manorial sale documents 24 villagers are listed with 18 family names, all of which are very commonly seen in other lists of families in the parish.

Using all this information tentatively suggests a population in Langcliffe of roughly 50 to 100 persons.

Using information prior to census data, noting residence decade by decade, and allowing for some gaps the following families of very long-standing in Langcliffe can be ascertained.

Armetstead (and variants)	1379-1844	Iveson	1379-1720s
Braishaie (Brayshaw)	1522-1690s	Kidd	1510-1710s
Browne	1510-1730s	King	1510-1844
Carr	1379-1861	Lawson	1543-1760s
Foster	1379-1851		

There are others with long residencies dating from the 1590s when the manorial rights were purchased by tenants from Nicholas Darcy.

Clapham(son)	1590s-1740s
Geldart	1600s-1760s
Ridealghe (and variants)	1600s-1720s
Paley	1590s-1844
Wilson	1630s-1891

Many others had shorter periods of residence at various times.

The modern census data show that in Langcliffe there were 120 to 130 inhabited buildings between 1841 and 1901, except for 1861 when there was a drop to 78. Normally there were only 2 to 7 uninhabited buildings, but in 1861 there were 38. The explanation lies in the drop in numbers of workers employed in the local cotton mills because of the massive slump around 1860 due to imports from the USA. The total population was usually about 600 (376 in 1861).

In 1841 there are 35 family names listed and some are very unusual. The spelling of some has to be questioned since the lists were written by people unfamiliar with local names. Examples are Puster, Demagne, Favilie, Coastanliw, Thowles and Ohldfield. The few names known from earlier times are Armitstead, Foster, Newhouse, Preston and Wilson. Virtually all the others are absent from the early lists noted above. The Tithe Assessment made in 1844 shows all those owning and occupying land in Langcliffe with the amount of tithes being paid. There are 79 names of occupiers, owning, or mainly renting land; 19 of these are listed in the 1841 census.

Six of the main occupiers lived in the village – Clayton, Lund, Maudsley, Petty, Robinson and Burniston. Only two of the main land owners lived in the village – William Clayton and Ann Swale. Some residents in the village were therefore farming full-time or renting land to help make a living. After the mid-18th-century movement of people is much greater with workers having to find employment on the land as labourers or in the growing number of factories elsewhere than their place of birth or upbringing, so it is not surprising to see a greater variety of surnames.

1849 was a difficult year with a falling-off in the cotton trade which led to problems for the Liverpool banks. The Langcliffe mills were sold at the Golden Lion in Settle and bought by Mr Bashall who also failed and the mills again closed in 1855. Many workers were forced to look for work elsewhere. The local paper reported,

'...in the village of Langcliffe we learn that almost every house is empty. The stoppage of Langcliffe Mills must in great measure account for this diminuation of population. Great numbers have gone to Accrington and other parts of Lancashire. So many have gone to Accrington as almost to form a Settle colony.' 1st May 1855.

Pat Smith has written about the movement of workers to Accrington.

In 1861 Mr Lorenzo Christie, from Derbyshire, purchased Langcliffe High Mill and sheds. Hector Christie succeeded his father, Lorenzo, who died in 1892 at Stackhouse, although it is clear that Hector had been managing the business for some time before this. He had to supplement the inadequate workforce by bringing families from Devon, Cornwall and Norfolk to live in and near Langcliffe.

A list has been made for 1871 of the 23 family names then in Langcliffe who were born in Norfolk - 58 people in total in these families and 36 employed at the mill (one of these being 10 years old). By looking at the census lists for 1851 through to 1901 it is clear that few remained for more than 10 years. Of the ones who stayed we can see how the numbers with those family names changed over the decades – adults plus children.

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901
Jackson	-	2	7	6	5	9	13
Wilson	17	25	10	2	-	2	-
Howson	-	7	6	2	9	8	2
Syers	-	-	-	11	5	13	14
Warren	-	-	-	1	4	9	2
Monk	-	-	-	3	-	5	8
Clark	-	-	-	1	2	3	-
Burroughs	-	-	-	3	3	6	-

The other 15 families did not stay in the village.

Rathmell

In the 14th century the Percy family held Rathmell manor and in the 1400s it was granted to the Catteral family. The 1379 Poll tax returns list 35 names with only six found elsewhere in the parish:–

Saylebank, de Carr, Swane (Swainson), Forster, Lyndsey, Kokheued (Cockett). Johannes Webstre is noted as'textor'.

In the Percy rentals of 1499, 1552/1553 and 1572 the names found are Houghton, Gybson, Caterall, Carr, Craven, Brown and Claymethe.

Conclusion

The families of Armitstead, Carr and Foster have the longest associations with Giggleswick parish and in particular, Langcliffe, although of course not a direct family line since some seem to be incomers from elsewhere at times, and gaps in residence occur. Other names are lost from the earliest records if they were of lowly status or had no surname. Several other names occur over periods of 200 and 300 years or so after about 1500. Many of the names listed still occur locally. In the 1500s it appears that one third to one half of families did not hold on to their tenancies over decades and must have relinquished them for a variety of reasons. They were not tied to one manor as was the case in medieval times when their lives were closely controlled by the lord of the manor. It is not surprising that such a small village as Langcliffe had a large turnover of families in recent centuries during periods of economic stress.

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