

U. W. N. F. C. RILSTON Talk.

I would make clear how little has been written or said about Rilston, lying as it does out of the way of writers either about Wharfedale or Airedale.

What can we find out? and How can we find out?

Occupation always leaves some trace, buildings, roads and tracks, fields, plough traces, etc.etc.

Documents include Parish Registers, Inclosure and Tithe Awards, deeds, conveyances, etc.

Field work: Cover the whole township and note everything one sees, on maps, in drawings, or in notes, leaving explanations until later.

What have we found by field work?

- A i. that a great area of the fields are covered with rig & furrow - show picture, explain production - suggest significance - what date?
ii that rig & furrow forms a compact pattern over part of the township - the common fields.
iii there are 'drifts' or access ways among them.
- B i a pattern of roads centring on the village - which are old through roads? if any. Old Skipton-Dales road. Boundary cross. Newer roads to amend this.
ii 'local' roads - Mucky Lane is probably the Moor road to Boss Moor, and the common North Moor Pastures. *Kirk bridge*
Rilston-Hetton direct (bridle) road - foot bridge.
Outgang through common fields to Scale.
iii Mill road Bark road to Barden.
- C Buildings - Norton Tower, Scale House, Church, smaller houses. Friends Meeting House. Barns & farm buildings.
- D Banks, ditches, dykes and walls.
Bank & ditch enclosure of Norton Tower.
"Deer Park" ditched bank.
Field wall patterns - some on rig & furrow areas, some 18th c enclosures.
Gate posts - gates - stiles - what is the walling pattern? how many and what kind of throughs. etc.
- E Physical - crags, Stone Man, etc.etc. Streams. Vegetation etc.
- F. A brief summary story of Rilston - say not more than 10 minutes.

1 Rilston

- I N T R O D U C T I O N -

The village of Rilston or Rylstone lies about half way along the modern road from Skipton to Grassington, as it lay on the old road which still winds as a green lane along the foot of the fell to the east of the present road. It is on the watershed between the Wharfe and the Aire. About half a mile to the east the ground rises steeply to the gritstone edge of Rilston Fell; to the west it rises more gently to the heights of Malham Moor and to the south west it opens onto the lowlands of the Aire valley.

A visitor travelling from Skipton will see the church standing on a slight eminence to the right and to the left a picturesque row of houses facing onto an artificial pond. Further exploration reveals a number of farms scattered in what appears at first sight, to be haphazard fashion in the surrounding lanes and fields. The imposing turreted front of Scale House further back along the road and the ruined Norton Tower on the hill above add to the romance of the village and its surroundings.

What is the history of this village? The houses bear obvious signs of seventeenth century building, and the fields show the rigg and furrow of earlier centuries of cultivation. Who first settled on this spot and made a village here, and when and why? What sort of life has been lived here in succeeding centuries and what marks has it left on the landscape and on the social structures of today?

This book is the result of our attempt to answer some of these questions. We have sought for evidence on the ground, in documents and in the memories of men. We have walked the fields of the whole township, tracing the baulks and boundaries, the rigg and furrow, the old roadways, measuring, mapping and studying until a pattern emerged. Old documents have told us something of those who lived and died here and owned the land.

Evidence is there but it is like the pieces of a jig-saw puzzle that is incomplete. Some of it might be put together in more ways than one, and gaps remain. Some of our interpretations may be wrong and questions remain to be answered, but we have presented the recorded evidence as we found it, for others to ponder our suggestions, and we hope, to supplement what we have done.

The name.

As you enter the village you are told by the roadside sign that this is Rylstone, but not far away a milestone says 'Rilstone'. This is typical of the variety in spelling from Domesday to the present time which has rung almost all the possible changes from Rilestoun, Rillestone and so on.

How did the name arise? As in so many villages in the district the second part of the name is 'ton', the name given by the Angles in the seventh and eighth centuries to a farm or small hamlet. The first syllable is not so easy to explain, because neither the name Ril nor the village itself appears at first sight to have an Anglian origin. An interesting possibility is that 'Ril' is derived from a Norse nickname, "Hroll", the shiverer. One would hardly imagine a hardy Norseman would shiver with cold in Craven, but it is not unlikely that ague, which was a fairly common complaint at that time, was the cause of the shivering from which came the name. So the settlement, maybe, came to be known as the Shiverer's Farm. Later as the Norsemen were absorbed by the more numerous Anglian settlers, a two-language form of the name was evolved, Hrol'stun, which gradually became Rilston. Where the final 'e' came from, no one knows. Probably it was merely a scribe's idea of improving the look of the word. As for the 'y', the most recent form of aberration, that can be dismissed as part of the habit introduced by a group of writers who fostered the 'Celtic revival' and tried to find a Celtic origin for many local place-names, and altered the spelling accordingly. Unfortunately the Ordnance Survey have put this form, Rylstone, on their maps since 1910.

S.B.

1. GEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

The township of Rilston is situated on the south side of the very low watershed between Airedale and Wharfedale, which crosses the Cracoe gap at about three miles south west of the river Wharfe. This watershed is just over 650 feet O.D. and lies across a valley which runs from south west to north east approximately from Gargrave to Linton, a length of seven miles. It has a minimum width of about two miles between the 1000 foot contours, near Cracoe. The township of Rilston lies athwart this valley, four miles N from Skipton, and is of unusual shape. From south east to north west it has a length of five miles. It is somewhat L-shaped with the basal limb at the south east, just under three miles long and two thirds of a mile wide. The north western limb is a mile at its widest part and less than a quarter of a mile at its narrowest width. Where the two limbs meet there is a broader area a mile and a half by a mile and a quarter, and this is the ground on which the village of Rilston and its common fields are spread.

The topography is very varied, the highest ground being at the north east corner of the township, at Potter Gap, where along the summit of steep crags, the height for quarter of a mile to the south west along the fell edge is over 1550 feet O.D. This 'edge' of crags descends slowly along its length to the south west, to less than 1200 feet O.D. but behind it there is a large part of the township moor, sloping steadily to the south east in an area nearly two miles long and three quarters of a mile wide. This is the high moorland known as Out Fell.

Below the line of crags just described, the fell side falls very steeply to a general level of about 800 feet O.D. The southern boundary of Out Fell is the head waters of the Brown Bank beck and these run into the head of Eller Beck. The mid course of this beck runs in a steep sided valley which is popularly called Waterford or Waterfall Gill, the beck eventually joining the Aire at Skipton. The southern and western boundary of the flatter ground of Rilston is made by the two stream courses of Calton Gill Beck and Hetton Beck. This area of Rilston Village and its





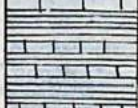

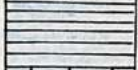

fields is undulating and rises from about 550 feet O.D. along Hetton Beck, to the foot of the fell near 800 feet O.D., the village being a little north of the centre of this area and having a central bench mark 631 feet O.D.

The township narrows three quarters of mile north west of the village to 300 yards, where it is crossed by the upper part of Hetton Beck, here called Skirse Gill Beck. From this narrow neck the township widens in a northerly wedge to three quarters of a mile then enters for another mile onto Boss Moor which is mostly over 1000 feet O.D., reaching a highest point near the northern most extremity, of 1150 feet O.D. The Moor has an average width of just under a mile. The long narrow wedge is part of the Fleets, Black Park and Long Gill.

The township thus has five major topographic divisions from the south east to the north west, Out Moor, the Fell Edge(Side) called in part Hall Demesne and Bark, Rilston fields, the Fleets and Long Gill, and Boss Moor. As will be seen later these divisions are closely related to the geology.

The geology of the district is relatively simple, all the rocks present belonging to the Carboniferous system, and being comprised within the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit series. The valley in which Rilston lies is formed by the weathering away of the centre part of a major fold in the rocks, the 'Hetton Anticline', which runs from south west to north east. It starts in the Craven Lowlands near Clitheroe runs through Hetton, Burnsall and Appletreewick and is there deflected towards a west - east direction by the Craven Fault, just north of it. This fold is a steep-sided arch and its central part is made up of a series of thin limestones and thick limey shales, making a total of about 1100 feet thickness, covered by about 600 feet of shales and grits of the Millstone Grit series. As is commonly the case the broken crest of this fold has been shattered and in the course of recent geological periods, it has been eroded away to sufficient depth to form the Hetton - Cracoe valley.

The various strata involved in this fold and revealed within Rilston township can be shown best in diagram form.

Millstone Grit.		Pendle Top Grit	Out Moor & Fell edge Boss Moor
		Upper Bowland Shale	Fell Edge & Bark
		Lower Bowland shale	lower part of Fell Edge.
Carboniferous		Skelterton limestone	
Limestone		Rilston Limestone series	Fleets & Long Gill Rilston Fields
		Scarnber limestone	
		Shales	
		Hetton Limestone	Skirsegill and Hetton village and beck.

The Hetton limestone is more than 300 feet thick but it is hardly seen anywhere near Rilston. It underlies Hetton village and Hetton fields and the land by Skirsegill Bridge. The Scarnber limestone is well exposed in the railway cuttings at Park Laithe and below Green Laithe and is a thin-bedded flaggy limestone, and it is also seen in the banks of the Hetton Beck below Mill Gates Laithe. The Skelterton limestone is the one which is best exposed in a belt on the east side of Rilston Fields. A famous exposure is that in Clints Quarry near Calton Gill, and the long section northwards from the quarry, provided in the course of Washfold Beck. Here the many beds of the Skelterton limestone are seen poised often at a steep angle due to the folding. This limestone has been used for limeburning at kilns in Calton Gill, Turn Croft and on Critching Close. Considerable quantities of lime have been made at these kilns for the improvement of land throughout the common fields.

The strata between the Hetton and Skelterton limestones is about 500 feet thick with the thin Scarnber limestone near the middle, and the rest of the series made up of shale and shaly limestone bands. The whole series weathers easily into a good limy soil which with the admixture of a proportion of sand and gravel and some silt from the glacial cover, makes a good soil for arable or meadow cultivation.

The Bowland shales are seen in two areas, the steep ground below the fell edge crages on the east, and much of the grassy moor between the Fleets and the higher part of Boss Moor on the north. Below the fell edge, the upper parts of Washfold Beck and Skelterton Beck have cut deep, steep-sided ravines into the shale, and the ground is invaded on more level parts by tussocky bent grasses, sedges and on the better drained slopes, by a thick growth of bracken. On Long Gill bent grasses and sedges make most of the vegetation, some of it improved by the use of lime into permanent pasture. The lime was partly made in kilns along the Winterburn Beck, burning limestone boulders from the boulder clay, and later and more extensively brought from the many kilns on Threshfield Moor, above Hieghts and on the monastic bridle road from Kilnsey to Bordley.

The summit of Boss Moor and the crags and Out Fell are formed in the massive Pendle Top Grit, a very coarse pebbly sandstone. Around Stone Man above Bark this sandstone forms quite imposing crags which are frequently used by rock climbers. On Boss Moor the grit has been quarried for local buildings, for many generations, and then more recently it has been worked on a larger scale for use in the constructional work on Winterburn Reservoir of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company.

Near the base of the Pendle Top Grit there are some coal seams and these have been worked all round Boss Moor (see later in the chapter on industries) and to a less extent at the eastern extremity of Out Fell near the head of Brown Bank Beck. Much of the coal was used in lime burning, but some was sold for domestic use in the township.

The only detailed account of the geology of this area is to be found in a paper by K.M.Booker & R.G.S.Hudson. The Carboniferous sequence of the Craven Lowlands south of the Reef Limestones of Cracoe. Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society. vol.XX. 1926. pp.411-438. An account of Clints Quarry is given also in another paper by A.Wilmore. On the Carboniferous Limestone South of the Craven Fault. Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society. vol.LXVI.1910.pp.539-585.
 The geological Survey have only published a hand coloured edition of Geological map, on a scale of one mile to an inch, sheet 92 NE. NW

The last great geological event to affect the area was the Ice Age, during a part of which glaciers covered all this part of the Pennines except for a few of the highest summits such as Ingleborough, Penygent and Buckden Pike. This ice cover as it melted, left the ground spread with a very irregular cover of rock debris, partly wide-spread boulder clay, partly morainic ridges of clay, sand and gravel, and partly sands and silts associated with glacial lakes. As has been mentioned, these glacial deposits contributed to the fertility of the ground.

Most of Rilston township except perhaps the Out Fell has a thin cover of boulder clay, occasionally seen in the stream sections, but on the cultivated ground long since worked into the general tilth. Large glacial moraines are seen in Linton parish and towards Skipton, but none of them extend into the Rilston boundaries. The most important glacial features are those associated with the ending of the Ice Age when the ice cover has shrunk from the higher hills and was confined to glaciers in the main valleys. A glacier in Wharfedale blocked the north end of the Hetton - Cracoe Valley and a large one in Airedale blocked the south end. Between these two barriers the melt water from the ice was held up as a lake, which from time to time, as the ice shrunk, was lowered to a new position, and finally separated into lakes over what is now Linton Mires and lakes between Flasby and Emsay. In the Winterburn valley at an early stage of the retreat a lake was held up by the ice, and found an overflow at 950 feet O.D. at the head of Long Gill Beck and across Black Park. This escape water eroded a deep channel which is one of the most striking features of Long Gill, now. A shift of the ice edge along with its shrinking allowed the lake level to drop to a position between Long ^{Gill} ~~Hell~~ and the Hetton valley into a lake which extended right to the Linton moraines, with a surface level of 700 feet O.D. This lake drained along the edge of Rilston Fell into the Emsay valley. The third stage of the Winterburn lakes produced what is probably the finest of these overflow channels, coming at 690 feet O.D. from the valley about quarter of a mile below the reservoir dam, south east to about

Owslin Plantation above Hetton, where there is a fine spread of deltaic gravels and sands. The lake at this stage covered Hetton and Rilston, but was just about divided from the Linton lake on the Cracoe watershed. A final stage upheld a lake at about 550 feet OD, which only just reached the Rilston township ground. The net effect of these lakes and their feeder channels was to bring into their area large amounts of sand and gravel in the form of delta spreads, and to form a spread of finer lake silts over most of their bed. It is these deposits that have modified the limy rock debris to make a fertile soil. @

@ These lakes are described in a paper by A. Raistrick. Some Yorkshire Glacial Lakes. The Naturalist. 1929. June. pp.209-212.

The silts and peats formed in the nearby Linton glacial lake during the late part of the Ice Age and the period immediately following, provide evidence of the earliest vegetation over the district. The lowest deposits belong to the time before any tree cover had come back over the area, and the lowest bed of peat which follows above these arctic wilts, has abundant pollen mainly of pine and silver birch. We must therefore picture the area as being first covered by this forest of pine and birch spreading mainly on the hill sides and higher ground. The peat on the Out Fell contains remains of this early forest in a few places, and on the edge of Boss Moor similar peat has been studied, enough to show that the whole area up to and above 1500 feet O.D. was covered by this growth of pine and birch. Somewhere about 6000 BC the climate which had been cold and dry, was not only getting warmer but was very much wetter. The Pines diminished in number, and their place was taken by alder, and a mixed woodland, no longer over the higher fells, spread in a forest of alder with oak and hazel, and the first of the elms. About 3000 B.C. a further change towards a pleasant, dry climate brought an increase in the oak and alder and an incoming of lime and ash to the woods. It was during this period that the Bronze Age people came. By 500 B.C. there was another climatic change, cool and much wetter, and ash and alder became dominant, with some beech and oak and swampy growth on the lower ground. This condition lasted until long after the Roman occupation, and it was only in the Anglian period that the climate again became drier and more normal woodland of ash, alder, elm and sycamore was well established. This is the wood that the settlers of Rilston village, began to clear, and the remnants of it persisted until the sixteenth century.

Rilston

Rilla part is probably Norse, Ton is probably
 Smith WRPN. Vol. VII. p50 a group of ^{Anglian} early
 Compounds with OE Tun with
 Scandinavian personal names occur
 in the west of Barksdon ask - etc.

The west Riding material itself does not
 allow of a conclusive explanation of this
 type of hybrid but in Nottinghamshire, where
 it is better represented, it appears that
 such names denoted established Anglian
 villages whose former names were partly
 adjusted after the Danish settlement
 to incorporate the names of the New
 Viking owners.

The field pattern of Rilston is eminently
 Anglian - has the settlement (Holedene)
 (A) Anglian second generation overspill (Cracol)

(B) Norse (Viking) intrusion at opening
 of 9th or late 8th Century with substitution
 of Rilla personal name keeping Tun.

(C) Further Viking settlements at Seales
 and Bucross.

Skali. OW scand. a temporary hut or shed,
 associated with Norwegian rather than
 Danish settlers.

Cross. - Irish-Norwegian - esc Bucross - Butki Cross
 Rilston B U CROSS

1814 Wordworth - White doe of Rydston (J H DIXON 1881)

1821 J H DIXON CHRONICLES and Stories -- Rydston

1812 Whitaker Hist. Craven. Rydston - quoted
by Dixon, Ralston Fell Ralston.

1135 Wm de Rilleston EYC.

1222 Helias de Rilleston E46173.

1256 Eustace de Rilleston 100

1229 Eustachius de Rilleston 174

1273 Eustachius filius Helie de Rilleston ^{EYC VII} ¹⁴⁰ 171

Rilston, Smith Place names of WR of Yorkshire
vol. VI. 1962. P 93.

Rylstone.

Rilleston (e) 1086 DB c 1130 York (p) 121086 DB.

Ri - Ryllestun (e) 1135-54. 1156-1277. 4 CH VII 1166-1167^f

1237 Furn. 1267 Ch. 1262 Font. 151574 Rilleston (e)

1295 Yl. 1354 Furn. 1403 Pat.

Rilston (e) 1285 KI 1293 Yl 1428 FA. 1524 Test v

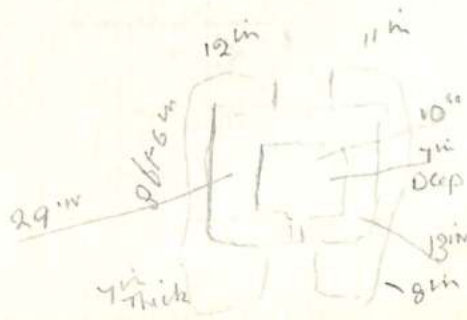
Relstone 1552 WILLY 1539. Ralestone.

The first element of this pr is obscure, it may be a personal name but no such person as Rille or Rylle is known. Though one could postulate such a person. of byname from ON. hroll Skivering from Old. 'hrolla' to Shiver Shudder. It would seem therefore that the first el is an appellative Moorman suggested a connection ~~with the same therefore the first~~ with e Mod = Rill or Small Stream L e Rille and Ekwall derives it from OE Rynel a brook there was also a Norwegian RN Rilla connected with ON hroll Skivering which might be the basis of a River name.

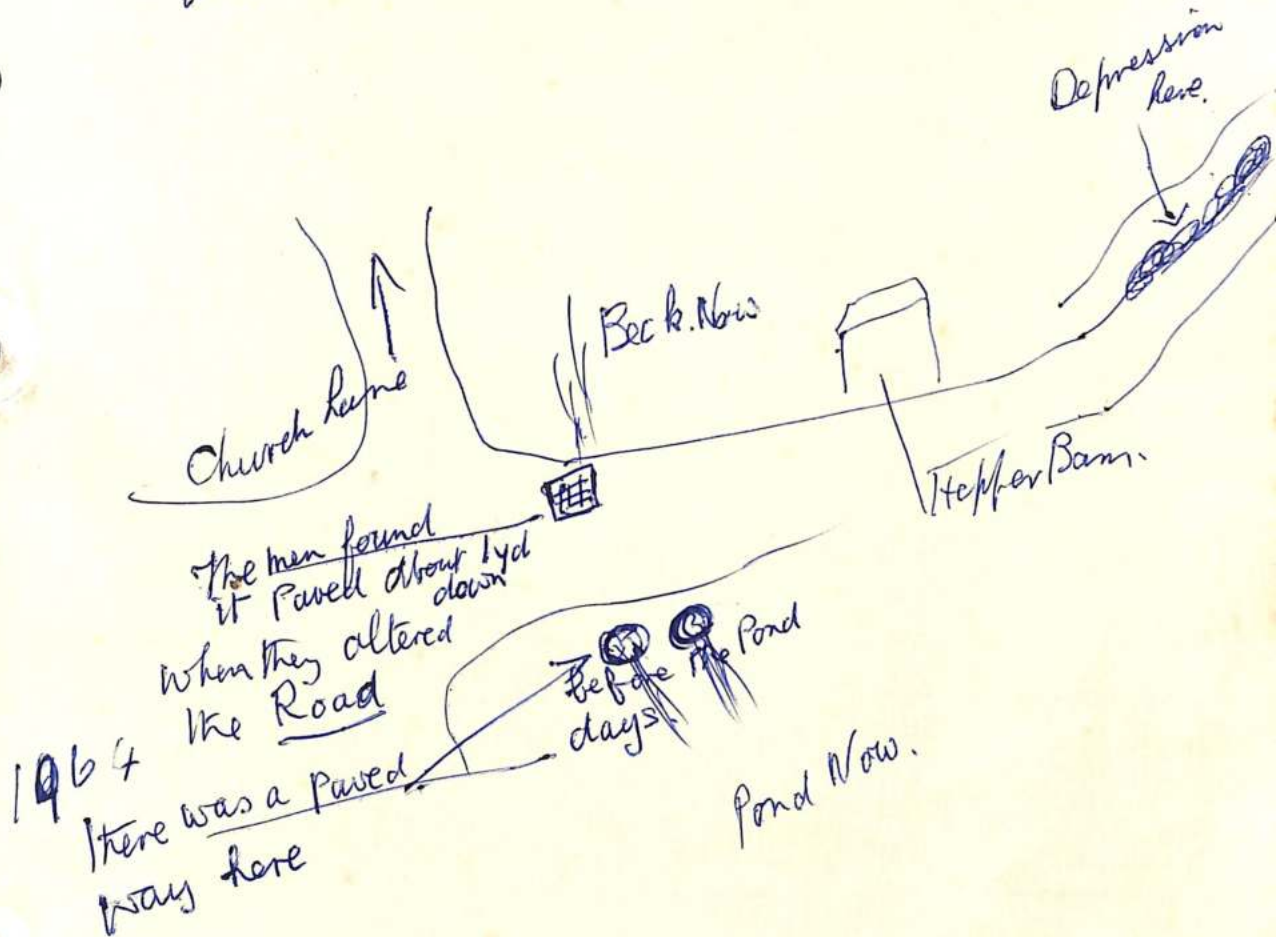
Rilston Cross Base.

Cracoe - Rilston Boundary.

SD 914593



Look on Rilston ~~To~~ the Map.
and see where the Road went?



Prehistory

The earliest prehistoric remains within the township of Rilston are the many small flint fragments, belonging to the Mesolithic period, of possibly seven or eight thousand years ago, which were found between 1892 and 1896 by the Reverend Edward Jones of Embsay. These were found at more than one place along the fell edge, near Stone Man and towards Potters Gate as well. Since his time a few more have been found which show that this edge was used, as many others in this part of the Pennines were, by these visiting hunters who rarely got to the lower ground, which then would be filled with swamp and the remnants of the glacial lakes. The uplands were covered with a very open scrub of silver birch and pine and there was a fauna of small birds and mammals well within the capacity of these people to hunt with the small bow and arrows which they had as their principal weapon. We know nothing more of them in these parts than the wide distribution of their tiny 'pygmy' flints, generally along the 'edges' above 1000 to 1200 feet O.D.

The succeeding period, probably starting not much before 2500 B.C. was the neolithic, marked by the extended use of flint implements and of polished stone axes. A few flints of recognisable neolithic date have been found along the edge but nothing more of that period has been recorded from Rilston township. The very end of neolithic time merges with the first coming of the Bronze Age people, the stream from the west who are known by their works and ~~excavations~~ are called the 'Megalithic' group. It was they who built the stone circle at Bordley Moor, and the 'Henge' monument at Grassington. Their arrow points, tanged and barbed, are well known all round the district, and in Rilston township, at Scale House, there is a very remarkable burial mound or barrow, made by them for someone of great importance. This barrow is circular, was 30 feet in diameter and about 5 feet high, completely encircled by a narrow trench. It was opened by the tenant at Scale House about 1875, and then examined by Canon Greenwell. At the centre there was a circular area covered by flat stones, about 6 feet in diameter and under these a layer of clay resting on dark coloured earthy matter full of charcoal. Below this there was an oak coffin laid upon clay. The coffin was formed from the trunk of a tree,

Note

to here

split in two and hollowed out. It was $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet long and 1 foot 11 inches wide. The trunk had been cut off at each end and then partially rounded, but the outside was untouched. The hollow within was 6 feet 4 inches long and 1 foot wide, roughly hewn and showing marks of the tool which appeared to have been a narrow edged metal implement. The coffin, though broken, was laid north and south with the thicker end to the south. The body had completely decayed but there were fragments of a material which proved to be part of a woollen shroud. It is probable that as is the case in similar tree burials known in Denmark, the person had been buried in every day clothes. All that now remains of the cloth is to be seen in the Craven Museum, Skipton.

Although this is the only trace of Bronze Age man within the township, his remains have been found near to the township boundary, in a barrow of fairly close date to this one, just across on the slopes of Flasby, within less than quarter of a mile, and in the perforated stone axe-hammer at Cracoe, and a reputed one at Rilston, both belonging to the early part of the Bronze Age. In the neighbouring parts of Malham Moor, and of Upper Wharfedale, his remains are abundant, so that we must accept some degree of a settled population around here.

The Iron Age was period of very wide occupation of the limestone uplands of Craven, and within Rilston township there is one site on which a settlement was made. On the limestone ridge which runs along Crutching Close, the outcrop of the Skelterton Limestone, there are at one place a few rectangular enclosures of very typical Iron Age form, such as are found with a family farm or a very small settlement. The presence of extensive quarrying of the limestone for a limekiln, on the most prominent part of the ridge, has almost certainly destroyed much of this group of enclosures. However sufficient remains to prove that a small group of Iron Age folk had a habitation and lived here, probably about the first or second century A.D.

In the Roman period it has been suggested that a branch road existed from Skipton by Rilston and Cracoe to the Wharfedale road at Grassington. Some years ago a few coins of Diocletian (284-305) and some of Constantine Magnus (306-337) were found in Cracoe, and are now in the Craven Museum. It would be very difficult now to find any part of such a road that could be recognised for certain, and the

most we can say is that there were main Roman roads in Airedale and Wharfedale and that it is not unlikely that there would be occasional cross traffic through Cracoe and Rilston.

Settlement.

The occupation of the Rilston area by early man was never more than slight, as we have seen, though the presence of the Scale House burial suggests the presence of a person of importance in the Bronze Age. The other remains which have been described show that the area was not entirely neglected in the succeeding Iron Age, but it is not until the post-Roman period that settlement on a large scale began with the coming of the Angles, Danes and Norsemen.

As we wander round Rilston village and its fields today, we wonder whatever the first people saw to make them chose such a site, for there is no outstanding feature to form a nucleus or starting point. It is not until we begin to look round about at other villages and townships that the variety in village site and arrangement as well as in namèng gives some clue and even then the evidence seemsat first to be negative. Rilston is not like most of the surrounding townships. Let me therefore take a look at some of its neighbours in their historical setting.

When the first wave of Angles came to the district roughly between 590 and 670 A.D., they settled in the longer river valleys often in the woodland in which they made clearings, giving to their settlement place names ending in 'leah' or as we now write it, -ley, such as Ilkley, Drebley, Shipley and so on, though in the more open country there were a few farm names of this period with -ton, such as Linton and Skipton. A second wave of Angles followed and passed on to the upper valleys where, for example, the Upper Wharfedale vällages of Grassington, Coniston and Kettlewell show the typical arrangement of meadow by the river, then arable marked by lynchets, and above that the pasture reaching up to the moorland waste. As these settlements came under the influence of later comers, their original names were sometimes changed. Both these types of settlement stretched upwards from the rivers to the watersheds but in many cases the hunger for land was satisfied before the watershed was reached. So it happened that there were areas of no man's land left here and there, sometimes merely a ridge top but sometimes a widespreading area of small streams and shallow valleys, a rather featureless expanse. In such an un-claimed area an individualist or maybe an overspill generation from a crowded neighbouring village might seek to start a new settlement

with room and opportunity to develop his own land. This overspill was helped by the custom of dividing an inheritance between all the sons of a family, so that in a few generations a holding might be far too small to support a man and his family, and new ground had to be found. It seems likely that a number of these overspill townships were founded in the eighth century. Here we have the most probable origin of Rilston as of Hetton and **Bowley**, the last pieces to be fitted into the township jigsaw puzzle.

But what of Ril, or Hroll and Shiverer? The land had all been apportioned but it was not the end of invasions. First came the Danes, who after making peace with the Angles, entered the district in small numbers as peaceful settlers from 876 to about 900 A.D. They set up single farms of small hamlets, with names ending in -by and -thorpe respectively, in outlying parts of townships on land given to them by agreement with some Anglian village. So "satellite" villages began and we now have Emsay with Eastby, Burnsall with Thorpe, Stirton with Thoraby, Winterburn with Flasby, verging on Rilston.

The Angles and Danes had all come from the east coast but the last pre-Conquest immigrants came from the west coast over the hills. These were the Norsemen who, during the tenth and eleventh centuries spread from northern Ireland and came as sheep farmers, seeking the still unoccupied upland pastures which had no attraction to the Angles and Danes. Often they started single farm settlements with names such as Scale and Bucross, the latter being originally Bu Cross, an Irish 'cross' name. Probably Scale House takes its name from such a settlement, and its position on a shelf of the hillside is very typical of many such farms. As these Norsemen prospered, they 'invaded' some of the Anglian villages and though they took to village ways, they sometimes gave them new names, possibly on marrying the daughter of village head man. They were accustomed to giving places personal names or to call them after the king or priest and so we have Coniston (king's tun) Long Preston (priest's tun) and at long last Rilston (the ton of Hroll and Shiverer).

Such is the story as it affects Rilston, but the Norsemen continued to spread and even after Domesday, possibly on into the thirteenth century, they made new settlements in remote parts. One of these was Cracoe which adjoins Rilston and another was Skirethorns

within the bounds of Threshfield township. .

So it came that when William the Norman sent his men into the north to demand submission, they found in this part of Yorkshire a people of mixed ancestry, still probably speaking a variety of dialects but already so peacefully co-existing that, in the face of a common enemy they were ready, no doubt in Rilston as elsewhere, to act as one people and call themselves Englishmen.

The Mill.

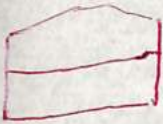
Of the older buildings in the township, the mill would rank with the old hall and with the church. In the twelfth century a manor included as essentials of its life and administration, the hall, the church, the mill, and possibly the pound. The suit of mill was part of the normal service due from tenants and villeins alike, and it was the duty of the Lord of the Manor to provide the mill both for the good of the township or manor, and for his own profit.

The mill at Rilston is first mentioned in an Inquest Post Mortem on Elias de Rilston, 1295, when it was found that he held of the Honour of Skipton, among other property, part of the water-mill in Rilston and Hetton. It's position at the junction of Calton Gill and Hetton Beck at a point on which two ancient roadways converge supports the idea that this mill was jointly the mill of the two townships. Who was the owner of the second half of the mill we do not know, but it was likely to be the owner of the other manor within the township, as there was no trace of a second mill at any time. This partnership in a mill was a very common feature of mediæval mill tenures, the mill, including of course the income from it, being often held in partnerships of as many as six parts, and individual shares being disposable by sale or gift. The maintenance of the mill in these cases was somewhat complex. An ordinance of 1270 says "if certain persons hold a distinct mill in common, and this lacks equipment or plant or anything necessary for the working of the mill, one should go to his partner and say 'Such and such a thing is lacking in your mill, contribute your share of the cost': and if the other answers 'I shall supply nothing more, I cannot do so' the first should afterwards bring the matter before the Justice....." If the partner still refuses to share the repairs, then the first may do them himself and then receive the whole of the multure, until such times as the other partners decides to pay his share and costs. Another ordinance says "when a mill is common between two or more persons, if it is necessary to supply a stone, a wheel, a pulley, or make any other reparation necessary for working the mill, one of the said persons may summon the others to contribute towards the cost....."

The obligation to keep the mill in repair lay on the manorial lord, and if he neglected the mill and allowed it to become decrepit and

See Helton
Papers

useless, then his tenants had the right to take their grain to any other mill, without the Lord being able to take any action against them. The usual arrangement was that the Lord of the Manor maintained the structure in satisfactory condition, but the miller should repair the machinery. Suit of mill in all manors included the getting and carrying of millstones, that is, some of the vâlleins or it may be even free tenants, would have the obligation, when the miller needed them, of quarrying millstones, and some of them would have to carry them to the mill. Others had suit of cleaning out the mill dam and repairing the water course; others might have to repair the wheel, for which the Lord of the Manor allowed the timber. Mills being situated on streams or on their banks, were very liable to flood damage, and it was generally provided that "if the foundation of the lord's mill or the adjoining pool be damaged by flood, the labour of all the tenants will be required to repair the same the first day; and if not sufficient time in that day, then continuously from day to day till the mill or the pool be restored as they were at first".



The foundations of the mill as they exist today are far bigger than those of the early manor mill, and are probably those of the greatly enlarged 'cloth mill' which was there about the mid-nineteenth century. The first mill would be a very small structure, probably not more than twelve or fifteen feet square, two storied, and built on part of the site now occupied by foundations. It is most likely that the smaller wheel, an undershot one and fairly broad, was turned by a short stream coming straight out of the beck and only a few yards long. The present fine water course, in part cut into the rock along the beck side and more than a hundred yards long, was designed to serve an overshot wheel, far too powerful for a corn mill, and must be associated with the nineteenth century textile venture. The mill would have one pair of stones, and the miller would have a lonely time watching them going. In most communities the miller ranked very low among the feudal tenants, as we can see in a document from Ashton-under-Lyne, apportioning the places in the church for the tenants of the manor. The front seats were for the lord and his chief tenants, and then in order of decreasing importance through the manor personel to the last and hindmost seat, which was for the miller and his wife. By the sixteenth century the status of the miller was

generally very much improved and on many manors the miller had become a free-tenant, or even a lessee of the mill. In the relation with the church, those mills which were older than the ninth year of Edward II, 1316, were free of tithe. In 1569 the mill at Rilston was described as "The particular tenement containing with the Mill now in Mr. Topliss occupation in the tenor of divers persons x.....?"

At xl yeres purchase cc li.

This would suggest that the figure which is not complete, the annual rent, should be £5, the free tenant or lessee being Mr. Topliss. In 1295 the value of the mill, or at least that portion belonging to the Rilston family was 53/6d.