

## CARE OF CRAVEN'S POOR

### Flasby - Winterburn revelations

By H. M. Gill.

A valuable chapter in the history of the township of Flasby-with-Winterburn has recently been revealed through the finding of the Constable and Overseers' Account Book (1807-1840). Throughout recorded history the township has formed an important part of the Ancient Ecclesiastical Parish of Gargrave, whilst generally retaining its own financial administrative township control.

The mass of highly interesting data—contra and credit—affords a clear insight into social and economic life of a small rural township a century and a half ago, at the same time presenting a fine basis for a comprehensive comparison with life in this modern Welfare State 'Utopia.' It has long been the duty in past ages of each township to care for its own sick and needy. At Winterburn, in 1221, Wilin de Arches gave ten cart loads of turf a year for warming the poor, who were entertained at the gate of Winterburn Grange.

Later in the same century we find Hugh de Flasceby and Emma, his wife, having handed over to the Monks of Furness their extensive lands in the township, were charitably regaled by the monks with a 'Windle of Oatmeal' weekly; two conventual loaves daily; thirty shillings, seven ells of green or burnet cloth, six ells of blue; one hood and one wrapper of lamb's wool, and a pair of slippers per annum.

The Dissolution of the Monastery of Furness, in 1540, threw the township back on to its own resources, and the consequent care of its needy.

#### POOR RATE

By a Statute of 1601, a compulsory poor rate was levied with increasing regularity. From this fund not only poor relief given, but the Overseers of the Poor in every parish were compelled to buy material to provide work for the unemployed—a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron and other stuff to set the poor to work."

The provision of work was provided either in Houses of Correction or in the parishes. In 1807, when the Flasby-with-Winterburn Constable's book commences, Thomas Metcalf (Constable and Overseer) records receipts from rate assessments totalling £237 18s. 4d. for the year, the population of the township being 120 (1801 census). Payments during this year of 1807 reveal how meticulously the provision of the 1601 Statute were still being carried out over two centuries later regarding relief for the paupers—people without means of livelihood or recipients of poor law relief.

There were twelve in receipt of poor money, their weekly pensions ranging from five shillings to one and sixpence. The sum of £31 6s. 3d. was paid out in house rents for them, and coal was distributed at a cost of 12s. 9d. for nine loads. Work was provided for Widow Duckett by the purchase of two handlooms for £3 10s.; two shirts for Hy. Robinson's son cost 6s. 6d., including the making; the said son receiving 10s. 6d., when "his father laid violent hands upon himself"—the funeral cake costing 5s., the coffin 14s. and ale consumed at the funeral 5s., and burial dues 5s.

So we presume the paupers were decently interred at parish expense. Sickness benefits appear in the year's accounts in varying form:—to see Wm. Duckett when sick, 7s. 8d.; to woman for waiting upon her while confined, 8s.; Widow Robinson's Dr.'s bill, £1 4s. 7d.; to bottle of rum for Leonard Clark, 5s.

#### NAPOLEONIC WARS

A few payments reflect that Britain was then in the throes of the Napoleonic Wars—3s. 6d. was the cost of drawing up and returning the Militia List, this being an annual charge until long after the cessation of hostilities with Waterloo, in 1815. A credit item reads "Received from Airton, Scosthrop and Otterburn, their proportion towards the maintenance of a Militia Man's wife, £2 15s." She received from the parish a pension of 1s. 6d. per week, and when she left the parish for Glusburn, the money was forwarded to the Glusburn Overseer. Seven yards of cotton for Hy. Robinson, sen., cost 5s. 10d., James Robinson's clothes cost 17s. 3d., and 4s. 6d. for making.

The Constable's account shows the cost of many journeys to Gargrave Court, Skipton, with felons and documents and postages. The total expenses of the year (1807) were £199 18s. 2d., leaving a credit balance to be handed over to the next Overseer, James Procter, of £38 0s. 2d. The accounts were examined and settled by the village council of eleven taxpayers of the parish. This council presumably would be appointed by the local gentlemen of the Gargrave ancient parish—the Wilson's of Eshton Hall, Prestons of Flasby Hall, and Coulthursts of Gargrave House—all Justices of the Peace, answerable for the administration of the Poor Law to the Privy Council. It was not until the 1833 year's account that the balance sheet was countersigned by two Justices—Matthew Wilson (Sen.) and H. I. Bramley..

#### GUARDIANS

This was four years before the creation of the Skipton Board of Guardians. Representatives were appointed from every parish, making up the present Rural District area—Matthew Wilson, of Eshton Hall, being appointed first chairman of the Guardians. In 1833 assessments totalled £240, and expenditure was £248 16s. 9d.

In 1834 the New Poor Law was passed when outdoor relief was abolished and the "workhouse test" was imposed on applicants for public alms. This proved to be a "harsh remedy for a terrible disease." The "union" of parishes was to be administered by the 1837 Board of Guardians at Skipton, these guardians being elected by all ratepayers of the area.

Flasby's 1835/36 accounts begin to show the effect of the new Poor Law—receipts from tax being only £80, and expenditure nearly £117. The 1837 accounts are checked only by Matthew Wilson, and J. N. Coulthurst. In 1839 assessments from the parish to the village accounts ceased with 25 totalling £100. Expenditure—mostly "calls to the Union" accounted for most of this total, four paupers only remaining on the book for pension and rent payment. The accounts were finally passed by seven overseers.

The building of the new Union Workhouse in Gargrave Road, Skipton, was completed in 1840. The Poor Law of 1834 proved a very unfortunate beginning for reform methods of administering

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the rural areas, one of its harshest conditions being the separation of families—a deadly blow to the sanctity of home life, whatever the condition of the village cottage.

There is little doubt that there was created amongst all rural dwellers an abhorrent dread that some day they might have to spend their remaining life in the "Union." This universal sentiment was admirably drawn by the Gargrave schoolmaster-poet, Robert Storey, in his poem, "The Union Workhouse":

They've built a House on yonder slope,  
Huge, grim, and prison-like and dull!  
With grated walls that shut out hope,  
And cells, of wretched paupers full,  
And they, if we for help should call,  
Will thither take, and lodge us thus:  
But Ellen, no! Their prison wall,  
I swear it, was not built for us!

They shall not go—to pine apart,  
Forgetting kindredship and home;  
To lose each impulse of the heart  
That binds us wheresoe'er we roam!  
And we, whom God and Love made one,  
Whom Man and Law would disunite,  
We will not, Famine's death to shun,  
Sleep there, or wake, a single night.

### Planning Applications

# Demolition of Flasby Hall?

*4 Aug 78*

An application for listed building consent to demolish Flasby Hall at Flasby, which has become unsafe due to vandalism and dry rot, is among recent planning applications received by the Craven District Council.

The application number for the hall, which dates back to the 18th and early 19th centuries, is YD/29/13/A. An outline application, number YD/5/29/13/A, has been received to erect a detached dwelling on the site of the hall.

At Kildwick, there is an application for the change of use of Airedale House, Skipton Road, to an hotel/restaurant, etc. The number is 5/28/11/B.

Other applications are:

Erection of hut or similar structure approx. 24' x 10' for use as ancillary sleeping unit for outdoor pursuit centre inside higher playground of Skyreholme School, Appletreewick. (Outline application). (YD/5/2/46).

Erection of garage opposite Spoutcroft Cottages at Austwick. (Outline application). (YD/5/4/63).

Conversion of Lawsons Barn, Wharfe, Austwick, to four tourists flats for limited occupation from Easter to October, with communal sitting room. (YD/5/4/64).

Development of land to rear of 4 Green-foot Cottages, Low Bentham, for residential purposes. (Outline application). (5/8/175).

Conversion of barn adjoining 4 Green-foot Cottages, Low Bentham, to dwelling. (Change of use). (5/8/176).

Conversion of hay loft at Oysterber Farm, Low Bentham, to games room/leisure area. (5/8/177).

Erection of workshop for vehicle repair at existing premises, Snaygill Service Station, Keighley Road, Skipton. (Bradley Parish). (5/11/92/A).

Erection of detached bungalow and garage at rear of Devonshire House, College Road, Bradley. (5/11/96).

Change of use of kitchen at 7 Orchard Hills Terrace, Carleton, to hairdressers. (5/17/47).

Erection of single storey holiday chalet and installation of septic tank at Kirk Gill Moor Wood, Buckden. (Outline application). (YD/5/13/34).

Erection of conservatory and W.C. at 'Brookside', Station Road, Clapham. (5/18/66).

Erection of garage at Middleton Hall, Middleton, Cowling. (5/22/140).

Erection of porch at Prospect House, Draughton. (5/24/9/B).

Erection of 2 No. bungalows (Type 'D') on land fronting Beanlands Nursing Home, Colne Road, Glusburn. (5/32/110/B).

Erection of porch at 22 Aire Crescent, Cross Hills. (5/32/200).

Construction of additional storey to existing store at Ashfield Farm, Glusburn, to house compressor. (5/32/201).

Change of use of garage adjoinin Churchyard at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Nr. Settle, to outdoor activity centre. (YD/5/44/27/B).

Change of use from workshop to dwelling 4 off Main Street, Ingleton. (5/45/191).

Erection of three-bedroomed dwelling at Nannyfield, Winders Lane, Ingleton. (Outline application). (5/45/182).

Conversion of barn to dwelling, Cam Farm, Kettlewell. (YD/5/46/42/A).

Change of use of existing loose box at Old Sheep Pens, Kettlewell, to lock-up showroom ancillary to craft shop. (YD/5/46/48/C).

Erection of one dwelling on plot of land at Hope Hill Farm, Howsons Lane, Langcliffe. (Outline application). (YD/5/48/25).

Conversion of barn at Hope Hill Farm, Howsons Lane, Langcliffe, to dwelling. (Change of use). (YD/5/48/26).

Conversion of barn into one dwelling at Rigg Head Farm, Eldroth. (Change of use). (5/49/9/A).

Conversion of barn adjacent to Stockdale House, Feizor, Austwick, into house with integral garage. (Change of use). (YD/5/49/26).

Conversion of farm buildings at Old House, Airton, to two residential units. (Scostrop) (Change of use). (YD/5/61/6).

Erection of integral garage at 111 Moorview Road, Skipton. (5/63/130/T).

Erection of garage at 254 Moorview Way, Skipton. (5/63/130/U).

Erection of offices in connection with administration of workshop at Ings Lane, Skipton. (5/63/253/B).

Reconstruction of Parkfield, Chapel Hill, Skipton, to form permanent dwelling. (Reserved matters). (5/63/567/A).

Alterations and change of use of dwelling house at 33 Oley Street, Skipton, to form photographic shop and studio. (5/63/643).

Change of use of back bedroom at 55 Garrage Road, Skipton to beauty salon. (5/63/644).

Erection of garages on Plots 26-28 Shortbank Road, Skipton. (5/63/645).

Replacement of shop front at 36 High Street, Skipton. (5/63/646).

Erection of building for storage of building materials on land adjacent to Engine Shed Lane, Skipton. (5/63/647).

Erection of shop sign to shop front, 12 Sheep Street, Skipton. (non-illuminated) (5/63/648/LB/AA).

Erection of four-bedroomed dwelling-house on Plot No. 2, Rockwood Estate, Skipton. (5/63/649).

Extension to 15 Uplands, Greenacres, Skipton, to provide additional bedroom and garage space. (5/63/650).

Conversion of barn and stables to two holiday cottages, Owlett House, Grassington Road, Skipton. (YD/5/65/37).

Change of use from works adjacent to 2 Rosemount, Sutton-in-Craven, to single storey dwelling. (5/66/136).

Erection of one dwelling on land at High Malsis, Glusburn. (Part O.S. 116). (Outline application). (5/66/138).

Construction of small stone building to match existing building at Thornton-in-Lonsdale Radio Station, Westgate Lane, Higher Westhouse, Ingleton, to house radio equipment. (Thornton-in-Lonsdale Parish). (YD/5/68/39).

YD denotes applications in the Yorkshire Dales National Parl.

### BRADFORD METRO

Addingham: Chelker Interconnector, High Voltage Overhead Line. (78/1/04818).

31 Main Street. Alterations and improve-

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ments to existing dwelling. (78/1/04761).  
Silsden: 2 Cornwall Avenue, Garage. (78/1/04892).  
8 Jennings Close, Garage. (78/1/04155).  
Rear of 70 Skipton Road, Detached house (Outline). (78/1/94853).  
Steeeton: 48 Queen Street, Bathroom and dormers. (78/1/04829).  
107 Thornhill Road, Garage. (78/1/04955).

# Plan to knock down historic hall opposed

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PLANS to demolish an historic hall near Gargrave in the Yorkshire Dales have brought strong opposition from preservationists.

Flasby Hall, a 19th-century villa, has been empty for about 14 years, and has never been occupied by the present owner, Mr. James Hammond.

It has been the target of hooligans, who have recently stripped all the lead flashings from the roof. Mr. Hammond's agents said that no one would want to live in the house, and the cost of restoration would probably be prohibitive.

The house was part of an agricultural estate, and should be replaced by a more modern property, they said.

The Ancient Monuments Society said they were concerned about the proposed demolition of such a fine house in a magnificent setting, and the Victorian Society said that the history of the manor of Flasby could be traced back to the 16th century, when it was acquired by the Earl of Cumberland.

The house was listed as being of architectural or historical interest, and every effort should be made to preserve it, said the society.

The final decision on whether the hall should be knocked down is to be made by the Yorkshire Dales National Parks Committee, which yesterday agreed to make its decision after a site meeting on March 8.

Flasby  
Hall  
19<sup>th</sup> Century Villa

## Hall will not be knocked down

The owner of Flasby Hall, a 19th century villa at Gargrave, this week denied rumours that he wanted to knock it down.

Mr. James Hammond, of Ings House, Cracoe, said: "I have no intention of demolishing the hall. All I wanted to do is to knock down a portion of it, and build another house of a similar style. I will live there and run the estate."

Mr. Hammond said the hall had been empty for about 14 years, and had recently been the target of hooligans.

"The place is an absolute wreck. They have stripped all the lead flashings from the roof. We have done our level best to stop them, but they come during the night. The hall is quite isolated, and difficult to keep an eye on."

The Ancient Monument Society said they were concerned about the proposal to alter such a fine house, built in a magnificent setting. The Victorian Society said that the history of the Manor of Flasby could be traced back to the 16th century, when it was acquired by the Earl of Cumberland. The house was listed as being of architectural interest, and every effort should be made to preserve it, said the society.

The final decision on whether the hall should be altered is to be made by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee after a site meeting on March 8.

Feb 16. 1979.