

Chapter 2 Medieval days

Early history

The written history of Langcliffe, a small village near Settle in Craven, can be traced back to the Domesday book of 1086. Its development is very closely tied to the histories of several local families which can be followed over several hundred years. Its name is probably due to its situation under limestone cliffs forming part of the Craven Fault. Its early development can be followed using charters, deeds, wills and taxation documents.

A timeline is given in Appendix 1.

Craven

Wood, P.N., 1996. *Northern History, The Little British Kingdom of Craven*, vol. 32, pp1-20

Rowley, A.R., 1999. *Beitrage zur Namenforschung, Band 34, Heft 1. Publ. Heidelberg*

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

The name Craven perhaps derives from crage - a rock (Old British), alternatively from the Welsh craf - scratch or scrape, so that Craven means scraped land. Rowley (1999) considers the matter in great detail and says that a pre-Indo-European root *carra (stone or heap of stones) is connected with *crav. Early Celtic settlers from Gaul could have met with or brought the word *crav-ona (stony region) with them. The Craven region may have become known under this name, which was then transmitted to the English who used the regional name for the wapontake. There are many French names (including Crevant, spelled Craven in 1090) from this root and also craig (rock, Welsh), carn (pile of stones), cairn, and carr (stone or rock in Yorkshire dialect). Many place names in the upper Ribble valley are thought to be Celtic in origin.

Craven is thought to have been a post-Roman British Kingdom in the Pennines acquired by Northumbria in the mid-7thC - part of a patchwork of small British Kingdoms in Celtic Britain. Brayshaw and Robinson (1932) suggest that there was no Saxon overlord of the Giggleswick region due to its relative isolation - Edwin, Earl of Mercia held land to the east and Tostig, brother of Harold, held land to the west. This isolation may have led to the name Craven being based on Old English craefing and Old Norse krefja meaning 'to claim, to ask for' as ownership became more certain. (courtesy Dr Michael Spence). The later boundary of the Deanery of Craven is thought to follow the Anglo-Saxon territory boundary very closely.

The Norman Conquest

Chew, H.M., 1932. *Ecclesiastical Tenants in Chief and Knight Service*, OUP

After 1066 William the Conqueror distributed lands among his followers or restored them to former owners in return for the service of a specified number of fully armed knights. There was a money equivalent in default of supply of men.

Domesday book of 1086

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk> (Open Domesday, free facsimile copy)
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday for on-line copies
Domesday Book facsimile Yorkshire, 1862. Ordnance Survey.

The entry in the Domesday Book is under *Cravescire* or *In Crave* so Craven existed as a secular unit at that time. Craven was on the edge of the Domesday survey which was a fiscal inventory recording ploughlands - the 'waste' was land with marginal income considered non-taxable.

The whole of the parish of Giggleswick in which the village of Langcliffe lay before it became a parish in its own right in 1851 was at the time of the Domesday Book in the possession of Roger de Poitou (Roger of Poitevin, the third son of William the Conqueror's cousin Roger of Montgomery). Roger was given land 'between the Ribble and Mersey' by William. The Domesday record (1086) notes that "In Lanclif Feg had 3 carucates of land to be taxed".

Terra Rogerii Pictavensis

In Ghigeleswic Fech. III. car ad gld.

In Lanclif Feg. III. car ad gld.

In Giggleswick Feigr had four carucates taxable and in Langcliffe three carucates taxable.

Fech (ch pronounced as g) and Feigr are probably forms of Fiach, a Gaelic name meaning raven (*Fiona Edmonds, Clare College, Cambridge and websites*).

A carucate is an area of land between about 60 and 120 acres or the area an ox-team pulling one plough was capable of cultivating in a year but it also means a certain amount of tax depending on land quality - the taxable value of a good arable carucate. (A *caruca* was a Belgic plough and the word carucate was used in the Danelaw). A holding of 12 carucates or about £15 a year income was equivalent to one Knights Fee (*Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 1963*). The lower-lying fields in Langcliffe currently amount to about 300 acres which may be comparable to Feg's holding. The words carucate and oxgang are Nordic in origin rather than Saxon. Similarly the word gald for land tax is Nordic - referring to danegeld imposed under Danelaw.

Around 1100 Giggleswick parish became united with the Percy family fee (estate) as overlords after Roger was disgraced in 1102, he having revolted against Henry I.

It seems likely that a family 'de Giggleswick' were heirs to the large estates of Feg, of which we know of five generations (*Brayshaw and Robinson, 1932*).

dominus Meldricus de Giclisvic - Sir Meldred of Giggleswick

Adam son of Meldred fl. 1168 (Stackhouse land grant to Furness Abbey)

Adam son of Adam (confirmation of Stackhouse grant)

Elias son of Adam (alias Helias, Elye) (quarrel with Furness Abbey) fl 1221

Adam son of Elias (pardon in 1237 for murder (?) of his brother).

Elias de Giggleswick was Lord of the Manors of Langcliffe and Giggleswick during the early 1200s. His overlord was William de Percy. After Elias had granted his

property in Langcliffe to Sawley Abbey the Abbot was then Lord of the Manor of Langcliffe under Henry de Percy, son of William de Percy.

Land holding

Smith, R.B., 1970. Land and politics in the England of Henry VIII, Clarendon Press, Oxford

Salzman, L.F., 1929. English life in the Middle Ages, OUP

Land was essentially all owned by the Crown to be granted and taken away at will for services or punishment and served for the Crown to control the nobles. All revenue belonged to the King and typically comprised rent from Crown lands, fines from Law Courts and customs duties on wool, hides, wine etc. Additional monies were raised from 'loans' or subsidies (a percentage tax) voted for by Parliament for the laity and by Convocation for the clergy.

The tenant-in-chief held land from the Crown by 'barony' and he paid a fixed sum of £100 on inheritance. A knight paid £5 for each estate (fee) that he held at the time.

In pre-Norman invasion times land could be transferred by custom to all sons equally (partible inheritance or gavelkind). Later it was more commonly the custom for land to pass to the eldest son (primogeniture based on military feudalism). About the end of the 1100s it became law that the land should descend to one son only, to avoid repeated shrinking of holdings. Usually this meant the eldest son (under the influence of the lords holding land rented to tenants) since the eldest son was most likely to be old enough to perform any services due to the lord on the death of the father. The law of equality held for women - equal division between daughters. Property as distinct from land could be divided among all children by will or otherwise.

When the heir to a tenancy in fee was a minor or an unmarried girl, so that conditions of military tenure could not be satisfied, the lord to whom rent was due could take over the land and its income for himself as ward of the minor or female. These wardships could be sold to others who could then take the income. People therefore sometimes enfeoffed their land for the 'use' of their heirs (or someone else) so that the tenure in fee was vested in a trust which never died - and so could never be liable to wardship. In 1536 the Statute of Uses and in 1540 the Statute of Wills restricted the possibility of ending royal wardships in this way since the Crown saw it as a good source of income (discussed further in Chapter 5). In 1540 a Court of Wards was set up to administer temporary confiscation of ward's lands and the sale of wardships.

Money

Up to the end of the 1200s the silver penny was the only coin used - there were no coins for the mark (13s 4d) or the pound. In the 1300s silver groats (4d) and half-groats were used. Edward III in the 1300s introduced gold nobles or angels (6s 8d, half a mark). Henry VII in the late 1400s brought in the shilling coin (although a shilling was used before then in tax documents).

Manorial matters

Stuart, D., 1992. Manorial records, publ. Phillimore.

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

In the case of Langcliffe the Manor was co-terminous with the vill or township of Langcliffe but the parish of Giggleswick covered several local Manors. A vill has been defined as

'This is the complement of a lawful hamlet: nine buildings, and one plough, and one kiln, and one churn and one cat, and one cock, and one bull and one herdsman'.

(Roberts, B.K., 1979. Rural Settlement in Britain, publ. Hutchinson 1979).

After Domesday and before the sale of the Manor of Langcliffe in 1591 the Manor was in the hands most of the time of the Abbot of Sawley. The Darcy family were Lords of the Manor after 1536, being in turn tenants of a mesne Lord (Percy) who held the Manor directly of the Crown. The Lord did not reside on the Manor so how did it function?

It is presumed that the Abbot of Sawley simply used Langcliffe as a source of revenue, as well as foodstuffs - grain and meat. The tenants were probably all working men - agricultural labourers and shepherds. They were not freeholders because all the manor had been owned and given by Elias to the Abbey in the 13thC.

In a 'traditional' manor the two types of tenant were villeins who occupied land on condition of rendering services to the Lord, such as cultivation, and freemen who paid a fixed rent to the Lord. Gradually the system of labour services decayed to be replaced by money rents - as seen in the 16thC Clifford family account book for other neighbouring manors. In Craven the whole wapontake of Staincliffe belonged to the lord of Skipton, held by the Clifford family (*YAS DD121/29*). The manors of Giggleswick and Settle amongst others were held by the Cliffords. The Clifford manor court, or court leet, was held in Skipton and a steward collected the rents locally on behalf of the Clifford family as landlord. There is no documentary evidence about collection of rents from Langcliffe in Sawley Abbey papers. The Settle and Giggleswick Court Rolls giving rentals and accounts for 1420 name a few people as de Langcliffe but this may mean that Langcliffe men held land in Settle or Giggleswick and not that Langcliffe men were obliged to attend the court in Cleatop in Settle because they held land in Langcliffe. (*Clifford papers at YAS, Series DD121*).

All conveyance of copyhold land had to pass through the manorial court and fines (gressum from Latin gersumavit; cf the word ingress) were paid by new tenants or tenants leasing land to another tenant, and a heriot or best beast or money payment in lieu in the case of an heir to a deceased tenant. This latter case needs to be looked for in Langcliffe wills prior to 1591. There is as yet no record of Langcliffe tenants' title being written on court rolls giving the tenants copyhold.

When the Manor of Langcliffe passed to Cistercian Sawley Abbey the monks may have worked or at least improved the land themselves but as their estates became much larger paid labour was necessary. Rentals became normal and the Abbey became more litigious in financial matters. Rents tended to be fixed for very long periods by custom and gradually the more important income was from fines (gressum) and heriots. The Abbey was a corporate body so did not have to pay the overlord or King for land transfers and paid only small rents for the manors held. In 1502 the Abbey paid 24s 9 1/2 d rent for Langcliffe (*Brayshaw & Robinson, 1932, p35*).

Shepherds and farm labourers might have been paid in sheep if they were employed by the Abbey. The main problem for the inhabitants was that they had no legal rights over the land they worked and were totally dependent upon the goodwill of the Abbot. As time went by, after 1536, conditions under the lay Lords such as the Cliffords or the Earl of Cumberland favoured the workers but under the control of the Abbot their status remained as the villeins of Norman times. The Dissolution of the Abbeys was a considerable threat to the livelihoods of the inhabitants of Langcliffe and was one reason for revolt against dissolution of the Abbeys.

A similar situation perhaps arose in Stainforth after the dissolution when the Manor was held by Sir Edward Darcy and the tenants were concerned about their fate because they did not have copyhold.

A Manor Court was originally set up to oversee all manorial affairs but in the early 14thC the Manor Court was divided into a Court Baron and a Court Leet. The Lord of the Manor would normally hold a court baron (*curia baronis* - court of the baron) every three weeks to consider manorial custom matters, involving freeholders, and he also appointed local officials such as reeve or bailiff or hayward. The Lord also had the right to hold a court leet (court of the district) to consider petty justice usually every 6 months to inspect or 'view' the working of the frankpledge, a system of about ten households to uphold law and order, called the view of frankpledge. A jury of tenants was elected every year. A constable could be appointed at this court and there is evidence for constables in Langcliffe at much later date, 1650, after the sale in 1591. If the Lord was an ecclesiastic the court was usually held in one of the ecclesiastical buildings. All tenants (in theory all males over the age of 12) were obliged to attend these courts and were fined for absence. They may have offered an excuse for non-attendance called *essoin*. The local steward would summon men to a court by announcement at church, at which attendance was also compulsory. The agricultural routine was regulated at these courts - the operation of the open field system and pasturing of animals.

In the view of frankpledge there was sometimes a jury of twelve - perhaps leading to the 24 just men regulating affairs after the sale of the manor known to exist in Giggleswick with Langcliffe men involved.

It is not clear where Langcliffe men had to attend these courts, whether in Settle, Giggleswick, Skipton, Gargrave or Sawley and whether the situation changed after the dissolution in 1536. Travel to the further places would have been a burden and yet all were expected to attend. Lack of documentary evidence is a problem; the Court Rolls for the court leet in Gargrave in 1650 mentions Langcliffe men and constables for the villages, presumably chaired by the steward of the Cliffords when they took over from the Percies (*TNA SC 2/211/129, 130, 132, 133, 134 see Court Rolls in Chapter 8*). The Fountains Abbey Lease Book for 1495 mentions the Court of the Abbot William and the Convent of Fountains Abbey so presumably Sawley Abbey also had a court. Lawrence Yveson and many others of Langcliffe were fined 2d or 4d by the Fountains Abbey court for turf digging and trespass on Capon Hall land.

Ecclesiastical matters were dealt with via the Giggleswick parish church vestry meeting involving all parishioners with the priest as chairman. Early in the 16thC the

vestry meeting of 24 of the more substantial people became the executive committee. After the Poor Law of 1601 all village affairs were dealt with by the vestry and manorial officials were appointed by the vestry. The vestry were subordinate to the Justices of the Peace who were appointed by the Crown. The leet and baron courts gradually became outdated but they are still being used in 1650 as seen in the Clifford papers (as noted above).

Manorial Lordships

The Law of Property Act (1922) did not abolish manorial lordships which may therefore be bought and sold. A Lord is not automatically entitled to documents relating to the manor. No register of manorial lordships is kept. The Law of 1922 abolished copyhold and so brought to an end the last meaningful function of manorial courts since it was they who held copies of agreements. The Manorial Documents Register (www.hmc.gov.uk) preserves manorial documents in case there are questions of title to previous copyhold land. A manorial lord is not allowed to use the title Lord.

In the case of Langcliffe the manorial rights were sold to individual inhabitants as trustees in 1591 who then became freeholders. Until then there was no Langcliffe manorial court since the Lord of the Manor was the Abbot of Sawley, then later Sir Arthur Darcy and Nicholas Darcy who were absentee landlords, then with no freeholders of land in the township or holders of land under any other type of tenure such as copyhold. However, there must have been some system of organizing arable strips of land and their rotation in the Townfields which are known to have existed.

Sawley Abbey (*aka Sallay and Salley*)

Historical account of the Cistercian Abbey of Salley, in Craven, Yorkshire
Ed. J. Harland, Pub. London J Russell Smith, Clitheroe Wm Whewell, 1853 (Skipton Library)

The third Lord Percy, William de Percy founded Sawley Abbey in 1148, the third Cistercian abbey to be founded after the conquest of 1066. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. William is said to have been buried at Sawley. The Abbey possessed the churches of Tadcaster and Gargrave and the chapel of Hazlewood (*YAS 1912, vol. 48 Suppression of the Yorkshire Monasteries*). The Percys were the Chief Lords in the region and Knights Fees were due to them; however, Sallay Abbey was confirmed in freedom from service due to the Chief Lord (*Early Yorkshire Charters, 1963. YAS Extra Record Series vol. XI, vol 9*).

The Percys were Earls of Northumberland; the fifth Earl Henry (1478-1527) had a daughter who married Henry Lord Clifford, 11th Lord of the Honour of Skipton, who shortly afterwards was created 1st Earl of Cumberland. The fifth Earl Henry of Northumberland died heavily in debt, which his son inherited. The son fell in love with and was secretly engaged to Anne Boleyn at court so incurred King Henry VIII's displeasure. He was forced to marry another woman against his will and was sent to the Scottish border country. After he inherited in 1527 and became the 6th Earl of Northumberland he supported the King in the Pilgrimage of Grace but all his brothers did not. He was childless so disposal of his estate became problematical. He gave Giggleswick Parish to his nephew Henry Clifford of Skipton and the remainder of his estates he gave to the King in 1536, hoping that the King might give back the

properties to the Percy family one day. He died in June 1537 during the aftermath of the Pilgrimage of Grace.

Sawley Abbey therefore was in the possession of King Henry VIII as overlord at the time the abbey was dissolved in 1536 and Sir Arthur Darcy then bought the property directly from him. At that time there were 21 monks and 37 servants according to the Victoria County History (*VCH vol. 3*) but Letters & Papers (*XI, no. 872, 25 October 1536*) names 30 servants and householders with 12 names crossed out. The attitude of Sir Arthur to Dissolution is summed up in his letter to Thomas Cromwell suggesting that Jervaulx would be suitable for a royal stud of mares (*VCH*).

The Early Charters

The Coucher-Book or Register of Salley is a list of charters from the time of Edward III (1327-1377) to Henry VIII (1509-1547) (*Harleian MS no.112, YASRS 1933, vol. 87 vol.1 nos. 1-388 and YASRS 1934 vol. 90 vol. 2 nos. 389-675. The chartulary of the Cistercian Abbey of St Mary of Sallay in Craven*). See also *Historical account of Sallay Abbey, ed. J. Harland, publ. J. Russell Smith, London and Wm Whewell, Clitheroe*.

The Sallay Chartulary was completed soon after 1333 and is a collection of deeds for lands possessed in Yorkshire and Lancashire by the Abbey.

Coucher means a large book, as a breviary in a church, chained down, and also a book of charters. The Abbey lands passed into possession of Sir Arthur Darcy at the Dissolution. Later owners of the deeds were Sir Simon Dewes (1602-1650) and Humphrey Wanley (1672-1726) and then they passed into the Harley collection. Other deeds not in the Chartulary are from the Dodsworth MSS in the Bodleian at Oxford.

Charter no. 346 folio 95 gives Elias son of William son of Aelred ,c. 1250-1265. (*Harleian MS no.112, YASRS 1933, vol. 87 vol.1 nos. 1-388*).

Charter no. 349, c.1250, gives Domino Elia de Gygelswik as a witness. Feet of Fines Yorkshire, 1246-72 YAS RS LXXXII notes Sir Elias of Giggleswick who is called a knight in the notes.

Charter no. 356 folio 98v (ante 1265) notes that Robert son of Gamel renounced all charters with Sallay dealing with the number of animals and disclaimed all rights within the bounds of Langcliffe. **Charter 360** fol. 99 of 1265 notes 'enclosures then made'.

Charter 368 is the Final concord between Henry of Herghum and Elias of Giggleswick concerning a carucate in Langcliffe.

(*YASRS 1933 vol. 87.no. 368 about 1223, folio 102*).

Final concord at York between Henry of Herghum and Elias of Giggleswick, concerning 12 bovates in Giggleswick, a carucate in Langcliff and 3 carucates in Kirkby. Henry released his rights to Elias in return for 20 marks of silver and a

carucate in Kirkby in Malhamdale: rent 6s and the works of four men on one day only in summer.

Elias de Giggleswick was Lord of the Manors of Langcliffe and Giggleswick during the early 1200s. After Elias had granted his property in Langcliffe to Sawley Abbey the Abbot was then Lord of the Manor. (The manor of nearby Nappay was held by the Magister Sancti Leonardi - the master of St Leonard's hospital in York. Nappay together with Langcliffe was the subject of a sale deed after the Dissolution as discussed later). (*Information on St Leonard's Hospital in York is found in The English Hospital*, 1995. N.Orme and M. Webster, York University Press; www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk; *Medicine for the soul*, 1999, C. Rawcliffe; *Medicine and society in later medieval England*, 1995).

From this we know that Elias de Giggleswick held a carucate of land in Langcliffe (1223), probably kept in hand for himself rather than leasing it to others;

About 1160 Adam of Giggleswick had rented land at Stackhouse to the monks of Furness Abbey and a few years later men and monks are living at Stackhouse. By 1194 they were in dispute with Adam's grandson Elias, who was then Lord of the Manors of Giggleswick and Langcliffe. The monks had erected a cornmill by the river which took away custom from Elias' mill at Giggleswick. The monks had also trespassed on land occupied by Elias. The monks made a mill-pond on the alluvial island called Stackhouse Holme which they rented but the mill was built on land that belonged to Langcliffe. Eventually after much quarrelling Furness Abbey appealed to the Pope's legate who in 1221 judged that Elias should take possession of the mill built by the monks and be allowed to rent the mill-pond. Elias had to pay the monks one pound of cumin or 2d a year and to release them from their rent for the Stackhouse land. The Abbot of Furness so became Lord of that land in Stackhouse (*Brayshaw & Robinson*, 1932).

In about 1240 Elias granted his body and all his land in Langcliffe and Stainforth, in desmesne and in service, and the Langcliffe mill with its suit etc., to Sawley Abbey with full manorial rights. For release of the Manor of Giggleswick the Percy family as overlords granted a pension of 24 marks (£16/a) and Elias went to live at Sawley Abbey (*Brayshaw & Robinson*, 1932).

Charter no. 369 (YASRS 1933 vol. 87 about 1240)

".... bosco ejusdem ville et molendino cum secta sua et cum omnibus pertinenciis, libertatibus et aisamentis dicte ville de Langclif pertinentibus."

Elias of Giggleswick granted to Sallay abbey together with his body for burial his land in Langcliff, in demesne and in service, and the mill with its suit; three bovates in Stainford and three tofts; the homage and service of Robert son of William and the demesne of all Stainford; common of wood in Giggleswick to build, enclose and burn, and right of way; the whole free from service except that due to the chief lord.

The land and mill were later confirmed to be the property of Sallay Abbey by Henry de Percy;

Charter no. 370 (YASRS 1933 vol. 87 about 1240)

Elias of Giggleswick granted to Sallay abbey together with his body for burial a toft in Stainford held by William Coupman and pasture for 200 sheep. Elias and Alice his wife released his manor of Giggleswick to Henry son and heir of William de Percy and received annually in return 24 marks paid at Sallay.

Charter no. 371 (YASRS vol. 87. about 1252).

Adam son of Elias of Giggleswick confirmed his father's gifts to Sallay abbey.

Charter no. 372 (YASRS 1933 vol. 87 about 1227-30)

Brother G., abbot of Furness, granted to Elias of Giggleswick multure of the monks' vill of Stackhouse, so that all their men of that vill grind at the mill of Elias at the 18th vessel in order without delay or hindrance, and whether bond or free should not frequent any other mill. Furness also conceded to Elias the mill pond which he had strengthened in their land of Stackhouse, while Elias was to pay 1 lb of cumin or 2d at Christmas.

Charter no. 373 fol. 103 records that Ralph son of David of Settle released to Sallay Abbey a toft his father once held of Elias of Giggleswick, common of pasture for 100 sheep by the long hundred, for 5 cows and 5 mares with their three yearlings, and all his rights in the tofts, lands and pastures of Langcliffe. Charter 375 fol. 103 (late Hen. III, 1216 to 1272) says that Henry of Stainford granted to Sallay Abbey half an acre in Langcliffe. and charter no. 380 fol. 105, 'two acres by a perch of 24 feet'.

Charter no. 374 (YASRS 1933 vol. 87 p. 221)

Henry de Percy confirmed to Sallay abbey the land the monks had of the gift of Elias of Giggleswick in Langcliffe and Stainford, and Langcliff mill with its suit etc., except Giggleswick wood which remained to Henry, and rendering the service the Elias used to render in the time of Richard de Percy and William de Percy.

(*Historical account of Sallay Abbey, ed. J. Harland, publ. J. Russell Smith, Clitheroe 1853*)

Pensions and extra farm payments by the Abbot of Furness for attachment of the water-mill of Langclyff, 11d. To the Earl of Northumberland for the fee-farms of Staynforth and Langclyff, and for service of Lytton 29s 7d

Other people than Elias held land in Langcliffe:

Charter no. 375 (YASRS vol. 87. c 1250 -1270).

As a settlement of disputes Henry of Stainford granted to Sallay abbey half an acre in Langcliffe, and Sallay granted to Henry a toft in Stainford and pasture for 10 cows with their one yearlings, 3 draught cattle with their two yearlings, 40 sheep with their one yearlings, and 8 oxen in summer only. This number might be made up from the animals of the tenant of the toft; rent 1 lb pepper at Christmas.

The Percy chartulary

*Surtees Soc. 1909, vol 117, p31
mid 1200s*

Conveyance LIII

Sciant Willelmus de Perci ... concessi ... domino Henrico de Perci, fratri meo, totum manerium meum de Setelsalva michi ... donatione ecclesie de Gikelswyk. Preterea, dedi illi totum redditum Elye de Gikeleswyk quem michi fecit, tam de terris et tenementis, quam de molendinis, salvo michi homagio predict Elye. Dedi, etiam, eidem Henrico totam terram meam de Litton ... salva michi... tota foresta de Litton. Et dedi illi totam terram meam de Mhalhum ... pro homagio suo et servicio ...Reddendo inde annuatim michi ... unum tercellum jhorum ... ad vincula sancti Petri pro omni servicio ... excepto quod faciet sequelam in curia mea. Dedi, etiam, illi potestatem distrigendi Eliam de Gikeleswyk, in Langclif, in Stainford et in Kirkeby⁺, quotiens a solutione cessaverit reddendi firmam sum ad terminos sibi positos....*

Know that I William de Percy have granted to Sir Henry de Percy, my brother, all my manor of Settle reserving to me the gift(adwoson?) of Giggleswick Church. Besides, I give to him all the rent of Elias de Giggleswick which he made to me, both of lands and tenements, and mills, reserving to me homage of the said Elias. I give, also, to the same Henry all my land in Litton excepting all the forest of Litton. And I give to him all my land in Malham for his homage and villein tenure (service). I am giving back in respect thereof annually to me a brown tiercelet as a bond (chain) to Saint Peter for all service except that which he will make right to pursue in my court of law. I give, also, to him the power of Elias de Giggleswick, in Langcliffe, in Stainforth and in Kirkby, as often as payment will have ceased giving back rent I am to the end of his position...

* this word should be sorum (brown) - a tiercelet (hawk) which is one third smaller than the female. Brown in full plumage.

+ Langcliffe, Stainford, and Kirkby Malhamdale

Elias de Giggleswick had been much annoyed by Richard de Percy who was very litigious and tried to usurp Elias' land; Elias therefore gave certain Langcliffe and Stainforth lands which he owned to Sawley Abbey to create a barrier between Elias' lands and those of Richard and Furness Abbey bordering the River Ribble between Langcliffe and Stackhouse (*Brayshaw & Robinson, 1932*). The Abbeys were particularly quarrelsome at this time. The field name Threaplands by the river indicates this disputed land.

(YASRS vol. 90 vol. 1, charter no.193 (1270)

Matilda of Goldesburgh released to Salley the fourth part of the Haia, which as a widow she gave to her son Thomas of Tabley in Staincliff Wapentake.

Free warren in Langcliffe was held by Salley Abbey.

(YASRS vol. 90 vol.2, 1934, charter no.194)

Thomas of Tabley son of Matilda of Goldesburgh gave to the monks his mother's gift of the fourth part of the Haia. 2 April, 1274, the same Thomas granted in fee and heredity 4 bovates in Bolton to John son of Richard of Bolton, salva mea parte de Haya de Bouhilton; rent 46s. (Dodsworth 92, f. 4v. Cf. f. 8v, where Thomas is described as manens in Bolton). In 1270 the Haia was enclosed and Henry III granted the abbey free warren in Sallay, Hautgrange, Gisburn, Elwinthorp, Fooden, Stainton, Langcliff, Stainford, and Bolton in Bolland

[The Haia lies west of the Salley/Bolton road][Charter Rolls 1257-1300, p143.].

Historical account, Ed. Harland, p35

Rotuli Hundredorum vol I, W. Illingworth, Record Commission, London 1812 and 1818. m7 May 24th 1270 (54th Henry III), 1257-1300, p. 143.

Grant to the abbot and convent of Salley of free warren in their demesne land in Salley, Hautegrange, Giseburne, Elwynthorpe, Fulden, Staynton, Langecliff, Staynford and Boulton co. York.

File of original claims to liberties put in at the Yorkshire Eyre of Hugh de Cressingham and his fellows, opening 2 Edward I (June 1293). The Abbot of Sawley claimed liberties and free warren in Langcliffe and Stainforth etc. in 1293/4. (Yorkshire Hundred and Quo Warranto Rolls 1274-1294, YAS RS vol. 151, page 264. Ed. Barbara English, 1996) (TNA JUST 1/1110 m9 in book 1). Plea rolls for proceedings held before itinerant royal justices.

Quo Warranto (by what warrant) – claims submitted to the justices at the start of quo warranto proceedings (Yorkshire eyre) in 1293-4. In four small books in TNA JUST 1/1110 rot 167 Edward I (1274-1294) after his return from crusade wished to investigate the rights of the crown and any misconduct of his officers.

‘The Abbot of Sawley claims to have these liberties, that is free warren in all his lands of Sawley, Sawley Grange, Gisburn, Ellerthorpe, Fooden, Stainton, Langcliffe, Stainforth and Bolton (by Bowland). He claims also to have a market each week on Monday at Gisburn and a fair there each year lasting for three days, that is on the eve, day and morrow of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [7-9 September]. By the hand of the abbot.’

Image TNA JUST1/1110 m9

Chartulary of Fountains Abbey

(Chartulary of Fountains Abbey, Abstracts of the charters and other documents contained in the chartulary of the Cistercian Abbey of Fountains in the West Riding of the County of York. 1915. W. T. Lancaster. Publ. J. Whitehead and sons, Leeds. Ripon Public Library reference copy).

Disputes between Salley and Fountains are recorded for 1251 but judgement was unwritten. In 1279 a final decision in writing was made concerning all contentions, transgressions and quarrels. Fountains granted to Salley ‘common of pasture on Lotherig and Walterberg (in Litton) and leave to cut hay there and covering for all necessaries, their own and of their men of Langeclyf and Staynford ...’

The Fountains Abbey Lease Book

YASRS vol. 140 1979/1980 Ed. D.J.H. Michelmores, printed 1981.

The rentals for 1495 are recorded by a Bursar and Steward of Courts. The tenants paid boons and ameracements of court according to the custom of the manor. There was a Bailiff of the demesnes of Salley. By Inquisition Post Mortem of 1560/1 it was noted that Langcliffe was held by Henry Darcy, son and heir of Arthur Darcy.

p33. Extra payments were due to the Earl of Northumberland for fee farms of Staynforth and Langclyff. The monks of Salley had no tenants nearer to Pendle than their own house.

p.46. No. 56. Malham Court, 1516. Lease by Abbot Marmaduke and Convent of Fountains to Henry Paicoke of Cowpmanhow, tenement lately held by Richard Paicoke his father. (Capon Hall lodge).

p47. John de Hoveden, (9th) Abbot, was lord of the manor of Langclife in 9th Edward II (1315/16).

p.258. No. 243 Office of Steward of Courts.

p.303. No. 283. Malham Court of Abbot William and the Convent of Fountains held there on the morrow of St Lawrence the Martyr 26th Henry VIII (11 August 1534). Malhammore: Henry Pacock for vert 1d, John Sigisweke for vert 1d.

p.306. No. 283. In the Lordships of Kilnsey, Litton and Malham. Malhammore. Jurors present that Lawrence Yveson of Langcliffe 2d, Thomas Lawson of the same 4d, Henry Kidson of the same 4d, John Browne of the same 4d, Thomas Armysted of the same 4d, John Bank of the same 4d, John Kyd of the same 4d, Robert Kyd of the same 4d, Robert Brashagh, Christopher Brashag, William Yveson dug turves and trespassed on the demesne at Browne caponhawe, therefore [are] in the lord's mercy.

The lord's land: item: they say that the abbot of Salley enclosed eighty acres of the lord's land at Hensett, where the lord's tenants ought to have intercommoning, therefore they require remedy.

Appointment of the Vicar of Giggleswick

(Surtees Society vol. 6 1837 The Priory of Finchale

page 66 LXXIV Ordinatio Vicariae de Gykleswyk 1259 Cart. III. 27)

To all faithful Christians who shall see or hear these present letters, G(odfrey) by Divine grace Archbishop of York, Primate of England, sends eternal greetings in the Lord. You should know that we with the agreement of the Prior and Convent of Durham and the Prior of Finchale have ordained a perpetual Vicarage of Giggleswick Church in the following manner, namely that the vicar, for the time being, should have the tithes of the sheaves of corn of Langcliffe and of Stainford sub monte, and tithes of all the parish hay, of the grist (of the mills), growing crops, wages, geese, and also poultry. Also he should have all annual offerings to the altar, personal tithes, and mortuaries which are not paid for a living animal, and the dwelling house on the church land to live in, which was formerly occupied by Henry Thoppa (Topham?). The Vicar also to be contented that another priest will live in the aforesaid church with himself, and will serve the church and parish with a ministry as an honest and suitable person and with expenses as both the Archdeaconry and synod will support. In witness of which to the present writing our seal is affixed. Given at Cawod, the fifteenth day of May in the year of our Lord 1259.

Manor boundaries

(YASRS 1934 vol. 90 vol. 2 no. 420. Carta R. de Moravilla de Stocked'. [1154-68])

(Early Yorkshire Charters vol. XI, Percy Fee: YASRS Extra Series vol. IX, 1963 ed.

C.T.Clay no. 253 Gift by Richard de Moreville to Sallay Abbey of Stockdale land c. 1164-1175)

Notum sit omnibus filiis sancte matris ecclesie tam presentibus quam futuris quod ego

Ricardus de Moravilla pro amore Dei et sancte Marie, concessi et dedi in puram et perpetuam elemosinam Deo et sancte Marie de Sallai et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus totam terram de Stocadale scilicet Authulnesmire et inde Wlfvesdalals et ultra quantum terra de Setil durat, et ex altera parte a terminis [de] Langclif usque ad terminos de Airton, liberam et solutam ab omni seculari servicio quietam. Hujus donacionis et concessionis testes quam plures persone clerici et laici, scilicet, Robertus vic', Radulphus decanus de Ketelwel, Gledewinus de Colingham, et alii multi.

Be it known to all the sons of the holy mother church both present and future that I Richard of Moravilla for the love of God and Saint Mary grant alms and give unconditionally and for ever to God and Saint Mary of Salley and the monks in the same place serving God all the land of Stocadale, namely Authulnesmire and then Wlfvesdalals and beyond the land extending to Settle, and from the other side to the boundary of Langcliffe up to the boundary of Airton, set free and absolved from all secular service. This gift and concession, witnesses as much as by many other people of the church and laity, namely Robertus vic', Radulphus dean of Ketelwel, Gledewinus de Colingham, and by many others.

(YAS RS 1934 vol. XC vol. 2 no. 676 p.167 fol.190v)

Hee (hic?) sunt divise inter Settyll et Lanclyf, videlicet a magno lapide qui est inter easdem villas, ascendo sicut gross. lapides jacent linionaliter usque ad Rumegaite et de Rumegaite usque in le Blapott, et de Blapott usque ad le Nowelthorne et sicusque ad magnum lapidem super Somerake bank et de Somerrakebank usque in le Groves et sic in antea per le Groves usque in le rydeknottes et sic usque in Symondhailby et de hunc usque ad le Dryryghende et de hunc usque in le Foxholes.

(written in a 16th C hand and spelling not guaranteed)

Here the division between Settle and Langcliffe one may see a great stone which is between these towns, ascend so as to large stones lying marking out as far as to Rumegaite and from as far as to the Blapott, and from Blapott as far as the Nowelthorne and as far as to a great stone above Somerake Bank and from Somerrake bank as far as to the Groves and thus as formerly by the Groves as far as the rydeknottes and thus as far as to Symondhailby and from here as far as the Dryryghende and from there as far as to the Foxholes.

A Settle court roll for April 41 Eliz (1599) held at Chatsworth notes that 'John Altham took away a boundary stone with some stones for a wall'.

The Crusades

In 1275 when a new crusade was proposed, The Archbishop's roll has the name Henry of Langcliffe who subscribed 5s - thereby gaining absolution from sins.

The King's daughter

In 1290 a levy, cunningly labelled a 'gift', was allowed for the marriage of the King's daughter but this tax was not collected until 1302. Langcliffe, held by the Abbot of Sawley, was rated at 2 carucates and paid 5s 9d. Details are given in Chapter 12.

Kirkby's Inquest (9 Edward II, i.e. 1316)

(The survey of the county of York taken by John de Kirkby, commonly called Kirkby's Inquest).

Kirkby's Inquest, Knights' Fees: Nomina Villarum in 1316 (*Surtees Soc. 1866, vol. 49, p354*) shows that Langeclif in the Wapentagium de Staynclif is noted as having the Abbas de Sallay as Lord of the Manor. Additional carucages or taxes on land were levied occasionally and in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) John de Kirkby the King's Treasurer surveyed the military capabilities and land values of Yorkshire. Langcliffe is stated to have 2 carucates which the Abbot of Sawley holds under the Percy overlords and they under the king. A tax of 18d is to be paid by the Abbot as Lord of the Manor recovered in part by the rents paid by the inhabitants (maybe 10 or 20 families).

The Scottish Border raids

After the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 the Scots began to retaliate - in 1316 all Richmondshire suffered; in 1318 Bolton Abbey was plundered and as the raiders went back home via Ribblesdale Langcliffe may have suffered also. The following year Giggleswick parish was laid waste.

Close Rolls 25 November 1319 (Brayshaw and Robinson, 1932)

Close Rolls Calendar Edward III vol. III 1318-1323 p166

To the taxors and collectors of the eighteenth in the West Riding of York. Order to supersede until further orders the levying of the eighteenth of the goods of Eleanor, late the wife of Henry de Percy, and her men and tenants of Settle, Giggleswick, Stainforth, Langcliffe and Rathmell, as Eleanor has given the King to understand, for herself, her men and tenants, that the said towns were burnt by the Scots rebels, and the goods and chattels of the men of the aforesaid towns partly destroyed and partly stolen, so that they cannot pay the taxation of the said tenth of those goods. The taxors and collectors are to make a taxation of the eighteenth of their goods there remaining.

There is a tradition that Langcliffe was rebuilt about half a mile south of its present position. (*Whitaker, T.D., 1878. History of Craven, publ. Dodgson, Leeds*). The site may now have been destroyed by quarrying under Winskill.

Taxation of Langcliffe

It is likely that stockfarming for wool was the main occupation of the tenants of the Abbot of Sawley. Each tenant would presumably have had some land for growing his own subsistence crops.

From 1334 to 1606 it was agreed in Langcliffe that 13s represented the tax required for the value of the horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, wheat, barley, oats, rye, mixed corn, peas and beans, the hay, fodder, carts and items of merchandise.

The valuations of 1334 and the basic subsidies of 1/15 and 1/10th lasted nearly 300 years, to 1623. In the 1500s Langcliffe paid a reduced amount of 8s instead of 13s presumably due to poverty.

These lay subsidies were not the only tax demands, nor were the economic conditions over 300 years uniformly consistent with a valuation of 13s. Particularly in 1348/9 the

Black Death caused labour shortages for several generations (the country's population falling to 3 million from 5) and communities had to apply for Relief.

The wool tax of 1340

A tax on wool was made in 1275 at 6s 8d tax, and in later years up to £2, on a sack worth £4 to £8. There was intervention in the wool trade particularly in the period 1337 to 1343, with a wool tax noted for Langcliffe in 1340 together with a lay subsidy rate of 2/15.

The Poll taxes of 1377 and 1379

The next notable special tax was the poll tax of 1377 (Richard II 1377-1399) at 4d a head and the modified graduated tax in 1379 and 1381. The poll tax was paid by a large fraction of the population who were previously exempt, the wage earners. In 1377 those over 14 paid 4d (1.3 million people caught). In 1379 those lay persons over 16 paid 4d and more on a sliding scale. In 1381 those over 15 paid 12d (mysteriously then only 0.9 million people found willing) but with the rich encouraged to help the poor! This new tax was bitterly resented and there was much evasion by concealing people and denying the ages of young persons.

Compotus of Salley for 1381

Historical account, Ed. Harland, p32

Payment to the Abbot of Furness for attachment of the water mill of Langclyff, 11d (see dispute discussed above). To the Earl of Northumberland for the fee-farms of Staynforth and Langclyf, and for service of Lytton 29s 7d.

William de Stalmyn 1409 (misquoted as 1400?)

Resident of Langcliffe and vicar of Giggleswick

WYAS WYL163/117

Sciant p[re]sentes & futur[i] quod ego d[omi]n[u]s Will[el]m[u]s de Stalmyn p[er]petuus vicarius eccl[es]ie p[ar]ochial[is] de Gigilswik dedi co[n]sessi (*concessi*) & hac p[re]senti carta mea co[n]firmavi Roberto Beno[o] & her[edibus] de corpore suo p[ro]creat[is] om[n]ia t[er]ra & ten[ementa] mea cum p[er]tin[entiis] suis que habeo ex dono & feffame[n]to Will[el]m[i] de langclyf & Emmote uxor[i] eiusd[em] In Willa & t[er]ris de Gigilswik h[ab]end[um] & tenend[um] om[n]ia p[re]d[i]ct[a] t[er]ra & ten[ementa] cum p[er]tin[entiis] suis p[re]fato Roberto & her[edibus] de corp[or]e suo p[ro]creat[is] cum om[n]ia co[m]moditibus & asiament[is] p[re]d[i]ctis t[er]ra & ten[ementa] infra Willa & Op[orte]t q[uo]quo (*transpose*) modo spectantibus bene liber[e] intigre pacifi[c]e & quiete de capit[e] d[omi]nis feod[i] istius(or illius?) per servicia inde deb[it]a & de iur[e] co[n]sueta Et ego vero p[re]dict[o] Will[el]m[o] & her[edes] mei om[n]ia p[re]d[i]cta t[er]ra & ten[ementa] cum p[er]t[ine]n[tiis] suis p[re]fato Rob[er]to & her[edibus] de corpore suo p[ro]creat[es] cont[ra] om[n]es gentes Warantizabimus & imp[er]pe[tuum] defendem[us] In cuius rei testimo[n]ium huic p[re]sent[i] carte mee Sigil meum appos[ui] hijs testibus d[omi]no Joh Pudsay milit[e] Alano Cat[er]all Joh de Morlay Thom[a] Bank Thoma Fost[er] & Alijs Dat ap[ud] Gikilswik In f[est]o nati[vit]at[is] S[an]cti Joh Baptist Anno r[egni] r[egis] henr[ici] q[ua]rti post co[n]quest[um] Anglie decim[o]

*Know (men) present and future that I Sir William de Stalmyn perpetual vicar of the parish church of Giggleswick have given and granted and by this my present charter confirmed to Robert Benous and the heirs of his body begotten all my lands and tenements with its appurtenances which I have by gift and feoffment to the same William of Langcliffé and Emmott his wife in the township and lands of Giggleswick to have and to hold all the aforesaid lands and tenements with their appurtenances by the aforesaid Robert and the heirs of his body begotten with all commodities and easements of the abovesaid lands and tenements within the township and ought to be(?) in whatever way well freely wholly peacefully and quietly of the chief lord of the fee by the services owed and accustomed by law And verily I the said William and my heirs will warrant and defend against all people forever all the aforesaid lands and tenements with its appurtenances to the same aforesaid Robert and the heirs of his body begotten. In testimony of which I have affixed our seals to this my present charter these being witnesses Sir John de Pudsay knight, Alan Catterall, John de Morlay, Thomas Bank, Thomas Foster and others
Given at Giggleswick on the birthday of St John the Baptist in the tenth year of the reign of Henry iv after the conquest.*

*(Henry IV 10th year from 30 September 1408 to 29 September 1409).
(Birthday of St John Baptist is 24 June).*

Will of William Stalmyn 1412

Archbishop's Register (Consistory Wills) Borthwick vol. 18 fol. 352

Testament of William Stalmyn vicar of Giggleswick

In the name of God Amen on Sunday just before the feast of St Thomas the Apostle AD 1412 I William Stalmyn vicar of the parish church of Giggleswick sick in body but of sound mind make my testament in this manner. First I bequeath my soul to God, blessed Mary and all the saints and my body to be buried in the said same church. Item I leave to the high altar of Horton Church two shillings. Item I leave to dom. Adam Morton chaplain five pounds. Item I leave to dom. Richard Hayholme forty shillings. Item I leave to dom. Henry Rauthmell chaplain a [.....] five silver spoons and two pounds. Item I leave an ordinal to be read in the sanctorum of Giggleswick Church aforesaid. Item I leave to the Hospital of Salley nine coverlets to be received by the inmates. Item I leave all my domestic utensils and all the grain in the tithe barn and my grange to John Calnlay and his sister Agnes to be divided between them in equal portions. The said John Calnlay and dom. Henry Rauthmell chaplain I ordain make and confirm to be my executors by these presents thus making and disposing as if they wished to be answerable to the highest judge.

Given at Giggleswick the place and year above written.

Memorandum the 16th day of January in the year above written at Cawood the said will was proved and administration was committed for all the goods of the deceased to the executors named in the said will in form confirming to the legatees abovementioned ordained and abovesaid in lawful format.

A William Stalmyn 1412 was vicar in 1335 and is noted in 1351 as being a canon at Southwell and ratified at Giggleswick in 1399. He had a son William who took over his post as evident from a Finchale charter; it is the son whose will is noted above.

(Cox, J.C., 1920. The parish church of Giggleswick-in-Craven (dedicated under the name of Saint Alkelda). Historical notes, ancient and modern ... Publ. Jackson ,Leeds)
(YAS, Fasti Parochiales, 1971. 4.1.Finc.33)

*Letter, of W[alter Skirlaw], Bishop of Durham to [the Prior of Durham],
recommending the request of William Stalmyn, vicar of Giggleswick church in the
presentation of the Prior,
that he might resign in favour of William Stalmyn junior.
Dated: Calesius 16 May []*

The Flodden Roll 1509

Early Tudor Craven Subsidies and Assessments 1510-1547, R.W.Hoyle, YASRS vol. 145, 1985.

A list of fighting men from Giggleswick Parish is dated 1510 to 1511 and was discovered in the Household Book of Henry, Lord Clifford. The battle of Flodden took place in 1513. The list is probably of those who took part rather than a full list of those liable for service to the Lord. Each man was obliged to provide themselves with weapons according to means. If a man was not fit (able) he had to provide equipment for others.

Langclyff

Rich. Browne, a bowe, able, horse and harnes

Roger Yveson, a bowe also

Henry Pacock, a bille also

Robert Kydson, bowe

Rich. Kyng, also

Robt. Kydd, also

Willm Yveson, also

John Stakhouse, a bille

Rog. Browne, a bowe

The Lay Subsidies of 1522, 1524, 1543, 1547

Early Tudor Craven Subsidies and Assessments 1510-1547, R.W.Hoyle, YASRS vol. 145, 1985.

In the Wapentake of Staincliffe

All eighteen tenants in Langcliffe held their houses from the Abbot of Sawley. A series of Lay Subsidies in the 1500s, detailed censuses of the nation's military resources – manpower and weapons, show the names of Langcliffe residents (at least those who did not evade the officials!).

From these lists it seems that the family of Carr was not resident in Langcliffe before 1547. The James Carr of Giggleswick on the roll for 1510/11 who died in 1528 has descendants who can be identified with some certainty but his forebears are shadowy and cannot be linked to him with documentary evidence. A descendant, James Carr, is noted below as a holder of the office of feoffee when the manorial rights of Langcliffe were bought jointly from the Darcy family by several of the families in Langcliffe in 1591.

Knighthood

The order of knighthood was intended to be assumed by all landowners with more than a certain wealth - £20 in the late 15th C and later £40. A coat of arms was essential, needing at least £10 a year in income from land and £300 in moveable goods.

Muster of Archers 1539

*No.22 Muster Roll 1538:Wapentake of Craven, Bowland.
PRO E36/34 XL 02062 . Appendix18*

Muster Langcliffe
Villa de Langcliffe

ar	Thomas Lawson	horse rak
bow	William Keson	rak salet bill
bow	Oliver bronn	bill
bow	John bateson	horse & rak
bow	John Bronn	horse & harness
bow	Thomas King	horse & harness
ar	John kid	horse ark salit
ar	Robt kid	" " "
bow	Th Armysted	ark bill
bow	Leonard Car	horse rak
bow	Jamys Iveson	horse & harness
ar	John Braysha	bill
ar	Roger Kid	horse rak
bow	Robt Falthrop	
bow	Thomas Kid	horse ark bill
bow	Robt Brasha	horse ark bill
bow	Roger Brasha	
bow	John Foster	ark bill
bow	Edw(?) Brasha	bill
ar	Richard Iveson	
bow	Lawrence Iveson	
ar	Willm Foster	horse ark bill
ar	Edward(?) Foster	
bow	John Foster	horse ark bill
bow	Robt Foster	bill
bow	Jamys Salebank	ark salet bill
ar	Thomas Sailebank	
bow	John Pacock	ak bill

Sum[me] of hable men XXVIII

Whereof

Archers IX

Bilmen XIX

Therof

Of men furnished	III
Of horses	IX
Of rakkes	XIII
Of salittes	III
Of billes	XIII

Summa of all the hablemen in Craven & Booland before the said Sir Thomas Tempest knight & John Lambart