

Goole-on-the-Web

Volume Three - The Villages

The Villages	2
Adlingfleet.....	3
Airmyn	25
Asselby.....	38
Barmby on the Marsh	48
Blacktoft	59
Boothferry.....	67
Carlton	70
Cowick.....	73
Gilberdyke.....	78
Goole Fields	82
Hook	85
Howdendyke	97
Knedlington.....	123
Laxton.....	126
Ousefleet	128
Rawcliffe.....	139
Rawcliffe Bridge	149
Reedness.....	158
Saltmarshe.....	165
Skelton	172
Snaith.....	177
Swinefleet	181
White City	197
Whitgift.....	198
Yokefleet	205

The Villages

While Goole may not be the centre of the universe, it is certainly the focal point for many of the outlying villages in the area. These villages range from small hamlets with just one or two houses such as Skelton or Asselby, to quite significant towns in themselves such as Howden or Snaith.

All the villages have several things in common, such as a red phone box, a (usually closed) pub, a church, a village hall. They also have their own unique charm and landmarks, such as Swinefleet's statue, Howden's Minster or Snaith's lockup.

Most people only drive through the villages on the way to somewhere bigger, but they are worth taking the time to stop off and soak up the atmosphere of a bygone more peaceful age. Admittedly most of the farms have big dogs which chase you if you cycle past, but the locals are always keen to welcome visitors. The Hull - Selby cycleway runs through many of the places north of the river and there are pleasant rights of way along the riverbanks to some of the other villages.



Adlingfleet

Adelingesfluet 1086 (Domesday Book). "Water-channel or stream of the prince or nobleman". Old English ætheling + fleot.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Not much happens in Adlingfleet now that the Cross Keys, famous for its pie and peas and pickled eggs, is no more. However, like all of the area, it is excellent cycling territory.



Rumours of Past Greatness

Adlingfleet is different, with a history and indeed a fascination, that is all its own. Its geography underlies this.

A 16th Century visitor describes "Ethelingfete" as "but an uplandeisch town". And it is! No mountains are visible but clearly from all diirections you climb a foot or two to Adlingfleet. It was an "island town" surrounded by marshes and rivers. And a basic truth of mediaeval geography is that "marshes divide but rivers unite". Adlingfleet is cut off to the south and west by tidal flooded wastes and these were only passable along the "King's Causeway" known in the Middle Ages as "le rodecause" that is the "riding causeway". Adlingfleet's links were across the river with Lincolnshire. In fact Adlingfleet and adjacent Garthorpe are two outlying parts of "that great belt of Saxon Country stretching along the south bank of the Humber from Trent Falls to the Lincolnshire coast and down to Peterborough".

In the greatest days of the Northumbrian Kingdom, Lindsey though from time to time it had its own sub-king, was very much part of Northumbria and these links were only broken when Northumbria's defeat by Mercia transferred the area to the Mercian Midland Kingdom. Even after the Conquest, the Archbishops of York maintained their claims to Lindsey. The determination of William the Conqueror to make Lincoln and not Dorchester (near Oxford) the See City of that extraordinary East Midland's Bishopric which, throughout the Middle Ages stretched from the Humber to the Thames, forced the Archbishop to give up his claims to Lindsey in 1071. He was bought off and so Lindsey and Lincolnshire moved into the province of Canterbury and Lindsey-Adlingfleet (unlike Lindsey-Garthorpe) became a sort of frontier town left on the wrong side of the frontier. Adlingfleet's links, through the ferries across the Don and the Trent, remained with the Lindsey

Saxon Culture and communications system. We know for certain very little about this Saxon town of Adlingfleet but yet there comes to us, over and over again, mysterious hints of a vanished greatness.

The first of these is the name. This has a bewildering variety of spellings, but its meaning is not in doubt. A "fleet" is an inlet or channel of a tidal river and an "Atheling" is a Prince. Sometimes the "Atheling" is not any old Prince but, as it were, the "Prince of Wales", the Prince who is thought likely to be the heir to the throne. Which Prince (or just possibly Princess) first gave his name to this tidal inlet at the mouth of the Don we don't know. We can't even tell whether he (or she) was of the Royal families of Northumbria or Mercia or even perhaps Lindsey. But the name must imply that this was in some way a significant Royal estate.

Secondly, and very surprisingly, Adlingfleet was the third richest "living" in England. This becomes no less astonishing but more significant when we discover that numbers one and two were Lindisfarne and Bamburgh. They were the ecclesiastical and regal headquarters of the Northumbrian Kingdom and the wealth of those two churches must have been based not on the intrinsic economic prosperity (or even the size of the population) of the area but on the generosity of the Royal endowments. The same story can be told of the Aetheling's Church at Adlingfleet. The mystery of the Church's mediaeval wealth finds some explanation if Adlingfleet was a Royal Saxon centre of some ecclesiastical importance.

Thirdly, there is some other evidence for this. For the Anglo Saxon Chronicle tells us that "in 763 AD. Pectwine was consecrated Bishop of Whithorn at Aefletee (or perhaps - for the manuscripts vary "Adelfete") by the Archbishop of York. "Ee" means "island" and so it was on "Aelfet" island that the consecration took place. The skulduggery of mediaeval Durham chroniclers tried to claim that this moment of ecclesiastical greatness fell to "Elvet" near Durham, but this must be bogus. We can't prove it was Adlingfleet but it was probable. Surprisingly there were long standing links between the very opposite ends of the Northumbrian Kingdom's spheres of influence in Galloway and Lindsey. The complex tale of the links between Whithorn in Galloway and the Archbishop of York need not concern us. But York in those years was in some turmoil and it is not farfetched that the Prince's Church at Adlingfleet, so easily accessible by water from parts all of the North, was a safe and suitable place for the great ecclesiastical gathering that gave to Pectwine authority to be a spiritual leader of the Picts (for that is what the name means) in distant Galloway

Fourthly, despite the Danish invasion and settlement in the area in 1066, Adlingfleet is still a place of some importance with a major personage as its landowner. This is Siward the Nobleman (or Siwardbarn). He was a great nephew of King Edward the Confessor and plays some part too in the history of Sheffield. He submitted to William the Conqueror but then joined in a Danish invasion in 1069 and thereafter fled to join the "resistance movement" of Hereward the Wake on the Isle of Ely. He was captured in 1071, lost all his lands, and remained in prison until he was released "as an act of clemency" in 1087.

But Siward's Adlingfleet is recorded in the Domesday Book thus. "In Adelingesfluet Siwardbarn had 6 carucates of land to be taxed; there is land for three ploughs. Geoffrey de la Wirce has now one plough and 13 villeins and one bordar with 3 ploughs. There is a church and a priest and one mill of 10 shillings; coppice wood one mile long and one quarenteen broad: the whole manor two miles long and one broad. Value in King Edward the Confessor's time four pounds; now thirty shillings".

Was this "Domesday" Church the same as that in which Pectwine may well have been consecrated in 763. Because of the Danish invasions almost certainly not! Yet there is further mystery here. The Danish Great Army between 865-875 set about the conquest of England and also it would appear its colonisation. For Haldenby which is barely a mile away from Adlingfleet is where the Danish General Halfdene settled his veterans. That it has barely survived - it is one of the tiny handful of DMV's (deserted mediaeval villages) in the Diocese of Sheffield - suggests that it is a less favoured site than Adlingfleet. Had Saxon Adlingfleet been seized and destroyed by the invading Danes? And, if so, how had the ancestors of Siward returned and rebuilt the Church? Or - as the evidence suggests - was the Danish settlement here a peaceful one foreshadowing that alliance between Dane and Saxon which was to prove disastrous to Siward in 1069?

Before leaving Saxon Adlingfleet a more speculative piece of historical reconstruction is appropriate and illuminating.

Bede was both writing his History and corresponding with the Archbishop of York in the 730s about a hundred years after the conversion of Northumbria to Christianity. He viewed the future with some alarm because, he claimed, "there are innumerable places, as we all know, allowed the name of monasteries but having nothing of a monastic way of life." Bede saw these "many and large foundations" as being "useful neither to God and man". Modern historians are not sure that all Bede's criticisms were fair. These "monasteries" can be defended both because, says Professor Wormald, "several apparently dubious houses seem to have achieved high standards of Christian culture" and also because they were a serious attempt to relate the Christian life to the Anglo-Saxon understanding of their family, its past and its future. These "monasteries" were meant to be some sort of focus for Royal and family loyalties. There are some plausible reasons for believing that Adlingfleet might have been one of the "monasteries" about which the Venerable Bede complained.

St. Willibrand's father, St. Wilgils is the first clue. Willibrand has some claim to be one of the first famous Yorkshiremen. He was born on 5th November, 689, and having been put into the care of St. Wilfrid at Ripon as a child, eventually became the Apostle of the Netherlands. His father Wilgils (and we must assume that his mother was dead) then retired to a hermitage "in the headlands that are bounded by the North Sea and the River Humber". This phrase was written by another famous Yorkshireman Alcuin and he must have meant Spurn Head and not Adlingfleet, but it shows that the Anglo-Saxons' fondness for isolated and storm-tossed spots on which to build monasteries extended to the extreme south of Northumbria. If Spurn Head why not Adlingfleet too? Only a few names have come to us of the early "monasteries". But in 757 A.D. a Yorkshire abbot named Forthred had complained to the Pope that the King had taken three monasteries from him. Pope Paul I wrote to King Eadberht of Northumbria (737-758) about this and a record of the letter has survived. The three disputed monasteries were at Stonegrave, Coxwold and "Donaemuthe". The scholars tell us that the whereabouts of "Donaemuthe" is unknown. To me, having lived for many years in houses that overlook Tynemouth Priory, which certainly began as an Anglon-Saxon monastery, it seems obvious that "Donaemuthe" is at the mouth of the Don and that must mean Adlingfleet. If this was so, it would explain why this spot was chosen for Pectwin's consecration and perhaps also explain why Adlingfleet emerges into the Middle Ages so surprisingly important.

The fight for the Rectory of Adlingfleet

At the beginning of the 13th Century Adlingfleet was still the third wealthiest living in the country. By the end of the century it had sunk to number six but was still worth having with its vast income (in money of those days) of £153/6/8. Little good came to Adlingfleet from this ancient, and difficult to explain, wealth.

The succession of local landowners plays a part in this tale. The Geoffrey Wirce who took over from the Northumbrian Siward at the Conquest apparently soon returned to Normandy, and Adlingfleet became part of the growing estates of the D'Eyville family. But by the end of the century the family's involvement in the losing side of civil wars and vast debts led to their decline and the sale of the advowson of Adlingfleet to the Lovetots. This sale and the claim of at least three patrons to present four different people as Rector of Adlingfleet (none of whom probably ever set foot in Adlingfleet) led to a prolonged legal dispute of astonishing virulence.

The main protagonists were Robert of Scarbrough and Bogo de Clare. "Both" says Canon Richardson "were shameless pluralists without any compensatory redeeming features like those of John the Frenchman". Robert was Archdeacon of the East Riding and Dean of York as well as to be claiming Rector of Adlingfleet. Bogo's skill in acquiring benefices was even greater. He died in 1291 holding 2 canonries, 3 dinities in Cathedral and Collegiate Churches and 24 parishes with an income of £2,200. Archbishop Pecham said he behaved "as a robber rather than a rector". After prolonged dispute both Robert and Bogo resigned from Adlingfleet and in 1291 both died.

Meanwhile, Sir John de Lovetot seems to have established his right to present but the victory was shortlived. For, for half a century at least, Selby Abbey had been determined to "round off" their empire and to settle the long running disputes between them and successive Rectors of Adlingfleet by the acquisition of Adlingfleet Rectory for themselves. By 1306 papal approval had been gained and the first Vicar was appointed. The final seal was put on the new arrangements in 1315 when the last of the Lovetots, Joan Lovetot, agreed to sell to the Abbot of Selby whatever claims she might have had to the Advowson of Adlingfleet.

In 1307 the Rectory was appropriated to Selby Abbey and, thereafter, the Abbey appointed stipendiary priests (or chaplains) to care for the parish. The fabled wealth of the benefice went to Selby Abbey and after 1307, Vicars of Adlingfleet were not significantly better off than other incumbents. Their stipend was £9. Up to the Dissolution of the Abbey in 1539, the Abbots of Selby continued to appoint a succession of Vicars of Adlingfleet. At the Dissolution the advowson went to the Crown and, rather unusually, remained in Royal hands.

Adlingfleet church by the end of the Middle Ages was a very fine building indeed with a nave and tower as we see them now but also with a chancel that was said to be twice as long as the present nave. The repair and maintenance of that chancel was the responsibility of the "Rector". No doubt Selby Abbots as long as they were "the Rector" would do their duty. But clearly after 1539 no-one repaired the chancel. Eventually it began to fall down and in 1794 was demolished and replaced by the present small chancel. Someone somewhere has, through these centuries, been getting an income from Adlingfleet's Rectorial tithes and reneging on the responsibilities for the chancel of Adlingfleet church that went with that income. Selby had swallowed up Adlingfleet yet the parish never became part of the Selby-controlled Peculiar of Snaith. The matter is neatly put by the Historian of the Snaith Peculiar: "The Vicar of Adlingfleet, though completely isolated and detached from the diocese by the peculiar of Howden (in the diocese of Durham!) on the north, the peculiar of Snaith on the west and south, and the diocese of Lincoln on the east has ever refused obedience to the commissary of Snaith. It is also long since he contrived to incorporate into his own parish such parts of Haldenby, Fockerby and Eastoft as were anciently in the parish of Snaith". The Archdeacon of York and the Rural Dean of Pontefract had no more loyal priest within their jurisdiction than the Vicar of beleaguered Adlingfleet!

The battle for the frontiers

To the mediaeval Rector standing on the tower of Adlingfleet church much of the geography of his parish would stand out clearly; to the north the Ouse and to the east the nearby Don set their clear limits. To the west the ancient road to Rawcliffe, Turnbridge and beyond - the King's Causeway would lead the eye along and then back to the ferries across the Don and Trent. But along that road through the featureless Marsh, where did the parish stop? And again, looking southwards into the Waste and the medley of rivers and meres that led back to Crowle and to Thorne, where was the parish boundary? The four fields that made up the arable area of Adlingfleet would stand out clearly, but the areas of common and waste that surrounded them and on which the beasts of this and perhaps neighbouring villages grazed, would be a great deal less clear. And ships loading and unloading at the Quay beyond Whitgift, where they in the parish?

The first Rector whose name has survived - Walter son of William - took the large view of his parish. The tithes of Reedness, Whitgift, Ousefleet, Eastoft, Fockerby and Haldenby were his. "Not so", said Selby. Some (if not all) of these villages are in the parish of Snaith and so the tithes belong to Selby Abbey as the "Rector" of Snaith since 1100. A compromise was reached in about 1164: the tithes were to go to Walter for his lifetime only. In return he was to pay 40 shillings per annum to the Abbot of Selby and swear fealty to him. Thirty years later Walter's successor, confusingly also called "Walter son of William", (or could it be the same Walter repenting in old age of the compromise of his youth) went back on the agreement with Selby. He showed that he thought Ousefleet was in Adlingfleet parish by building a Chapel there. Selby reacted strongly; convinced the Papal Delegates that the "Composition" of 1164 was still in force and so it was

decreed "by apostolic authority" that "the Chapel was to be thrown down to the foundations". If round one had been a draw, round two clearly went to Selby.

But in 1247 (or perhaps 1245) Adlingfleet had a new Rector who was more than ready to renew the battle. He was certainly a North Countryman and possibly a Yorkshireman. But his career and fame began in France. There, despite his extreme unsuitability for a life of poverty and humility, he became a Franciscan Friar and won the favour of Pope Innocent IV who at that time was in France as a result of his struggles with the Emperor. Innocent is described as "a born ruler who was as unscrupulous in choosing means as resolute in achieving ends". The Pope sent John back to England to raise money for the Papal Wars. Confusingly he was known to the Chroniclers of the day - because he came from France - as John the Frenchman. All these Chroniclers were monks. Monks had the money. John wanted the money for the Pope and the King. The monks hated John and Alexander his fellow-friar. They "cloaked the greed of wolves under the fleece of a sheep". These "so-called brothers, set out from the King's Council riding noble steeds, equipped with golden saddles and in secular fashion adorned with the riches robes and military spurs". At both the Pope and the King's behest John was made Rector of Adlingfleet. This was not the only rich benefice he acquired, but clearly - as even a wicked Yorkshireman would - he minded a great deal about his parish at Adlingfleet. For he set about building a great new church at Adlingfleet in the newest style of architecture. The nave survives; the chancel, which was twice the size of the nave was demolished in 1794; the transepts seem never to have been completed on the scale originally planned. The huge chancel is something of a problem. Certainly this hammer of the monks was not building a monastic church. There is no evidence that there was any plan for the creation of a collegiate church here. The most likely explanation is that this chancel was meant to provide a fitting setting for Adlingfleet's treasured fragment of the True Cross with space for pilgrim worshippers and the large "Trunc" or "Almsbox" into which generous offerings were made. A Royal Charter of 1261 recognised an Annual Fair of eight days at Adlingfleet beginning on the Eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This new church was to be for the towns of Ousefleet, Whitgift, Eastoft, Reedness, Swinefleet, Fockerby and Haldenby.

But John's energies were also put to less praiseworthy uses. In 1248, the Chronicler tells us, "whilst a dispute was in progress between the monks of Selby and John the Frenchman a clerk of my lord the king, one monk was killed and more wounded and beaten". In 1250 the battle raged over "a certain weir in Wytegift". The jury had to decide whether it belonged to "the church of Athelingefted whereof John le Franceys is parson" or to "the Abbot". It seems they decided in favour of Selby. It was as part of this continuing feud that John demolished Whitgift Church and carried off the stone to Adlingfleet and built himself a chamber (camera) there. It is possible that this "camera" survives (just!) in the ruined building near the church. Whitgift Church had been built about a hundred years earlier and was, presumably, thought to be a Chapel-of-ease in Snaith parish. Since the foundation of the Abbey Selby had had a "fishery" at Whitgift. But St. Mary's Abbey at York was at this time the principal landowner at Whitgift. So John battled as furiously with St. Mary's, York as with Selby. And, apparently, not without success! For in 1253, the Chronicler (Matthew Paris) tells us "the Church of St. Mary of York incurred great loss and dishonour on account of a certain charter which their opponents, of whom the greatest was John the Frenchman, judged should be repudiated. It is thought that this John, who was of northern origin, craved insatiably to swell his own revenues from the property of the said church in those parts. In the same way also the said persecutor John, whom the Lord the Avenger deprived of an eye, harassed Selby Abbey on a similar charge with irreparable damage".

But John's triumphs were short-lived. He seemed set for a great career in England. Pope Innocent IV wrote to the Archbishop of York in 1250 asking that "notwithstanding his impaired sight and defect in one eye, that no hindrance be given to his promotion to superior orders."

"His life", said the Pope, "is adorned by honesty, by literary attainments, exemplary manners and recognition at the apostolic see." But his health failed. In 1252 rumour of his death "whilst in a remote part of northern England where he had gone to plead against certain monks" was believed to have prevented the King from

making him his Treasurer. I think he probably had had a stroke. In 1255 he dies whilst at his other northern benefice of Caldbeck in Cumberland.

His enemies have the last word: "John the Frenchman, one of the most eminent of the lord the King's clerks and councillors stricken incurable by paralysis deserved to be mourned with dry tears by the monks of St. Mary's Abbey at York and of Selby".

John's successors as Rector of Adlingfleet were not able to hold what he had won. In 1304 Whitgift Church is to be rebuilt and Henry de Lacy, Count of Lincoln, grants to Selby Abbey "the cemetery in the vill of Wytegift consecrated a long time ago". This is so that the church can be rebuilt "which church or chapel the present and future inhabitants in ths vills of Ousefleet, Wytegift, Essetoft, Redenesse and Swynflet and also the tenants of XI bovates of land in Folquardeby and XIII bovates of land in Haldenby which aforesaid vills are within the boundaries of the parish of Snayth, will hear divine office and will receive and have the church's sacraments..." This decision doesn't leave much for poor Adlingfleet. (A bovate is probably about 15 acres).

At some point Adlingfleet won back a little of what had been lost. For, writing in 1795, the Vicar tells us that the parish "consists at present of the four following townships - Adlingfleet, Fockerby, Haldenby and Eastoft".

The memory of these ancient battles lingers on. Around 1950 the parishes of Whitgift and Adlingfleet were united. The union was not a happy one and when the United Benefice of Marshland was created in 1988, Adlingfleet, though content to share their incumbent with the parishes of Whitgift, Eastoft and Swinefleet, rejoiced to become again a separate parish as they had been in the time of John the Frenchman.

The battle to make a living

If prehistoric man lived in Marshland no traces of his presence has survived. Our history begins with the settlement of Saxons and Danes more than a thousand years ago. In the days before modern transport a village could only survive if year-on-year it could be fed. In the Marshland townships (or villages) we see four ways in which they make can a living.

First there are the arable fields. These gave bread and some feed for the animals. Adlingfleet had four of those open fields: Trent, West, Fowerstangs and Town End. Their name - there is still a "fowerstangs drain" - give us a good idea of how they were arranged round the village. And though the "Open strip" system was abandoned in Adlingfleet with the Enclosure Act of 1766, we have only to journey into the nearby Isle of Axholme at Belton, Epworth and Haxey to get some impression of what the "Open Fields" looked like.

Secondly, there were the animals grazing freely in the pasture and waste. In an area like Marshland this was probably as important as Arable Farming and the right to pasture animals - Cow gaits - has remained an important part (and sometimes a controversial one) until modern times. In Adlingfleet the surviving right to Cow gaits in Cow Lane is a direct link with more than a thousand years of a community's history.

The river, through both trade and fishing, provided a third source of livelihood for most of the Marshland townships. The Admiralty Courts exercised a jurisdiction to ensure that the rivers were open for traffic and free of pirates. In 1310, Edward II (who showed a great deal of interest in Marshland spending time at both Adlingfleet and Cowick), appointed two men to look after the Salmon in the waters of Humber, Ouse, Trent, Don, etc, and to ensure that there was a close season for catching Salmon. Whitgift's first historical mention comes with the gift of the fishery there to Selby Abbey which, it was claimed, took place in 1070. Corn, animals and fish provided food for the people.

The fourth source of prosperity in the Marshland was inedible - it was peat. To this day Thorne Waste seems a virtually inexhaustible source of peat. That within the peat were found great tree trunks and, occasionally human remains was a great source of puzzlement to our ancestors whose confident belief in a creation in

4004 BC left an inadequate timescale for the creation of this peat wilderness. They sought an explanation in Noah's flood or, more ingeniously, in the belief that the ancient woods that once covered the neighbourhood were destroyed by fire as an incident in the Roman pacification of their not-yet-quite-conquered province. What was not a matter for debate was that the growing prosperity of the Middle Ages (with its steady clearing of the woods by the plough) led to a fuel shortage and something like a gold rush for the peat turves of the Marshland. A "Turbary", that is the right to cut peat, became a licence to print money.

A study of the ancient boundaries of the townships and parishes shows that nearly all extend down into the Waste or Moor: all must have a share. An old name for the neighbourhood is Inclesmore. The complexities of the mediaeval system of multiple rights to the same piece of land ensured more fierce disputes as a variety of people and institutions claimed the right to cut and sell peat turves. One way and another a large number of Religious Houses in both Lincolnshire and Yorkshire acquired a share in the Marshland or Inclesmore Turbaries. Thornton Abbey shared with St. Mary's, York the distinction of having the largest Turbaries but Selby too had its share.

Through the centuries fishing has vanished and, in modern times, the grazing of animals became less important. Peat is still being exploited. But the main change through the centuries has been the steady increase in the area of land under the plough and its fertility. In the 18th and 19th Centuries this was brought about by "warping". This involved flooding the land with water from the rivers in such a way that the fertile soil, washed down from the rest of Yorkshire, settled on and made prosperous the Marshland. Even in 1795 the then Vicar of Adlingfleet could write. "The land in general, being what is called warp land (i.e., land made by the overflowing of the tides), is extremely fertile and produces great quantities of grass and hay. Not much corn is sown here, the land being for the most part applied to grazing of cattle for the market. A good part of the grounds being suitable for the growth of flax great quantities of that article are sometimes produced within the parish". Rather gloomily, he adds that the parish is "low and unhealthy, the inhabitants being very generally afflicted with agues and other complaints owing to the great stagnation of waters in the several neighbourhoods"

Adlingfleet since 1320

Since then Adlingfleet has had a good deal less history! But there was a number of reasons why a lot seemed to be happening in this neighbourhood in the early years of the 14th Century. The first was simply Scotland. Edward's first attempt to control and conquer Scotland made necessary the transport of great armies and the supplies needed to keep them armed and fed. This brought great fleets to Adlingfleet. Then Edward II's defeat at Bannockburn brought the Scots into England. Parliaments met at York and Lincoln. The King and the royal administration spent a great deal of time in the north. Edward II stayed frequently on his Manor at Cowick and seems to have passed through Adlingfleet more than once. And then the accidents of inheritance brought the estates of the Lacy Earls of Lincoln (including the Lordship of Snaith) to Thomas of Lancaster. He was "not only the richest landowner in England, he was nephew to Edward I, first cousin to Edward II, he was brother-in-law to Philip IV, uncle to the Queen of England and to three Kings of France". He was also the leader of the opposition to Edward II. Civil War led to his defeat and capture at Boroughbridge and he was sentenced to death by the King in his castle at Pontefract. His lands were forfeited to the King. It seems likely that it was these events that underlay such turmoil in Marshland that twice Adlingfleet Churchyard needed to be reconsecrated because in it blood had been shed.

But after Edward II's death, there was peace with Scotland and Royal visits to the north became much more of a rarity.

That Adlingfleet was no longer a rich living after its appropriation by Selby, again made it less likely that well-known people should fight for the privilege of being Vicar there. It became "small living" no different from thousands of others up and down the country.

As the trading and manufacturing history of England developed, ports were needed that led somewhere: the future lay with Airmyn and Rawcliffe and Selby and eventually Goole. As a port Adlingfleet seemed to have sunk into obscurity long before the cutting off of the southern Don made it a landlocked village. But of course life went on. We can trace the succession of Vicars from that day to this. Some have been able and conscientious. Others, alas, neglectful of their duties. That the Church still stands is proof that priest and parishioners looked after it (or at least the nave) sufficiently for it to be handed on from generation to generation. We can trace too the passing on of the lands of the parish sometimes from father to son and sometimes through marriage to more distant relatives. And, most unusually, we see the events that led to the links between Adlingfleet and Catherine Hall (now St. Catherine's College), Cambridge. As the Dayvilles had become the Egmantons so the Egmantons became the Skernes. The period after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 seemed to be a prosperous period of Adlingfleet's history. 1663 and 1697 had seen new bells in the church. The 1663 bell had the significant inscription "solī Deo Gloria. Pax Hominibus" and this must refer to the almost miraculous restoration of both King and Church and the hope of an end to Civil Wars. In 1697 two more were added. The bell has survived for £43/10/9. At much the same time Robert Skerne of Fockerby founded four scholarships to St. Catherine's Hall and bequeathed land in Adlingfleet and Whitgift to endow them. His great niece, in due course, inherited both his estates and his interest in St. Catherine's. She seems to have been a wealthy woman and in her will the greater part of her wealth went to St. Catherine's Hall. With this bequest the Grammar School at Fockerby was founded (or refounded) with some "closed" Scholarships to St. Catherine's College. The benefaction was large enough to enable the College to create six fellowships and ten scholarships and to extend their buildings. The reforming zeal of the Victorians abolished the closed scholarships. Today Fockerby Grammar School is a private house. But the Skerne Foundation still exists and notices can be read today on the Parish Council noticeboard inviting Adlingfleet parishioners to apply for educational grants from the foundation. Though St. Catherine's College has long since sold its Adlingfleet estates, two further links remain with that curious benefaction. The first is Mrs Ramsden's splendid memorial in Adlingfleet Church. It bears the not entirely truthful inscription "This monument is erected in memory of Mrs Mary Ramsden, widow of William Ramsden of Norton in the Country of York Esqr. She died the fifth of April 1745 and bequeathed her whole Estate to Catherine Hall in Cambridge". Presumably it was by her choice that her memorial was to be at Adlingfleet and not Norton. And she took care that some of her estate went to the Governors of York Infirmary for the use of poor persons from the Adlingfleet district. And she cared too for their spiritual well-being: One Pound a year was to be paid to the Vicar to preach a sermon at 10.30 a.m. each 5th November. It still is and he still does!

A result of this benefaction was to make Adlingfleet a good place for education. Apparently students came from all over the world so that they could go to Cambridge with a Skerne Scholarship from Fockerby Grammar School.

"Rivers, Rectors and Abbots", David Lunn - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Martin on 20/01/2006

For many centuries the Manor of Haldenby and also lands at Haldenby Park, Ousefleet, Fockerby, Eastoft and Swinefleet belonged to members of the More family, descendants of Sir Thomas More. They came into the family via the marriage of his only son, John, to Anne Cresacre. They remained in the possession of the More family until the early-1800s.

Does anyone know anything more about this? Thanks

Posted by Brenda on 07/07/2007

Still a lovely little village though! Can't beat it in my opinion!

Posted by Ken on 25/09/2007

My daughter and her husband now own Haldenby Park in Luddington and I am very interested in tracing the history of the building, which I believe dates back to the 1750s. Any help would be much appreciated. Thanks.

Posted by Jane on 28/10/2007

My father's name is Michael Haldenby Hill and could probably help you. I know that the last remaining Haldenby was Dorothy and she immigrated to Canada as did my parents in the 1960s for a few years. He is a direct descendent of the Haldenby's and even knows of the notorious card game when the hall was lost on a single hand!

Posted by Michael on 08/11/2007

The story passed down to me is that Baron de Haldenby came over with William the Conqueror and had the estates around Haldenby Park, Haldenby Manor and Haldenby Hall. One of my ancestors, Sir Francis, lies in the Church at Adlingfleet. Thomas Haldenby (my great-grandfather) was a shipwright at Burton-upon-Stather and later ran the Scarborough Steam Packet. He had three sons and a daughter (my grandmother). Two sons immigrated to Canada and had no sons. The other son, Frederick Haldenby, had a daughter and her daughter now lives in Holton le Clay. The Haldenby name lives on in my grandson, Luke John Haldenby-Hill.

Posted by Chris on 19/02/2008

My last name is Haldenby and I am very interested in tracing any family history. My grandfather was called Thomas and was from the Hull area. This is as far back as I can. My family is living in the Scarborough area. Any information it will be gladly received. Thanks.

Posted by Jonathan on 18/03/2008

I have an old jug, a bit battered, but it is inscribed Haldenby Lee in gold script.

Posted by Patrick on 04/06/2008

My mother's family is Haldenby. Our family came to Ontario Canada in 1835. Coming from Whitgift/Adlingfleet. We have since spread across North America. In the 1980s we compiled a three-inch book of descendants. Continuing this research, I spent many years studying the medieval Haldenby lineage.

We start with Robertus De Haldenby with his wife Margerita and son Robert (of the 1379 poll tax).

It is interesting, apart from their own wealth, lands etc., they were heirs from some of the great crusaders and families, namely the De Lovetots, De Furnivals, De Useflete and Ferribys etc.

The family, well-educated and many have held administration, started to lose their prominence early in the 17th Century. This is when Robert of Haldenby, Swinefleet and Swanland lost possession.

Haldenby (in Adlingfleet) was the residence of General Healfden (Halfdane). According to the Anglo Saxon Chronicle A.D. 876, General Halfdane and the Danish Army “divided the land of the Northumbrians; so that they became afterwards their harrowers and plowers” the same year Rollo the Dane penetrated Normandy.

It's a good possibility that Robertus De Haldenby is a direct descendent of General Haldane.

Posted by Ian on 12/06/2008

Haldenby Park House. Listed Grade II - the list description refers to a house built in the mid to late 18th Century with later 18th and 19th Century alterations. The house stands in a parkland setting on the north bank of the former River Don. The park is shown on Jeffrey's map of Yorkshire of 1775.

Built for the Gee family the building is in brick, stuccoed with Westmoorland slates on the roof over the earlier part.

Luddington churchyard and church contain late 18th and early 19th Century monuments to the Gee family.

Posted by Mike on 14/06/2008

I too am a Haldenby(!) and it seems that there are still many Haldenbys in the Hull/East Yorks area where the name seems to have come from. I was interested in the half-Dane theory - is that possible?

Posted by JTS on 03/11/2008

My wife's family worked around Haldenby Park in the early-1800s and they named their first son Haldenby Lee. I wonder if there is a connection with the jug that Jonathan mentioned?

Posted by Steve on 26/12/2008

I am Beverley born-and bred! I have traced myself back to William Haldenby who married Elizabeth Lindley in Luddington on 14/11/1699. I suspect William was descended from a Simon Haldenby of Luddington in early-1600s. Only just got started tree building. Got a lot of Haldenby history up to start of 17th Century - but can't yet find link through the 1600s. Love to hear from anyone who could maybe fill in gaps I'd also be keen to know how the Richard Haldenby who was at Agincourt (along with one of the Usfletes) fits in!

Posted by Catrin on 12/04/2009

I have a Haldenby Lee in my ancestry, born at Haldenby Park in 1797. I would be interested in getting in touch with the person who put the post about his wife's family and also the guy with the jug!

Posted by Carl on 30/04/2009

I have just started researching the Scott family and discovered that my great-grandmother was Hannah Elizabeth Haldenby who married Charles Marsden on 19/10/1908 in the parish of Burley in the county of Leeds. Does anyone have any information regarding that side of the Haldenby family from 1908 onwards? Thanks.

Posted by Paul on 03/06/2009

Another Haldenby here as well. My father's family came from Hull, although I think my great-grandfather moved there from Lincolnshire. I had heard he had a number of brothers so if anyone has anything that links to a Charles Haldenby in the Sculcoates area I would be fascinated to know more.

Posted by John on 01/08/2009

Haldenby Lee (b. 1796/97 was my great-great-great-grandfather. I believe his parents to be Nicholas Lee and Mary Stapp. Happy to share what I know about his family. Would be delighted to learn more.

Posted by Catrin on 11/08/2009

John, it would appear we are cousins.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 27/08/2009

There are two pre-Tudor coats-of-arms for the Haldenby family inside Adlingfleet parish church. 8 quarterings thus:

Top from left on shields: Haldenby/Haldenbie - ? - Usflete/Useflet - Furnival/Furnivall

Bottom from left: Ferriby? – Luddington - Ella/Ellay - Wentworth

There are other early phonetic or variant scribe-forms of these surnames and indeed many others.

One of these two coats-of-arms shows the Haldenby's first crest on top of the shield. It is a knight's helmet with an arm coming out of the top holding a cup. The pre-Tudor family motto was "The Divine Toast".

The later second family crest was a black swan and only six quarterings on the coat-of-arms, Ella and Wentworth missing.

When the historian J. Hunter cited the various quarterings (or someone else on his behalf) for his book on areas what he called South Yorkshire, there was a confusion on the heraldic usage of "dancettee (dancetty, etc.)" and "indented", so instead of citing the seventh quartering (or third on the bottom row from left to right) for ELLA, it was wrongly cited for CORBRIDGE.

The "dancettee" is a dancing/zigzagged line/band and mainly has three top points/peaks and the "indented" line/band differs. The ELLA family coat-of-arms is: "sable a fess dancettee surmounted of three fleur-de-lis Or", and included on the Haldenby quarterings via the Usflete one, Usflete also having three fleur-de-lis on but in another order and tinctures.

Posted by Patrick on 01/02/2010

My name is Patrick Haldenby, I live in France. My father, Eric Haldenby, was born in Hull around 1916, His father was Arthur Haldenby, married to Elisabeth Kent. I'm much interested by the origins of our family.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 08/07/2010

Haldenby Family's second Crest to be seated on top of their coat-of-arms:

There is the Australian and New Zealand area black swan with a red beak and feet and this can now be found in many other areas in the world including not far from where we live, i.e., on waters of the Norfolk Broads.

However, there was in England once a larger black swan and indeed the Haldenby family knew of it and used it as their second crest to go on top of their coat-of-arms, i.e., after they had to relinquish the first crest and family-motto.

By inheritance via related-families, e.g., the Usfletes, members of the Haldenby family gained property in Swanland near North Ferriby, so should the white swans with yellow beaks and feet on the village pond there be “Black” and if there are not any on the pond these days indeed their village signs depict a white swan, although Swanland may be a corruption of Swain, i.e., Swain’s land.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 08/07/2010

Elizabeth Wentworth, spouse of Francis Haldenby (his tomb in Adlingfleet Parish Church):

It is said that the Wentworth connection could not be proven when the Haldenby’s were compelled to have granted their second heraldic crest and that this could be a reason why the Wentworth coat-of-arms quartered on the Haldenby shield was removed, along with the Ella family one. However, Francis Haldenby would have had recent knowledge of his wife’s family and one would have thought that her father and mother if still alive along with other Wentworths would have been at Francis’s and Elizabeth’s wedding and there are pedigrees compiled at the time listing the marriage, so perhaps there was another reason for the removal of the Wentworth quarter and indeed the much older Ella one,?.

The early main branch of the Haldenby family after the Reformation of the 1530s remained Catholic up to at least the English Civil War and this was frowned upon by the “New Church of England” and some of the ruling classes, making note that many people today with English roots back to the 1530s and before would have had Catholic ancestors and indeed what are now Anglican churches built before the Reformation were once Catholic worship-places, including the parish churches in Adlingfleet and Whitgift, yet one meaning of Catholic is simply “Christian”.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 09/07/2010

The Incredible Survival of the First Haldenby Crest and their 8 times quartered Coat-of-Arms:

After the Reformation many items in churches that were regarded “too idolatry” were removed and even wall paintings were covered-over with “white-wash”, etc.

However, the first Haldenby crest was not inside Adlingfleet Parish Church until the Haldenby home had become almost derelict and if the first crest with 8 quartered shield was in or on the outside of the Haldenby home, it was salvaged and placed inside Adlingfleet Parish Church and this may have been done in the 19th Century, having been placed over Francis Haldenby’s tomb, but there are some parts of this first crest damaged or “chopped-off” when removed from a building or when placed in the church, ie. where “supporters” would have been on both left and right sides of the shield, yet on examination by me what could have been “supporters” is just foliage (leaves, etc.) and not standing animals supporting the shield on either side. There has also been some damage to Francis’s tomb.

The Haldenby family were granted a second crest (black swan) because the church officials and a herald of arms regarded the first Haldenby crest to be a form of religious idolatry and not because the first crest was “unofficial” but because of what it represented and the “Motto” that went with it and indeed because they knew it was “papist”, ie., the garter-belt on the helmet of this first crest depicts a “papal rose”, no it is not a small Yorkshire rose. Also, although there is a small Wentworth shield on the front side-panel of Francis Haldenby’s tomb, the family

included the earlier 8 quartered coat-of-arms on the head-panel of the tomb depicting the Wentworth quartering, also Ella, but with no crest, yet the first crest with an 8 quartered shield now placed over Francis's tomb is much older than the "not-crested" shield on the tomb's head-panel.

There is a remote possibility that some Haldenby monumentals in Adlingfleet Parish Church were placed there after North Ferriby Parish Church was rebuilt. Indeed, after the church in North Ferriby was rebuilt, the Haldenby monumentals in the previous building were not placed in the new church. But, once again, this is a remote possibility, yet the N.Ferriby Haldenby monumentals did have a mention of an "Elizabeth Wentworth".

Mr. Tickell was writing c.1786 and in his "History of Hull" he mentions the Haldenby monumentals that were in North Ferriby Parish Church at that time thus: "Orate pro anima Elizabeth Haldenby, Uxorem Armigerum, et Filiam Johannes Wentworth, quae tredecim habuit (or habiut) filios et eid ejus amimam (or aminam) Deus condonat, 1562".

This more-or-less is meaning "Pray for the soul of Elizabeth Haldenby, the wife of Haldenby, and daughter of John Wentworth, (who had thirteen sons), whose soul may the Lord pardon, 1562".

Parish registers for N.Ferriby: burial of Elizabeth Haldenbie (Haldenby), X1th of May, Anno dm 1562(/3) Eliza: 5to.

So, Ellizabeth Haldenby (nee' Wentworth) was buried at North Ferriby, but her husband [Francis] was entombed in Adlingfleet Parish Church and the possibility that Francis's tomb was once at N.Ferriby we indeed do not agree with but where the Haldenby first crest and 8 times quartered shield was before placed in Adlingfleet Parish Church is conjectural, yet a probability would be at the Haldenby home before the 19th Century.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 09/07/2010

Garter-belted Helmet on the first Haldenby Crest:

At the base of the helm (helmet) is a garter-belt and on the left end of it is what appears to be a small rose and above on the extention to the belt appears to be another rose?, yet that is not clearer than the other. On the end to the right side of the belt is what appears to be a buckle.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 04/08/2010

Haldenby family of Reedness, etc.:

The National Register of Archives, ref. GB/NNAF/F81872. years 1650 to 19th Century: deeds 1650-18th ? Century, settlements 1757-1818, misc.estate papers and family papers + legal papers 19th Century. Pedigrees of Haldenby family and other related families, e.g., of Reednees, Haldenby/Adlingfleet, etc.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 30/12/2010

"4, 5 or 6 little birds in Adlingfleet Parish Church".

The two larger Haldenby shields, one on the head panel of Francis Haldenby's tomb, the other with a crest on the wall over his tomb, indeed that being pre-Tudor and when salvaged during the 19th Century, it was placed inside the church:

On these two shields, fourth from the left on the top row is the quartered coat-of-arms for the Furnival family depicting six martlets, but if there are only four or five, this would be an error, yet not three with other branches of the Furnivals.

The martlet, sometimes depicted without feet or a beak in heraldry, is a diminutive of the bird named martin, but martlet was also used to imply a swift and a hirondelle (swallow), yet in German heraldry it depicted a lark and in French heraldry sometimes a duckling and also a “merle” (blackbird).

Posted by Jayne on 17/06/2011

I am a descendent of Anne Haldenby (bapt. 1776, Panton, Lincolnshire). Her parents were William Haldenby of Waterton Hall, Luddington and Sarah Parker. William's father and grandfather were also William Haldenby's of Waterton Hall. The earliest William Haldenby of Waterton Hall I have died in 1729. Does anyone have any information on the same Haldenbys? Thanks.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 19/06/2011

There is/was a card surname index for Haldenby (Haldendie and other early variants of the name) at the Doncaster Archives, some from parish registers, e.g., Adlingfleet, Whitgift, etc.

The parish registers for Luddington would be at the Lincoln Archives and have a survival date from 1700. However, the Bishop's Transcripts for Luddington survive from 1599 but often the BT's are not consecutive and have gaps, e.g., especially the first Commonwealth period from 1649/1650 to 1660, the monarchy having been restored in 1660 (King Charles II) and the king helping to restore the Church of England resulting in the restoration of the ejected Bishops in 1661.

Posted by Patricia on 09/07/2011

In Bishops transcripts for Luddington, there is William (bapt. 22/08/1604), son of Simon, with siblings Francis (bapt. 25/05/1602) and Jarret (bapt. 14/03/1600). There are also children of William and Elizabeth between 1683 and 1692, but no William.

Posted by Kit on 20/08/2011

It would seem a lot of us here are related in some distant way - very cool ☺. My father's family are from the Hull area too. I've got back as far as my great-grandfather Horace Haldenby and would love to get further back. Anyone else know the name?

I've been told that we are indeed half Danes - the name Haldenby was given to children of half Danish/half Anglo-Saxon birth. Completely fascinating.

Posted by Perry on 16/12/2011

I was born in Hull. My dad is Keith Haldenby, grandad is Ralph Haldenby, great-granddad is Cyril Haldenby. I just find this history really interesting. I never knew Haldenby Manor existed. So are all Haldenbys connected?

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 17/12/2011

Hull is not that far from Swanland near North Ferriby and in the parish church at N. Ferriby before it was rebuilt in the 19th Century, inside there were Haldenby monuments and family coat-of-arms, but not put back into the newer church.

The Haldenby family of Swanland would have come-into inheritance via the Usflete (Ousefleet) family, this long before the English Civil War and at the outset the Swanland branch of the Haldenby family would have had their origin at Haldenby between Luddington and Adlingfleet.

This would also be the case for early Haldenbys on the south-side of the river Ouse, e.g., Reedness, Whitgift, Ousefleet, etc., i.e., origin from the main-branch at Haldenby, or at least from the place-name, the village becoming redundant long-ago. So, some Haldenbys may be

related to the gentry-branch of Haldenby who had a coat-of-arms, but others may just have lived in the old village and took on the placename to become “surnamed”, eg., after leaving the area, therefor any DNA analysed with Haldenbys today may show a connection, yet could also be conjectural and this would be the case with any surname from a place-name.

Posted by Sam on 15/01/2012

My great-great-grandmother was Annie Elizabeth Haldenby, she was baptised in Althorpe in 1878. She married William Mason in 1898 and they had seven children.

Annie’s father was John Haldenby (b. 1837 in Luddington); he was married to Rebecca Storm and died in 1900. His father was also John Haldenby (b. about 1814 in Whitgift); he was school master, married three times to Hannah Theaker, Jane Cook and Ann Ward; he died in 1900.

John’s father was William Haldenby (b. 1795 in Eastrington) who was married to Sarah Jackson; he lived in Whitgift and Reednees and died in 1876.

William’s father was another William Haldenby, born in 1768 in Skelton, Howden; he was married to Ann Beaumont.

I know his father was John born around 1740, but the trail goes cold, it would be great to hear from anyone connected to this family or if they can link it back to Francis Haldenby!

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 16/01/2012

Baine’s Directory & Gazetteer (year 1822):

Wm. Haldenby, vict., (at) Ferry House, Reedness.

Nicholas Ella, vict., (at) King’s Head, Swinefleet.

John Ella, carpenter, Swinefleet.

Posted by Emma-Louise on 09/10/2013

My name is also Haldenby! Well, my maiden name is. I now go by Haldenby-Creighton. It would be lovely to know whether I am related to any of you other Haldenbys.

My grandad is Malcolm Haldenby. He has a brother called Stuart Haldenby. My Dad is Dean Haldenby. I’m afraid I don’t know my great-grandads name.

Posted by JC on 05/12/2013

Thomas Haldenby was the first apprentice of Henry Royce and rose to become works director of Rolls Royce during World War II.

Posted by Margaret on 24/10/2014

Our grandfather was Charles Frederic Haldenby, (b. 1878 in Burton-upon-Stather). My cousin Michael Haldenby Hill and his daughter have communicated with this website in 2007. My brother George Frederick Haldenby Reynolds and I will visit Adlingfleet and Luddington as our nephew is now living in Epworth. We would like to visit the church and the various Haldenby houses. In the 1960s/1970s I came across a Nellie Burrell nee Haldenby who had a family tree done for her when she was young. Cousins of ours took this further, resulting in visiting this area and we would like to do so again. Many Haldenbys abound.

Posted by Brian on 06/02/2015

I am the son of George Fredrick Haldenby (b. 1910 in Hull). His father was a fisherman lost at sea in 1915. His name was Thomas. I have been trying to find information about him.

Posted by Ken on 19/04/2016

Although I have been a family history researcher for 50 years, I have only started on a Haldenby family in the last week for a friend. I traced them off to Canada and now back to the Hull area of Yorkshire. Then I have to try and prove the links you have mentioned over the years. I have Michael Haldenby and his wife Mary with a son William (bapt. 30/08/1809). He immigrated to Canada near Quebec before 1836. He married Mary Manuel in the Anglican church of Montreal in 1838. Can anyone link this to the families around Adlingfleet?

If it's of interest, Michael and Mary had a son William who was married to Mary Manuel. Their son was Edward married to Adelaide Richards. Their son was John Frederick who married Jessie Amelia Deacon. Their son Earl (b. 1907) was sent to the UK in WWII in the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he met and married Lavinia nee Hall formerly Cross. They both went back to Canada in 1946 but the marriage did not last. In 1949 Lavinia came back to Hampshire with her 4-year-old daughter. It is this daughter I am doing the research for. I will be most grateful for any help.

Posted by Patricia on 05/08/2009

My grandfather Edward Scutt was the landlord of the Cross Keys from 1924 to 1938 when he moved across the road to Rose Cottage. He also owned the Wesleyan chapel which he used as a workshop because he was a carpenter and joiner. He used one of the outbuildings of Rose Cottage as a blacksmiths forge.

Posted by Sam on 03/03/2010

Seeing the Cross Keys pub at Adlingfleet on this site stirred a memory or two for me. It was run by a bloke, if I recall, called Faff Barker who worked for Parsons at Drax during the day where he was known as Captain. I went to school with his daughter Susan who was a lovely girl as I remember.

We were once waiting to vine peas down Cow Lane one night but couldn't start until about 3am, so someone had a bright idea that we would have a ride to Faffs and, surprise surprise, it was still open, just. We were let in and all got a pint a piece when suddenly the door opened and in walked this dark imposing figure - it was Pete Rowells the local copper from Swinefleet. I nearly choked as it was well gone 2am by this time. He took off his helmet and asked for a pint of best and then chatted away to us all as though it were 8pm, asking what we were on with, etc.

He drank his pint and then he announced, well lads I'll leave you to it before I embarrass you by having to lock you all up at this fine hour. I remember thinking to myself that seven lads and him wouldn't have fitted into his Ford Anglia somehow. Safe to say though when he had gone we were on our way back to the field a bit sharpish.

Anyone remember Pete Rowells? He didn't take many prisoners but you knew all hell was coming sooner or later if you had done something wrong in the villages. Good times all the same.

Is Cow lane still as bumpy? No wonder I now suffer from a bad back on occasions!

Posted by Patricia on 10/03/2010

I'm new to this feed but have visited other chat sites on this website. I'm looking for relatives who lived in this area pre national records as I have exhausted them! Where can I find baptism/marriage records for Adlingfleet and Reedness? Looking for my greats(x3) from the mid-1700s called PURVIS. Thanks.

Posted by Paul on 27/05/2010

I have a Leggott WHITAKER, (b. 1809 in Adlingfleet), son of a farmer Robert Whitaker and Ann Leggott. Anyone know of any other Whitaker from Adlingfleet? Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 28/05/2010

I have found Leggat Whitaker (baptised 08/10/1809), son of Robert and Ann, also Elizabeth (baptised 03/10/1852) and William (baptised 09/02/1851), children of Rachel and Henry (Miller) but they lived in Fockerby.

Posted by Neil on 27/07/2010

Just moved into what was the Cross Keys pub and was wondering if anyone has some pictures of it when it was a pub, inside or out. I'd like to get a series of pictures of it over the years to show the changes.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 02/10/2010

Tomb effigy of a 14th Century Lady in Adlingfleet Parish Church:

On the side panel to the tomb are 4 shields thus:

First from the left is for Bohun (DeBohun, D'Bohun) of Lincoln and if once painted the blazon would be: Azure (blue) on a bend Argent (silver) cottised (coltised) Or (gold), betwixt (between) 6 lions rampant, - Or (gold) -3 escallops Gules (red). Sometimes escallops are not included.

Second is for Stapleton, blazon being: Argent (silver), a lion rampant Sable (black).

Third is for Dayville (Davill, Dayvill, Daville, Deiville, d'Eiville, etc.), blazon: Gules (red) a lion rampant, within an orle of 8 small fleur-de-lis (flowers of the lily). Sometimes the small fleur-de-lis are not included.

Fourth is for Wigton and the blazon is: Sable (black), 3 estoiles (star shapes) Or (gold).

Posted by Tune on 24/08/2011

I am searching for the ancestors of Jane TUNE (b. 1818 in Adlingfleet). I believe her parents to be John Tune and Martha Bycroft, can anyone help? Thanks

Posted by Patricia on 28/08/2011

Jane Tune (bapt. 03/05/1818 at All Saints, Adlingfleet) was the daughter of John Tune cordwainer and Martha Bycroft who were married 8 September 1812. Other children were Elizabeth (b. 02/05/1824), George (b. 21/10/1821) and Joseph (b. 21/05/1826).

I lived in Adlingfleet from 1946 to 1950 and visited several times a year until 1963.

Posted by Andrew on 02/07/2012

My great(x7)-grandfather was Edward Tune (b. 1665) who lived in Adlingfleet with his wife Elizabeth Tune formerly Copley. Does anyone who know anything about them or any info regarding the Tune family? Thanks.

Posted by Pat on 02/09/2011

I lived in Adlingfleet for 24 years and am sorry to see how it has changed. The Cross Keys, post office/shop and village hall (old school) have all gone. Years ago the Community Association prophesised the village was dying and now all those things have gone. Very sad.

Posted by Patricia on 03/09/2011

When I lived there the post office was in Post Office Row, which was where the bungalows are now on Garthorpe Road. I remember the new post office opening about 1959 in the house that we called Auntie Annie Jackson's although she died in 1946. Things change continually.

Posted by Wendy on 03/09/2011

I was born in Adlingfleet and lived there for the first eighteen years of my life. As kids we always found something to do, so I can't believe kids nowadays when they say they are bored! My mam and dad still live there and there are still some people there who I remember from my childhood and yes it certainly has changed over the years.

Posted by Taz on 27/12/2011

Just had a drive through the village, where I lived for a few years, after a pleasurable walk down Cow Lane with my wife and our dog. Adlingfleet is still the most attractive village in the area and the residents should be proud of it. I disagree with the previous correspondent describing the village as dying - judging by the number of new houses I would say quite the opposite.

Pubs are closing all the time and need customers to keep them open and village post offices are very few nowadays. Not many people shop in small village stores when nearly everything one needs can be bought from a supermarket in one trip (or often on their way home from work - how many Adlingfleet residents still work in the village or surrounding villages?).

I was surprised at the number of visitors at the RSPB site - perhaps the shop and pub could have benefitted here had they still been available.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 04/09/2011

Marie and I are not from Adlingfleet but the few times we have visited the village we found it very peaceful and pleasant and I recall on my first visit some years ago having to collect the key for All Saints Church from the then post office/shop.

I hear that there are "Heritage Open Days" in Adlingfleet every September with members of the Local History Group. Perhaps people who live there and who once did can meet each other? The church opens 10am to late afternoon.

Posted by Anne on 15/05/2012

I am trying to trace my family tree on my father's side. I know that my great(x3)-grandfather was William HAGUE (b. 21/12/1809 in Luddington) and my great(x3)-grandmother was Hannah LONGBONES (b. around 1810 in Adlingfleet). They married at Adlingfleet Parish Church on 14 June 1832 but there is no record of Hannah Longbones in the census and her death is recorded as "before 1881". I would love to know who her parents were if anyone can help. Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 15/07/2012

Hannah Longbones (bapt. 15/06/1798 at All Saints, Adlingfleet) was the daughter of William and Sarah. Her siblings were Thomas (b. 15/12/1799), Jane (b. 08/02/1796) and George (b. 27/06/1802). Hannah Hague was buried in Eastoft 20 August 1861 age 51 which fits with your birthdate of 1810. William and Hannah Hague are both listed in the 1861 census as age 51 in Eastoft.

According to the 1851 census, Hannah was born in Ousefleet (which probably makes her the daughter of William and Mary) and baptised 11 September 1814 with brother John (b. 1816).

Posted by Fiona on 14/10/2012

I have a story about Adlingfleet Church told by a friend of my father who spoke about him at his funeral.

In the 1950s there was a production of Murder in the Cathedral which was performed in local churches. My father was one of the knights. An obsessive smoker (about 80 players a day) he slipped out for a crafty smoke in the dress rehearsal. It was a misty night and the story goes that a woman leaving the Cross Keys with a jug of ale saw my father amongst the gravestones and thought he was one of the monuments from the church come to life, or a ghost! She dropped her ale and ran off screaming. My father found out who she was from the landlord and, in his own clothes, took her another jug of ale!

Posted by Elaine on 27/10/2012

I'm doing my family tree and have traced it back to George THORPE born in Adlingfleet around 1811. Does anyone know anything about this family? Thanks.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 16/11/2012

George Thorpe (b. c.1809-12 in Adlingfleet) married Rebecca Ayre 27 December 1832 at Whitgift.

Posted by David on 08/04/2013

Relatives of mine, Henry Amery and Hannah lived in Adlingfleet in the 1861 Census. The address is given as 4 All Saints Square. I know the church is known as All Saints. Was it connected to this and where was the Square? Thanks.

Posted by Myrtle on 09/04/2013

Would like to know if anyone remembers the BUCKLE family? I think Edward (Ted) was a sea captain. Thanks.

Posted by Steve on 12/05/2013

I used to live a couple of doors up from a Mrs Buckle in Grange Road, Adlingfleet from the early-1960s to early-1970s. Left the area because of my dad's work when I was thirteen. Used to visit her as a small boy. Don't remember a Mr Buckle though. Could've been away a lot I suppose as a sailor and it was a long time ago!

Posted by Patricia on 15/01/2014

I remember Ted Buckle, he was a friend of my cousin Gordon when we lived at Rose Cottage.

Posted by Michelle on 29/08/2013

I believe ancestors of mine lived in Adlingfleet and wondered if anyone had any information regarding them? William HALKON and Mary Ann COULT, who I believe was born there.

Posted by Ray on 23/09/2013

There was a Mary Ann Coult (baptised 22/02/1846) at Adlingfleet church, parents Will[iam] and Mary.

The surname Coult figures quite a lot in the area and one early example is: Jon Coult (bapt. 04/07/1695 at Whitgift), father Tho[mas] Coult. The year of baptism for Jon son of Tho[mas] Coult would be 1697. There are also Coult entries for Swinefleet church registers.

Posted by Helen on 31/10/2013

My family lived at Clough House in Adlingfleet in 1841. Has anyone any idea where this might have been? The family in question were the Thompson's. Thanks.

Posted by Ann on 29/07/2015

Adlingfleet Grange.

My daughter hasn't long moved to the above address, an address which I find fascinating, to say the least. Firstly was this ever a Grange? It would make sense. I notice in an early 19th Century map, the farm was called Common House. Does anyone have any information on this property? Thanks.

Posted by Polo on 03/08/2015

Adlingfleet Grange is a very interesting place and quite different today, sad even, to what it was say just thirty years ago when it was all but the centre of the universe! Everything happened at the Grange to do with the running of the large Goole Coop farming Estate, always a vibrant and very busy place with tractors and machinery coming and going.

The modern house which stands there now, although a nice property, is nothing to the majestic house that once stood on the site just a little further forward towards the lane. A very grand imposing building indeed, always very well maintained and was the Estate Managers house, a place that few menials were ever allowed to enter. The gardens were immaculate and it had a nice gravel drive to the right of the property bordered by a well-tended privet hedge, behind was an orchard and lawns where the present house now stands. I remember getting told off once for driving my crawler tractor and plough through the privet hedge and down the gravel drive to save running on my ploughing! The manager wasn't impressed either when I said at least I shut the gates on my way out! Happy days!

Next to the house was the main office where all farming decisions happened and then across the yard was the estate workshop which could tell a few stories if it were able to talk. The managers I recall, Mr Dodsworth and Mr Williams always did well for the estate in general, had nice families and lived at the Grange in quite reverence and were held in high esteem in the area. The place holds a great deal of memories and good times for a lot of people who worked on the estate No doubt one or two more people will contribute to your thread in due course. Be assured your daughter will be well happy living at the Grange, "the centre of the universe."

Posted by Taz on 11/12/2015

Perhaps it was called Common House because the parish of Adlingfleet extended as far as that (as with Swinefleet Common, Reedness Common, Whitgift Common, Ousefleet Hall, etc.)

If I remember when I was first interviewed back in 1970, before I started work there, Noel Dodsworth's office was in the old house away from the estate office. When Alan Williams started as manager he had his office in the Estate Office. The old house was demolished and the new one built around the time that John Chapple became estate manager.

Pasture Farm house still stands empty and looks quite sad in its present state.

Polo, I remember taking our flasks in the old kitchen for Mrs Kirk to fill if we were working overtime - the teapot seemed enormous! Happy days. Or is it just that we were a lot younger?

Posted by Polo on 16/12/2015

Wow, nearly forgot about Mrs Kirk filling the flasks, always strong stuff if I remember right, a mouse could have trotted over it, but very welcome all the same! Both she and Ern were top

class folks of the old school. Those were definitely the best days bar none, pity we can't turn the clock back knowing what we know now. Couldn't beat a riding job and a bit of overtime, I reckon we were lucky to have been there at the right time, just young lads playing with good tackle.

I saw the old house a few months back - a shame it's been left to rot as it could certainly be made a nice place for someone. Don't get Mack to fit the new kitchen though, last one took him over two years, ha ha. Have a good one to you and yours, stay lucky.

Posted by Polo on 08/09/2016

Was past Pasture Farm house the other day and it looks like someone is spending some serious brass around the place. No doubt it will be something to do with the wind farm project going on behind up to Common Farm. The Pasture farm access road is now in good shape and much wider than when it was first put in. I remember carting brick rubble for the foundations for it from Goole Fields, every brick hand balled onto the cart! Most of the rubble came from the original farm house that was knocked down at Park farm. Porky levelled it out with the bulldozer and Roly Leeman rolled it down with the old green road roller.

Some of my handy work is still visible approaching from Eastoft, myself and Kevin Drayton built a small wall in the dyke to hold back the new road. We made it out of breeze blocks laid on their side for added strength and remember Kev saying that'll not shift! Forty years on he was right on that one.

The surrounding garden wall has been knocked down and is being re built which looks a nice job and in keeping with the house itself. Many years ago Tivvy let me have one of the Yorkstone coping stones from the top of the wall which cleaned up nicely and served me for many years as the hearth stone in our house. Hopefully they will be as sympathetic to the old farm house as it is a lovely place and needs preserving properly, not ending up under a new farm road at some stage.

Looking over the fields to the front of the house I see the poplar trees are still thriving along the lane from the Grange. Never thought they would survive the way they were put in, a bit rough and ready to say the least. Me and a guy from Crowle called Mick Halifax buried most of them so they are lucky to have survived but, at least they were watered in well as Mick managed to put his spade through the water pipe leading to the cattle troughs and didn't mention it for a week! Happy days. Stay lucky.

Posted by Taz on 22/09/2016

I remember Mick - he always got the crap jobs but was always cheerful. When I first started there he used to come to work on a motorbike twice the size of him. Trev once got up to about 60mph on it while it was on the stand - if it had dropped off the stand the wall would have gone along with the bike, Trev and Mick who was stood in front of him!

I presume the wind farm is paying for the wall repairs because they had to take the corner off to get the turbines in.

On a sadder note Cliff W has gone so no more calling you Polo! I knew him for most of my life - my old lady used to regularly fall out with his dad over silly things when he was in the field next door to where we lived but she still went to his shop for bits and pieces! Take care mate.

Posted by Sam on 23/09/2016

Sad to hear that Cliff has passed away, another character that will not be replaced. I'm pleased that I called to see him when I did as he was very frail then. I will lay Polo to rest as well which will be a good gesture to him. Everyone had a run in at times with both Cliff and his dad but

still went into the shop for bits and bobs. That shop can tell some tales as well but we will leave that for another day.

The first time I met Mick Halifax, Ern sent me upstairs in the barn to where Mick was grinding barley for the cows in the fold yard below. This guy came wandering out of the dust cloud absolutely covered in white powder looking like a ghost but smiling from ear to ear like he had the best job in the world. You wouldn't get anyone to do those kind of jobs today.

What was scrap to most folks he would find useful though, strap it on the motorbilke and take it home. We were both riding the MF30 drill one foggy morning I looked around and suddenly he was gone, thought he had slipped and fallen off under the harrows and we'd find him mangled up on the way back, but no, a while later he appeared out of the murk chuffed to hell as he was clutching an old bike mudguard he'd found in the dyke bottom! Stay lucky.

Posted by Stephen on 05/11/2016

I have an ancestor Thomas REVELL who was probably a sailor. This was early December 1825. Although he is buried in Althorpe his abode was given as Adlingfleet. He was only 31. How can I find out how he met his demise in November/December 1825? Thanks.

Posted by Sam on 19/03/2021

You can go down the same road for years in a car and then when you bike it there will be something new you've never seen. There were loads of small farms around in the day but most have been sold due to economics or the next generation didn't want to take it on, etc. I could spend a full day just on the common calling on farms, the same going down the villages. If you didn't sell anything at least you had a brew and a natter but most would be something eventually.

I always say that the Barker family were the best farmers I ever dealt with. Always looking forward to improve themselves and no matter how busy they were they always had time for me and most of all they were honest to deal with. It was nice to see them grow up over the years and take an active part in the business. I sold them loads of kit over the years which was always appreciated.

I spend a bit of time on a local farm here shooting my air rifles which is always good fun trying to outwit the bunnies but gone are the days when you can wander down the main street toting a gun as Wilf used to do every tea time, funny he'd always coiled a big rat over as well. You'd soon have the local plod let alone the police helicopter for company if you did it today, but it was just the norm then. Stay lucky.

Posted by Bill at 02/07/2022 17:30

Adlingfleet was probably the site of a high status Anglo Saxon ecclesiastical and royal settlement. It originally lay within the political sphere of the Kingdom of Lindsey. It features in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle as "Donaemuthan" or "Don Mouth" where it is recorded as the site of a major Danish attack on the minster of Ecgfrith in AD 794. Recorded as "Adelingesfluet" at Domesday, the name is suggestive, deriving from "Prince's inlet" or "estuary". A further hint of Adlingfleet's former importance is found in the post-Conquest value of its clerical living. As late as the 13th Century, the rector of Adlingfleet commanded an income of £153/6s/8d, the fourth highest in England (info from "Church Archaeology", Vol 21, p46, article by Hugh Willmott).

Airmyn

Ermenie 1086 (Domesday Book). "Mouth of the River Aire". River-name + Old Scandinavian mynni. The river-name Aire is possibly from Old Scandinavian eyjar "islands", but may be of Celtic or pre-Celtic origin with a meaning "strongly flowing".

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Airmyn is really too large to be a proper village. Its most dominating feature is a clock tower which stands on a bend in the road. This was built in 1866 to celebrate the second Earl of Beverley who paid for the village school to be built.



There are excellent views of the River Aire which has a high bank parallel to the main road. The river is very fast flowing and you can see the village of Little Airmyn, on the other side which is many miles away by road via Carlton. In the Middle Ages, Airmyn was a small port and up to the 18th Century, its dead were taken by boat upstream to be buried at Snaith. It was quicker to go by river than by horse and cart.



There is a pretty church in the village, originally built in 1318 and extended in 1676. It has a well-kept graveyard which is guarded by a loud dog who lives next door. Each year the village has a gala, based around the modern village hall, with many sporting events.

The Abbey of St. Mary's, York and the first Airmyn

Airmyn was part of the generous endowment – “from Usfleet to Airmine” - that Henry I (1100-1135) gave to the monks of St. Mary's Abbey at York. Substantial ruins of this famous house can still be seen - but perhaps its greatest claim to fame was that it was from this house that a group of monks, who had come to feel that their lifestyle had become too easy-going, left to follow the rule of St. Benedict more strictly and so become the founders of the Cistercian movement in England. At the time of the King's gift, it would seem that Airmyn was without any population. Airmyn (Ermenie) gets its mention in Domesday but the context makes it clear that this is Little Airmyn which is across the river from Airmyn itself.

“Mynne” is Old Norse for a river mouth, and so with pleasing appropriateness Airmyn simply means “The mouth of the Aire”. The actual “meeting of the waters” of Aire and Ouse has - especially at low tide - a look of desolation that may not have been that different when the King gave this uninhabited waste to the Monks of St. Mary's. All mediaeval place names have a great variety of spelling but few can equal Airmyn, Harmyn, Armin, Eyreminne and many, many others. But they all sound much the same.

It was the wealth of St. Mary's that upset the refugees who fled to the wilderness that was to become Fountains Abbey. And though some may well have come from that grasping usury that gives the Abbot of St. Mary's a villainous role in the earliest ballads of Robin Hood, the main source was the skilful exploitation of their possessions. For just as Selby Abbey developed William the Conqueror's gift of Rawcliffe to found a port on the still-navigable Aire, so St. Mary's, York developed Henry I's gift of Airmyn to found a port nearer the mouth of the river with somewhat deeper water than Rawcliffe. As they were only two miles apart and served the same hinterland they must have been in cut-throat competition from the beginning.

The exact date of the founding of Airmyn is unknown. That we do know it within a few years is the result of a dispute between the inhabitants of Airmyn and their landlord in 1253. The “men of Ermine” complained at their alleged exploitation by St. Mary's, York. They wanted to return to the “ancient customs”. Very robustly the Abbot told the Court that was dealing with this that there were no ancient customs for “King Henry the King's (Henry III) grandfather gave to his Church of St. Mary, Usefleet and Ermine and that there was no town there until the Abbot's predecessors, after the said gift founded the town there”. The “men of Ermine” stubbornly maintained “that at the time of the said gift there was a town there” but the Court did not believe them.

With the foundation of the Port went the foundation of a Ferry too. This could have been “private enterprise” by a group of inhabitants, for later we discover that “Richard, son of William de Newsom, Clerk, gave to the priory of Drax a sixth part of the ferry of Armin which was given to him by Adam, son of Adam de Armin”. (On a mediaeval “Monopoly” board, “ferries” would take the place of railway stations as a reliable but modest source of income). This Ferry has the unique distinction of still being in use, though alas, no longer available to the general public.

This “new town” Airmin seems to have had only a modest success. For the Poll Tax of 1379 “Harmyn” paid £1/14/- compared to “Rawcliffe's” £2/8/8. And the ferry was already established by then for both John Hayll (with Margaret his wife) and John Muram (his wife was called Cecilia) were described as “Ferryman” and taxed at 6d instead of the basic 4d. In 1318 there had been a new clamour from the “men of Ermine”. They complained strongly to the Archbishop of York that their spiritual welfare was being neglected because they had no Chapel and “many died without confession”. The Archbishop, clearly sympathetic to their grievances, failed to point out that there were Chapels at both Rawcliffe and Hook (not to mention Snaith), and instead “wrote to the Abbot and Convent of Selby, letters exhortatory for dedicating the Chapel of Armin”. We don't know what the Abbot's response was but we do know that eventually a Chapel was built and the careful account given of it in 1546 by the King's investigators into Chantry Chapels hints at what the Abbot said two hundred years earlier! “The Chapell of Armyn ys erected by the townshipp of Armyn”. The incumbent is Thomas Ben but he has only 11 shillings “assigned for his levinge... and the rest of his levinge he hath of the devotion of the inhabitants of the same towne for sainge masse in the said chapel”.

Clearly the Abbot of Selby must have said "Yes, you can have a Chapel and a Chaplain - so long as you pay for them yourselves". In this Chapel "all sacraments" were "mynystred, save bureinge". The need for it was that it was "distant from their paroch church (Snaith) 11 miles and in winter and wete seasons ther can no man passe betwixt". That one of the bells in Airmyn Chapel today is dated 1375 means that this first Chapel must have been built by then.

What happened next isn't clear. St. Mary's, York was dissolved in 1539 and its estates went to the Crown. In 1540 the "Manor of Armin" was purchased from the Crown by Sir G. Clifton and the deed of sale listing the buildings of the Manor doesn't mention the Chapel. Was this the whole of Airmyn in 1540? Probably. But what of the Chapel? Hook, Carlton and Rawcliffe were specifically excluded from the provisions of the Chantry Acts that should have closed them. But nothing is said of Airmyn. Yet it survived. And the years after 1600 were not without incident! In 1600 poor William Myers fell foul of the Snaith Peculiar Court for crying "Yowle in Airmyn Church". The following year the Churchwardens of Airmyn were in trouble and ordered "to repair the roof of the Chapel, provide a bible and Common prayer boke, repaire the stalls and get a cover for the font". By 1635 troubles at Airmin reached a National Court for "the Commissioners of Causes Ecclesiastical" (Archbishop Laud's hated instrument for bringing order to the Church) fined Thos. Brown of the parish of Armin "for laying violent hands on Wm. Tuck, clerk, Minister of God's word and saying that he would get him in the stocks". The most likely explanation is that in the years after 1550 the Chapel had become disused and neglected. In 1601, as part of the "Church" revival that marked the end of Elizabeth's reign (and led to the re-endowment of the Vicarage of Snaith), an attempt was made to bring it back into use. But this seems to have failed for when, later on in the century in 1674, the new growing port of Airmyn needed a church, we are told that the old building is "quite out of repaire".

The Smithsons and the second Airmyn

In 1656 Hugh Smithson of Hull bought Airmyn and a new age began. It would seem likely that he did so with the intention of developing it as a port. Certainly, under this new leadership, and with some co-operation with the merchants responsible for the Aire & Calder Navigation, Airmyn had a century of commercial prosperity. In 1744 land was acquired by the Aire & Calder Navigation who built warehouses, wharves and cranes. A regular coasting service began to London in 1758. By 1765 ships up to 100 tons were being built at Airmyn. Airmyn was also the place for moving cargoes from sea-going vessels into craft more suitable for working up river. From 1758 to 1786 one of the principal undertakers of the Aire & Calder Navigation lived in Airmyn Hall.

But two new canals proved fatal to Airmyn. First in 1778 the opening of the Leeds-Selby canal made the Ouse, instead of the Aire, the best way of trading with the West Riding manufacturing towns. Then in 1824 the building of the Goole-Knottingley canal, with its development of the Port of Goole, ended the ambitions of all the more inland ports.

The Church we have today is a surviving witness to Airmyn's 18th Century prosperity. It was built in 1676 and that this was an initiative of Anthony Smithson (son of the first Sir Hugh) is still shown by the fact that his Arms adorn the West End. There is a mystery here. For Airmyn Church as we have it is not what we expect a 1676 church to be like. The bell turret and the porch were added in 1858 and the new chancel built in 1884. My guess is that in 1858 changes were made to the ceiling and the windows to make it look more like what - by then - everybody thought a proper church should look like!

Airmyn Hall stands close to the river and as it is now in multiple ownership it is not instantly recognizable as the "big house". But it seems likely that it was built by the first Smithson and so is the house of a great merchant built near to his wharves. Its grounds stretch (or rather stretched) with its 19 acres of Park a long way towards Goole. Now it is the back that faces the river and from the front it looks very much the traditional great house.

So astonishing is the Smithson story - and so closely linked to the history of Airmyn - that it needs to be briefly related. The Smithsons of Airmyn flourished and soon there were two prosperous families - that of the elder son living in London and owning Airmyn, and that of the younger son "of Hull and London". It was Sir Hugh Smithson, the 4th Baronet, who fell in love with Elizabeth Seymour, the young, beautiful and rich daughter of the Earl of Somerset. Surprisingly this "mesalliance" between the bluest of blue blood and the "nouveau riche" Baronet had the approval of both the lady in question and the King himself (George II), and so in 1740 they were married. The newly wedded couple went to visit their aged relative (confusingly also called Hugh Smithson) who, having inherited the Airmyn estate, was described as being of "Tottenham and Armin". He was so charmed by the newly married couple that, being childless himself, he made his young cousin his heir and very shortly after (he was over 80) died. The newly married couple were able to spend part of their honeymoon on their newly acquired estates at Airmyn. The 4th Baronet was now a very wealthy man - but his fairy-tale good fortune had not yet ended. For only four years later his wife's brother George, who was heir to the Percy lands titles and fortune died of smallpox. The inheritance proved a complex legal affair. But in the end, though Lady Elizabeth Smithson could inherit the Barony of Percy, it was her father, the Earl of Somerset, who was created Earl of Northumberland with it specified that the title was to go to Sir Hugh Smithson and his children. The old Earl died and Sir Hugh and the Lady Elizabeth became Earl and Countess of Northumberland. The story was completed in 1766 when the fortunate couple - and from all accounts their marriage was one of great happiness - became the first Duke and Duchess of Northumberland.

Airmyn has now become part of the Percy Yorkshire estates. At some point the decision was taken to separate these from the Northumbrian estates for the benefit of a younger son of the 1st Duke who in 1790 was created Earl of Beverley. After his death in 1830 his title and estates (including Airmyn) were inherited by his son George, the 2nd Earl of Beverley (and cousin to the 3rd and 4th Dukes of Northumberland).

The Percys and the third Airmyn: an Estate Village

This piece of family history has taken us into the 19th Century. The days of the Port of Airmyn have become a memory. But, as for a number of Yorkshire villages, they were in many ways good years in which benevolent Landlordism flourished. Airmyn school is one sign of this, for it was built in 1834 and remains in use today. The Clock Tower is another. For in 1865 George Percy, Earl of Beverley and Lord of the Manor of Airmyn, inherited the Duchy of Northumberland from his cousin and left Yorkshire for Alnwick. Perhaps not inappropriately - for he was aged 85 - his tenants clearly thought this the equivalent of death and resolved upon the erection of a suitable but useful cenotaph.

A bridge that linked "Little" and "Great" Airmyn would have been useful, but the cost was prohibitive. They settled on a Clock! The cost was £700, the designer H.J. Lockwood, and all was complete by 1868 (but alas the Duke had died in 1867, two years after his accession, and so he never saw it). Legend has it that it was the people of Little Airmyn who were (for obvious reasons) keenest on the bridge and when their proposals were turned down they refused to support the venture. In revenge it is said, the Clock was carefully designed with only three faces so that those who lived at Little Airmyn didn't benefit from that for which they hadn't paid! It is a very "Yorkshire" story but, sadly, appears not to be true: a bridge would have cost ten times as much as the Tower, the Clock faces can be seen from Little Airmyn, and anyhow Towers were fashionable in 1865. Of the same date is the great tower on the Yorkshire Wolds, near Sledmere, built by his tenants in gratitude for the life and work of their landlord Sir Tatton Sykes.

So the Airmyn Clock Tower - still standing well over a century later - commemorates George Percy, 2nd Earl of Beverley, 5th Duke of Northumberland and descendant of that Sir Hugh Smithson who purchased the Airmyn estate in 1656. But yet again Airmyn was not swallowed up into the Percy's Northumbrian estates. This time it was given to the Earl of Beverley's daughter who had married a son of that Bishop Heber of Calcutta who is today chiefly famous for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty". The couple took the name of Heber-Percy, and though they took an interest in their Airmyn estates they continued to live in

the Heber ancestral home at Hodnet in Shropshire. They were visitors to Airmyn only. A further family arrangement worked to the advantage of Airmyn. For in 1874, the Hoods came to live in Airmyn Hall as the Agents of the Heber-Percys and remained there until 1911. This was certainly the Hall's Golden Age. Mrs Hood was a Heber-Percy daughter (and so a grand-daughter of the "Clock" Earl of Beverley). Her husband was a descendant of Lord Hood, Nelson's Admiral. For the only time in its history Airmyn had a "resident squire". With "squire", Church and School working together, and a number of strong personalities involved, its likely to be a matter of opinion whether we see this as a "golden age" or a time of tyranny.

It certainly improved the water supply. Since Airmyn began the river had been the only source of water. At some point two pumps had been placed on the river's edge and this must have made the fetching of water slightly less perilous. But towards the end of the 19th Century, as the river became increasingly polluted (there had been a cholera epidemic in Goole and Hook in 1832), Mr Heber-Percy saw to it that there was a piped water supply of spring water into the village. Of course it didn't go into the houses but there were four stand-pipes and Airmyn became the first village in the area to have piped water.

Church life was strong and Airmyn was famous for its Church Choir. Though not all of Airmyn's Vicars have been popular: Mr Millner in his 70s was a recluse and Mr Stratton is said to have emptied the church with his high-church ways.

In the 1880s this rural idyll began to be threatened by the onward march of Goole. In 1891 a daughter church of Airmyn was built in Goole for the new houses, and then Airmyn had a succession of Curates.

A change of parish boundaries in 1905 ended this experiment and St. Paul's, Goole replaced St. Mary's, Airmyn. The 1914 War, as so often elsewhere, came to represent the end of an age. The Hoods left in 1911 and the Heber-Percys put the Airmyn estate up for sale in 1920 and since then many different people have owned houses and farms in the village. So little interest had the family in the village with which their ancestors had been so closely linked for nearly three hundred years, that on being asked to help with the repair of the Clock Tower in 1947, they advocated its demolition. The advowson of the living was sold to the Church Society, the most fervent of the Evangelical Patronage Trusts.

Airmyn 1920 onwards

Airmyn today faces two threats: steadily the River rises higher (or it may be that with the rest of the east coast Airmyn itself is getting lower) and the threat from high tides demands steadily higher defences. Even without the "greenhouse effect" this causes problems and those who remember Airmyn in the old days regret the formidable wall that now separates the village from the river. The second problem comes from the steady advance of Goole! Again, as in 1890, there is a considerable population that lives within the parish boundaries and yet is really part of Goole. But if each time this happens the parish boundaries are altered what eventually will be left for Airmyn?

Despite this double threat Airmyn must have a strong claim to be one of the most attractive villages in the Diocese of Sheffield. It is well worth a visit if only to see the Clock Tower which survived the crisis of 1947, and having been given to Goole Rural District Council (may it rest in peace) was restored in 1952 and is now surrounded by an attractive garden. And then, as you walk along the river bank, you see a village that is still a village: with Shop, Post Office, Pub, School, Church and half a vicar: and a Ferry. Long may it flourish!

"Rivers, Rectors and Abbots", David Lunn - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Jonathan on 19/09/2007

Around 1892, my wife's great(x3)-grandfather, William Eccles, was the landlord of The Percy Arms. He was also the ferryman somewhere in that area for the previous 40 years.

Posted by Richard on 11/09/2020

My great-great-uncle William Eccles and his wife were proprietors of the Percy Arms and the ferry in the mid-19th Century. His wife Hannah Eccles (nee Perkins) was my direct ancestor as my great aunt. It is interesting to hear of what life was like before the bridge was like.

Posted by Robert on 26/01/2008

I heard somewhere that H.J. Lockwood, the designer of Airmyn clock tower as mentioned above, was Henry Lockwood of architects Lockwood and Mawson who designed Bradford Town Hall and Saltaire. Does anyone know whether this is indeed correct?

Posted by CB on 24/06/2008

I lived in the village up until I was around ten years old. Woodview was the street.

Posted by Kate on 04/10/2008

I lived in Woodview! Best street in the village!

Posted by George on 19/09/2008

I am a Smithson, being a descendant of many Smithsons from the Watton area of East Yorks, and have passed through Airmyn many times on the way to the coast, before the M62 was built. We used to nip through Airmyn and have looked in awe at the church clock.

Posted by Ann on 12/10/2008

I lived in the village for the first ten years of my life from 1953. I lived at 104 High Street with our garden backing onto the bankside. It was wonderful and I remember so much of those times. I have since looked into my family history and found that the village had many of my family members (on both sides) in the 19th Century, including the FIELDER and BRISTOW family. Also the ROBERTS family who appeared to be bridge-keepers on the river in Rawcliffe.

Posted by Armin on 29/10/2008

An ancestor of mine was Anne WILSON, married Robert GARRET (b. 1869). One of his descendants, also a Robert, was ferryman too, circa 1820 when he married a Rachel of Brind(?) until his death in 1885 from memory. Any takers for this family history search? Thanks.

Posted by Christine on 14/11/2008

Robert Garratt and Ann Wilson are my great(x4)-grandparents. According to my records, Robert Garratt's mother was called Elizabeth. His father was also called Robert Garratt and was born in Hemingborough, Yorks.

Ann Wilson's mother was called Ann Low (b. about 1733 in Yorkshire). Her father was called George Wilson (b. about 1733 in Yorkshire).

Posted by Armin on 14/11/2008

This is wonderful stuff. We are talking about the same folks. I got back from Beverley local archives yesterday with more notes on the village in its days as Earl of Beverley's estate, with rentals of properties and so forth. My real interest is in resurrecting the lives of these ancestors, so your knowledge about Ann(e) fills in something I had not yet done. Know she was daughter of George and Ann Wilson, and I found odd mentions of an Ann Wilson 1666 a widow with three Tofts, and a mention of a John Wilson. Look forward to learning more from you.

I am a Garrett, our spelling of it, but have found that Robert's father and mother, the Robert and Elizabeth you mention, of Hemingbrough were still alive when their granddaughter Hannah was born 1802 I think, from memory, and am about to try and find out more of their history, from a visit to Hemingbrough records at York's Borthwick Institute. If you have more background that would be appreciated and might save me a visit.

I come from Robert, down to what I believe was a son, not found in records yet, John. I guess he was born 1794 after the twins who died. Then his son Thomas, to his son John, and his son Fred, my grandfather the butcher at Goole, to his son Fred Clifford, my dad.

Posted by Ursula on 13/03/2009

A stroke of luck finding this website, as I am trying to research my family's history with not very good luck as I live in Canada and all my family history lies in England. I stayed with my uncle Clifford who owned a butchers shop and had two daughters, Sally and Enid, when I was a child of eight years old, for a brief period while in England.

Posted by Armin on 14/03/2009

Ursula, the wonders of the world wide web! I remember you well, and as luck would have it have been working on the Cook family. Not got around to placing your dad Jack in the scheme of things, yet, but there is another Cook descendant also researching the various strands of the family. Have sent him a copy of your enquiry.

Posted by Julie on 08/09/2010

Have just visited this site and found a message from the granddaughter of Fred Garrett the butcher from Goole. My grandma was Fred's youngest sister Olive and I too am researching the Garrett family history.

Posted by Armin on 30/09/2010

The web must work wonders! The link with Julie has resulted in me being able to help her get in touch with the other side of the family, a cousin who also found me on this webpage.

Posted by Adam on 06/01/2009

My mum was born in 1921 and grew up in Airmyn. Does anyone remember Patricia (Pat) RICHARDSON or her sisters (Eileen and Mary), brothers (David, Alec and Mick) or perhaps my grandfather Harry Richardson? All information, however trivial, very gratefully received, as I am trying to fill in the blanks for my kids about a grandmother and a Yorkshire family history that they never knew. Thanks.

Posted by Armin on 12/01/2009

I believe they were coal merchants - David Galloway's "Airmyn in Days Gone By" (one of his three volumes pictorial history) refers to the family living in the village. Probably out of print now, but perhaps available second-hand, online.

Posted by Armin on 12/01/2009

Checked Galloway at the library while there today. Vol. 3 has two entries for Harry R. - one about his boyhood on p.16, the other a family portrait outdoors in 1919.

Joseph R. and his wife and first born son were living at Richard Cooper Street, Goole, in 1891 - early in their marriage. Street now under threat of demolition. Hope this helps you get started on family history!

Posted by John on 26/02/2011

Harry Richardson was a coal merchant and he was twice married. His second wife was Kathleen Costello and they had three children. There were also several children from the first marriage. The family lived at No. 61 or 91 High Street. I was a frequent visitor to Airmyn as Kathleen's mother virtually raised me when my own mother died in 1943 at Wetherby.

Kathleen's own mother was A.L. May Costello (nee Farmery - a family that has seafaring connections). The names Alec and David ring bells! Sons of the first marriage.

I haven't been to Airmyn since 1969 and there will have been changes no doubt.

Posted by Fox on 16/03/2009

Could anyone help? I'm looking to where the railway ran in Airmyn. Thanks.

Posted by Barrie on 24/11/2009

The station for Airmyn was located about two miles away and the stationmaster's house and one or two others around it are still there. They were all owned by the North Eastern Railway. The station was called "Rawcliffe and Airmyn" or "Airmyn and Rawcliffe", I can't remember which but have documents which would tell us. It was on the Goole to Selby line which originally was to provide a direct link from Goole to Leeds. It provided an alternative route from Leeds to Hull via Goole if any problems arose in the Selby area. There was a service of four or five trains a day between Goole and Selby and connections at Selby to Leeds. There

were actually two stations at Rawcliffe and the other station, still open, was called Rawcliffe Bridge, it was located near to the canal and in recent times renamed Rawcliffe.

I think that the estate called the Crossings probably took its name from the bridle path that went into Goole.

Posted by Robert on 25/11/2009

Originally "Airmyn and Rawcliffe", renamed "Airmyn" in 1961. See "Railway Memories No. 14", Selby and Goole by Stephen Chapman pages 65-70 which includes a picture of this station, and also covers other parts of the line.

Posted by Richard on 31/12/2009

The wonders of the web! My wife and I just typed Airmyn in a search box and we ended up here. We live in Australia and Helen, my wife, comes from Airmyn. Her parents, Syd and Lily King still live there. Does anyone know them? Thanks.

Posted by Maureen on 04/01/2010

I was at school with your wife Helen and had just been looking at the old school photos on the school memories. My maiden name was Woollass and I am on the left, second row with Dog Watson the form teacher. I married Dennis Raywood, whose uncle was Harold King, brother to Syd King. Small world!

Posted by Sue on 11/01/2010

I am researching my family tree. My grandmother on my father's side came from Airmyn. Her name was Lily SWEETING, her father was William Sweeting (b. 1870). His father was John Sweeting (b. 1830), a blacksmith in Airmyn. Mother Mary nee Coneyswoth from Newport.

If anyone could shed some light or help I would be more than grateful. Thanks.

Posted by Colin on 09/05/2011

Sweeting is my wife's family.

William Sweeting (b. 1788) a blacksmith married Esther Emmanuell (26/04/1813 in Drax).

John Sweeting (b. 3 Jan 1830) a blacksmith married Mary Conesyworth (12/1851 in Beverley).

William Sweeting (b. 1869) married Selena Lee (1890 in Howden).

Lily Sweeting (b. 1897 in Gilberdyke) married Enoch Murr (25/08/1918 in Pocklington).

Posted by Carl on 20/01/2010

The first time I ever saw Airmyn was at Christmastime, 1962. We were visiting my mother's first cousins in Doncaster, Airmyn, Goole, and other places. This was a revelation to me, since my mother's father had immigrated to America in the late-1890s, and, although I never knew him (he was killed by lightning in 1903), tales of the relatives in England abounded in the family.

Posted by Krysia on 16/02/2010

I am trying to trace my great-grandmother's family that came from the Goole area. My great-grandmother's name was Ada Ann HEARN. She had sisters named Clara, Nelly, Amy, Amelia and brothers Amos, Robert and John Shallom.

My great-grandmother's father was John Hearn and he worked as a railway horse driver. I am not sure if this would have been in Airmyn. My great-grandmother herself, married Claude Jackson, who worked at a timber merchant, also near Goole, so not sure if in Airmyn. She was a teacher. One of the sisters, Amelia married a Sidney Griffin.

I wonder if anyone knows anything about any of them, or where they could have worked? Thanks.

Posted by Trev on 15/07/2010

Can anyone help? My wife and I did our courting in Goole in 1960/61. We often walked from Boothferry Road to Airmyn on a path just past West Park, then through Airmyn to Boothferry Bridge and back. Can anyone remember a cafe in Airmyn at that time? I think it was run by a French lady. My wife can't recall it - so is my old brain losing it or not? Thanks.

Posted by Armin on 30/09/2010

Don't remember one really, but memory suggests there was a kiosk once upon a time that served "take aways" - too modern a term. It was at the Old Hall, but that would have been before 1960. There was a garage place near end of bungalows I think too.

The only French-speaking lady I could suggest was Mrs Glew, who I believe was the wife of Glew the furnisher in Aire Street. A customer of my dad's. Think she may have been a Belgian national before her marriage. Think her first name was Marcelle?

But can't recall a cafe in the village. Only cafe we visited as children in 1940s/1950s was Riverside Cafe at foot (Howden side) of Boothferry Bridge.

Posted by Robert on 30/09/2010

Yes I remember the cafe in Airmyn run by a French woman, around 1966/67.

Posted by Armin on 03/10/2010

Good! We can't all be ga ga. I tend to think I am imagining it until someone corroborates these things. Do you remember where your cafe might have been?

Posted by Trev on 06/10/2010

My wife still can't remember it but at least you have convinced her that I'm not losing it yet. As you came out of the bridleway, it was on the right towards Boothferry, only a little way along.

Posted by Ann on 15/11/2010

There was a cafe in the late-1960s at least. It was later one of the first buildings as you entered Airmyn from the Boothferry Bridge side of the village. There was a jukebox - I remember visiting with a friend and buying a coke and choosing Tom Jones, "Green Green Grass of Home", on the jukebox. I think it was transformed back into a bungalow, but I'm not sure.

Posted by Keith on 27/02/2011

The cafe in Airmyn was the first bungalow on the left coming from Boothferry Bridge. It also sold petrol and was the only place open early morning to fill up. It's now back to a residential dwelling.

Posted by Celia on 01/03/2011

Mrs Glew was French speaking - and yes - I believe Belgian. She lived in a flat in Hook Hall towards the end of her life and was a regular visitor to our home in Hook.

Posted by Martin on 19/11/2011

Regarding the cafe in Airmyn with the French speaking lady. This lady was Mrs Alice Alfreda Jeanne Garner who was born in France and married a Goole man Jim Garner in 1919. The cafe was called the Bridge Cafe. This information has come from her son who still lives in the area and remembers it well.

Posted by Phil on 11/04/2016

I lived on Chestnut Avenue in the 1960s and yes there was a cafe and petrol station at the last bungalow going out of the village. It belonged to the Smith's. Mrs Smith was indeed French and the family came from South Africa. Their son went to Drax Grammar School.

Posted by Val on 02/12/2010

Found this site whilst trying to research my family tree. Only recently found out my family had connections with Airmyn and I wonder if anyone has come across the family name MASKILL? I have found a William who was a ship's carpenter who married in Airmyn about 1792 to an Anne Fox. Wonder if anyone else has Maskill's in their tree?

Posted by Nicola on 22/07/2013

My great(x4)-grandfather was called William Maskill. It links that he was a ship's carpenter from what I know. He owned a ship in the mid-1800s. I have links somehow with Airmyn as it's where my other grandfather William Holdsworth was born. William Maskill and William Holdsworth were joint boat owners who owned a schooner.

Posted by Corby on 22/07/2013

If you Google "John Wray Burton Stather ship builder", you may see your two ancestors mentioned. The Schooner in question was named WILLIAM MASKELL, built in 1858 for Goole coastal trade.

Posted by Val on 22/02/2014

Still researching the Maskills. Thanks for the info re the schooner. Guess this must be our man! Have got a bit further back – I think William's dad was a Thomas Maskell, shoemaker from Howden, possibly born 1740ish and father to a Sarah (b. 1767) which would fit with William's age too. Can't manage to find the direct link though. Are you aware of previous connection to Howden?

Also William had a brother Thomas at Thorne, licensee at the White Hart. He is one of my other great-great-grandparents due to cousins marrying. Thanks for your update.

Posted by Corby on 23/02/2014

According to Howden Parish Registers, in the period you mentioned there were two Maskel families.

Richard Maskel married Ann Hart in 1735 Both of Barnhill Hall? Their offspring were Elizabeth 1737 Abraham 1743 and Richard 1745.

Robert Maskel had William 1740, Mary 1737. As there is no previous mention of Robert I presumed he came from out of the area.

Only one Maskel mentioned in the Minster Graveyard. William Maskel died 1759 aged 27

Hope that this may help.

Posted by Val on 01/03/2014

Thank you for the information. I had also been trying the Howden Parish registers with much the same result. What is pushing me in the direction of Howden is that on William's marriage entry in the Airmyn register, his father is shown as Thomas, shoemaker. From what I have seen elsewhere there appear to have been generations of Maskill shoemakers in Howden up to the mid-1800s when I guess they started making factory footwear. There also appear to be some family connections to North Duffield.

Posted by Robert on 01/03/2014

Elizabeth Maskill married Thomas “Wetherall” (normally Wetherell) farmer and son of Mark “Wetherall”, labourer, at Airmyn on 31st May 1849. They moved to North Duffield. Three children: Emily Jane Wetherell (b. 1850), William Maskill Wetherell (b. 1853) - he was elusive when I last looked, but may be easier now, Betsey Wetherell (1854-1854).

Emily Jane became Tallents then Turton, second wife of Thomas Coates Turton who was a dentist in Belgravia, Goole, and first chair of the governors of Goole Secondary (later Grammar) school. His son from his previous marriage took over as the dentist and my dad remembered Mr Turton using a pedal-operated dental drill. This practice was later Bowles.

But to return to Elizabeth Maskill, the Goole and Marshland Gazette announced the death aged 27 at North Duffield on 27 August 1854 of Elizabeth, wife of Mr T. Wetherill and third daughter of Mr W. Maskill, formerly of Airmyn.

Thomas Wetherell remarried Eliza Nappey and one of their sons Charles Edwin Wetherell founded Wetherells department store in Selby.

Posted by Corby on 02/03/2014

I have a Wetherell on my tree. Tom Smith Wetherell (b. 1857 in Rawcliffe). Married in Goole, Harriett A. Moore 1879 in 1881 living at 41 Victoria Street. Could you tell me where he is placed in the Wetherill family? Harriet being daughter of my great-aunt Olive nee Wright. Tom had a son Ralph M. who became a mariner. This whole family moved to Canada.

Posted by Robert on 06/03/2014

I replied to Corby directly, basically that a bastardy document in Beverley Archives shows that Thomas Smith Wetherell was the son of Ann Wetherell and George Smith of Potter Grange. This was probably the George Smith that later shot a servant and was tried for murder in 1862.

Posted by Val on 07/03/2014

Many thanks for the update on Elizabeth Maskill. This is great stuff and I will add to the tree, I had no knowledge of her previously as the girls always seen difficult to track due to name changes. From the dates I believe she must have been the daughter of William Junior (b. 1793). This may explain the North Duffield connection as William Junior appears to have moved to North Duffield where he was a blacksmith. Very much appreciated.

Posted by Carl on 11/06/2012

I found this website more-or-less by accident. When I saw the photo of St. David's, it reminded me that my (great?)-great-grandfather Thomas (Herbert) Simms is buried here. My second cousin, David Galloway, has lived in Airmyn all his life.

Posted by Trev on 31/07/2012

My mum was telling me today that when she went to school at Alexander Street in Goole (1911-1920) one of her teachers called Miss Precious used to walk home with her then walk all the way to Airmyn where she lived with her parents who kept a pub there. Can anyone tell me the name of pub as mum can't remember it? Mum is nearly 106 years old and still doing well. Thanks.

Posted by Caroline on 27/04/2016

Still doing my family tree and found out that my great-great-grandfather Thomas Brooksbank was a ferryman at Howdendyke to Hook. Apparently he drowned on 10 July 1873. Can anyone shed any light on this? He was only 28 years old. Thanks.

Posted by Christine on 28/04/2016

About 130 years ago, four of my distant cousins were drowned by their boat capsizing in the River Aire/Ouse, after having a pint in the Old Percy Arms, and not heeding warnings by other customers, regarding the oagre at that particular time of the year (10 August 1884). Their boat capsized and nobody on the embankment were able to swim, and the police couldn't reach them, so sadly their lives were lost, it was a Sunday Evening, The names of the four men, all Durhams: Thomas Durham aged 20; William Durham age 32; Fredimund Durham 18; and their cousin Alfred William Durham age 21, Alfred was local to the area and was a fisherman.

Posted by Frank on 12/06/2017

Are there any descendants of the FOSTER family living in Airmyn? I believe my great-aunt, Ivy Foster nee Harrison, had family living there. Ivy married William Foster in Rawcliffe on 25 February 1924, and at some point they lived in Airmyn for a while at a farm which is no longer standing. They also lived in two places in Goole as well as "Cuckoo Park"(?) in Rawcliffe. Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 13/06/2017

The person that you are looking for is Dennis Foster who lives in what was once the old fish shop on the riverbank. He is related to all who you mentioned and thinks that you may be the son of the Frank he knew.

Posted by Keith on 17/06/2017

Never knew there was a fish shop in Airmyn. We used the bridle path to Airmyn in the 1950s quite a lot (I remember that) but not a fish shop, you learn something every day.

Posted by Corby on 17/06/2017

The fish shop was not there in our time. Dennis was told this when he moved in. Airmyn has changed so much. Does the bridle path still exist?

Posted by Keith on 18/06/2017

There seems to be an entry where the bridle path used to start, just over the motorway bridge. I have often seen vehicles parked as if taking dogs for walks. But whether the path through to Airmyn still exists I don't really know. Possibly someone will throw some light on it.

Posted by Corby on 18/06/2017

You are correct. I have it confirmed by phone. I have only two contacts left in Airmyn now. The other being George Smith, hero of the Russian convoys. He is now 96!

Posted by Goolie Gone on 18/06/2017

For those of us who don't know about George and the Russian convoys would you mind putting us in the picture please?

Posted by Corby on 19/06/2017

Gorge's time in the Royal Navy was on destroyer escort vessels. The first was an aging ex American four stacker GIFT HORSE He then joined HMS ROWLEY, escorting the merchant fleet. Many years later the members of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy received their just rewards with medals in recognition of this heroic escapade. This was well covered in the Goole Times.

Asselby

Aschilebi 1086 (Domesday Book). "Farmstead or village of a man called Áskell". Old Scandinavian personal name + "by".

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Asselby is a village on the dead-end road between Barmby-on-the-Marsh and Knedlington. It gives its name to Asselby Island, the nearby large woodland area where the Ouse meets the Aire.

Visitor Comments

Posted by BS on 27/05/2005

Asselby - the village with nowt but a pub when it is open; no post office, nothing. No social life, nothing. No feeling of village life; no feeling of being a small community; no life, just Asselby. Take it as you find it, that's if you can find it. One road in, one road out. Still I have been here 30 years, so it must have something, but what is it?

Posted by Ex Asselby Dweller on 26/07/2005

I have often wondered the same thing myself, looking back, I see it is the vicious network of neighbourhood gossips and commuters. Once, because a neighbour's dog kept coming to do its business on someone's front lawn, the owner of the lawn scooped it up and flung it at the dog's owner's window!

Posted by New Resident on 21/01/2006

Just moved to Asselby for a quieter lifestyle, we lived in a town with a football stadium opposite us! We've been made very welcome by everyone we've met. Shame it has no shop or post office, but that's a small price to pay to live away from drunken jobs. Having grown up in Cliffe, I know that village life is what you make of it, talk and people will talk back, drive through and miss out.

Posted by Ex Asselby Teenager on 05/02/2007

Yes it's true, Asselby is truly a village of nothing!

I spent most, if not all, of my teenage life speeding up and down the lanes of Asselby and Barmby on a motorbike with friends of mine, upsetting all the whinging farmers and residents of Asselby ☺. There was nothing else to do in this god forsaken place.

I'm glad I don't live there anymore as I now have a four-year-old daughter and wonder what she would be doing in this community with no village hall, no playing field, no shops and no school!

Posted by GGG on 16/02/2007

I am trying to trace my family tree and it would appear my family were centred on Asselby. However, the more I find out about the place, the more reluctant I am to come up there to find further information - surely it cannot be that bad? I'm beginning to expect a sign saying "Abandon hope all ye who enter here!" Someone please assure me otherwise. In the meantime, if there is anyone out there related to either a STALHARD, CONSTABLE or PLASTER, I would be very grateful if you would let me know.

If there is only one pub and nothing else in Asselby, how do you all survive on ale alone?

Posted by Sue on 04/06/2007

We have lived in Asselby now for seventeen years. After living in Leeds, Doncaster - only the best parts of the cities - we lived in fear at night-time to go out anywhere, even driving home at night we had to make sure that the car doors were locked. We next moved out to Gowdall but somehow that didn't fit the bill either, so here we are. Yes there is only one pub! Some pub! and two days a week when the bus comes through, but to sleep peacefully in my bed at night knowing that there will be no drunks turning out at God knows what time, my neighbours are friendly without being in each other's home gossiping. If you don't like the very quiet, peaceful country life then go back to somewhere that's more suitable to you and let other quieter people move in.

Posted by Duncan on 30/07/2007

Leave Asselby alone! It doesn't pretend to be anything other than an agricultural village. My wife and I have found the people are extremely friendly and helpful. Yes, you can sleep at night without worrying if you've padlocked everything you possess. At the "only pub" you can get a lovely meal for 1980s prices and if that doesn't suit you, travel the two miles to nearby Howden where there's at least a dozen more to choose from. You have also got nearby river walks, bird sanctuaries and the M62!

Posted by Martin on 05/06/2008

Asselby may be a quiet place, but I spent ten years there and I must say I wish I was still there. Everyone knew each other and there was no trouble whatsoever. Some of my family still live there.

Posted by Anthony on 08/06/2008

What can I say but take no notice of the negative feedback of our quiet little village. Yes it may have no shops or post office but you only have to go two miles down the road for one and on a summer's day it is a pleasure to get on your bike and take in the wonderful scenery we have. People who say there is no sense of community in Asselby are the ones who don't talk to people or go to the pub to meet other locals. We don't have a village hall so the pub is the next best thing. Have a quiet drink, a beautiful meal, and most importantly meet people. My family have lived in Asselby for generations and I have lived here all my life and that may only be 21 years but I wouldn't move anywhere else.

If you would like to know a bit of history of our little village there is a wonderful book called "Those Magnificent Shires," written by an ex-Asselby lad on his accounts of growing up in the village just after the war and working on some of the farms in Asselby.

Posted by Mike on 09/07/2008

I spent most of the happiest days of my childhood, growing up in Asselby, 1975 to 1982 in Linton House. I see on Google Earth that someone has annihilated the rustic charm of this particular residence. Progress I suppose!

Some of the negative comments pertaining to Asselby leave me dumbfounded. What happened to Freddie Ellwood and his wooden hut? and leg? The Boldan brothers (Mike, Mark and Martin) were the greatest people I ever knew. South Africa has been my home for almost 30 years, but I can't forget an idyllic childhood, in your perfect little village.

Posted by Trish on 22/07/2008

I love Asselby. I don't live there, but one of my dearest friends does. As one other writer mentioned, there is peace and quiet and it's a beautiful country spot, away from the noise and bustle of towns and cities. Heck, Howden is only a stone's throw away. There are some beautiful walks, by the river to Barmby-on-the-Marsh. A beautiful spot in glorious England. It's always greener on the other side... For me, it's the other side of the world and some days, I just long to be there! Love ya Asselby and all your lovely neighbours and friends.

Posted by Mark on 14/07/2010

Some people are so shallow minded, the best years of my life was in Asselby, How can they give so much negative feedback about such a fantastic place to live? Now it is much larger then it was when I was a child but we were never bored, always someone to help in the village. Has no one got any community spirit anymore or is it just people being ignorant to their neighbours and local folk that have lived there for many generations?

Yes, Asselby is still my favourite place. My family still live there and I visit as often as I can to catch up on the chat in the local pub. If people don't like it they can put a For Sale sign up and let somebody that appreciates the friendly community move in.

Posted by Ken on 14/03/2012

Moved here in 1968. Raised my family who have moved away but regularly return. Sadly the post office has closed and there is no school. In 1968 there was no pub, but since it re-opened there has always been a welcome and the food is plain, plentiful, home cooked and good value. The village has changed in character from working farm centred to a commuter village. Yes it is quiet but Howden is only two miles away, Goole only five miles. The M62 is just over three miles away so the whole road network is available. Asselby is quiet, safe and secure. The newspapers are delivered from Howden daily!

Posted by Tony on 30/10/2012

Asselby now has a thriving village community. Since the Jubilee celebrations of 2012 and the takeover of the pub, the village has a new life. The new pub is a hub for this close knit community and has become a regular for most of the locals with its varied events and comfortable atmosphere for socialising.

Now with a men's and ladies darts team and a new bar and lounge and refreshed menu along with its fun loving and very sociable landlady the pub serves a selection of fine real ales, beers and wines and a tasty fayre of food. Call in and try it for yourself.

Posted by Shuffleton Streets on 19/03/2006

Seeking genealogy about TAIT resident in Asselby in the 19th Century. Anyone out there know any local history? Thanks.

Posted by Kevin on 27/02/2007

Seeking genealogy on MOUNCEY or MOUNSEY around Asselby in 16th and 17th Century. Perhaps they were all dying to leave?

Posted by Corby on 15/11/2007

My great-great-great-grandfather John Singleton COOK born in Asselby 1816 to Mary nee Singleton of Howden and John Cook. I am having difficulty in finding which John Cook for certain. Anybody know the family? Thanks.

Posted by Claire-Marie on 02/12/2007

I am trying to find out about one of my ancestors, Adelaide HABBISHAW. She died in Asselby in 1865 at the age of eleven. She had come from Leeds where her parents had died. Her death was witnessed by Mary Bowling. Unfortunately, having been to Asselby and Howden, I have been unable to find a grave - can anyone help? Also, I am unsure why she would have been there - any ideas? Thanks.

Posted by Gary on 24/04/2008

I walked to Asselby from Goole in about 1963 to visit a school friend, John Pettican. I've never been back there.

Posted by June on 08/05/2008

Seeking any information about Emily MORRITT (b. 1865) married John Mills? Thanks.

Posted by Sandra on 11/02/2010

The marriage was to John Milston (March qtr 1883 Beverley vol 9d page 147. The couple seem to disappear after that point as I can't find them on following census.

There is a birth reg for an Emily Morrirt that may or may not be correct: Dec qtr 1865 Howden, Yorks.

1871 census at Asselby with parents Thomas Singleton Morrirt and Hannah plus seven siblings.

1881 census the family are incorrectly transcribed as Morrill still at Asselby with both parents plus Emily and four older siblings. The three younger children from the previous census are not shown.

I hope that helps you.

Posted by David on 19/09/2008

My mother was born in Asselby in 1917 and still talks warmly of the happy years she spent as a child there with her parents and brothers and sisters. She walked every day to school in Barmby (unless it was raining or very cold when her mum would get out the pony and trap). Grandad was a farm labourer (James Duffin), grandmother was a Plaster, the sister of Sydney, killed in action at Gallipoli in August 1915 and named on the Howden War Memorial.

Posted by Tricia on 25/06/2011

As Mike mentioned him in his posting in July 2008, and for all other ex-Asselby-ites around the country who read this, I wish to inform you my uncle, Fred Ellwood, died this week, after a short illness, age 93. He was well known in the village (not least, as Mike said, for his shed) and was the last of generations of Ellwoods to have lived there.

Posted by Michael on 04/09/2011

R.I.P. Freddie Ellwood. You taught us young lads a lot back then. To Tricia, thank you for informing us. A big thanks for this Asselby page, ultimately for reuniting me with Martin and Mark Boldan. The latter shall be making his second visit to our home in South Africa in a couple of days' time!

Posted by Mark on 05/09/2011

Trisha, so sorry to hear about Fred. As kids we spent many hours with him, myself, Mike and my brothers. In 1976 he built me and Mike Brier a rather steep ramp for our skateboards. He was a much loved man. In my latter years I do recall many people meeting at his green shed, Vic Boldan, Norman Hessletine, Dan Deeley, Jeremy Oats, Dennis Ounsley are but a few to mention. In winter there was a paraffin heater burning and a nip or too of the harder stuff.

God bless you Fred.

Posted by Tricia on 06/09/2011

Thank you Michael and Mark for your lovely comments about Uncle Fred. I have printed them off for my mum (Dorothy, Fred's sister) who looked after him for many, many years and she will be so pleased to see them.

Posted by Margaret on 26/12/2012

I remember Freddie Ellwood and his mum and dad. His dad George was the village blacksmith and his wife was known to my three lads as Aunt Mary Anne. I loved Asselby and if I could I would live there again.

Posted by Tricia on 06/03/2013

I too would live in Asselby again - if I could afford it! I also remember two of your boys locking Uncle Fred in his shed when they were little, Mum and I still laugh about it.

It was nice to read your comments about Uncle Fred and gran and grandad Ellwood. Grandad was indeed the village blacksmith but was called Tom (Thomas John).

Posted by Willo on 10/03/2013

I also remember Fred working down at Frank Stead's farm and one day a number of us went exploring there, probably with Mike or Geoff Warrilow. Anyway Fred found us and as I tried to escape through a small hole in the barn wall I became stuck and he really gave me a helping hand to get out with his trusty size nines. I last saw him in a care home in Goole some three years ago and was extremely sorry to hear he had died.

I suppose I was at school with you Tricia, was your dad John?

Posted by Tricia on 12/03/2013

It was nice to read your comments, particularly about Uncle Fred. Gran and grandad left the pub in about 1960, they were followed by the Kitwoods (Cedric?) but after that Mum can't remember and does not recall the name Frank Richards.

We were probably at school together but Ellwood was mum's maiden name and John was her cousin. His daughter, who is the same age as me, was called Margaret, there was also another cousin/half cousin with us, Susan, Percy's daughter.

Posted by Elizabeth on 16/12/2012

Thomas Singleton Morrill 1829 is our great-great-grandfather. We had quite the interesting trip to Asselby. We got off of the train at Howden, not realising it was in the country. Fortunately, I

spotted a car that was parked and it turned out to be a private hire waiting for a passenger from the next train. She said she would only be a few minutes and came back for us. We found Rose Cottage a little past the pub on the right side. Quite moving to see where our grandfather's family came. She drove us to Howden where we saw Hannah Morrirt's grave in the minster graveyard. She was the wife of Thomas Singleton. Again quite moving.

Posted by Corby on 17/12/2012

Glad to hear that you not only found your Rose Cottage, but were lucky enough to find the grave you were looking for. I have spent many hours searching the Minster graveyard - usually in the rain. I have the CD of graves and noted yours which is much more recent than my connections.

Posted by Corby on 03/07/2013

I have been following your mail and am quite intrigued. You mentioned finding Hannah's grave. Was not her husband's name on the headstone? Thomas Singleton Morrirt 1829 preceded her by ten years, although he passed away in the East Riding Asylum 1900 and he was interred within the Minster graveyard. I would assume that they would have been together

Posted by Nellie on 18/08/2013

I am Elizabeth's sister. We sailed on 27 November 2012. Hannah Morrirt's gravestone has the following information: "Hannah Morrirt, wife of Thomas S. Morrirt (of Asselby) Born January 20, 1828, died March 20, 1910, She was a good mother." We saw no nearby grave with a headstone for Thomas. I don't remember if we looked at the back of Hannah's stone or not. I expect we did. I had known he was buried there and thought perhaps they would be together or nearby.

Joyce Mary Palmer, daughter of Mable Morrirt, daughter of Fred Morrirt, son of Thomas and Hannah Morrirt, a genealogy researcher of this Morrirt line kindly shared her information with me. I have enjoyed reading references to the Morrirts on this web page.

Posted by Corby on 18/08/2013

According to Howden minster burial records, headstone reading

In loving memory of Thomas Singleton Morrirt
Of Asselby . Who died 6 October 1900 Aged 71 years
G&A Leake Hull ?

PR 1900 Oct 9th Thomas Singleton Morrirt East Riding Asylum

I have done a little more searching and it appears that the asylum had their own burial ground in Walkington from 1911. Prior to that St. Martins and St. Johns.

Posted by Corby on 21/08/2013

It has just been confirmed by Treasure house Archives Beverley that Thomas's Grave is within Howden Minster Cemetery. Where, I know not. I am now intrigued by all this that I need to find it myself. Unfortunately as I live in Southampton and have no plans to go up this year. I will have to put it on hold

Posted by Elizabeth on 18/10/2013

Very interesting that you found Thomas Singleton grave. I hope you get up north soon.

Posted by Nellie on 18/10/2013

Thanks for the additional information on Thomas Singleton Morrith. I was very pleased to visit Asselby after hearing about Rose Cottage and the family much of my life. Too bad the pub wasn't open for a celebratory pint.

Posted by Corby on 08/06/2014

The pub you visited turns out to be once run by my great(x4)-grandfather, Thomas Cook, a farmer in Asselby. He had five children John, Thomas, Mary and Hannah. His final son Francis was born at the pub when Thomas became a publican and victualler. Francis later crossed the river to live in Long Drax. This family married into the Morrith family via Morrith the Miller.

Posted by Margaret on 26/12/2012

Asselby is a lovely village with a good community spirit. I lived opposite the pub for many years and cooked there for fourteen years. The Boldans were farmers, they had a farm just over the old Hull and Barnsley Railway crossings. Asselby used to belong to an estate and was called a garden village.

Posted by Elizabeth on 12/01/2013

I would love to know more about an estate town and whose estate was it.

Posted by Margaret on 19/01/2013

I think most of Asselby estate was owned by the French emigrees at Knedlington Manor, I think they changed their name to Rudd-Clark.

Posted by Tricia on 06/03/2013

I believe the Black Swan has changed names. I am all for progress but do think it is such a shame changing it after over 100 years. I spent many happy hours there as a child and it will always be the Black Swan to us, and I am sure to many of the original villagers. I also remember two of your boys locking Uncle Fred in his shed when they were little, and I still laugh about it.

Posted by Willo on 10/03/2013

My mother used to work at the Black Swan when Frank Richards used to be there and I spent far too much time there during my formative years sampling the wares. I often spent time sat with Vic talking about "who knows what" until it was time for one of us to leave.

Posted by Elizabeth on 07/04/2013

Curious, has anyone of or at the Black Swan made a comment about my dance shoe and postcard of the Queen Mary II, that I left hanging on the door knob to signify that the great-great-granddaughters of Hannah Morrith made the trip back to Asselby?

Posted by Tony on 17/04/2013

We did receive your shoe and postcard and are curious. We did wonder about the connection. Do you live in the country or abroad? We have also had communications with Les Ellwood who now lives in Kildare in Ireland which seems ironic that the Black Swan is now called Whelans of Asselby (Irish pub). His grandfather was the pub landlord many years ago.

Posted by Elizabeth on 02/07/2013

I am pleased that the shoe was found. I wore it while I crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary II. Our intent was to find Rose Cottage in Asselby where our mother's father's family lived from 1792 to 1880. We did find the cottage. We were sorry that the pub was closed. We left the shoe to mark the return journey back to Asselby.

Posted by Wendy on 18/05/2013

1892 -- ASSELBY is a township in this parish containing 925 acres of land, and 25 of water. The rateable value is £1,678, and the population in 1891 was 239. The soil is rich and loamy, and the subsoil clay; wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and turnips, are the chief crops. The principal landowners are T.S. Clarke, Esq., J.P., of Knedlington Manor; Lord Leconfield, Rev. Thomas Brooke, J.W. Shaw, Asselby; and Messrs. Hammond. The first-named gentleman is lord of the manor. The Hull and Barnsley railway passes through the township.

ASCHILEBI, as it is called in the Domesday Book, belonged, at the time of the Norman Conquest, to the Bishop of Durham and Earl Moreton, and Nigel Fossard held lands under the latter, and two extensive fisheries which yielded, on an average, 2,400 eels annually. When Howden church was made collegiate, the reputed manor, the greater part of the land, and the tithes were granted to the prebendary of Barmby, and were held by the successive prebendaries until the dissolution of the college.

The village stands two miles west of Howden. There are chapels belonging to the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists. The former was built in 1868, and the latter in 1850. Asselby is included in the Barmby-on-the-Marsh United School Board district. A Board school was erected in 1878. On the site now occupied by Mr J.W. Shaw's house, formerly stood Asselby Hall, across the gable of which was an oak beam with a number of eels carved thereon, having probably some reference to the fisheries above mentioned. This beam is now built in the attic of the present house. The open fields were enclosed in 1837. The works and buildings of the Howden Water Co. are situated in this township, but are at present idle. Mr T.S. Clarke is impropiator of the tithe, amounting to £125. Asselby Island, in the river Ouse, belongs to the parish of Drax, in the West Riding.

1892 -- ASSELBY TOWNSHIP --

Letters via Howden. Letter Box cleared at 5-20 p.m.

MISCELLANY OF TRADES:-

Everatt Thomas Richard, joiner, &c.
 Gilling Miss Jane, schoolmistress
 Lumby John, land agent to T. S. Clarke, Esq.
 Palmer William, grocer
 Plaster Sydney, joiner
 Sarginson John, fellmonger & vict., Black Swan
 Scott Thomas, market gardener
 Scott Walter, joiner and fruit buyer
 Shaw John William, builder and contractor
 Storr Charles, shoemaker
 Taylor Geo., wheelwright, &c., Nursery house
 Taylor James, gardener, Mount Pleasant
 Taylor Mrs Mary

FARMERS:-

Barker Richard, also Old hall, Knedlington

Brabbs George
Chantry William Joseph (and overseer)
Clark Matthew & William
Dennis George
Everatt Henry, Asselby house
Everatt John (and miller, wind)
Everatt John, junior
Everatt Richard
Farrah George
Lapish John Henry
Lapish William
Levitt James
Mitchell John (and overseer)
Palmer John Smith land market gardener)
Shaw John William
Winter William

ASSELBY in Baines's Directory of 1823 --

MISCELLANY OF TRADES:-

Cook Thomas, farmer & vict. Board
Levitt John, blacksmith
Midgley Francis, carpenter
Morritt Wm. corn miller
Singleton Isaac, shopkeeper
Singleton Wm. yeoman
Taylor Geo. tailor
Wood Wm. schoolmaster

FARMERS:-

Birkett Josiah
Boldan Robert
Dalby Elizabeth
Dales John
Greaves John
Humphrey Mthw.
Shoemakers,
Pears James
Underwood John

Posted by Corby on 19/05/2013

Your posting is for me a light at the end of a very long tunnel. My research on my family goes back much further. On the Singleton side to Williams marriage to Hannah Hoop. Producing William and Isaac, who are both mentioned in your Baines directory, although that William may have been William Jnr. 1766

On the Cooks side a Thomas Cook married Ann Thompson 1784, witnesses William Singleton and George Easingwood, producing John (b. 1786) (my great(x4)- grandfather) Thomas (b. 1788), Mary (b. 1791) and Hannah (b. 1793). I have been unable to find out what happened to John's siblings, but John married Mary Singleton, daughter of William and Mary Fletcher. I was given a cutting of this wedding announced in a Leeds Newspaper in which it gave John's profession as a banker.

Posted by Jane on 02/01/2017

Rose Cottage, Asselby, is where my late mother-in-law was born in 1922. She was Grace MICKLEBOROUGH, her mother was Ada Turner. Both farm labourers we believe. When her dad died, the family eventually moved to Hessle near Hull. Any info on the Mickleboroughs would be great? Thanks

Posted by Keith on 24/01/2018

I have just seen your post about Rose Cottage Asselby. I was interested as my grandmother was born there, Beatrice Lillian Turner, and she was the sister of Ada. I have a photo of William Turner, Francis Turner (nee Watson) with their children outside Rose Cottage.

Further names for the children of William and Francis. William Turner, Rhoda Turner, Jessie Turner, Beatrice Lillian Turner, Mable Turner, Arthur Turner, George Turner, Aida (believe that is correct spelling) Turner, Fred Turner and Hetty Turner.

Barmby on the Marsh

Probably "farmstead of the children, i.e. one held jointly by a number of heirs" from Old Scandinavian barn + by; alternatively "farmstead of a man called Barni or Bjarni" from Old Scandinavian personal name + by. Affix is Old English mersc "marsh"

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press

Its red houses are in green fields near the meeting of the Derwent and the Ouse, with Drax and Hemingborough less than two miles away. If we come from Drax the ferry carries us over the Ouse, but from Hemingborough we must travel nine miles because of the marshes, the road doubling back near Howden. The odd-looking church has an old nave with most of its windows new, a modern chancel, and a brick tower with a lead cupola. The chest is one of the oddest we have seen, its cavity at one end of a log, secured with iron bands, three locks and a draw-bar

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee



Barmby-on-the-Marsh (previously Barnebic and Barmby-on-Derwent) consists of picturesque cottages and tall fronted houses and lies at the point where the River Derwent flows into the Ouse. In 1975, a huge concrete tidal barrage was built as a flood relief measure and to provide drinking water for the public. A sluice stops the polluted waters of the Ouse from contaminating the Derwent and a lock allows pleasure craft to pass through. Before the barrage was built, the marshlands often flooded in winter allowing for lots of ice-skating.



The area around the barrage has been converted to a wildlife reserve and a country park. It is also now part of the Selby to Hull cycle route. The Hull to Barnsley railway went through the village from 1896, and crossed the river at nearby Ouse Bridge. Now only the bridge supports on both banks and the brick house used by the controller remain.

Its ancient church, St. Helen's, was originally a barn with a brick eastern tower added later. In the churchyard is a spring, St. Helen's Well, rich in iron. Also nearby is St. Peter's Well which is rich in sulphur. Both protected the population from cholera outbreak in 1854.



Barmby was once a river port with a sail cloth and rope-making industry using the locally grown flax. It even had salmon fishing. The river was busy with grain and other crops taken to market and mills and coal coming on the return journey. The village once had a three day horse racing festival and Barmby Feast was held annually. Things are now quieter. The population in the 18th Century was round 500, but today it is around 300.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Patrick on 27/04/2007

Does flooding now affect the houses and other buildings?

Posted by Willo on 27/02/2013

My mother lived in Barmby all her 91 years and never knew it to flood. She always said that the village is built on a high ground, a sort of ridge, and any flooding would run towards Howden. I suspect she maybe was right, because as you travel towards Barmby, if you look to the right, the land does slope considerably towards the Derwent. It also appears to be lower towards the Ouse if you venture down Station Lane or Bankfield Lane.

The Derwent did break its bank around 1947 at a place locally known as the Gyne and the water never came into the village. The remnants of that are still evident as the small pond next to the larger one that was dug to raise the banks some time later. I spent many happy hours fishing and swimming there as a youngster as well as in the river when it was still tidal.

Posted by Willo on 06/12/2007

The brick built tower of the church has always been on the west end. The wells didn't seem to work that well either because the south-west corner of the churchyard is where they buried the cholera victims or so I've always been told.

Posted by Carole on 01/02/2008

My mother Joan (nee Stones) and her brother Miles William were the children of Thomas William Hind Stones, a farmer from Barmby. Unfortunately my mother and uncle are both deceased but I shall never forget the stories of my mother's happy childhood in the village. I understand that most of the area was farming and that the Stones family had many relatives and connections throughout the region including Goole and Hull.

Names of related families that spring to mind are Eastwood, Rockett, Everatt, Falkingham and Taylor (my maternal grandmother was a Taylor from Rawcliffe).

Posted by Graham on 22/02/2008

Visited the village on 16 February and found the graves of my great-grandfather and his wife, Wilson and Sarah Annie Brown, and his mother and father, John and Sarah Brown and son William and daughter Eliza. Wilson and his son John Chadwick were wheelwrights and painters in the village. Wilson's son, Wilson Hartley Brown, went on to become an engineer in Bradford and then became a farmer at Bradbury Grange Farm, Swillington Common near Garforth.

Posted by Jackie on 29/03/2008

I am researching the family tree, and on the 1901 have come across a great(x3)-aunt Emily H. DOUGLAS, wife to Aaron Douglas victualler of the Sloop Inn. Emily died in 1914. They had three sons, James, Joseph and William (twins). I would be grateful of any info anyone may have. Is the Sloop Inn still standing? Thanks.

Posted by Willo on 01/05/2008

The Sloop Inn it is still in the village and now a private house. I remember as a child an old woman standing at the door and shouting at something in the distance. I used to think she was mad - maybe she was!

Regarding James Douglas, in the 1950s I can remember a man I knew as Jimmy Douglas being the foreman of the Catchment Board (looked after the rivers) who worked from Barmby. He also lived in Barmby in North Street. I know he was a Barmby man and unfortunately I cannot remember when he died but my mother is 89 and he was quite a bit older than her.

Posted by Heather on 19/08/2008

My great(x3)-grandfather, Edward (and Anne) Thompson lived at Westonby Hall in 1834, but can't find any record of it. Perhaps it was demolished? He went on to live at Knedlington Hall.

Posted by Marjorie on 06/09/2008

My father was a Leetham from Barmby, also on my mother's side we had a Solomon Thompson (b. 1824 in Barmby). He had been a sergeant in the Indian mutiny then came back home to be a tailor and had a sacking business. His daughter Catherine married my great-great-grandfather George Terry. She also had a brother Edward Thompson they lived at Westonby.

Posted by Willo on 17/09/2008

Westonby is the area at the west end of the village and starts where North Street meets High Street at the Fleet Lane end. It continues all the way to the ferry. There are some houses along the north side of the road that start with the name Westonby, eg. Westonby Villa.

Posted by Linda on 07/11/2008

I am the great-grand-daughter of Soloman Thompson who returned to Barmby in 1866 after being in the army in India. He had, I believe, thirteen children, my maternal grandfather being the eleventh (Alfred). My great-great-grandfather William died of cholera in 1833 and is buried in St. Helens Churchyard.

Posted by Heather on 02/03/2009

My great-great-grandfather Edward Thompson was born 1807, in Barmby. His parents were Thomas (b. 1781 in Howden) and Mary (b. 1785 in Goole), but I can't find any trace of the parents, or other family members. Edward is buried in Thorne. Do you think Solomon was related? Does anybody fancy a session in the churchyard to clear it? Thanks.

Posted by Linda on 03/03/2009

(John) Soloman Thompson's parents were William (b. 1799) and Mary Noble (b. 1801) but just for confusion there were two John Soloman Thompsons living in Barmby in the 1800s. The other J.S. Thompson was a farmer. There are thirteen Thompsons buried in St. Helens churchyard, none of which is an Edward.

Posted by Marjorie on 04/03/2009

In 1851 an Edward Thompson lived at Knedlington Old Hall with his wife Ann and six children. He was a farmer of 211 acres.

Posted by Heather on 09/03/2009

That's him, my great-great-grandfather, Knedlington Hall. Looking for his parents (Thomas and Mary) and any brothers and sisters he had. I think a sister was Helen (b. 1809). Thanks.

Posted by Marjorie on 11/03/2009

I don't know about Edward's parents but on the 1851 census he was down as being born in Goole and his wife Ann born at Scurf Hall which I think was near Drax. Hope this is of some help.

It is confusing, the two John Solomons. I think we are descendants of the same John Solomon. Wondered if you had any information of his time in India? My cousin has a trophy presented to Serj Solomon Thompson by his brother Serjeant as a mark of respect, H.M. 98th regiment.

Posted by Linda on 12/03/2009

Yes we are related, we are descended from the same Soloman Thompson. I have lots of info on his children but unfortunately his army record is held at the National Archives at Kew and will require a visit. His third child (William) was born in Peshwar on the northwest frontier. According to Catherine's birth certificate, Soloman (then known as John) was a master tailor in the 98th regiment of Foot. He came back to England in 1866, his wife Elizabeth giving birth to their fifth child on board ship in the Bay of Biscay. I would be very interested to learn more about the trophy you mention.

Posted by Marjorie on 18/03/2009

I have not a lot of information about the trophy, only that great-grandmother Catherine took it with her when she married my great-grandfather George. Very well respected member of the community and big church members. I do have the local paper with her obituary in naming all her family and where they lived at the time. There was an E. Thompson (brother) and A. Thompson (brother) in Asselby. A lot of the family moved away from Barmby. Which member of the family did you descend from?

Posted by Linda on 18/03/2009

My maternal grandfather was Alfred (b. 1876) the twelfth child. On the 1891 Census he is living with his sister Sarah (married name Barnes) in Accrington, Lancs. Also on this census is another sister Mary Ann living at the same address. Some confusion here, because there is a Mary Ann, aged nine months, buried in Soloman's grave in St. Helen's churchyard, but she appears on the 1871 census aged four. Alfred moved to Rawtenstall when he got married, I presume this was because of work in the cotton mills; another sister Rosetta (b. 1868, married name Patrick) was also living in Rawtenstall in 1901.

The A. Thompson (nephew) mentioned on the obituary would have been my grandfather.

Posted by Andrew on 20/04/2009

Hi Cousins Linda and Marjorie and others... I live in Saskatchewan, Canada, but have Thompson roots in Barmby. I was enthralled with the village when I visited there in 2004 and was happy to find the grave of William Thompson (buried 13/08/1832), husband of Mary Noble. William was my great(x3)-grandfather. I am descended through his son Edward (b. 1831 in Barmby), who moved to Hull, then immigrated to Canada with his family in 1863.

Posted by Marjorie on 10/05/2009

I did hear of relatives moving to Canada, in fact I do remember in my much younger days, of a cousin Walter from Canada visiting the family at the farm where we lived in Hemingbrough, the other side of the river to Barmby. Linda and I haven't met yet but are about to, where I am sure we will be catching up on bits we have gathered together.

Posted by Linda on 04/06/2009

I had no idea I had relations in Canada! Edward would have been Soloman's (my great-grandfather) brother. Can you tell me anything about him? I have just spoken to Marjorie for the first time and we are going to meet up to share information. Thanks.

Posted by Colin on 26/06/2009

I married Shirley Thompson in 1964, her family are definitely the descendants of the Thompsons from Barmby. Shirley's grandad was Walter Robert Thompson (tells me that the first born male of the family was always Robert and that was true for several generations) born about 1896 who died in 1950 he was a farmer at Yokefleet. We have a very large bible and in the front there is a long list of the family, when they were born and where, etc.

The reason for the two Mary Ann's is that the nine month old died and so the next girl was called Mary Ann. Without looking it up, I think the parents did this twice. The other being a boy who died young.

According to the family bible, Walter Robert Thompson was born 1 December 1886 and married Maria Scoffins 1911. Some of the names are difficult to read because they were originally written in pencil and the text has faded.

Posted by Heather on 27/06/2009

It is strange, all these Thompsons and none seem to be related to my great(x3)-grandfather Edward who was born there in 1807! There must be a connection somewhere you would think. Oh well.

Posted by Linda on 06/07/2009

It's very confusing, there were a lot of Thompsons living in the Barmby area all related to each other and what's more confusing is that they all called their children by the same names; there are an awful lot of Roberts, John Solomans, Edwards and Williams living at the same time so it's very difficult to find out who your direct ancestors were but we must be related somewhere along the line!

Walter was the son of Robert Thompson (brother to my grandfather Alfred and also brother to Catherine, Marjorie's great-grandmother) so we are related to your wife! Robert was the second child of Soloman Thompson and his wife Elizabeth (nee Berrill) and was born in Shorncliffe, Kent in 1857. Robert married Hannah Maria Levitt in 1866 and they had at least six children, the oldest being Walter.

Posted by Shirley on 03/08/2009

Hello all you Thompsons from Barmby on the Marsh (I'm not the Shirley Thompson previously mentioned). I'm a Thompson by marriage. I have been researching the Thompsons for a few years now and have met Andrew when he visited a few years back. Our side of the family are through Robert Thompson. Walter Thompson was my husband's great-uncle (his grandfather was Frederick Thompson. My father-in-law was Robert Thompson and his eldest son is also Robert Arthur Thompson). Amazing to find others looking.

Posted by Patricia on 05/08/2009

I am trying to find some information regarding my great(x3)-grandmother Susannah Thompson who was born in 1795. She had a daughter, Catharine born in 1820, but did not marry. I think she died in either 1852 or 1853. On her last record in the 1851 census she was in the workhouse.

Posted by Marjorie on 10/08/2009

There was a Susannah, 45, who lived with a Mary Thompson at South Street in 1841.

Posted by Linda on 18/08/2009

I'm getting very confused about all these Thompsons that are turning up! Especially two Shirleys!

Posted by Heather on 01/11/2009

I think Susannah may be related to me, but can't find out how, all these Thompsons are very confusing. Was she related to Helen Thompson do you know? Helen is my great(x3)-grandfather's (Edward) sister I believe. But it would be strange because Susannah was in the workhouse and Edward lived at Knedlington Hall. Unless she was disowned for getting pregnant. Mary was Edward's mother.

Posted by Allison on 16/07/2016

I've just found this thread and, like Heather above, I'm researching Edward and Ann Thompson of the Old Hall. Edward is my great(x3)-grandfather.

Posted by Ann on 11/07/2009

My great-great-grandfather lived in Barmby and is buried in St. Helens Church. He was called David Clark CORNEY and his wife was Rebecca. They had six children and lived in High Street, Barmby. One of these children was my grandfather called William Corney (b. 1898). Does anyone remember any Corneys living in the village in the early to mid-1900s?

Posted by Willo on 13/09/2009

Regarding the Corney name, I remember a Mrs Corney living in Barmby. She lived in the last terrace house on the left just after the pub. I think she died there in the 1960s.

Posted by Patti on 12/07/2009

My mother, Molly Falkingham (married name Elwell) was born in Barmby in 1916 and lived there until 1945 when she married my father, a Canadian officer, and became a war bride and moved overseas. Some of the names she remembers are Everett, Bramley and Holey. She had a brother Robert Falkingham who lived in Wressle until he passed away. She has many fond memories of her childhood.

Posted by Willo on 03/12/2009

If Robert was your mother's brother then so was Lloyd, I think, who still has a son farming in Barmby. Robert used to farm at the castle in Wressle and his sons still are there.

Posted by Val on 10/08/2009

My great-great-grandfather was John Martin who was the parish clerk for 42 years. He came to Barmby from Broomfield in Somerset and was a weaver. He was buried in 1915. I have family info from 1823 to 1930s. I am interested to know which house he lived in. I have been told that it had the village pump outside.

Posted by Patricia on 03/10/2009

John Martin, parish clerk, was also my great-great-grandfather. He lived in various houses along High Street.

My great-grandfather was John's son, John (b. 1848) who married Jane Elizabeth Parkin. My grandfather was their son John Arthur (Arthur), born Sculcoates, Hull (can't find a birth record for him).

I knew John was born in Bristol, Somerset, but not which district, which has made it impossible to trace his parents. I know his father was also called John and was a weaver in 1844 when John and Mary Ann Watt(s) married. I have no information as to who Ann (1845) married, so that line has gone cold. I would love any information you have as I have only been in contact with two others with the same family line.

Posted by Sue on 06/11/2009

John William TALBOT was the vicar of Barmby for a number of years. The census records show that he was certainly there in 1891, 1901 and 1911. His wife Eliza (nee Livesey) was my great-grandfather's sister. Does anybody know anything about him or his family? Thanks.

Posted by June on 30/08/2015

I too am researching John William and Eliza Talbot. They are my husband's great-great-grandparents. Their daughter, Ethel Maud, was married at Barmby in 1913 to her first cousin Richard Edmund Livesey.

Posted by Andy on 27/02/2010

I have fond memories of living in Barmby sometime in the 1970s when I was a child. I always thought of going back to visit, but the pictures on Google show a place that has changed.

Posted by Len on 28/02/2010

I'm looking for the HORD/HURD family of Barmby on the Marsh. They left for Canada sometime around 1830. Might have been tailors or in the dress making business, lived at York (present day Toronto), York County, Ontario by 1832/1834.

Their son was John Mark Hord (b. 10/02/1811, Kingston upon Hull; d. 30/09/1899, Ilderton, Ontario). Their father was John Hord; mother Martha Allinson or Allynson; stepmother was Elizabeth Jackson.

Likely grandparents were Nathaniel Hord and Mary Ramsay married at Howden. Family was Methodist and believe older Hords/Hurds were from Barmby on the Marsh and attended St. Helens Church.

Looking for any connections to St. Helens Church if records exist where would I find them? Thanks.

Posted by Elizabeth on 09/03/2010

My great-great-grandmother was Tamar ADDINALL maiden name ROCKETT. Married great-great-grandfather John in 1859. I would be interested to here if anyone knows of this family Thanks.

Posted by Peter on 18/05/2011

I have an Addinall tree which has Tamar (1839-1888) and John (1828-1859). Widow Tamar married Robert Douglas in 1871.

Posted by Vanessa on 04/06/2011

I am also great-great-grandmother of Tamar and John Addinall and would be interested in any information.

Posted by Vicki on 15/03/2010

My grandfather, Benjamin ROOKE, grew up in Barmby. He left for America in his late teens. His father was John Rooke and mother Emily Fleming Rooke. They are buried in the churchyard. Anyone know of the Rookes from Barmby? Thanks.

Posted by Maxine on 06/05/2012

Benjamin Rooke of Barmby on the Marsh was my uncle. By the way John Rooke is not buried with Emily in the churchyard, he was buried in Hemmingborough, I believe.

Posted by Vicki on 23/09/2013

Was your father Max? If so, I met your brother, John, when he came to the U.S. Thanks for the tip on the burial sites. I think there is a daughter buried with Emily in the churchyard. Hoping to visit England in the next couple of years. A visit to Barmby is a must!

Posted by Willo on 28/11/2013

I can remember John spending some time in Barmby in the early-1960s and we were quite good friends for this short period. I cannot remember if he used to stay with relations or just arrived for a day at a time. I do remember that Max was his dad although I never met him. Of course Laurie and Phil and families were residents at that time.

I do recall something being said about the USA and assumed that he had emigrated shortly after.

Posted by Maxine on 11/01/2014

John was my brother and he sadly passed away in 1980. He loved visiting his Rooke Family but only for the day. He settled in Bridlington mainly because of Mary Rooke/Foster whom he was very close to. She was the eldest of that particular set of brothers and sisters.

Posted by Vicki on 16/11/2014

Benjamin, your Uncle Ben, was my father's stepfather. Bernice (Bernie) was my grandmother. My father's name was Victor Miller. He passed away in 2010. My mother, Flossie, passed away eight months ago. We all got to meet your brother, John.

Posted by Keith on 14/09/2010

I was born in Barmby in 1953 in the vicarage, which my parents were renting a part of. We left when I was still a baby, to go to live in Boston Spa. Does anyone remember Bert and Joan Marwood? Or my older brothers Neil or Stephen? Although we weren't there for long, my dad was a Goole man, so we were almost locals.

Posted by Clive on 12/10/2010

I was born in Pear Tree House, North Street, Barmby on the Marsh in 1942, My parents were Arthur Sydney Martin and Blanche Martin (nee Wilson) of Cliffe near Selby.

My father was born in Westonby House, Main Street in 1913, His parents were Charles Arthur Martin and Mary Martin (nee Lofthouse) of Barmby Marsh.

Posted by Anne on 03/11/2010

I remember you well Clive, do you remember me? I don't get to Barmby very often.

Posted by Willo on 11/11/2010

I was only talking to Jeff Leighton the other day about your mum and dad and how long it was since they farmed at Pear Tree. I would be at the front of the house when your dad went by on his racing David Brown tractor to the field he had opposite Mrs Potters. Can you remember the old lady that lived there before them? She was quite eccentric and used to stand at the front door shouting, her name evades me at the moment?

If I remember rightly you were sort of famous in the village because of the illness you had as a young lad. I also remember the Ariel Arrow you had, what I would give for one of them now.

Posted by Clive on 21/11/2010

I remember both of you well. Miss Arminson lived in the old pub where the Potters now live.

Posted by Heather on 17/01/2011

My great-great-grandfather lived at Westonby Hall in 1834. Is Westonby House the same place? He was Edward Thompson.

Posted by Clive on 01/02/2011

I have only known it as Westonby House all the time I lived in Barmby; I never heard anyone call it Westonby Hall.

Posted by Willo on 13/02/2011

I have been doing a little family research lately and certainly the west end of Barmby was known as Westonby in the 1881 census and my mother would sometimes refer to it as that and she lived there all her life.

Descendants of my family were there before 1850 and history about the village tended to be passed down through the generations. I lived in Barmby (Westonby) until I was 21 or so, and no one ever mentioned a Hall and I never saw any remains of a structure that I would identify as a hall. Could it be that the census information is wrong and it should have been written as Westonby House?

The house is situated on the right immediately after the farm that is at the junction of High Street and North Street West end. (I always have been told this is where Westonby originally began). Opposite it is a two storey house, the only house that lies to the south of the road. Next door to Westonby House there used to be a chapel which was demolished in the 1960s.

Posted by Heather on 28/02/2011

Westonby Hall wasn't on a census, it is in a book that Edward signed. "+ Westonby Hall, Barmby, 9 September 1834". It definitely says Hall, but suppose he could have just called it that to be posh. Also, I have his maths book "1856 – Knedlington".

Posted by Angela on 05/07/2012

I live in Pear Tree House now and would welcome any information you could give me about the house and/or the village. My husband is especially interested in getting hold of photos of the old railway if anyone has any.

Posted by Eve on 16/04/2011

Members of my family once lived in Barmby, I think. John Henry ARMINSON and his wife, Annie HAYES, had two children there or nearby, about 1893-95 (births registered in Howden?) - John Lancelot and Hilda May.

Posted by Willo on 01/06/2012

I've realised that I knew Lancelot Arminson or Lance as he was known by. He had a farm at Asselby and two sons, I believe, John and Colin. I used to come into contact with Col later as he farmed at Hotham near North Cave.

Posted by John on 29/05/2011

My sister-in-law ran the village post office in Barmby in the late-1970s/1980s. Her name was Wendy Johnson and we all became friends with Neil Lofty (Lofthouse), Rowley and lots of lovely village people. We immigrated to Australia.

Posted by Hayley on 01/06/2011

We've just moved into what used to be the old pub, "The Bull and Butcher". Does anyone have any tales or even better photos? Thanks.

Posted by Graham on 28/06/2011

My father had the Bull and Butcher in the 1950s.

Posted by Clive on 26/09/2011

My earliest memory of the Bull and Butcher are of the landlord called Teddy Goundrill who used his kitchen as the bar in winter - sitting round his table he would fill your glasses with beer out of a big jug.

Posted by Willo on 09/12/2011

I can remember Teddy living in Barmby during the 1950s and he was an old man then.

Posted by Paula on 26/02/2012

My mother Gretchen Salmon and my uncle Rodrick were, along with my grandmother Vera, evacuated to Barmby during the war. They both went to the primary school. Does anyone remember them?

Posted by Willo on 29/03/2012

Somewhere in the deep and distant past I recall Rod Salmon. I feel sure that the family was known by my relatives. But, something makes me think he went to Drax Grammar School and possibly lived near there in the late-1950s, possibly at Drax or Camblesforth.

Posted by Willo on 18/04/2012

I asked my sister about Gretchen and she clearly remembers the family living in Barmby. They lived in the end terrace of three houses just past the Kings Head. Perhaps your mother will remember Anne who was next door at Clarecott living with our grandfather Joseph Eastwood during the war? Anne's husband is David Mcdonagh who was from Langrick originally and who knew your mother from her time in Drax.

Posted by Stephen on 04/07/2012

Stumbled across this interesting website by accident. During the mid-1970s my family owned the post office in Barmby, which was my first home as I was born there in 1976, before moving in 1978.

Unfortunately I am too young to remember what the post office looked like and have been trying to find pictures of it but can't find any.

Posted by Trev on 18/12/2012

My dad Kenneth Hardwick was born in Howden and I remember him telling me that he used to cross on the ferry at Menthorpe when he was young. Are there any old photos of the ferry?

Posted by Tricia on 21/12/2012

My mum was born and bred in Asselby and remembers Menthorpe Ferry well, having an aunt at nearby Bubwith. There was a pub there which always had "lock ins" during and after the war; even today there is a pub. I was brought up in Howden until I was 21 but cannot remember the name Hardwick, maybe a different generation from me.

Posted by Trev on 23/12/2012

I think it was before your time when dad lived in Howden; he lived in North Holmnby Street and my grand-parents passed away in the early-1950s but my mum is still well at 106 years.

Posted by Tricia on 24/12/2012

106 years young WOW!! My own Mum was 94 last week and I thought that was good going. We are so lucky to still have them and long may they reign. Best wishes.

Posted by CP on 19/11/2014

For some years, at least from 1950/51, Clifford Penistone and his wife Vera lived in Riversdale house here. They had one son and he moved eventually overseas. Clifford served as an NCO in the RAF six or seven years earlier before returning to Reg Timms flour mill.

I remember well the disused rail complex at Barmby, signal box, platforms, weighbridge, gates and the very famous Ouse Bridge. This could all be viewed from Riversdale house.

Posted by Jenny on 10/10/2017

I have just come across this site while researching my family tree. I am related to the Ellwood family who were farmers in the village, having moved there from Asselby, but it is the story of George Ellwood that intrigues me. I have discovered he went to Drax Grammar School, now the Read School, and I wondered how he would have got there each day, as I can't see a local river crossing. Does anyone know if there was one in the early-1920s? Thanks.

Posted by Willo on 27/11/2017

I reckon there could have been two possibilities.

- 1 use the ferry that was in existence across to the Ship Inn
- 2 go across the railway bridge on the Hull - Barnsley railway line

The second was certainly used in the 1950s as I used to go visit relations in Langrick regularly. George may have walked across just like we used to.

Posted by Paul on 28/11/2017

Found this on a website about the village "There were ferries to both Drax and Hemingbrough and regular market boats to both Hull and Selby."

Blacktoft

Blaketoft c.1160. "Dark-coloured homestead". Old English blæc + Old Scandinavian toft.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press

A remote little place on a bank of the Ouse, within site of its meeting with the Trent to form the Humber, it has a trim stone church made new last century, standing by the wheelwright's shop and sheltering behind tall trees. Its few old remains are seen in some of the masonry in the walls outside, the west doorway, the chancel arch, the cracked font, a medieval coffin lid making a step in the chancel, and a fragment of another gravestone in an outside wall.

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee



Although a remote village, a pier was erected here in the last century which has since proved invaluable to ships that fail to meet the tides of the river. Rebuilt in 1956, Blacktoft Jetty is hardly touched by road or rail and yet the solitary inn, the Hope and Anchor, is often filled with the strange tongue of foreign sailors who have been forced to moor for a few hours and caravan owners.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Pedro on 15/04/2006

I wish I had a £1 for every time we berthed at Blacktoft Jetty in the 1950s, usually because of fog. Remember the pub at the time was like sitting in a back kitchen - they had beer barrels on trestles. The skipper kept deck watches on but if we were off watch we went for a beer. I remember one night aboard the SS Alt, in a real peasouper of fog, hearing wild geese flying overhead, they must have collided with electric cables as suddenly it rained geese falling on deck. We collected them and Xmas came early - roast goose next day was on the menu. Happy days.

Posted by Geoff on 22/05/2006

Can anyone please tell me where Thornton Landing is? It is a recorded birth place in the census for one of my ancestors, I believe it may be near to Blacktoft. Thanks.

Posted by Shuffleton Streets on 23/05/2006

Dug out "Broomfleet and Faxfleet" by Eleanor M. Reader, pub. William Sessions York 1972. Thornton was a Templar holding - Thornton Lands ar Faxfleet – Templar Landing could well have been the riverside staithe.

Reader describes it as the old approach to the Humber bank at the end of Faxfleet Lane... where the "little ships" tied up and transferred their freight to the "great ships", the sturdy cogs

and busses which would withstand the buffetings of the North Sea.” Then trade went to bigger ports, like Hull.

Reader also mentions the brickworks community at Thornton Landing, being an outlying part of Broomfleet (bricks transported by Market Weighton canal) and lock there.

Posted by David on 04/02/2007

My dad David was born in the old jetty house in 1909; his father Captain David Jackson Snr was jetty master at the time. My maternal grandfather was involved in some way with a ferry that existed at Blacktoft at the turn of the last century.

Posted by Dennis on 18/03/2008

I also lived at the jetty but I moved there in 1947. The jetty master was called Frank Raywood.

Posted by Peter on 26/04/2009

In my day the old jetty house was derelict, and where David was born, we young kids in the village used to go in there thinking it was haunted!

Posted by Vivienne on 17/03/2007

My great-great-grandmother Emma Jane Whitaker was christened in the church at Blacktoft in 1853. She was born in Yokefleet.

Posted by Hamish on 28/04/2007

I remember a “Lanky” boat high and dry behind the light where the two rivers join. I think it was the Irwell, but I could be wrong. The skipper’s name was Richardson and he was mate of the Don when I was on her, his demotion for being a bad lad!

It was put “On the Hard” down around Faxfleet where the River Trent joins the Ouse. He put her “behind” the light on the south side. She sat there for a very long, time high and dry (looked like she should have wheels). In fact, if memory serves me right, they put a watchman on her to stop vandals. It was funny to sail past her and see smoke from the galley funnel.

Posted by Peter on 16/05/2007

I moved to Blacktoft in 1950, aged five, where my father Frank Raywood took up the post of jetty master, until his retirement in the 1980s.

Posted by Derek on 24/09/2007

My family from Cheltenham had the greatest holidays with Harry and Nelly Blee from 1948 until 1960. They lived at Bank House right on the river in the early days, with no electricity or running water. Harry later got a generator and the water was pumped from the river and purified with a charcoal filter. I also stayed with Annie Reid at one time when Bank House was full. The Blee’s and Reid’s were great family people. The village was busy at the time with the Hope and Anchor, a great place for a beer and shove halfpenny after playing cricket on the field next to the pub. I still visit Blacktoft whenever I am in England and the old magic still exists.

Posted by Peter on 26/04/2009

I recall visiting Harry Blee in his house, in the time when there was no electricity. We had gas lamps to go up to bed! The field between the Hope and Anchor pub and jetty house was always the place for village cricket. A gentleman who lived at the bottom of the field in a house on the main street was called Harry Rutter, who was brilliant at organising us kids, and got us all playing cricket.

Posted by DC on 05/08/2009

Harry Rutter was married to my sister Pauline Collier and was the customs officer, water guard division, located in Blacktoft for many years. Sadly he passed away in the 1980s.

Posted by Ian on 11/03/2012

Very interesting to read about the Blee family in Blacktoft. My great-great-grandfather was landlord at the Hope and Anchor pub and my grandfather was born there. I have a very old photo of the pub with Thomas Blee's name across the front.

Posted by Richy on 07/07/2008

I remember visiting some friends of my parents about 40 years ago, they lived in a farm at Blacktoft and kept guinea pigs as a side business to the usual farm animals. The farmer was called Tom but I don't remember his surname.

Posted by JS on 08/08/2008

My gran Emma Whitworth was a seamstress and I believe she visited Blacktoft to work in the 1950s. The people who she went to do work for in Blacktoft were I believe scrap merchants who had their business on Hessle Road in Hull.

Posted by DC on 05/08/2009

On a wonderful and very sunny Saturday in July 1941, Captain Dick Collier and his wife, three daughters and two sons (Mary, Pauline, Dorothy, Dick and Derek) arrived to move into the pier house. The gardens at each side of the concrete path from the pier entrance down to the house were ablaze with large double red poppies with a rose arch half the length of the path. The house had mains water and a water toilet (only one in the village), also a bath room with hot water from the coal burning cooking range. No gas; no electric; at night we had paraffin lamps. The family of five children five years to thirteen years old started school on the Monday. Two classrooms, teachers, Mrs Taylor for under nines and Mrs Robinson for nine to fourteens.

As the war was on, Capt. Collier took up the post of pier (now jetty) master as the river was extremely busy with lots and lots of ships which required info as they passed each day and night. Many moored alongside, as the tide had insufficient depth to get to Goole or Hull.

There were many experiences, one being when a bomber crewed by Polish airmen crashed into the Trent one midnight. Sandy Win a farmer of Faxfleet telephoned Capt. Collier and asked him to listen carefully as he put the phone out of his bedroom window, there were distant shouts of "help, please, please help". Capt. Collier agreed to meet Sandy at the drain on the Blacktoft to Faxfleet road where Sandy kept a very small boat with a very dubious inboard engine. They arrived along with Norman, son of farmer/milk man Parker and set off for the Trent training wall. They found about four airmen laying on the stones with the tide rising and lapping their legs. All into the boat but, the engine failed. As they started to drift, a ships mast headlights came into sight (from Hull). Capt. Collier signalled with his torch "persons stranded in Ouse", fortunately the pilot was a wonderful personal friend (Tommy Mapplebeck from Goole). He manoeuvred the ship with tremendous difficulty until the boat was alongside and heaved up on one of the ships life boat riggings. All ended well.

I could give many more accounts about the wonderful communities of Blacktoft, Yokefleet and Faxfleet. What a great childhood I had there. Some days were hard work while very young, potato harvesting (scratting), sugar beet singling and many other jobs. We had chickens, ducks, rabbits and pigs (food rationing was on then). On my eleventh birthday I started Goole Secondary School,

up at seven, on my bike to Laxton (hail, rain, snow and blow) every day, onto the 0813hr train to Goole then return home at about 1700hrs, with my brother.

We often met up with Mavis and Ramond (Mick) Anson who also travelled to school in Goole. Blacktoft village started on Staddlethorpe Road with families Sherburn; Laverack; Harding; don't remember; Hary Blee on the river side (kept bees and supplied the village with wonderful white honey every year); Philip Blee; Freemans; Jack and Mrs Drury at the post office; Hope and Anchor Inn with the Fred Lord family; next the pier engine house attendant, Mr and Mrs Hibberd; cottages with the Smalleys and Reeds; Pier House; Robinsons Farm; double bend with Burt's shop; vicarage; Jim Drury the joiner and good jack of all trades; Hall Farm with the Thomson brothers (late with Betty Win); two classroom school; and over the drain clough, Jake and brother Crisp (two brothers married to two sisters).

At the left of the church entrance (facing the church) is a double grave of Roger and Billy Reed who survived all the war years only to die together in a motorbike accident, perhaps the village's saddest day. Later Mrs Reed married Philip Blee. Capt. Collier was promoted to a higher position on Goole docks, so sadly we left Blacktoft in 1950 when Frank Raywood and family (two sons) moved in.

On a summer's day in 1999, an ex-director of a company from Hull was driving along Staddlethorpe Road and nearing Blacktoft and remarked to his wife "How could a boy from this community rise to be a director of operations in Spain, employed by a U.S.A. multi-national power station and refinery, designing, fabricating and construction company, later to travel the world and live in about two dozen countries, including China, as one of the company's international consultants?"

They were on a visit from Spain and were friends of mine, being members of the same mountain walkers club, here on the Costa Banca. I have lived and worked here in Spain since 1970. My headquarters in Barcelona until 1992 and now retired in Calpe. Who doesn't believe in humble beginnings!

My very best regards to Blacktoft, Derek Collier.

Posted by David on 12/10/2009

I read the messages about the jetty house and I have to say I was quite moved to see various names mentioned that took me back to my childhood. I'm talking 1930s/1940s.

Captain Collier, Tommy Mapplebeck, Laverack and Raywood. These names were frequently mentioned in conversation, the problem I have is that with the passing of time and the descending fog I cannot recall whether it would have been in the presence of my grandparents Captain and Mrs Joseph Lea or my parents David and Ethel Jackson.

There is one other name that comes to mind, that of Eddy Needham, I think he was lost at sea very early in the war, like my dad. I used to be friends with Eddy's son, I can't recall his name but remember that he had a shock of red hair.

Posted by DC on 06/05/2010

My father Capt. Collier disliked being away from his family for months at a time sailing the large tankers during the 1930s. He became aware of a berthing masters vacancy on Goole Docks which required a certified seaman. His father (my grandfather Captain Joe Collier) was a good friend of Captain Lea who was then the "Harbour Master" of Goole (perhaps they were fellow Free Masons). He spoke with him and procured the job for my father. Capt. Lea later retired and was replace with Capt. Tree.

Posted by David on 09/05/2010

I would suggest that the Captain Lea you mentioned would have been my grandfather Joseph's brother, George, I know he was Harbour Master at Goole and that he was a Mason. My great-grandparents had three daughters and five sons, each son becoming ships masters in their own right, all very confusing at times.

Posted by Robert on 27/03/2012

I remember Philip Blee who was a J.P. on the former Howden bench of magistrates. He was farm manager for Mr and Mrs Hoyle who were tenant farmers on the Empson Estate at Staddlethorpe House. On Mr and Mrs Hoyle's passing, he carried on as tenant farmer on the same farm in his own right. On his retirement he went to live in a bungalow on Main Street, Blacktoft which he had built. He died quite a number of years ago. His widow Irmgard still lives in the bungalow. She's Polish. Her father came from Poland to work on the Empson estate and Irmgard and her mother followed some years later.

You may be interested in reading the book "Historical Blacktoft" written by Robert Thompson, who farmed at Manor Farm in Blacktoft until recently and still lives in the village. You could buy a copy from the Hope and Anchor in Blacktoft or from eBay under Blacktoft.

Posted by Sue on 21/09/2009

I am the current Clerk to Blacktoft Parish Council and live with my joiner husband Paul at the Joiners Shop in Blacktoft - opposite the parish church of Holy Trinity Old St. Clements.

We have lived in this house bringing up our now adult children for 30 years having lived in the area all our lives. The Blee family is still represented by Irmgard, the buildings shown in the photo are still more or less the same - some tweaking here and there. The Old School (shown in front of the church) is still very much in use.

Blacktoft is a wonderful little spot to live - the river is a fantastic source of beauty even in thick fog when the river fog horns sound (sometimes for days on end!) River traffic is busy and the wildlife is spectacular. The Church is still very much part of the community with a service every Sunday.

Posted by Judith on 24/03/2011

My great-grandfather was vicar of Blacktoft in the 1890s and died there. His name was the Rev. William Turner and his wife was Harriet. They had ten children, the eldest of whom was my grandfather. The two youngest girls died in infancy and are buried in the churchyard with their parents. The reverend died in 1908.

Two years ago I visited the church and the vicarage on a beautiful summer's day to see where the family had lived. What a beautiful spot! And what a good pub is the Hope and Anchor! My only sadness is that I have never seen any photos of the Turner family in their time in Blacktoft, and never seen photos of the reverend or his wife.

Posted by Janet on 17/02/2012

On 9 June 1922 William Howard, pier master of Blacktoft, was killed in an accident involving a pony and trap driven by Mr Philip Blee, the licensee of the Hope and Anchor. One Henry Vincent Bird (19) of Barnsley was charged with manslaughter and also of driving a motor lorry in a manner dangerous to the public. The pony and trap were returning home from North Cave when they were in collision with the lorry loaded with oranges and lemons. The trap overturned and Mr Howard was killed. He was thrown some eleven yards but the lorry continued. According to the

doctor's report to the court, the lorry had run over his head. This pier master was the father of Marie Howard who married Albert Bradley, my parents, we all lived at Blacktoft until 1957.

Another daughter was Evelyn Howard who married Herbert Robinson a captain for Associated Humber Lines shipping who was awarded the MBE for meritorious service at sea. Evelyn (Robinson) was a long time headteacher of Blacktoft School.

William Howard's sister Myra, along with her husband Horace Bannister Collins, ran the village shop adjacent to the Hope and Anchor Inn. My father Albert Bradley was a long serving churchwarden, both my mother and I played the organ for services in the church. My mother, as a relief teacher, taught many pupils in Laxton and Gilberdyke. On my father's side of the family I am a descendant of the Bell family (millers) and the Hessey and Longbone families of Blacktoft.

I have just found another newspaper cutting which states that "the tiny village of Blacktoft boasts in its little school no less than four pairs of twins among its scholars." Dorothy and Kathleen Laverack, Geoffrey and Raymond Anson, Reginald and Douglas Sherman and Ray and Jean Lord. They were at school when I was there so I put the date of the article at about 1948-1950.

Posted by Robert on 05/03/2012

I remember Evelyn Robinson. I travelled on the school bus from Staddlethorpe Grange to Gilberdyke along with other pupils and Evelyn Robinson and Mrs Taylor who also taught at Gilberdyke. Evelyn Robinson was very strict. I remember her having one of those travelling alarm clocks which she put on her desk every morning when she arrived at school and took home at the end of school. I also remember her travelling around in a mini car she had at the time.

My late father Stanley Williamson told me once that Captain Herbert Robinson was at a function at Goole one evening with a number of his seafaring friends and rang Les Robinson who farmed at Blacktoft and asked him to fetch him back to Blacktoft, as Les did some taxi work at the time, as well as running his farm. On arriving at Goole, Les told someone that he had come to pick up Capt. Robinson. On hearing this Capt. Robinson asked Les to meet all his friends. Les reluctantly agreed as he had just come from work and still had his wellington boots on!

Posted by Keith on 27/03/2012

The Gilson family have been incumbents in the Old Vicarage, Blacktoft since 1987. Some years ago I visited the Borthwick Institute in York, where I discovered the original plans, drawings, specifications and estimates for the building works.

Known as Blacktoft Parsonage, our home was built by a Mr Joseph Shaw of Spaldington for the sum of £625. It was completed in 1843. The estimate was for £825, but the final design was of a less grand appearance, in part due to the incumbent Rev. Ernest Wards suggestion that the original designs were overly ornate. All of the documentation is of course hand written to a meticulous standard.

As part of an ongoing project I would be most pleased to hear of any early photos of Blacktoft Parsonage/Blacktoft that could be made available so that the archive of Blacktofts' history can be chronicled and expanded. To my knowledge there are only about a dozen that are known about.

Posted by Andrew on 08/07/2012

I believe that my gran Minnie Abey (Horsey?) was born in Blacktoft in 1908. I think she moved to Hull when married and returned to Faxfleet during the war with my late father Ron Abey. As

a child I remember my gran living in the new bungalows next to the old blacksmiths in the 1980s. I think she lived next door to her sister Ivy and down the road from another, Ann. I remember my mum telling me that when they got married they lived in a house near the jetty (where the phone box is).

Posted by Derek on 09/09/2013

Your note above brings back memories. Roney was my friend for many years, he lived with his mum (Minnie) and dad (George, a very knowledgeable and witty person). They lived in a house attached to Robinsons farmhouse at the double bend about four minute's walk along the bank from where I lived in Pier House. We spent most of our time together, especially playing cricket in the field next to where they lived (rear of the joiners shop).

After the war we went on village bus trips together to the coast. George had tuberculosis which he presumably passed on to Roney, as Roney spent many, many months in hospitals near Driffield and Malton. We would exchange letters regularly and on occasions I accompanied his father when he made his Saturday visiting. Roney's mum worked almost every day housekeeping for two brothers who had the farm situated at the drain on the Faxfleet Road. George, because of his T.B., kept house and doing some casual farmwork - he often wore a top hat and white scarf! They moved from Blacktoft after the war to live in one of the new houses built in Faxfleet. My family moved to Goole and I lost touch with Ron, however, I still have great memories.

Posted by Andrew on 21/04/2014

Derek, I can remember my father (Ron) mentioning your name and an Andrew Rutter, who I am named after! I remember my gran (Minnie) working at the farm as house keeper, for farmers Bill and Peter Cooper, I think. I didn't know much about my granddad as he died before my father had met my mum and gran didn't speak much about him.

The house in which my father and mum lived when they got married is the house you call Robinsons farm, although my mum tells me it was owned by British Waterways. My father passed away in 2012 and was ill on and off most of his life spending the last fifteen years of his life in a wheelchair but still lived and shared a fulfilling life having had four children - two girls and two boys, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was an avid Hull City Supporter and we went down to Wembley to see them gain promotion to the Premier League. I have heard so many stories about Blacktoft and visited there often.

Posted by Alan on 05/03/2015

Andrew, I remember Ron Abey and Mrs Abey (presumably your gran) living in Blacktoft. Ron worked for my father, Les Robinson, for some years on our farm. Sorry to hear he's no longer with us.

Posted by Derek on 10/08/2015

While living at the Jetty House, I got my first paying job, 1945 as a nine-year-old, it was potato gathering for your granddad (a grumpy old so and so!) However Les ran things and he was a great person. The potatoes were ploughed out by horse as during the war many farms had no mechanisation. The earth was only loosened, so on hands and knees we scatted the buried potatoes out. My pay was nine pence per day and I wore short trousers. The money bought me my first long trousers. Happy days.

Posted by Michael on 15/01/2016

I remember your dad, Les (“Ike”) very well. As a young lad I used to enjoy helping on the farm - potato picking mainly and occasionally at harvest time. I was very impressed once when he jumped into the river and swam across to the far bank and back again (the current is very strong, of course). I also remember his working horses, “Prince” was one of them, very fit and strong and superbly trained. I think that your dad’s Grey Ferguson tractor was the first one that I ever saw and he did let me drive it. (It was one of the early petrol/paraffin ones).

You also refer to Ron Abey and I spent time with him too. I once went with him on the back of his motorbike to Hull and back - I think, even now, it is the fastest I have ever travelled on a motorbike! It is great to recall memories of great times and great characters in Blacktoft.

Posted by Carol on 02/02/2016

My grandma was Ivy Simpson and lived in the bungalow next to Aunty Minnie. I lived with my parents Bill and Peggy Simpson next door to Aunty Anne and Uncle Albert. I spent my childhood with them all. I know your parents and they visited mine when I was growing up.

Posted by Alan on 21/11/2016

Very interesting to read your memories of Blacktoft. I never knew my grandad, he died before I was born. I remember my dad having the horse Prince. I was very young then, and I think my dad had retired him from work at that time. I do remember my dad telling me he once swam the river!

Boothferry

Booth's Ferry 1651. "Ferry at Booth (near Howden)", from Old Scandinavian ferja. The place-name Booth (originally Botheby 1550) was named from a family who came from one of the places called Boothby.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Booth village is a small collection of houses, but today it is famous for Boothferry Bridge which carried all the traffic to the coast before the M62 Ouse Bridge was opened. The derelict jetties of the old ferry and a single-storey toll house can still be seen at the end of Ferry Lane. Upstream from the toll house is a row of large poplar trees.

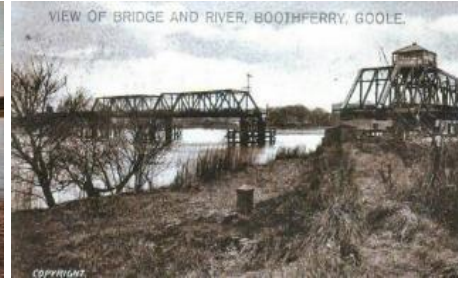
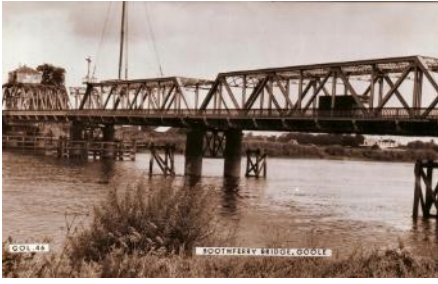


The Ferryboat Inn is the drinking establishment of the area and was a welcome relief for motorists driving back from the coast on sunny summer Sundays. The Redbeck transport cafe is similarly a meeting place for motorbikers on a Sunday afternoon and the starting point for cycling clubs heading for the Dales. Kemp's ice cream stall has unfortunately disappeared.

South of the river at the Hook/Airmyn roundabout is an innocent looking bench. Legend has it that long-running TV series Last of the Summer Wine was based around three characters who used to sit on this bench watching the world go by.

Postcards





Visitor Comments

Posted by MW on 21/01/2006

IN MEMORY OF JACK ROBINSON
THE SON OF A FERRY MAN

My grandfather, Thomas Robinson, took over as ferryman at Boothferry in 1918, having worked the ferry of Howdendyke for the previous 30 years. During that time he was authorised to carry mail between the East and West Riding. He told many tales of amusing and sometimes hazardous trips. On one occasion he took a menagerie over the river and each time he took a stroke with the oar, a bear snapped at him until he was knocked out for the count with the loose tiller.

He was joined at Boothferry by his sons Harold and John Henry (known to all as Jack) when they returned from the army after World War I. They ran the ferry between them until the opening of Boothferry Bridge on 18 July 1929, which made the ferry obsolete.

They ferried the first and last motor vehicle over the river before the opening of the bridge. This could be a hair-raising experience. The cars look very precarious in the photographs. Calamities were not all that common, but drivers did occasionally continue straight across the deck of the boat and over the other side. It must have been a terrible shock for them, but I never heard of any deaths from these mistakes.

I recall several incidents such as the time when three tramps wished to cross the river, but only one could afford the fare, so he took the clothes and bags of his colleagues and they took to the water to swim across sadly one of them never made it.

On one trip Harold was taking three youths from Howden to Goole side. They were having a laugh and congratulating each other after having a meal at the Percy Arms and getting away without paying. "We dodged that old bat," they said. Halfway over the river Harold stopped rowing and shipped his oars. "This is as far as we go," he said. "Either you pay your fare now plus the price of the meal, or you get out and walk. That old bat is my mother." They paid up!

Horses could be very hard work, both loading and unloading. The horses had to be unhitched and the cart was manhandled onto the boat. There were several regular customers such as a brewer's dray loaded with barrels and a carter carrying all kind of goods. These could be very heavy. Horses were loaded separately and on several occasions a nervous horse would jump out of the boat and finish up swimming across with the driver holding his halter. The ferry was well used by farmers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists paying 2d to 4d for a return trip.

Tom, the youngest son continued to live at Howdendyke. His wife Elsie (still doing well at 89) told me of one occasion when the two of them cycled along the riverbank to visit the family. They put their cycles in the stable next to the ferryman's cottage and were greeted with moans and curses from just above knee high. It was a legless man; he had gone into the stable to shelter for the night intending to get the ferry the next morning. I remember this character. His legs had been

amputated just below the hip and he sat in a leather tray attached by leather strap like braces. In each hand he held a wooden block which he used as feet; swinging his body between the blocks he could get along at quit a speed.

Molly Robinson, a sister of the three brothers, married Bob Walker the local farmer, making one big happy family. Their sons still live at the ferry and from what I have been told and from bits I have read, I estimate the family have lived at Boothferry for over 200 years.

There used to be a quoits pitch on the bank top. This consisted of two iron cartwheel tyres set in the ground some distance apart, with a metal spike in the centre of each. The game was played with heavy iron rings or quoits. The object of the game was to throw a quoit from one end of the pitch and to ring the spike at the other end.

The ferry cottages were often flooded at spring tide, but no carpets were ruined, we only had homemade rag rugs. My most vivid memory is of the old midden. This consisted of an outside toilet with its well-scrubbed seat under which was a stone slab sloping down to a pit surrounded by a brick wall. There were two doors in the wall, one high up which all the kitchen waste and other rubbish was thrown through, and the other, a larger door, was used for digging out. Phew! I swear we had flies as big as sparrows.

After the ferry closed, Jack (my father) and Harold were employed on the new bridge. Grandad Tom continued as landlord of the Percy Arms until it closed in the early-1930s. He died on 2 February 1940. The licence of the Percy Arms was transferred to the Ferryboat Pub at the foot of the bridge approach road, Howden side, where they have a bar known as the Ferry Bar which contains photographs and artefacts of the old ferry.

In pagan times when a bridge was built, a sacrifice was made to appease the water sprites. A young virgin or a baby was placed in the foundations of the main pillar. When Boothferry Bridge was built the builders took my sister's doll and placed it in one of main pillars. Fortunately there were no babies in the area at the time.

Posted by M. Williamson great-great-grandson of John Henry Robinson (Jack)

Posted by John on 15/12/2009

There was an old coaching route (now only a lane) which ran almost parallel to the present road from Knedlington Crossroads to Boothferry Bridge at what was Kemps Cafe (now the Ferryboat Inn). George Kemp had another larger cafe built across the road from the old cafe and it was known as Mayphil cafe after his daughters Mavis and Phylis. The Mayphil thrived before the advent of the motorway took away the passing trade. This is now part of the lorry sales yard.

As a small child I used to be taken to have an ice-cream at Kemps Cafe. In the early days there was a sales kiosk in the entrance to the car park of the original cafe which became the Ferryboat Inn. This was facing the road to Knedlington but later on it was moved to be near the new Mayphil Cafe before finally settling at the corner of the Knedlington and Howden Roads.

Kemps Ices were a treat and on a warm Sunday afternoon a stream of people would walk from Goole to buy one before walking back again.

Carlton

A common place-name in the old Danelaw areas of the Midlands and the North, usually "farmstead or estate of the freemen or peasants", from Old Scandinavian karl (often no doubt replacing Old English ceorl) + Old English tun.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Carlton is dominated by Carlton Towers, the country home of the Duke of Norfolk. This stately home is open to the public and hosts weddings and agricultural events. In 1777, in response to a public petition, Thomas Stapleton of Carlton Towers built a bridge to encourage the flax trade and to ease the difficulty of transporting bodies from Carlton by ferry to be buried in Snaith churchyard. With the advent of motor traffic the new bridge was built in 1928. This was then replaced a few years ago with a new structure.

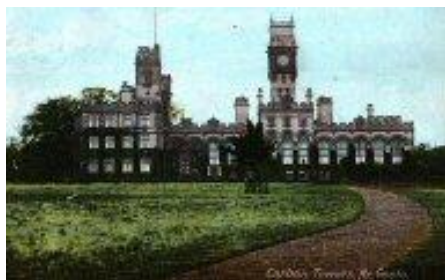


Crossing the river Aire leads to North Yorkshire and the first sight to greet visitors to Carlton is the village cricket ground and a large duck pond. A large wall around the perimeter of Carlton Tower's gardens runs next to the road through most of the village.



The Holy Family School is based in the village.

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Emma on 05/10/2007

Does anyone know the location of the old Red Lion pub in Carlton? I know that there was a Red Lion on the high street but also an old Red Lion.

Posted by Simon on 29/12/2007

The Old Red Lion in Carlton is now known as The Oddfellows. I only learned last year that I have ancestors that used to run the place in the 1800s, possibly earlier.

Posted by John on 08/02/2011

The Oddfellows was called the Red Lion, it has a small plaque at the front which explains about it.

Posted by Gary on 24/04/2008

Is there or has there ever been a Carlton Wood? My dad used to take us there when we were kids in the 1960s. I remember it being a beautiful place and I've fond memories of it. I recall it being next to a disused aerodrome or similar place.

Posted by Lynn on 06/12/2009

Can anyone remember the name of the farming family in Carlton? They also owned a shop in Carlton village. I once met the son, his name was Martin. He came to Sunderland to see me. He will be late 40s.

Posted by John on 08/02/2011

The name of the farming family that had the shop could have been the Hirds or Duddings.

Posted by Chris on 02/09/2013

The shop was called James Hird and Son.

Posted by Ivan on 12/06/2014

Sydney Hird still lives in Carlton. He is the grandson of James Hird, (who started the business in Carlton). Philip Hird took over the reins after James and latterly Sydney. The business was eventually sold to B.A.T.A. Ltd. of Malton.

Posted by Janet on 29/03/2011

Anyone related to Fred GREENWOOD. Benjamin Greenwood, son of Fred, went to Drax Grammar School, then to work on railway later. Farm sale was 1939 in Carlton, Low Lane? Interested in any relatives still in village or surrounding area. Thanks.

Posted by Andy on 18/12/2012

Recently found out that several generations of my CLAYTON line originate from Carlton. My great-grandfather is George, son of Thomas, son of Abraham, son of William. Other family names

include Herbert KIA and HEMINGWAY. Seems they lived on or around Low Street. Anyone have any connections? Any Claytons living there still? Thanks.

Posted by Di on 15/02/2013

I have a family tree line from Ann Clayton (b. 1826, Carlton) - daughter of William Clayton and Ruth Townend. Ann Clayton (married Stones) is my great(x3)-grandmother.

Posted by Michelle on 01/02/2014

Our Clayton family includes George Darbyson Clayton, son of Isaac Clayton, who is the son of William Clayton and Ruth. Isaac Clayton and Ann Darbyson Clayton lived on Church Lane in Carlton for many years. I think we are all speaking of the same family and I would love to share information. I'm also interested to find any relatives that may still be living in the Carlton or surrounding areas. George D. Clayton and at least two brothers came to the United States.

Posted by David on 10/03/2017

Called at Carlton today and was delighted to see the new war memorial with my uncle's name (Harold Goodall) included amongst the fourteen men lost in WWI. It was also nice to see the Odddfellows Pub (formerly the Red Lion), refurbished and an historical plaque outside. Yes it really has got three D's

Cowick

Cowick 1197. "Cow farm, dairy farm". Old English *cu* + *wic*

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



The church is modern, but traces of a moated tower said to have been built by John of Gaunt are still in the park, where there has been a hall since Tudor times. The house we see is imposing, but its great days are gone. In the park are old beeches and great elms, and a magnificent chestnut said to be one of the biggest in England. A rare possession is a maidenhair tree with broad fan-shaped leaves, one of the few growing in England, and one of the farthest north. A native of China and Japan, where it is often seen in temple gardens, it is known to have been common long before man was on the earth, fossils of it having been found embedded in the rocks.

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee



So big it was split in two, Cowick is the international headquarters of Croda Chemicals Plc. This company had its first factory in nearby Rawcliffe Bridge and now has interests all over the world. The roads from Goole, Selby and Thorne meet at Gyne Corner where there is also a great pond to go swimming and fishing in summer. The pub, the Bay Horse, is frequented by a pondering old man and his dog who sit outside in the beer garden watching the world go past.

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Shuffleton Streets on 20/03/2006

My dad once got done for riding his motorbike too fast round Gyme. That was before my time though, pre-War. His dad came to Goole to begin life in the metropolis c.1900. And I'm still stuck here!

Posted by Stan on 23/01/2007

I grew up in East Cowick before mains drainage had arrived! Anyone else remember the stinking open ditches we used to dare each other to jump across? I remember that the bend by the Bay Horse was a real accident spot. I also recall the old village cricket pavilion being an ancient ex double-decker tram!

Posted by Wilf on 15/11/2007

The old tram at Cowick was recovered and taken to the tram museum at Crich, near Matlock, Derbyshire for restoration, where I saw it about fifteen years ago. It wanted quite a bit more than just a coat of paint.

Posted by Alan on 23/07/2007

I am trying to trace my family tree. I believe my grandmother and great-grandmother were in service at Cowick Hall. My great-grandmother as house keeper around 1889-1901. Her name was Harriett TAYLOR and her daughter's name Louisa Taylor. I would like to hear from anyone who has information about any archives, pictures, etc. Thanks.

Posted by Claire on 23/10/2007

There was an Alice Taylor listed as a servant at Cowick Hall on the 1901 census. I think my great-great-grandfather and grandmother worked on Cowick Hall Farm at the same time

Posted by Linda on 04/09/2007

My ancestor Jane Mosley (b. 1616) married Sir Christopher Dawnay, Knight and Baron of Cowick. Janes Mosley's parents were John Mosley and Elizabeth Trigott (married 1612 in York). John Mosley's Father was a Thomas Moslaye (b. 1539, died 1624) Sheriff, Alderman and twice Lord Mayor of York in 1590 and 1602.

Posted by Paul on 07/12/2007

My grandmother was in service at Cowick Hall, Her maiden name was Threidgold and married a William Walton.

Posted by Dorothy on 03/06/2008

We think my husband's great-great-grandfather John Thompson worked on the estate as an agricultural labourer in the 1800s. Also great(x3)-grandfather Charles Thompson worked there. John Thompson lived in a cottage belonging to the estate; we think it was on Park Ave. If anyone has any info concerning the workers on the estate we would be pleased to hear. Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 23/07/2008

Whilst growing up in Goole I was always told that the pond at Gyme corner was bottomless. I always questioned this fact. If it was bottomless, did it go right through to Australia? For years I have thought about this fact and when I visited Goole on numerous occasions. With my family they would always comment "there's the bottomless pond dad".

Last month my eldest son, now 47 visited Cowick on business from here in Southampton. He called me to tell me that they had filled in the bottomless pond. I know that many other kids had been told this yarn. I wonder where it originated?

Posted by Robert on 25/07/2008

Just to confirm Corby's memory, yes we were told it was bottomless too.

Posted by Fiona on 10/10/2008

I was also told this story and apparently the road curved round it at such a sharp angle as they believed that it was bottomless.

Someone told me that a coach and horses disappeared into the pond without trace. I can vaguely remember some tests being done on it in the 1970s that proved it wasn't so, but there was a very deep layer of silt. Is it true then that it has now been filled in?

Posted by KD on 15/05/2010

As a child I was also told the story that a stage coach and horses were in the bottomless pond. Yes it's been filled in. A pink miniature lilac flowers on the site every year.

Posted by Shawn on 27/08/2010

We moved from Goole to Cowick in 1937 and I lived there until 1954. The Gyne pond was fed by a spring which eventually petered out. It was very deep and because of the depth of mud it was impossible to find the bottom. When police divers tried to recover some loot that had been dumped in there, they had to give it up as a bad job.

It was a good place to fish but to swim in it was rather dangerous because of the amount of rubbish thrown in. We used to catch eels and pike when food was on ration but they tasted a bit muddy. We would put the eels in fresh water for a couple of days to get rid of the muddy taste. The pike was eaten the same day but they were the boniest thing I'd ever eaten. The moat at the back of Cowick Hall was also playground to us.

Posted by Paul on 14/01/2016

Was past the pond at Gyne recently and can confirm it is now well filled in, overgrown and to be honest it looks a right mess! Could do with a few more lorry loads of soil to tidy it up a bit.

Posted by John on 28/05/2009

My great-uncle Benjamin Shaw (b. 1806, d. 1908) and another great-uncle Henry Shaw (b. 1833, d. 1871) bought and lived in Cowick Hall. If you have any information about them, and in particular the three stained glass windows, we would appreciate making contact.

Posted by Lynda on 07/08/2009

Henry Shaw was my great-great-grandfather.

Posted by Pauline on 21/10/2009

I am at present researching an article about the Shaws, and their cousins, the Seeds and the fruit merchants of Goole/Hessle/Hull. The Seeds/Shaws are distant relations of mine. Ann Seed (nee Naylor) wife of John Seed, was my great-great-grandmother's cousin. John Seed was Henry and Benjamin's cousin, and worked for Benjamin as his "Traveller".

I have looked into the ownership/sale of Cowick Hall in the archives and have traced the Shaw and Seed families through the censuses, parish records, etc.

I would very much appreciate any details about the family, and about Henry and Benjamin's business dealings, cargos, etc. I do know that for a while they owned a ship called Romeo, for

the fruit trade. I have heard that Henry Shaw owned a cotton Mill, and haven't been able to establish where, although it states on the baptismal record of his son Thomas, at Whitechapel, Cleckheaton, that he was a "mill owner".

Posted by Jean on 12/03/2010

My great-grandfather was Henry Shaw and great-uncle was Benjamin. I can provide quite a lot of info about them, including a book on Cowick Hall and wills.

Posted by Val on 07/01/2012

We are trying also to find more information on Benjamin Shaw Seed as he bought Everthorpe Hall (behind where the prison is now) from Thomas Whittaker. We think he also bought quite a lot of surrounding land as well and three game-keeping lodges, one of which my partner's family now owns.

There seems to be little information on the history or how long Benjamin had Everthorpe Hall for. Also what is strange is we have an old map which calls an area of trees near the land we have "Shaw Plantation" which may or may not be to do with your family.

Posted by Pauline on 04/11/2013

I believe the council bought the Everthorpe estate from Mr Whittaker in 1912 and sold it on to Benjamin Shaw Seed in 1914. He lived there until his death in 1928, when the Hall passed onto his son John. Benjamin was buried in All Saints, North Cave. In 1947 John sold the estate to a Mr Baitson of Hull. Two years later it was sold to the Home Office, who made it into the prison. The lions which adorn the gates were purchased by Benjamin Shaw Seed from a grand house which was being demolished in Hull, and were later re-positioned to the front gates of the prison.

By the way, I am unsure as to whether Henry Shaw ever lived at Cowick Hall, the house was certainly up for rent as early as April 1870. I believe he died at a local farm where he was living at the time. Benjamin took over the house and lived there after his brother's death in 1871. He did remodel the house, but took out a wing which was a later addition to the property, reinstating the original exterior, which the architect intended when it was originally built.

Posted by Ian on 24/04/2014

I am interested in the Shaw/Seed connection as I am descended from Harriet Naylor (sister of John Seed's wife Ann and later John's second wife, they married in 1908). John Seed features in my family history as the benefactor who paid for Harriet's first husband's funeral in 1871. Benjamin Revell was only 27 when he died and was working for/with John in Hook at the time. He also paid for my great-grandfather (Harriet's son, Arthur Revell) to attend Ashville College in Harrogate and was named as the executor of Harriet's father's will (James Naylor, a coachman in Brighouse). John's sons, confusingly named Henry Shaw Seed and Benjamin Shaw Seed also appear as alumni in a book I have about Ashville College - a school founded in the 1870s by the Methodist Church.

Posted by Pat on 28/07/2009

Several of my ancestors also worked at Cowick Hall. My great-grandfather James Hanby remained in the service of the Dowager Lady Downe, Louisa Maria, after her husband, the Viscount, died in 1832. I'm not sure exactly what happened, but by 1851, he was with her in a household in Gloucestershire, Bowden Court, Upton St. Leonards, home of Charles Brooke Hunt and his wife Louisa. In 1841, Louisa Maria and the Hunts were in Impington in Cambridge and James Hanby was in London. The rest of James' family - father and six siblings, and some others from the village

who had also worked at Cowick Hall - immigrated to northern New York State and lived at Sodus. If anyone has further information I'd be interested to know.

Posted by Deborah on 13/03/2010

I am interested in tracing the origin of my maiden name - Cowick. Does anyone know about the founding fathers of Cowick, England? Any information would be most appreciated. I have some information regarding location, etc. but nothing about who initially settled there. Thanks.

Posted by Eilona on 31/05/2014

I worked for Croda in the 1960s in the beautiful Cowick Hall. Later I lived in the village surrounding the hall. It is a lovely place. Regarding the surname Cowick and its meaning, any place name ending in Wick, is usually of Viking origin. The town of Snaith, about half a mile away was a Saxon settlement.

Posted by Cowick School on 27/06/2011

We are learning about Cowick Hall and the manor house. I have (by the way I am ten) explored down near the moat. At the moment it is very overgrown. There is a little den there which has been very well made.

Posted by BA on 01/07/2011

I was a pupil at Cowick school in the war years. Our playground was the hall grounds when it was left empty just after the prison camp closed.

Posted by Amy on 13/10/2012

My grandmother (June Robinson nee Elias) lived in Cowick Hall with her mother, father, twin brother, elder sister and elder brother with their nanny from about 1920 to around 1950 or maybe slightly later. She had servants and house staff and she remembered them dearly. We have a large etching of the house drawn at around 1940.

If anybody has any information about people who might have worked there at the time my granny lived there or if you were friends/neighbours then please get in touch as my granny's life was fascinating and I am trying to piece it all together. Thanks.

Posted by Sally on 18/10/2012

My grandmother Alice Mary Ranby (spelled Ramby in census) was a maid there in the 1911 census. I was told by older family members that when she married my grandfather John Robert Petch they both worked there. She was head housekeeper and him butler and/or chauffeur. I am still trying to find confirmation of this.

Posted by Fiona on 24/10/2012

Does anyone know if the Maidenhair (Ginko Biloba) tree is still at Cowick Hall? Thanks.

Posted by David on 11/01/2016

I remember being taken to Cowick Hall at a young age 1939/early-1940s. The occupants were George and Esmie Hardy (farmer) and were friends of my parents.

Posted by Paul on 07/09/2016

My grandparents (on my mother's side) were gate keepers at East Cowick level crossing and lived in the house alongside that was provided. They were evacuated by train during the floods in the 1950s and returned to quite a mess! My mother, who grew up in the gate keeper's cottage, still lives in East Cowick less than a few hundred meters from the now disappeared cottage somewhere under the undergrowth.

Gilberdyke

Dyc 1234, Gilbertdike 1376. "(Place at) the ditch or dike". Old English dic with manorial addition from a person or family called Gilbert.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Visitor Comments

Posted by Angie on 28/03/2007

There is a picture on the board which is not in Gilberdyke, it is in Howden.

Posted by Rob on 27/06/2007

Angie's quite right. The low, white building in the middle of the bottom row is what used to be Kilpin Country Club (many moons ago) and is halfway between Kilpin and Howden. Certainly not in Gilberdyke!

Posted by Nick on 05/03/2014

Does anyone have any idea what the Kilpin country club is now? It was a nightclub in the 1990s.

Posted by John on 11/03/2014

The Kilpin Country Club is presently closed down. I was in the building a few years ago to do some work and it was mostly ok and with some investment would be re-openable. It possibly still is?

It underwent various changes during its period of business and the local papers made much of drug problems. There was also an incident with a girl going missing for a long period having left the club to walk back to Howden. She was eventually found dead in a tree, apparently having climbed it and become stuck.

The venue closed not long after the incident but if the local economy picks up who knows - it could be viable to reopen?

Posted by Phil on 10/08/2014

When did Kilpin Country Club close its doors for the last time?

Posted by Anna on 15/06/2018

Kilpin Country Club (ex Lord's Disco and many more names) closed in late 1995 after the police found drugs. I was DJ here from time to time and after over 20 years living on the site as security. This old building is in not that bad an order and can be a gold mine with someone as a right investor and the right attitude to music. I have been a DJ since 1973, so 40 odd years DJ-ing, and still have my old DJ gear.

Posted by Angie on 13/08/2007

The Railway Hotel inn is now closed and it has been for ages. I wish they would do something with it, it's an eye sore.

Posted by Terry on 15/01/2008

The Railway Hotel has now been pulled down for new houses (so the powers that be say).

Posted by ??? on 08/05/2008

The Railway Pub was haunted by a girl called Sarah B. It is knocked down now :(

Posted by Gill on 21/03/2009

Oh dear, didn't know the pub had gone. My father was born in the front bedroom of what was then the end cottage 88 years ago.

Posted by John on 27/11/2009

Gilberdyke - named after Gilbert's Dyke which was dug to drive a water mill, taking water from the River Foulness to the north of the area and empty into the River Ouse at Blacktoft. Our ancestors were inventive and in its heyday the water course was also used as a transport route with records showing it to have been sixteen feet wide and eight feet deep. With the coming of the railways the watercourse route was severed, the water diverted to other routes to the Ouse. The canalised section starved of water thus destroying competition to the new railway and the dyke slowly silted and abandoned. The area relies on two other ancient drainage dykes now, the Bishopsoil Drain, dug at the behest of the monks of Thornton Abbey, to the east and the Bellasize Drain to the west of the village.

There is a book by Robert Thompson available from Blacktoft Church (proceeds to church funds) which gives fascinating detail of the early history of Blacktoft but covering much of the surrounding area including Gilberdyke.

Posted by John on 14/01/2010

Gilberdyke suffered considerably during the flooding of 2007 with many houses damaged by the floodwaters and sewerage backing up in the pipes. Following the floods the Parish Council called a public meeting and set up a Flood Action Group. Central Government provided a National funding scheme and the council obtained a grant to employ consultant engineers

(Mason Clark) to work with the Flood Action Group and produce a report into the drainage systems within the village.

A number of fundamental problems were revealed - lack of maintenance of the main drainage dykes from the village to the river, lack of maintenance of railway trackside dykes, lack of maintenance of riparian owned dykes, deliberate restriction/unauthorised culverting/simply filling in of riparian dykes by owners. The actions of many of the riparian owners was technically illegal but the local drainage board, despite being the enforcement agency, had ignored the problem. The various acts of parliament had been insufficiently publicised and most of the riparian deficiencies were due to simple ignorance of the law. However this is no excuse.

Following the publication of the consultant's report, East Riding Council obtained further government grants to take corrective action regarding the clearing and reopening of the watercourses. As of December 2009 this work was still in the design stages. However Network Rail had cleared the main trackside dyke (first time in 30 years) immediately after the flooding, the Lower Ouse Internal Drainage Board had cleared and desilted the two main drains from the village to the river in November 2008 and studies were underway for a major scheme to improve the discharge of drainage water into the river by pumping.

When the riparian drainage systems within the village are restored to their original capacity the flood risk to the community will be reduced to a low level. If the work is carried out on time hoped for completion is during the spring of 2010.

Posted by John on 31/07/2011

The anticipated spring 2010 slipped back but at the end of July 2011 phase one of the works is functional with just a bit of surface restoration to do. Hold ups due to access problems were resolved by the drainage board serving legal right of entry notices on the remaining obstructers. The job involved opening up the old dyke between Scalby Lane and Chestnut Drive and installing a three foot diameter pipe, plus restoring the open dyke between 6 and 7 Scalby Lane to its original depth. Fortunately this route was open for water to escape during heavy rain in mid-July 2011.

Phases two and three are going ahead and the system should be fully operational before winter.

Posted by Corby on 28/10/2013

First time on this page. Each time I see it, my mind is cast back to great days in the 1950s when, as a member of The Goole Wheelers, I befriended Dave Simpson of this village. We had great time in the saddle and socially. A fun loving guy. In 2005 I attempted to unite all members with the aid of Electoral Role software. Nobody knew where Dave had gone. But then I remembered his initials were D.R. He sometimes went by the name of Doc. I simply entered D.R. Simpson to cover all areas, I found him with his family in Guisborough. We had so much to talk about. He attended the reunion at the Blacksmith Arms in Hook only to pass away a few weeks later. What a guy.

Posted by John on 05/06/2015

The Wards Hotel in the photographs above is no more. It was demolished last month to make way for residential development. Gilberdyke now has only two public houses, the Cross Keys and the White Horse.

Posted by Alan on 24/07/2016

I was sad to see Wards Hotel demolished. Does anyone know the history of the pub? My dad, Les Robinson, used to tell us that it was built or owned by an ancestor of ours (his mother was a Ward, originally from Howden) but I've never been able to confirm this.

Posted by Keith on 02/09/2017

I heard years ago the Ward Arms was built and owned along with the row of cottages at the side, by the Ward Brewery Company.

Posted by Sailor on 06/06/2015

The Rose and Crown, no longer a pub, is in Eastrington.

Posted by John on 03/12/2015

Gilberdyke now has stone built name signs at each end of the main road through the village. These were built in 2015 by a local craftsman using stone from Walworth Castle. The castle is the ancestral home of the Hansard family of which a member Gilbert Hansard gave his name to Gilberts Dyke. Under the concrete foundation slabs of the signs are time capsules for future archaeologists to discover.

Goole Fields



The area around Goole was originally penetrated by tides but silting began and gradually swampy land started to emerge above the water level, hence its name of “Marshland”. Huge drainage ditches were built to manage the land and a lot of these survive around Goole Fields. There is a windmill and an old smithy left in Goole Fields, but the rest is all rich farmland.



The road between Old Goole and Swinefleet is extremely bendy and full of motorbikes on a Sunday afternoon. Never cycle down this road during the night as you will hear a strange dog-like creature running after you but can never be seen.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Lucy on 25/09/2008

WOW! What an AMAZING place not!

Posted by John on 23/11/2008

I am looking for any info on my grandad Harry (Henry) Oldridge. Born approx 1881, died approx 1976. He was the youngest of nine, born in Eastoft, had a brother Jim(?) who had something to do with Goole Hall and a sister Ada (married name Bristow) who lived at Westwoodside. My grandfather eventually came to live and work in Scunthorpe. He died in 1974/75 aged about 93.

Posted by Polo on 20/03/2009

Goole Hall was in possession of the Oldridge family and was sold in the 1980s and turned into a nursing home. Descendants of Mr Oldridge still farm the land around the hall.

Posted by Sue on 09/09/2010

Hello to anyone who may have known of my great-grandmother's (Ada Mary Oldridge) either brother or uncle. I think they may have lived in Goole Hall many years ago (early 20th Century). My dad seems to think the name could have been Samuel Oldridge, he remembers them visiting in the 1940s. Dad also believes that the Hall is now a nursing home and that the people now have a restaurant in Goole, he thinks it's called the Capricorn? I wish he had a better memory for these things!

Thanks once again from British Columbia. The Brits really used to get around didn't they?

Posted by Sam on 13/09/2010

The name of Oldridge still lives on at Goole Hall.

You are correct about the Hall house being a nursing home, it has been for many a year now. The site is split into two separate businesses, the farm and the nursing home. Both businesses are not related. The one I know most about is the farm enterprise which is owned by John Oldridge. John does not actually live at the farm but on Main Street at Reedness.

The Oldridge family are well known in the area and if you track them down they will no doubt be able to fill you in with lots of family history.

Posted by Sue on 14/09/2010

Interesting to hear about the old hall still being part of a working farm which is great. I know farming is such an important part of my families' history but something sadly I have had little experience of apart from a hobby farm with sheep and goats when we were in Australia. I will make a point of catching up with John next summer when I visit Goole with my dad.

Posted by Paul on 30/08/2012

Goole Hall is listed Grade II* and was built in 1826.

Posted by Colette on 19/04/2011

The last photograph is the mill and blacksmith's shop. My dad, Edmund Wressell, was blacksmith here for over 40 years, first working for Mr Harold Hodgson (a huge man with hands like shovels) and then taking over the business until his retirement. The blacksmith's was a focal point on Goole Fields, a meeting place for lots of old characters who brought farm and domestic goods for repair. Dad has many funny stories about the people he met and worked with - a fine bunch of folks.

Posted by Sam on 13/07/2011

The old blacksmith's shop was certainly the place to be on Goole Fields, just to know what was going on in the locality and to hear some of the tales and ribbing that were told around the anvil by some of the farming characters. Absolutely fascinating stuff to a young lad. Having just left school and working on a small farm at Swinefleet, I was able to visit the blacksmith's shop pretty often (usually because I had broken something). Knowing both Harold and Eddie was a privilege as they were true gents in every sense.

When I left the farm and went selling farm machinery, I would often deliver parts for them to save them the trek to Epworth most nights. The last time I passed the old shop it looked a bit worse for wear but if only those walls could speak what a tale they could tell. Sadly things move on but you never forget such good times.

Posted by Lucy on 21/12/2011

The mill at Goole Fields used to be my grandad's and I love it so much. I never got to meet my grandad as he died before I was born but he would be so proud of it!

Posted by Taz on 26/12/2011

I remember Mr Phillipson and his horse and cart often seen down Bridge Street in the 1960s and early-1970s. I couldn't remember his first name but there was an interview in this Saturday's Yorkshire Post "Country Week" supplement with Eddie Wressell, the former blacksmith mentioned in a previous correspondence. Eddie mentions shoeing the last working horse in the area owned by Albert Phillipson, local farmer, who used to transport between the docks and the shipyard. To make the local connection complete, the YP interviewer was Lucy Oates,

whose great-grandfather and grandfather farmed in Swinefleet at Quayfields(?) Farm where Richard Oldridge farms now.

Posted by Sam on 29/12/2011

I also read with interest the article on Eddie Wressell. No doubt he makes an interesting warden with his vast knowledge of all things countryside and beyond and will make things even more interesting with the sincere and quiet manner in which he puts things across. I reckon Mr Phillipson's first name was Albert but I will stand corrected on that one if someone knows different. The guy who always rode as shot gun with him though was a Mr Taun who lived down Morley Street.

They used to cart all sorts of stuff around from the shipyard in Old Goole and any rubbish they unloaded on the tip down the side of the Dutch River at the back of the old Fisons works where the road forks to either go to South Airmyn Grange farm or St. Helena farm. I reckon the tip site is now a scrapyards?

Had to laugh at the mention of Mr Oates. I, like you, will remember me once ditching a pea-cutter in his barley field early one morning when the chain came off the drive wheel. Possibly wouldn't be writing this now if it had gone the other way off the road though. Happy days!

Posted by Taz on 30/12/2011

As I remember, you were trying to keep up with my slightly faster machine and yes, the barley field was a better option than the deep dyke on the other side! Trouble was once a drive chain broke you didn't have an option!

Posted by Lucy on 10/05/2012

It's nice to read some of the comments/memories of my grandad. Yes he was called Albert. I never met him, would have loved to, but will get the chance one day. Miss u grandad xx

Posted by Paul on 30/12/2011

We bought the windmill at Goole Fields nearly two years ago now and we are restoring the mill and building an extension to the rear. This is a true self build where literally everything is been done by ourselves.

We absolutely love the mill and the area and would welcome any information on the history of the mill. Interestingly the date stone says 1871 TB (Thomas Burke) but it appears on an Ordinance Survey map of 1805? Please get in touch if you have any info, no matter how small. Thanks.

Posted by Peter on 08/06/2013

The mill at Goole Fields was owned by Thomas Birks and was built for him when his original mill was demolished by the A&CN to make way for the docks in the 1820s. His son Thomas Birks Junior was the miller at Goole Mill after his father retired. He married a sea captain's daughter Annie Woodhead, and he was an important amateur botanist. He was an expert on the fauna of the moors and river and was a leading light in the Goole Scientific Society.

Posted by Charles on 08/07/2016

My great-grandma lived in at Home farm with my great-granddad Alfred Walduck. Great-grandma Sarah (Skern) died in 1979. I went to her house once and she had no electricity and an outside toilet. She lived well into her 90s.

Hook

Hook, Hooke usually "(place at) the hook of land, or bend in a river or hill", Old English hoc. Hook East Riding of Yorkshire. Huck 12th Century Old English huc "river-bend"

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Two miles from Goole and as far from Howden, its long road is like a ribbon in a big loop of the River Ouse, whose banks are at times so high that we can see only the masts of the ships sailing up to Boothferry Bridge. Many old houses with red pantile roofs are among the fields and orchards, and the lowly bellcot church looks north to Hook Hall peeping from the trees. In a field by the church is a moat round hummocky mounds where a monastery is said to have stood; the water is still in the moat.

It is an old church restored last century, with black and white roofs looking down on cream walls and arches. The arcades are medieval, and the narrow 13th Century doorway to the vestry has an old studded door and hinges. There are two old carved chairs. The glass showing four choristers is in memory of two of them. A window in a corner of the chancel has a scene which may be unique in a church - Queen Victoria near the close of her long life, visiting the wounded of the South African War. She sits in her wheel chair, giving to one of the soldiers a bunch of the daffodils which one of her ladies (wearing a lovely mantle with a fur collar) holds in her arm. Conducting the royal party is an officer in the brilliant blue uniform of the Guards. It is like a vivid page from a picture book.

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee



Hook arose when Viking raiders settled here while heading for York and from the 13th Century it had a ferry service to Howdendyke. It is now a commuter town for Goole. The new houses of Goole are gradually approaching the village and in a few decades time they will probably merge. Despite all this, it is a tranquil village where very little happens except for hundreds of rabbits bouncing along the riverbanks each morning and dozens of drunks wandering back along Hook Road on a Saturday night.

The best way to approach the village is from Boothferry Bridge along Wezzie Banks. Here you will see the M62 Ouse Bridge towering over the flat fields and encounter the chicane in the road which has

caught out many a motorist. As you approach the village, you pass St. Mary's church. From the back of the graveyard, you can see a moat which all that remains of the medieval manor house of John de Houke, whose forebears had come over with William the Conqueror. This is supposedly the oldest part of Goole.



You reach a crossroads when you get to Hook itself, by the Memorial Hall. Go straight on to see the riverbank or go right to head to Goole. If you stray left, then you end up on a no-through road with a small pub, Hook Hall, and the old Cleveland storage tanks. The riverbank runs along the back of all the houses and is a nice place to catch passing ships sailing to Howdendyke and to view people's back gardens. Each year, the River Bank Challenge contestants run their ten miles along this route. You can also get a good view of the island in the middle of the river, although this is best viewed from the M62 Ouse Bridge.

The most impressive building in Hook is Hook Hall, built in 1743 by Admiral Frank Sotheron who was said to have sailed with Nelson.

The most popular pub in Hook, the Blacksmiths Arms, is famous for its good food, weekly pub quiz and a children's playground at the back which is great fun when drunk. This pub (as the name suggests) was previously a smithy for the farm horses. The other village pub is the Sotheron Arms, formerly a stabling inn for riders taking the ferry over the Ouse to Howdendyke. Heading back to Goole along Hook Road, you pass under the Goole to Hull railway where it crosses the river with a huge triple-span bridge. The river can be quite wild here and the bridge has been struck several times by passing ships.

Hook and Selby Abbey

Hook's name means just that - A Hook. It is the same sort of Hook as in the Hook of Holland and the name comes from the sharp corner which the Ouse takes here leaving a hook of land on which stands Hook.

Not entirely inappropriately its first resident seems to have been a Hermit: of him (or them - there may have been a succession) we know nothing, but the Hermitage became an accepted landmark: a deed speaks of "and on the moore of Huck near the Hermitage as far as the River Use".

By 1214 Hook House (or thereabouts) was lived in by "Baron John de Howke". He was grand enough to get a licence from the Abbot of Selby to build a Chapel for his Manor House, "saving the rights of the Mother Church at Snaith, the Chaplain thereof to swear fidelity to the Abbot of Selby". The site can be seen in the field across the road from the Church.

Hook seems to have been firmly in the "sphere of influence" of Selby Abbey. It is true that there was, in 1344, a great row between St. Mary's, York and Drax Abbey over the ownership of a Hook cow. But apart from that almost all we know about Hook comes from the records and accounts of Selby. They had a tithe barn there and also regularly collected tithes from a mill and a fishery. But in 1379 the Poll Tax showed it to be the smallest of the Townships in the neighbourhood.

The Church at Hook

Hook's importance seems to have been largely ecclesiastical. St. Mary's Church was consecrated in 1225 and like Whitgift came to be, in effect, the Parish Church of the neighbourhood. In 1499 the "Chapel Yard" at Hook was consecrated to be a burial ground for the use of "Hooke, Armin and Goole". Churches in the "age of faith" were expected to make a profit. "The Proctorship of Hooke" had to make its contribution to Selby Abbey funds. Thus in 1401 "William de Croft, Chaplain at Hook was given the right to collect from Airmyn, Hook, Marham and Loune, all offerings and dues, except mortuaries, lesser tithes and tithe hay from the first three places for ten years. In return he was to serve the chapel, provide bread and wine for Masses, candles and incense for the church and pay £10 through the Kitchener to the Abbey yearly. As the Monk's Proctor there he also had a residence in Hook and the right to obtain fuel from the monastic turbarry".

An arrangement something like this persisted to - and indeed beyond - the Reformation. For the King's Inspectors were keen to make it clear that Hook was not a Chantry Chapel: "Memorandum: There is a chapell in the said parochie of Snaithe called Hoke Chapell, wherein is one Chaplane, having cure, and doth mynystre sacraments and sacramentalles to the townships of Armyn, Hoke and Gowle. And the incumbente ther hath none other levinge but the tithes of the said townes, by a lease and offerings by the late Abbot of Selby and the overplus of the same is now paid to the King's Majestre".

This "memorandum" was effective and it was decreed that "Roger Leavins, incumbent, should serve the chapel of Hook as had heretofore been accustomed".

In the time of the Commonwealth and Oliver Cromwell a major attempt was made to tidy up many of the anomalies that had grown up in the parishes of England and these Parliamentary Commissioners recommended that Hook "be a parish with Armin and Goole annexed thereto". The return of the King in 1660 ensured the survival of the ancient ways, and it is not clear exactly when Hook did become in law a parish entirely independent of Snaithe. But the change had come about before the new town of Goole was founded in 1826. In 1848 the new parish of Goole came into existence and this was almost entirely taken out of Hook parish with the approval of the then Vicar and Patron.

Hook Church feels as though it has changed very little since 1225! But it was restored and partially rebuilt at a cost of £900 in 1844. Today its most surprising feature is the window in which we see Queen Victoria, in a wheelchair, visiting the soldiers in the Boer War! Not to be missed.

Hook through the Centuries

Hook doesn't seem to have a great deal of history! In 1743 Admiral Frank Sotheron built Hook Hall and the Sotherons (who in the 19th Century became Sotheron-Estcourts) remained the "big family" of the neighbourhood until this century. They built the school in 1844 and were Patrons of the living. But I doubt if, after the Admiral, they lived much in Hook. The Hall was sold in the 1920s (and its fine pine panelling removed and sold) and the Patronage given to the Bishop. The "Sotheron Arms" records the ancient link.

That Hook was in a corner, ferryless until modern times and not on the road to anywhere, must have made it feel very isolated before the coming Goole. But though Hook Churchyard is full of Goole gravestones (and the communal burial pits of the 1832 Cholera epidemic) yet it remains very much not Goole!

The Wesleyans built a chapel in 1816 and its 1874 successor remains in use. A 1901 health report reminds us that the ancient ways lingered into this century. There are "141 Houses" and "Each house has its garden and the privies are placed well away from the dwellings". But there doesn't seem to have been a proper supply of running water.

Today Hook feels something of a threatened oasis. The traffic of the M62 speeds across the great Ouse Bridge; across the river Howdendyke grows secretly into a big port and Goole keeps getting nearer. Yet Hook survives and a modern Hermit could still find a quiet solitary niche for his Hermitage

Hook with Airmyn is now a united benefice of which the patronage is held jointly by the Bishop of Sheffield and the Church Society Trust. In ancient times the Abbot of Selby would appoint the Chaplain or Curate at Hook. In the 18th Century Hook became more clearly a separate parish and the right to appoint having come to Admiral Sotheron, the patronage remained with the Sotheron-Estcourt family until it was transferred to the Bishop of Sheffield in 1926.

"Rivers, Rectors and Abbots", David Lunn - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by George on 25/03/2006

You don't mention that Hook once had its own shipyard, the Ouse Ship Building Company, built as an emergency measure during WWI. It completed ships between 1918 and 1922. I have a full list of the ships if anyone is interested. There is a reference to corrugated buildings (a mission church, labour exchange and skating rink!) being moved from Maryport in Cumberland in 1916 to help to set up the yard. Have often wondered if any of these have survived. The yard was opposite Howdendyke, I guess where the oil depot was in later years.

Posted by Pedro on 31/03/2006

As a kid we used to play on the site of the shipyard at Hook, The old slipways were still there in the 1940s. Looking from the river, the Cleveland yard was over to the other side (when entering the shipyard to the right, Cleveland was on the left).

Posted by Trev on 03/08/2010

I am an ex-Goolie who loves looking on Goole-on-the-Web. I am trying to place where the shipyard at Hook was. My mum was telling us (she's 103 years old) that when she was fourteen she used to take dinner every day for a lad that worked there. She walked from Fourth Avenue Goole to Hook and got two pence for it.

Posted by John on 13/08/2010

Hook shipyard was somewhere around where 174 High Street is now, near the river, of course.

Posted by David on 03/03/2007

I remember an island called, I think Wessex. This was just opposite the old fever hospital near Hook. As a young boy I used to go camping with a couple of friends, their names were Colin Butler and Derek Sprakes. I make mention of the island because the last time I was in Goole, at least six years ago, the island seemed to have gone.

Posted by Shuffleton Streets on 04/03/2007

Not Wessex but Wessucs - Westfield Banks, the island being that part around which the river has snaked in its changing course being the reason, I believe. That would account for your not seeing it the last visit.

Posted by Pedro on 04/03/2007

Wessex (or Yorks pronunciation Wessux). This play area has sadly over the years has eroded away. In my youthful days it was a virtual jungle and one could actually get lost in it. We killed many (imaginary) Japanese soldiers during the 1940s here with our air rifles. More happy days.

Posted by David on 05/03/2007

As a young man I spent time in the Far East, Malaya, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and that island, where as boys we fought many a battle, bore an uncanny resemblance to some of the areas I was in. The only thing missing would have been the wildlife and the humidity which in itself was a killer. Not so happy days but we are still here.

Posted by Trev on 07/09/2010

I told mum that Hook Island was up for sale and she told me that when she was young they used to go there with a bottle of water and a jam sandwich and spend all day there. She said there was only a dyke to jump so a lot of ground has washed away since?

Posted by Marie on 10/09/2013

I am doing some research on the history of Hook Island and I came across some maps where it appears to show the island as a peninsula joined to the northern bank and called "Howdendyke Wood" Can anyone help? Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 10/09/2013

I don't know how far back your maps are but I have one dated 1910 on which it is an island clear of any connection to the mainland. Then called North Field. My memories of it goes back to the early years of the war when we would follow the big lads for a day out, living out our fantasies. In those days it was totally different to that map, for it was a wood. The dense willows were well established with trunks maybe two feet across. When older we would climb from tree to tree. On occasion the roots would be eroded away. The tree would fall and later become seen floating away.

There was a small stream which started not far from the Fever Hospital continuing north. The field once had cattle and there was a gate to keep them there. Much later, after the war, I would guess two railway sleepers had been placed across the stream at the southern end. I did not go there much after my schooldays and left Goole in 1958. Many years later I was surprised to see no more big trees and an island out in midstream named Hook Island.

Posted by Trev on 12/09/2013

Yes, everything Corby remembers is as I remember it but my mum often mentions going there when she was young - so I asked her today about it and she says they used to call the ditch that separated it from the bank "Taggies" ditch. She remembers the person who she thinks owned the ground was called Taggy Newton who lived in Second Avenue. Mum is 106 years but has great memory still.

Posted by Paul on 12/09/2013

On the OS First Series 1805-1869 it is called Howdendyke Island. The channel between it and the south bank was called Silverpit Bilt.

Posted by Paul on 12/09/2013

From Wikipedia:

Howdendyke Island is a 19-acre island in the River Ouse, Yorkshire. More accurately a shoal between seasonally varying flows, the area regularly above water (and covered in trees and

vegetation) is roughly 420 metres by 270 metres. A larger example of this same feature is visible where the Ouse widens into the Humber Estuary, twelve miles downstream at Faxfleet.

The island has also been known as “Hook Island” or “Silverpit Island”, and was formerly used for agriculture, and connected to the riverbank. However, this land use combined with the digging of a fishing pond in the 1920s, eroded a channel to make an island in the 1950s, subsequently washing away soil until the island was inaccessible and, at high water, less than half its current size. Today, vegetation on the island and the riverbank opposite help to protect against erosion. The land has been used for wild-fowling, and is home to a wide range of birds and other wildlife. It forms unit 65 of the Humber Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a 2010 report described its condition as “Unfavourable, declining” due to “Inappropriate scrub control, Inappropriate weed control”.

In 2009, the Island was marketed as land available for private development, at a price of £100,000. At the time the island was only accessible by boat, and a tidal range of up to six metres would inhibit habitation, other than on a special stilted construction.

Posted by Corby on 14/09/2013

Very interesting. I believe it is all part of the changing face of our shoreline. Sunk Island for instance, on the north bank of the Humber Estuary, was a huge lump of land, once Crown property because it was seldom seen at high water. The channel was blocked at one end until it silted up and then became as we know it now.

Whatever Hook Island was called in its variants, what kids to the east of Goole liked about the place was that it gave them independence at an early age to act out their fantasies. When parents down our street said that we were going to West Park for the day, many kids would dig their heels in “Not all that way” was said.

Posted by Paul on 14/09/2013

Your trips to the island sound like a “Swallows and Amazon” adventure. I don’t recall knowing about the “island” as my walks included up Boothferry Road to the bridge and a short way along the bank or taking a short cut to Airmyn or more likely a walk around the docks.

Posted by Keith on 15/09/2013

I think most kids in the 1940/50s used the Wessaks as a playground for most of the school holidays. Finding the perfect willow branches for our bow and arrows, climbing trees, playing hide and seek and sometimes a swim in the chocolate coloured river. Certainly brings back memories.

Posted by Corby on 10/04/2014

I have fond memories of Hook Island or Wezzaks as I knew it as a boy. Where most of the kids I knew preferred the place to West Park. We lived out our fantasies. Lit fires, made bows and arrows and when the water was still, bathed in the muddy water. The unique smell of that water comes back when I visit (no longer as often as I should like).

Posted by Paul on 10/04/2014

I noticed some time ago it was up for sale at £100,000 but was sold for just over £47,000. I assume when you went on the island it wasn’t as heavily wooded as now. As it’s now an SSI, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area I assume the “damage” you did wasn’t irreparable!

Posted by Corby on 11/04/2014

When it came up for sale I wrote an article which was published in the Goole Times. The gist of which was my attachment to the place, the fun we had. As it is on my shortlist of where I would like my ashes scattered. That is now out of the question but further to that I questioned the right of anyone owning it in its present position. For it is widely known that land between low and high watermark is Crown Property. As no doubt it floods, how can anyone claim it?

I recall on my first visits there was cattle further along between the bank top and the stream. I also remember a five-bar gate. Whether this was to keep the cattle on the island or to keep them away. As to the size of the trees, they were BIG, possibly as high as the poplars at West Park, and very dense for it was easy to travel from tree to tree. When the tide eroded the roots away the tree would fall and remain half in and half out of the water. It was then we were able to use the branches as bathing platforms.

I think the people who owned the land lost all rights when the stream became enlarged, causing the island to move away to where it is now.

Posted by Diane on 14/11/2009

My dad, Colin Robinson, was born in 1938 and grew up in Hook. His siblings were, or still are, Ronnie, Eva, Lily, Enid and Connie. He grew up at 8 South View and the Moffats lived next door at No. 6.

The Blacksmiths Arms in Hook was my great-grandparents' family home. Their surname was Moore (great-grandmother possibly Rebecca as she was called "Becca"). My grandmother Lilian Moore was born at the pub in 1900 and she had a sister Eva and a brother Jim (James). I don't know if there are any more siblings until I speak to my aunt.

I only came across this site as I was looking for some books on the history of Hook/Goole to give to my dad as a present. My dad often talks about his escapades growing up in Hook.

Posted by Hilary on 07/03/2010

Very interested in all the comments and info about Hook. My husband's family are known to have been born, raised and died in Hook and immediate surroundings as early as 1700. But seems by 1860 his line had gone west to the West Riding, though we believe many of the "South family" remained in the area.

Posted by Brian on 21/09/2010

I remember Hook very well, being evacuated there during the war years. I stayed with Herbert and Violet Wakefield who had a small pig farm. It was situated on the riverbank at the bottom of No. 1 Water Lane. I attended the local village school opposite the old Village Hall. There used to be a butchers shop down Water Lane run by Bill Wakefield. I remember going to the coal yard with a half crown for a bag of coal, also calling at the pub for 1oz of punch tobacco, plus 1p for a chocolate cartwheel. I also remember the plane crash near Boothferry Bridge, the green fields, the boats moored on the riverbank, the sunken barge, boiling potatoes for pig food. Fond memories flood back.

Posted by Gwen on 03/01/2011

My grandfather was Harold Wakefield. He was from Hook, however he was off fighting in Africa when you was evacuated. Herbert Wakefield was his brother and Violet was his sister-in-law. Bill was his nephew (Bill was Herbert and Violet's son). Bill went off to join the war, I'm not sure when. Herbert and Violet moved to Swinefleet after the war and then to Snaith. It

was in Snaith that, in 1975, Herbert died. Violet was then moved into a nursing home in Howden and she died sometime in the 1980s, I think.

Posted by Lynn on 13/09/2011

My grandmother was Lily Wakefield, daughter of Anthony and Mary Hannah. Donald was her brother. Lily married and lived in Sowerby Bridge for the rest of her life. My mother and aunt fondly recall visiting the family in Hook when they were children and I would love to have more information about the Wakefields, their family, their friends and Hook.

Posted by Carol on 17/11/2011

Lynn, I was surprised to hear of your stay in Hook with the Wakefield family. My father is Harold Wakefield. As very young children my sisters Diane, Janet and Hilary spent wonderful times with our granny and Aunt Minnie in that little cottage.

My earliest memories go back to 1954, I would have been around five years old then, ouch! Uncles Don and Bill lived in Goole by then, Uncle Herbert and Aunt Violet had a farm in Swinefleet where I stayed with them for a short while. I remember the cow shed well where the cats would jump on top of the milk churns to lap the cream (yuk!) before being collected from the farm gate by the Milk Marketing Board lorry. The lovely Benny Bus (as we kids named it) would stop at the farm to pick me up for school in Old Goole, the same bus that would drop Diane and myself right at the door of gran's house and collect us later from the door! We all looked forward to the annual Hook Feast which was (in those days) the highlight of our social calendar!

Posted by Lynn on 07/12/2011

Harold Wakefield was my great-grand-uncle and I have tried on various occasions to find out more information about the Wakefield family from Hook. I also remember visiting my grandmother and Aunt Minnie in the little cottage and was really fascinated with the toilet out in the back garden. My mother, Enid, was Lily Wakefield's, daughter and remembers her uncles Donald and Herbert well. I would really like to make contact with someone for more information.

Posted by Enid on 09/12/2011

Carol, I am Lynn's mother and your grandfather is my uncle. I knew the whole family and loved my grandma very much. We went to Goole two years ago to try and catch up on any information and called at the cemetery where we met a young man who used to work with Donald (who also worked there). He said he was related to Donald's wife Eileen.

Posted by Enid on 10/12/2011

Carol, I see by your message that you are Harold Wakefield's daughter, well I guess that makes you my cousin, because my mother was Harold's sister. She was one of the older ones, Harold was the youngest. I knew all of them Herbert, Lily (my mother), Edith, Ivy, Walter, Mary, Donald and last of all Harold. There were three others but they had already died. The last time I saw your father was in the 1990s. My brother and I went to Goole for the day. Harold was already living in Goole so we paid him a visit.

Posted by Gwen on 19/08/2013

I'm so surprised to read this conversation! Harold Wakefield was my grandfather through marriage to my nana Ellen-Edith Wakefield. They were already married for many years when I was born so Harold has always been my grandad to me. He was the best grandad anyone could ask for. I'm sorry to say Enid but my grandad passed away 1 January 2000. He made it into the

millennium so I was always glad for that. If you ever want to visit his grave, he is buried in Hook cemetery. My nana has always told me stories of my grandad and his family, especially of Aunt Mary who both my nan and mother (Brenda) were very fond of. It is always amazing to read such stories and find people like this online.

Posted by Lynn on 06/03/2015

I am the daughter of Bill and the granddaughter of Violet and Herbert. I was wondering if you would like any info on the family. Sadly dad passed away aged 80 in 2007 and Violet passed away in the 1990s. I remember Uncle Harold and a few years ago met up with Janet and Carole at Auntie Eileen's and, a long time ago when very young, went with Herbert and Harold to see Aunt Lily at Sowerby Bridge and her daughter Enid visited Violet when she lived in Snaith.

My grandad was Lily's brother, Herbert. The other brothers and sisters were, Edie, Mary, Harold, Walter, Ivy, Donald and William Edward, as was my dad William Edward named after him. Donald's wife is still alive and in her late eighties and lives in Goole. Aunt Lily was the eldest and Harold the youngest, he died in 2000. Walter was the butcher in Hook and had two sons John and Alan who had shops in Moorends near Thorne.

Harold's daughters and sons live in London. Edie has a daughter Margaret (nee Ounsley) and a son Keith. Donald's wife is Eileen and also a daughter Eileen. I have a photo of Ivy and great-granma Wakefield. Her sister Minnie lived with Eileen and Don for a number of years going from Hook to Goole. I can remember great-grandma Wakefield and Aunt Minnie. My grandad, Herbert was a farmer and lived for a number of years between Swinefleet and Reedness then retired, had a bungalow built on his land but then downsized and lived at Snaith where he died in 1974/75.

Posted by David on 19/05/2011

My Mother, Ivy GREENWOOD was born in Hook in 1902. Her parents were Frank Greenwood married to Eleanor Speight in 1900. There were other children John (died young), Edgar, Eleanor and Mollie. The family moved to Leeds and are listed on the 1911 census excluding Frank. Eleanor is head of the family and is a music teacher. Is anybody aware of this family? Thanks.

Posted by Corinne on 27/06/2011

My aunt Ester Tena SCOTT lived in Hook as a child. She moved into Montague House with her grandparents who had eleven children when her mother died and father went to war. Can anyone remember this family and house? Thanks.

Posted by Julie on 13/03/2012

My great-grandfather Arthur HILEY owned Hook Hall in High Street in the late-1800s through until I think the 1940s. From what I have been told he was a sea merchant. My grandfather was Ronald Hiley and I believe there were two other siblings. My grandfather Ronald immigrated to New Zealand in the 1920s, but spent his school years in at a boarding school in the area. If anyone has any information on this family I would love to have it.

Posted by Elizabeth on 12/12/2012

Your grandfather is the brother of my grandfather. We didn't know we had any family left as we lost contact years ago when my grandfather moved to Peterborough.

Posted by Kay on 16/12/2012

I'm Elizabeth's mum and married to Ronald Arthur Hiley who was named after his uncle.

Posted by Julie on 14/01/2014

Just wanted to add what an amazing site this is. I have managed to get in contact with three families related to Captain Arthur Hiley of Hook Hall. The family lost touch in the mid-1950s and are now reunited though me looking at these comments from New Zealand. So if you are looking at this site don't hesitate to add your comment.

Posted by David on 09/04/2013

I had a relative and family who lived in Hook Hall when he was a farm bailiff in 1866. I know it's a care home now and I know it's supposed to be on Hook High Street but I can't locate it. I can't find out what Hook Hall used to be? It's oddly never mentioned? Was it a stately home?

Posted by Paul on 10/04/2013

The hall is a Grade II listed building (1967). The listing text says: "House. Mid C18 with later alterations. Brick in Flemish bond, pantile roof. Central-hallway entry. three storeys, five bays. Glazed double leaf door beneath overlight in architrave with pediment carried on carved consoles. C20 casements below flat brick arches in original openings throughout, with band to each storey. Parapet with moulded stone coping conceals hipped roof with ridge stacks. Interior: cornices survive to landings and consist of egg-and-tongue and dentilled friezes with modillions and paterae to border of ceilings".

Posted by Julie on 26/05/2013

My great-grandfather Captain Arthur Hiley bought Hook Hall in the 1920s. He originally came from Goole and owned the property until 1954 when he retired from the navy and moved to Leeds. He passed away one year after retirement at the age of 65 years. My grandfather Ronald lived at Hook Hall until he was fourteen then he sailed to New Zealand and never returned.

Posted by Josephine on 12/07/2015

In 1810 my great(x4)-grandfather James Simpson was curate at Hook St. Mary's living at Hook Hall. The next year he advertised for pupils at 50 guineas per year. He later moved to Brantingham but returned to Hook in 1837. He once again advertised for students and in the 1841 Census he had two Todds, three Burlands, three Pearsons, Peacock, and Champney. He also had twelve children of his own. It was common for clergy to also run boarding schools.

Posted by Paul on 10/04/2013

Regarding the quote on the website. In 1743, Sothern wasn't an admiral (not until 1830). Secondly he was born in 1765(?)

Posted by BW on 17/05/2014

Back in 1882, my husband's great-great-grandfather came to Hook and started up business as the local blacksmith, name of George WILSON. He was the one time licensee/blacksmith of the village. There was an article in the Goole Times, Friday 29 May 1936, telling us all about him. I'm now trying to put together the family tree but have been unable to track his wife, etc.

He had a son Frank (my children's great-grandfather). Any help would be appreciated. Thanks.

Posted by Brian on 07/06/2014

Hook came to mind after the D-Day anniversary. I recall the Army practice building pontoon bridges across the river at Hook. Then one night they packed up and were gone. I enjoyed reading about Hook Island, brought back happy memories of rowing across when the tide was up, playing for hours, collecting willow branches for the Italian POWs, to make baskets with. Will never forget my days in the village.

Posted by Pamela on 09/11/2014

Family linked somehow to a house on Hook Road Goole called The Poplars. Would love to know if anyone knows the family name who may have lived there in or around 1940, so I can match the connection.

Posted by Fiona on 25/12/2014

My mother used to tell me that there were two women living together in the house at the end of the 1940s. Presumably a couple, there was some suggestion but I cannot remember the names. They played golf apparently.

When I was growing up in the 1960s the house was owned by a family named Wardle.

Posted by Corby on 07/11/2015

Can anyone remember The Target – a large black box situated between the riverbank and the reed beds? Directly behind the cemetery. What was its function?

Posted by Fiona on 18/11/2015

I used to live near the cemetery in Goole. Prior to tide time a man, who my dad obviously knew, used to cycle through the cemetery and go to that box and fiddle with some mechanics within. My mum said it was to do with the locks and the tides.

When you are an adult you wish you had asked more questions as a child don't you?

Posted by Corby on 18/11/2015

Although I used to spend hours on Wezzaks, and my father never queried this, I was unaware of the dangers there.

However, he always warned against the dangers close to the Target. He warned me against the quicksands between the reeds and the large sand bank at low water. But I recall one day a porpoise was seen on the sandbank, probably chasing the salmon, but it had died there. Four men appeared with Hopley's handcart. I could not believe that they simply walked over picking up the unfortunate creature then loading it onto the cart and took it away. Dispelling my father's warning to me.

Common train of thought about the box. Was that it was the waste outlet from the cemetery buildings? Only to be opened at high water?

Posted by Fiona on 22/11/2015

I remember the man going there to the mid-1970s at least. Wouldn't the utilities have been modernised by then? Someone must know. I do have pictures of my parents posing on that box in the 1950s, possibly before they were married.

I remember my mother telling me that a dead porpoise was displayed in one of the fishmongers in town. It must have been Hopleys and presumably the porpoise you are referring to.

In Clayton (Manchester) the council drained the moat at Clayton Hall in case a "child drowned". Made me just wonder how everyone survived near such a big tidal river like the Ouse in Goole. Of course the danger, the power of it and the quicksands were instilled in young minds. I don't remember a child being killed in it.

Posted by Corby on 23/11/2015

I agree about utilities outlet. Possibly my father's warning was to put me off playing there. I also remember seeing cattle stranded there and some floated away on the next ebb but others in various degrees gradually disappearing beneath the surface. I also remember one of the boys

who used to jump or dive into the water off of a fallen willow at Wessacks. He dived in and his head became stuck in the mud. The panic that followed, when every attempt we made could not shift him. Until a cyclist coming along the top of the bank saw what was happening. He did manage to pull him out but too late. The boy's surname was Kenny.

A spectacular site was the aegir, which I only witnessed a few times. Nothing near the Severn Bore - but it was our bore.

Posted by Corby on 26/11/2015

Regarding the area immediately behind the cemetery, every year there would appear thousands of six-spotted burnets. Almost a plague. I never found why that particular area and what was the attraction. There were very few about elsewhere.

Posted by Fiona on 27/11/2015

I don't remember seeing six spot burnets, think I have only seen one once in Goole. When did you see them? Maybe I just missed when they were flying or the caterpillars. When my father was a resident in Goole Hall and I visited Goole I used to walk from my friend's on Hook Road to Goole Fields along the riverbank. This would be around 2004-06. I recall seeing far more butterflies than I ever saw in the 1970s and on one occasion saw a clouded yellow, small coppers and common blues. I never saw a blue one growing up at all.

Posted by Corby on 20/11/2015

My recent reply to Fiona in which she stated that she wished she had asked more questions of her father. Resulted in my constantly asking questions and quite often he would reply "that is for me to know and you to find out". Simple questions like "where do flies go in winter?" Quite simply, he did not know.

However, he did have a gift which I wish now that I had kept hold of. He was an avid doodler. Always the same subject. That of ships leaving port. If I had a drawing book as a present, he would fill it with these vessels - all named. But the main gift to me was seeing the smoke billowing from the funnels. Although black and white, so many shades that you could almost smell the smoke. Also the water. Water with so much fury you would feel that to touch it. You would get your fingers wet.

How I wish that I had kept my books.

Posted by Corby on 15/04/2017

I do not know if anyone knew the gentleman who bred rabbits on a large scale. We knew him as the Dutchman. He lived down the street next to the Blacksmith Arms. It was my first venture into rabbit husbandry, when I bought two impregnated does to produce rabbits for the table for a few bob.

The downturn was people who had grown fed up with their pets (all named) would give them to me to dispose of. Not easy when you know their name.

In this morning's Mail there are pictured the two identical breeds of which I started, a Belgian hare and a Flemish giant, who are now earning their owners £1,000 a show. How times change!

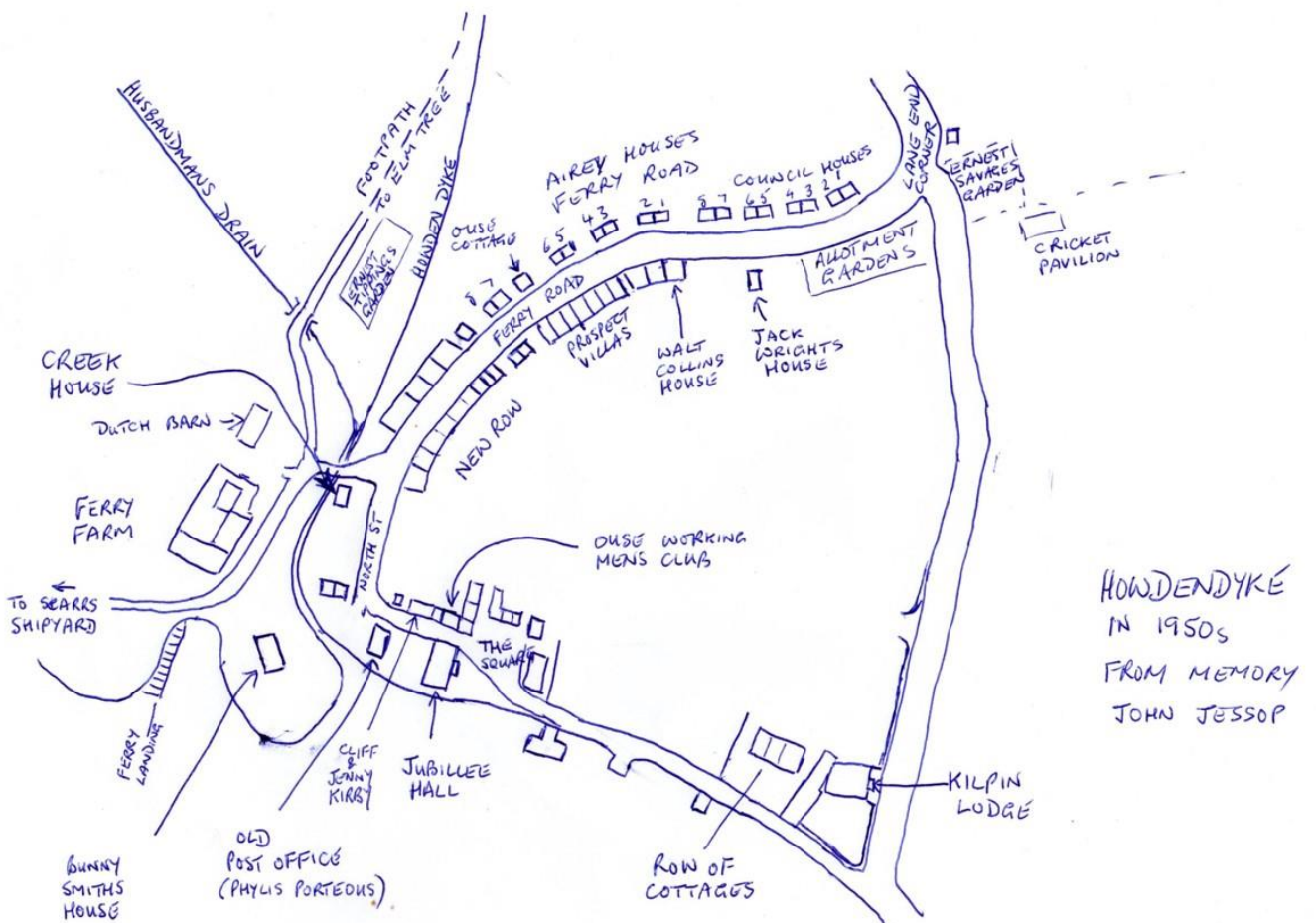
Howdendyke

Howdendyke takes its name from the ditch that runs from the river to Howden. Its prosperity was originally based around agriculture with the harvest been taken to markets by way of an old oar-propelled ferry. The ferry crossing became more dangerous when it was heavily loaded and with the ships which were later coming to the newly developing industrial port.



A fertilizer factory was founded in the early-1850s and ships such as Sulpho, Nitro and Phospho were used to transport the fertilizers to landing stages further along the Ouse where it could be used in the fields. The original industrial process used mummified cats, but more sensible practices are followed today.

The wharf now has large docking berths and storage units, but its traffic is hindered due to its location on a bend in the river. The created two river channels and it can be hard for ships to navigate along the fast flowing tides.



Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Sarah on 19/05/2006

Out of interest, when I was browsing through the Goole website and came across the “village” section, I was intrigued to discover about Howdendyke - near to where I live. As a neighbour to the windmill that is on display, I would like to inform you that it is not actually situated in Howdendyke, but still Howden. I would appreciate if this was acknowledged. Thanks.

Posted by HMD on 05/09/2006

The mill was (is?) at the elm tree crossing of Buttfield Lane and Howdendkye, being closer to the latter. The last person I know of who may have been associated with the mill was a person I believe named Tommy Pollard. He also worked as boilerman in the Anderton fertiliser works at Howdendyke. Buttfield Lane was at the time addressed to Howden. I understand that the lane is now blocked to Howdendyke due to the motorway.

Posted by JDP on 07/09/2006

HMD is confusing the Sunny Bank mill at Pollards Pond, Sunny Bank, Kilpin, with Sarah Baker's Hail Mill, Howdendyke Road, Howden. There were two mills.

Posted by James on 01/10/2006

The oldest building that has been traced in Howdendyke is Elm Tree House. So far we have got it back to 1732, which had its water supply pumped from the windmill at Sunny Bank.

Posted by Kath on 31/12/2006

Does anybody know about the FEATHERSTONE family (Elizabeth and brother William (Bill)). They lived at Howdendyke between 1910 and 1940(ish). Thanks.

Posted by Darren on 01/01/2008

I lived in the village from an early age and grew up knowing many of the residents as we were a close family group. There was a family called Featherstone who lived in one of the council houses (Airey houses). Their son Steve lives in Howden.

Regarding the name of the village, the area in discussion is actually called Kilpin Pike and you did not enter the village of Howdendyke until you had crossed the bridge at the end of Tutty Row where the pumping station is nowadays. There is also a mass of information in a book “Planned to Death” by a former resident (no connection) which describes in great detail the daily events of the residents.

Posted by Dawn on 10/02/2009

My dad (who was born and bred in Howdendyke and still resides there) seems to think that Bill Featherstone used to live with Mary and Herbert Tipping in the village. They both passed away some time ago but two of their children still live in Howdendyke.

Posted by John on 11/12/2009

Old Bill Featherstone lived with the Tippings and was I believe Mary Tipping's father. Mary was married to Herbert Tipping and they had a few children. I recall Avril, Jaqueline, Denise, Brian and Bert. Sorry if I have missed anyone out.

Posted by Wendy on 17/01/2010

With reference to the Featherstone family living locally as mentioned, can anyone tell me to which Featherstone family they belonged to? I am a Featherstone via my granddad Fred of Gilberdyke, but I know my granddad and his father Alf and family used to live at Laxton, Barmby, Scalby and Newport. Alf had steam engines and threshing machines, etc. We have a very large Featherstone tree that goes back to Knedlington mid-1700s, but it has been difficult finding Featherstones in the Howden area. If anyone can shed any more info on these and any others I would be most grateful? Thanks.

Posted by Caroline on 19/01/2010

The Featherstone family in Howdendyke was Jeff Featherstone and his wife Pauline. They had one son Stephen who is was born in about 1963 hope this can be of some help.

Posted by Sue on 22/09/2008

My mother's father's family were called PROCTOR and lived around the area of Kilpin Pike. Does anyone remember them or have any info? Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 20/05/2009

I have following two entries taken from Howden Minster burials

Thomas Proctor of Kilpin Pike died 1853 aged 58

Mary his wife died in Goole 1890 aged 90

Mary Ann Proctor of Elm Tree Farm near Howden died 1870 aged 36

Husband William Proctor died 1882 aged 51

Daughter Mary Ann died aged 28

Posted by Bill on 18/01/2009

When I was a choirboy at Goole Parish Church in the late-1950s/early-1960s, our choir mistress was a Mrs Jessop, a lovely lady who did her best to train a group of not very well behaved or appreciative young lads how to sing. I believe that she used to drive to Goole for choir practices and services from her home in Howdendyke.

It's only when one gets old(er) that one really appreciates the time and effort that other people gave us when we were young. I think the reason I re-remembered this lady was because I was impressed by the fact that she would drive to Goole in all weathers, two or three times a week, to spend time in a cold church, even though for the most part it was a pretty thankless task. I wonder what happened to her?

Posted by John on 20/09/2009

I am the nephew of the four Miss Jessop sisters who you speak about. They shared Elm Tree House at the junction of Howdendyke and Kilpin roads.

It was Madeline, the eldest of the four, who played the organ and "trained" the choir at Goole Parish Church. In her daytime job she taught at Spaldington School until her retirement. She also found time to play the organ at many weddings and funerals at Goole Parish Church.

Judith was the youngest of the four and was last to pass away. She also was a teacher and during her working life taught at Barlby, Barlby Hill Top and Hemingbrough schools. She then became a peripatetic music teacher giving lessons at various schools in the East Riding. She played the organ at Hemingbrough church.

Jessie was the second eldest and taught at Pocklington School initially before transferring to Howden "council" school where she stayed for the remainder of her working life.

Dorrie was third eldest and opted to keep house for the other three. She was a keen choral singer, member of Kilpin Parish Council and was also regarded as an excellent cook - her chocolate cakes and eclairs were a dream! Sadly musical talents seem to have skipped my generation.

Posted by John on 20/09/2009

I lived in the village at 4 Ferry Row until the early-1960s. The village was a close community where everyone knew everyone else and us kids respected this and behaved. I recall Mrs Branton's shop and Mrs Mell at the post office where lemonade and sweets could also be bought, (when closed go to the back door and you would usually be served). In "The Square" there was the Jubilee Hall and "The Works Club" which was run for many years by Jack and Mrs Waterhouse. Mrs Jenny Kirby used to look after the hall and light the boiler when it was to be used. Us kids could wander all over the area and know we would not come to harm as long as we stayed out of the river.

Posted by Caroline on 22/10/2009

Does anyone remember the faith mission coming to Howdendyke where we all sat singing on the riverbank? Can anybody remember when the river flooded the post office and Mr Smith's house? Oh what memories we have! Also, can you remember the shipyard and how it was great fun to play there until PC Jeff Leathem sent us home to our mothers? Us kids hoping he would not tell mum or dad.

Posted by John on 22/10/2009

I can't recall anything about the faith mission. What year was it when it came? As to Scarrs shipyard, it was a working yard when I was young and the Thornwick pleasure boat sailing out of Bridlington was built there. It used to come back every now and then for a winter overhaul. Many of the shipyard workmen used to cycle to work from Howden and crossed the footbridge opposite Elm Tree House then cycled along the footpath from there into Howdendyke and onwards to the shipyard. My father was an apprentice blacksmith at the yard in his youth along with Laurie Fox who took the blacksmiths shop over in Laxton and ran it for many years.

The early Howdendyke post office was much higher up than the road which ran past it into the Square so the houses in the Square flooded often. The majority of these houses kept boards cut to size and when a spring tide was due they fitted them across the bottom of the front door frame and sealed them with clay. This was just part of life to the folks who lived there. You may have meant the later post office which was on Ferry Road opposite the last Airey House? The newer houses were raised up and had steps up to the doorways. Us kids would don wellingtons and paddle about in the Square until the water got deep enough to overtop our boots. No-one ever thought about pollution in floodwaters and we were disgustingly healthy.

Posted by Caroline on 03/12/2009

All I can remember of the faith mission was singing on the riverbank at the Jubilee Hall, also when we helped the youth club and Christmas parties with Jeff Featherstone as Father Christmas. I can also remember going by Elm Tree House where your aunts lived. I remember

living at Prospect Houses and how Mrs Duffil used to tell us off for making a noise. If we were lucky she would give us some homemade bread. We had no fear of flooding we just got on with it.

Posted by John on 10/12/2009

I remember Mrs Duffil too. She lived next to the passage which connected the back of Prospect Villas to the road in front. I think I remember her having a big dog possibly a Labrador? From memory there was a double fronted house at the top end of the row which was inhabited by Walt and Eileen Collins, then the first house of the terrace where I think "old" (to us kids) Jim Blee and his wife lived. I can't remember the name of the people in the next cottage, then the passage, Mrs Duffil, another two houses then "big Mary who always wore wellington boots" after that the row continued but the rear of the houses was separated from the remainder of the row and you had to come back to the front then go round the other end to gain access to the back yards of the other houses. My memory is getting hazy but I do recall the Sims family, who had a boy called Mick, lived at that end. Most of the occupants worked at the "Chemics" - Andertons Chemical Fertiliser Works which were behind the row.

Posted by John on 11/12/2009

Going from the first council house at the end of the road, I remember Mr and Mrs Wheldrake then later in that house Ted Walker and his family, then Mrs Allison, Mrs Barlow, The Tippings, Tommy Palmer, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Mr and Mrs Watson.

Then the Airey houses started with Mr and Mrs Turnbull, Mr and Mrs Greg Mell, Mr and Mrs Harold (?), my family, Mr and Mrs Daly, Mr and Mrs Holt. There was an older house Ouse Cottage where Mr and Mrs Joe Thompson lived then another Airey house which had in later years Bert Tipping and his wife Josie, then Mr and Mrs Newman. After that a cottage (now demolished) which was separated by a passage from Tutty Row which had three houses then the village shop.

Further down, the road had a junction and the branch leg went over a bridge to the farm (Alan Plowes), Scarrs shipyard and a house on a staithe where Bunny Smith and his wife lived. The street carried on down towards the river. Creek House still stands adjacent to the bridge but everything between that and the river is now demolished.

Going back to the top end of the road facing the first council house were the allotments then the red telephone box, Mr and Mrs Jack Wright's house, which was made of wood and set behind a hedge facing Tommy Palmers house. They had a long garden which joined on to Walt Collin's garden, who I mentioned previously.

Posted by HMF on 13/12/2009

Thank you John, that was like a trip back forty (plus) years! Tommy Palmer was one of my relatives too. I have photographs of the men outside the chemical works probably taken at about the turn of the last century, but I can only identify those who are my relatives on it.

I went to and from school in Howden on my bike, and took great pleasure in watching the rooks lift off out of the old mill as we went past it. I have returned to Howdendyke since the places I knew were demolished and I found it difficult to work out where things had been. I could tell you exactly what the post office was like inside, but I couldn't even decide exactly where it had been!

Posted by HMF on 11/12/2009

Lovely to see all the familiar names appearing on this page. Miss Jessop taught my mother to play the piano to a good standard. I still have the certificates she earned! My great-grandmother was Mrs Mell at the post office in Howdendyke and she was later followed in that role by my great-aunt Phyllis Porteous. Her younger son Doug wrote the book "Planned to Death". I lived for a while in Skelton and I recall some names of Howdendyke residents such as Featherstone, Tipping and Schofield.

I recall going to the post office to see my great-aunt on errands. I would walk along the narrow riverbank path and along the road which led through the chemical works. The area around there was always dusty white looking but it mesmerised me. One thing has been bugging me for a few years now - does anyone remember a place that we used to call the Greek House? I hope I'm not imagining it. I believe it had tall wooden gates.

Posted by John on 13/12/2009

Regarding the old post office which was situated at the riverside, I can recall going up two or three steps from the road to the footpath which ran at the side of the building to the back door. The actual shop door into the post office was at the side and, as you walked in, the wooden-topped counter was on the right with a doorway through to the house behind it. Besides the post office things, Phyllis Porteous (nee Mell) sold sweets, crisps, cigarettes and bread. I think she also sold a few tinned items as well but Mrs Branton's shop was the main source of foodstuffs. Audrey Branton (her daughter) worked in Branton's shop sometimes and married "Dinky" Myers. They still live in the village in Tutty Row, I believe. "New Row" faced the shop and at the top end was the "pig yard" but I can never recall any pigs being in it.

There were a couple of garages, one in the corner adjacent to the roadside wall and one adjacent the back fence with gardens behind it. George Collins had the latter garage for his car. I can't recall what make or model it was but I do recall one day Mick and Pat Daly, Mick Sims and myself all hanging onto the back bumper as George tried to set off and stalling it when we held it back from starting. We found it hilarious.

Pat Daly had a paper round for the night paper which required him to collect the papers from Howden and deliver them throughout the village and also through Skelton almost to the railway bridge. I used to ride along with him sometimes and once did the round while he was on holiday. Pat might be able to recall more details of who lived where as he probably took papers to most of the houses.

Posted by John on 16/12/2009

I drove into Howdendyke a couple of days ago and looked but the wooden house is entirely gone and the once immaculately trimmed hedge hides an earth bank, shielding the expanded Chemics site. There is a gap where their garage used to exit onto the road but this is almost overgrown also.

A new works club building has been erected opposite Ouse Cottage, and New Row appears to be undergoing renovations but as far as I could see none of the houses are yet complete.

Regarding the Chemics Management. The firm was started by George Herbert Anderton. He left it to his daughter Maude who married Dickie Pilling and they carried on the business, living in the house at the corner known as Kilpin Lodge. The staff names that stand out are Mr Hobson who lived in Elm Tree House, Mr Marshall who lived opposite the park gates on Treeton Road in Howden, Mr John Brodie lived in Elm Tree House after the Hobsons, Mr Baker lived in Creek House in Howdendyke.

Sid Bean was the electrician and people would take lead-acid accumulators to him at the works to have them charged up to run their wireless sets as there was no mains electricity for the village in those days.

The major part of the plant was a lead chamber Sulphuric Acid producing unit. Also attached were the two towers which, if memory serves, were the Gay-Lussac tower and the Glover. One used to have a small chimney which poured out a yellow acrid stream of gas. When the wind conditions were right (or wrong) life was very unpleasant in the village.

The acid plant caught fire one night and most of the village were out watching with fire engines from far and wide. My family slept right through the whole show so I missed the excitement.

Posted by Caroline on 04/01/2010

Ah, I just love this page. The book "Planned to Death" is a great book and I have mine signed by Douglas Porteous. I can remember when we lived at Prospect Villas on the other side of the passage to Mrs Duffil before we moved to the council house which Mick Daly and his family live in now. Then we moved to Howdendyke Club. Then my mum and dad bought a house on New Row off Madge and Archie Kerby. Sadly my dad passed away some fifteen years ago. My mum Carman lives in Howden, my uncle Peter Newman now lives in Howden but Mavis and Stuart Pike still live in Howdendyke.

Posted by Sandra on 08/01/2010

My great(x3)-grandfather was a miller at Kilpin and a coal merchant too in 1851. He was also then at Saltmarshe Mill, Howden in 1871. Does this mill still exist? Thanks.

Posted by John on 01/02/2010

The Saltmarshe mill no longer exists but it was in front of the present Mill House on a patch of land close to the riverbank. There used to be a track from there which led to Easttrington, crossing the Laxton to Yokefleet road at the Cotness S bend and then along the present green lane northwards and appeared at Newland where the present Easttrington road joins the Howden to Gilberdyke road. If you look along the dyke side, opposite Newland, the old route is still visible but the Gilberdyke to Goole railway line has severed the route.

I have no knowledge of a corn mill at Kilpin but remember Hail Mill, which was to the side of the Howden to Howdendyke road (at a "hails" distance from Howden). When I was a small child it was run by Leslie Spink but closed down and became unsafe until it was renovated and turned into a house. I think that would be the mill where your miller worked?

Posted by John on 08/01/2010

Howden Glucose Company was built on the site of Scarrs shipyard in the mid-1970s and opened amongst high hopes of providing the start of something big for the area's employment opportunities. The building still stands but the glucose manufacture ceased in 1980. The plant was designed to convert Dutch sourced potato starch (known as Farina) into glucose syrup and had its own jetty and two silos capable of holding 1,000 tonnes of starch each. At the base of the silo building was a slurry making plant where starch was mixed with water and pumped across to two slurry holding tanks located at the side of the process building.

Also in the base of the silos was a pneumatic conveying system to blow starch through a pipe into a bagging unit and warehouse where starch powder could be sent out to various customers throughout the UK. This dry starch trade was handled by Tunnel Avebe, a separate company to the HGCo. Once the starch was mixed with water it was essential that this starch slurry be kept

stirred or the powder would settle into a solid cake at the bottom and the water on the top. If this happened the only solution was to decant the water and dig out the cake!

The actual production of glucose was achieved by adding hydrochloric acid to the slurry, then heating this mixture to cause a chemical reaction which changed the starch into glucose. This is similar to the change which takes place in your stomach but on a much greater scale (ten tonnes an hour). The remainder of the process was based around neutralising the acid, refining and concentrating the thin watery syrup so created.

The plant had its own boilerhouse, burning Yorkshire coal from Hickleton and Brodsworth collieries and also its own effluent treatment plant. Sadly the plant became rapidly uneconomic when the value of the pound fell against the guilder and despite attempts to use maize starch from another part of the Tate & Lyle group, (which foundered because of the wax and fat content of maize starch being ten times more than potato starch), the fate of the plant was sealed and the workforce including myself made redundant.

Posted by Caroline on 11/01/2010

Can anybody tell me how many house are on Prospect Villas? From the top end there was two we lived in, the second one, then the passage with the ladders on the ceiling (did they ever get used?), then Mrs Duffil, then was it Mrs Sims, Mr Robinson, Mr and Mrs Featherstone, Mr and Mrs Myers then at the end Mr and Mrs Turner. Thanks.

Posted by Val on 01/03/2010

Is Ferry Farm, Skelton is still there? I'm researching family and have come across them living in Ferry Farm in 1911. Thanks.

Posted by Caroline on 04/03/2010

There was a Ferry Farm at Howdendyke. This was alongside the river where Bill and Betty Brown lived with their children Carol and Denice along with Norman Todd (I think that was his name).

Posted by John on 09/03/2010

Ferry Farm Skelton might refer to either Ferry Farm Howdendyke which linked to Hook, or Ferry Farm Sandhall which linked to Swinefleet and is shown on the 1947 OS map. I have never found reference to a ferry at Skelton (but that doesn't mean there never was one).

Posted by Mary on 08/04/2010

My mother was born at Ferry Farm 90 years ago today. Her grandfather James Sharp Wilson was the farmer, whom I think was already living there in 1911. When James died intestate in 1924, the farm and its contents were sold. I have a copy of some of the auction catalogue and a lovely photograph of Ferry Farm (not the one on the postcard) and also one of James and Eliza Wilson at the front door.

Posted by Jackie on 23/03/2010

John, so interesting reading about your history of Howdendyke. Wonder if you remember me taking over from Jane Baverstock at The Howden Glucose Company? Good days those working for Tate & Lyle along with Ray Morris and you close at work with Jim Postles, Tom Trewartha and Jim Sutherland. Just for your records when I finally left the site in the mid-1990s I still had the original huge portfolio showing HGC construction from start to finish and I passed it on to Dawn Daly (she lived in Howdendyke and we worked together). As Dawn was involved with a local historical/community group, I thought this would be the best place for it. I think the group

was something to do with Skelton. When TR Chemicals took over from HGC didn't you do some freelance work with them? I'm still in contact with Ted Newell.

Then, continuing in the chemical field, Brenntag UK took over followed by Daltrade Plc who moved away from the site and still operate in Howden and Goole. I am still in touch with Chris MacLorg ex Tunnel Avebe who regularly plays golf with Joab Mayatt! I laughed recently with a friend about the old Kalamazoo engineering stock cards!

Posted by John on 24/03/2010

Jackie, of course I remember you, Alzheimer's hasn't gripped yet. I am still in contact with a few of the Glucose staff. Jim Postles has retired and lives in Crawley, sadly he lost Norma over a year ago. Tom Trewartha has passed on I have been told, Rod Baxter is retired and lives near Whitby, Jim Sutherland went out to African Products but I have heard he is now back in the UK. Charlie Bennet is retired and lives in Gilberdyke. I think Carole works in Gilberdyke at the Industrial Estate offices.

I went down to Howdendyke recently and was saddened to see the office and process buildings are boarded up. Quite emotive when I spent five years with the others keeping it in good order. I consoled myself with the thought that I would not be getting any more 2am phone calls to say the condenser system had drifted out of balance and would I come in to sort them out. The usual cause was process operators over-riding the automatic systems.

Do you remember the MV Resurgence catching fire while tied up at the jetty there? Sid the shift engineer phoned me and I thought it was a wind up at first. The fire brigade pumped so much water on board the ship was within a couple of inches of sinking. Sadly one lad lost his life trapped on board and Tom went down to the Southwest for his funeral.

Posted by Caroline on 03/04/2010

I was just talking about the above ship the other day. Yes that was a sad time for everybody in the village and the crew. The lad's nickname was Ginger but I cannot remember his proper name. How many years ago was that?

Posted by John on 04/04/2010

I think the Resurgence fire would have been around 1978 or 79. Maybe Goole Times archives could throw some light on it? The MV Resilience which was another Crescent Shipping Line boat took over the job of carrying starch to Howdendyke until the refinery closed and I think it continued the delivery run for a while longer as there was a bulk starch contract to complete for Tunnel Avebe.

Ginger sounds right for the lad who died but my memory doesn't run to his proper name, sorry. The jetty which was dedicated to pneumatic discharge with cranes for pipes, a stores and gangway crane and cable handling jib for shore supplied power, is now utterly different.

Posted by Caroline on 07/04/2010

Hajóregiszter 1973: DE PAARSE TULP, 1974: RESURGENCE (London-Rochester Shipping and Trading), 1976: converted to starch tanker, 14/08/1980: fire onboard at Howdendyke, laid up.

Posted by Bill on 23/08/2010

The lad who died on the Resurgence fire, Ginger, was Peter North. All of the crew got out of the ship through portholes on to the jetty, but ginger stayed fighting the fire. He was engaged to a Howdendyke girl, Susan. I was chief engineer on the ship 1977/78 and can remember Jim

Postle, nice guy. Sad to see the factory is now an internet shopping warehouse, had many good nights in Howdendyke club.

Posted by John on 24/08/2010

Thanks for giving us Ginger's proper name. It was a sad business, especially as everyone else got out as you said. The captain was asleep before the fire and emerged in just a vest so I gave him my coat.

The Glucose Refinery is boarded up and the manicured grounds are now mostly under lorry parking areas and timber storage. I was down in the Ebuyer buildings a few weeks ago and looked out of a first floor window. The refinery buildings are dwarfed by the new warehouses and some scrap men were ripping bits off the final storage tanks above the old loading bay. The club you knew was in the Square and is flattened. A new club has been built on Ferry Road. I was intrigued to see someone has put a gate across North Street next to Creek House and it has a private property sign on it. I'm not sure how a public road became private property?

Posted by Bill on 25/08/2010

Had a look on Google Earth, the club looks a bit better than the old one. I remember the steward and his family, Alan Newman, sadly passed on I believe. Nice friendly people made us all very welcome. The private road at Creek House, isn't that access to the path along the river, used to run down to the flyover and back? That was 30 years ago!

Posted by John on 11/09/2010

I believe you are thinking of the other side of Creek House where Ferry Road crosses over the bridge which spanned the creek (the Howden Dyke) and runs to the old ferry landing point. This becomes a track which used to serve Scarrs Shipyard and then onwards to the riverbank which you can follow round to Boothferry Bridge, passing under the M62 flyover.

The road with the gate across it which I mentioned runs from New Row, down to the riverbank adjacent the original post office. You would have used this bit of road to go to see Alan Newman at the old club building by the Square. I wonder if during the clearance of the Square and gating off of the riverside road past the "works", the road through there was formally extinguished as a right of way?

Posted by Dawn on 06/10/2010

In answer to your question about the right of way - this is still accessible as it forms part of the Trans-Pennine Way and is used regularly by ramblers.

Posted by Dave on 19/04/2010

Just stumbled on this site whilst searching for pictures of windmills for my students tomorrow. My parents bought Hail Mill House from Mr and Mrs Spinks around 1958 I think. The mill was already in a serious condition, the windows gone, floors collapsed and only inhabited by pigeons. Over the years my parents worked to renovate many of the old buildings and create a functioning small-holding, rearing chickens and growing mostly blackcurrants which went to Rowntrees in York.

As the work increased, Mrs Newman from Howdendyke came to help out - she was mother of Mavis and I remember her marriage to Stuart. Mr Thompson from Howdendyke, and neighbour of Mrs Newman, was also a frequent visitor with his strange two-wheeled, walk-along tractor. I also have vivid memories of the Jessops, especially Miss Jessop, (Jessie I think) who was my teacher at Howden Junior for several years.

Posted by John on 20/04/2010

Dave, I was taught basic woodwork by your father Ken Ibbotson and I recall he was one of the Goole Grammar School teachers who took a group of us camping at Cosh house a couple of miles up the valley from Foxup. The other teachers who shared charge of the group were Jerry Appleyard and Mr Smith - can't recall his first name but he taught English, (not the "other" GGS Mr Smith who was Ivor aka Bongo and taught history). Cosh was an old farmhouse which had stood empty for a while but was intact and had a wash-house and a couple of latrines added for use as a camping site. The teachers slept in the house whilst we slept in eight-man canvas bell tents. No electricity, plenty of running water in the beck, icy cold for a morning wash.

Posted by Caroline on 27/04/2010

Mrs Newman (Kitty) was my nana, my dad was Alan Newman. It was so interesting to read what you put. She was married to Charlie Newman. Can you remember anything about him? I can remember a farm at the other side of the road - it had a big cow shed.

Posted by Trevor on 08/05/2010

I am an ex-Goolie, have lived in Somerset since 1963. My dad was John Kenneth Hardwick, born in Howden in 1908. His dad was a tailor in Howden. Dad worked at Scarrs Shipyard after leaving school as a blacksmith. His grandparents lived in Howdendyke. Dad used to tell us so many stories about life from his younger days. It must have been a great place to have grown up in.

Posted by Caroline on 10/05/2010

I can remember Scarrs Shipyard as a child - great place to play if PC Jeff Leathem did not catch you. The village was a wonderful place to grow up - sadly now it's all changed. We cannot go back to how things were but we can have our memories forever, hence this wonderful site. I am sure I speak for everybody, please add to the site anything you can remember or have been told.

Posted by John on 22/05/2010

Do you know if your dad worked at Scarrs at the same time as my dad Vern Jessop, who was also in the blacksmiths shop before he went out to Canada for a few years? He then came back to the UK to work with my grandad as a market gardener.

Posted by Trevor on 22/05/2010

I have just been looking at dad's indentures for Scarrs and he started there in 1924 on a five year apprenticeship but I don't know how many years he stayed there. I remember him telling us that someone had left a trust fund for any local who went into an apprenticeship to receive ten pounds from this fund which was a very good amount in those days. The trust was called Barkers Charity. Have you heard of this before?

Posted by Phil on 17/05/2010

My grandma was the last post mistress at Howdendyke. She bought it from Bill Porteous. I restored the postbox and built it into the side of my house at Skelton when they knocked the post office down.

Posted by HMD on 30/10/2010

Great to see all the info on Howdendyke. It's a long time since I first posted anything. I moved from Coventry to Howdendyke in 1956 and married into the Joy family of Howden. We lived in Prospect Villas row of houses - now gone, a club is there. Next door to us was Walt and Eileen Collins. Walt was Dicky Pilling's driver. Mr Stonehard (Pilling's gardener) lived the other side.

After came Duffil's, the Walker twins Geoff and John, Bill Collins, Geoff and Pauline Featherstone. Majory and Tony Peam lived in the cottage before the next row of houses (Airey?). Porteous ran the post office and son Doug Porteous moved to Canada. He wrote a book about Howdendyke. We moved to Australia in 1965. Now retired with great-grand-children.

Posted by HMD on 28/11/2010

Remember Woodbine Cottage at the end of the row where the shop was? Known occupants (before the cottage was destroyed) I believe may have been Shirley and Brian Hedley. Timothy Thompson, a name I haven't seen. I did casual work for his dad Alan who has been mentioned. He was a market gardener. Alan became boilerman at the tillage works (Andertons) after Tommy Pollard retired.

Harold Foster was one of three truck (lorry) drivers at Andertons. The others were George Brown and Jack (Dinky) Myers.

Posted by Caroline on 07/12/2010

How things have moved on. I saw Harold today marching on in the snow. Woodbine Cottage - wonder how it got its name? Was it named after Woodbine tobacco?

Posted by HMD on 15/12/2010

Could the name "Woodbine" have come from the fact that it may have had the trailing plant woodbine growing on or around it. I'm just guessing

Posted by HMD on 08/12/2010

Are the two fatal accidents at the old Andertons tillage works included in Howdendyke's history? Who were "Kippers and Custard" who worked in the acid plant in the 1950s before it was pulled down? What happened to the grass drying plant? Does Bill Baker remember knocking Ian over with his car?

Posted by KWT on 17/12/2010

Bill Baker died some years ago. I remember a fire in the grass drier but I believe it was shut down when Andertons sold off the farm land. It was run by Bill Brown and Jack "Puddler" Paver. Edie Beeton later remarried and became Edie Beevers. Hilary married Denman Martin and I think lives in Eastrington.

Posted by HMD on 18/12/2010

Eadie (Edith) was the wife of George Beaton. When George passed away I believe Eadie married Tommy Burns. I don't know if Eadie remarried a third time after Tommy passed on. Eadie was one of the Lister truck drivers for the Andertons bagging gang. Tommy and George worked in that same gang as did Donny Hebden, Gordon Newman, Bert Tipping and myself. The other Lister drivers were, Madge Peam, and Shirley Hedley.

Posted by Caroline on 19/12/2010

Was that the Bill Brown from the farm? Jack Paver lived in the Square near the Jubilee Hall next door to Grandda Art as we called him. I think he was Lucy Lindley's father. Mrs Paver was a very nice lady and her granddaughter used to come and visit. She was called Sharron.

Posted by John on 21/12/2010

Jack Paver had been gardener for the Archbishop of York before moving to Howdendyke. For a church employee he had an extensive command of the most colourful phrases at times. He used to spend a lot of his free time in my dad's greenhouse talking shop about gardening.

Posted by Caroline on 24/12/2010

Yes I can remember Mr Jack Paver having a greenhouse. As kids we were always wary of him.

Posted by Braveheart on 20/01/2011

Trawling for a photo of the glucose factory I came to this website! Howden Dyke Glucose factory was built 1974-1976 by Cementation Projects Ltd for Tate & Lyle Plc. Cementation was a subsidiary of Trafalgar House which eventually became owned by Skanska of Sweden. The economics for constructing an expensive wharf and very expensive silos at Howdendyke was precarious, and Tate's relied on EC money. The dredging was done by Lincoln & Hull Marine, well known further downstream. The factory provided much needed employment for a period (I hope!). We builders came and went, but staying in and around Howden for those two years was great!

Posted by Braveheart on 20/01/2011

To John et al - well, I'm too old to read every post! Had I done so I'd have found yours and Mrs Neale's halfway down! All those good names (Ray, Jim, etc.) from Tates.

Posted by HMD on 13/03/2011

Am I correct in believing that Bill Hodges (Hodgeson) owned or ran the Howdendyke shop? He allowed me to garage my motor bike and sidecar in the shed alongside the dyke and at the side of the shop. Also to grow a few spuds on the bit o' land behind the shed.

Posted by John on 13/03/2011

I think it would be Bill and Connie(?) Hodgeson who had the shop in the time you refer to. I can't recall whether they took over after Mrs Branton or if there was someone in between.

Posted by HMD on 14/03/2011

Bill and Connie did take over after Mrs Branton. A couple of names for your records you may not have are Dick and Maurice Abbey. They brought barge cargo for Andertons, from Goole to Howdendyke Jetty I believe. They were not village residents though.

Posted by David on 23/03/2011

Hmm - just found this forum. Most interesting. I spent a lot of my childhood here in the 1950s and early-1960s. My grandparents were Tommy and Elsie Robinson who lived on the corner next to Jenny Kirby and opposite the post office. Elsie was related to Connie Hodgson who did, indeed, take over Mrs Branton's sweet shop. As I recall everyone pronounced the name "Ochen". Tommy's dad ran the ferry at both Howdendyke and Booth Ferry until the bridge opened in 1928 which, obviously, put paid to the family business. Two of grandad's brothers (Harold and Jack) were given jobs as bridge keepers.

Posted by Caroline on 30/03/2011

David, I can remember your grandmother Elsie Robinson. When I was young she used to stand outside her door at the front of her house with an apron on. I can also recall Connie's shop. She used to put a Christmas display on in the window and we used to go there for penny sweets. It's strange how someone can put something on this site and it all comes back to you.

Posted by David on 04/04/2011

It takes a while for some things to come back. Gran was a distant cousin of Connie's. Connie's father was Jack Carrington who lived in a row of houses a bit further up the road (past the jetties) towards Skelton. This row of houses was very close to the big house where the Pillings (owners of the Andertons fertiliser factory) lived. Jack was a small guy who looked a bit like

George Formby. I remember playing with his grandson Philip who lived in York and occasionally came to stay with Connie. We both got told off by Mr Pilling for trespassing onto some land behind the factory.

The village had a special celebration for the coronation in 1952 - I was just three - and grandad played the bass drum, a huge thing with a trapdoor in the casing. Made a great noise. I also remember Doug Porteous who wrote the book "Planned to Death". He was older than me and everyone was very proud when he passed the 11+ and went to Goole Grammar School. I don't recall anyone else in his age group achieving that. He was always held up as an example to me. He had a red racing bike with five-speed gears that I lusted after with a passion.

Posted by John on 04/04/2011

Doug Porteous was a fifth former when I was a lowly first former at GGS. We used to cycle to Howden, leave our bikes at Tommy Whittaker's garage behind the old surgery in Hailgate and catch the school bus from Howden market place in the mornings. The cycle ride between Howdendyke and Howden was ok in good weather but seriously miserable when it rained or snowed. There wasn't a lot of shelter along the way!

Posted by Fiona on 06/04/2011

Does anyone remember the blind man that used to make baskets out of osiers off the main street of Howdendyke? I remember going once to buy one with my grandparents. Once after school my grandpa took me to Saltmarshe Park and on the way we saw a man driving an enormous large white boar down the road. How times have changed!

Posted by HMD on 19/04/2011

Can anyone tell me please, the original name of the tillage works in Howdendyke? I do know of the name "Anderton Richardson" with the elephant logo. Also what does the Howdendyke factory produce now?

Posted by John on 20/04/2011

According to Doug Porteous in his book "Planned to Death" George Anderton II moved from Cleckheaton to Howdendyke and bought the bankrupt estate of Richard Ward Jnr in 1857 for £2,500. In 1860 he mortgaged all this property for £5,000 and used the money to convert the old tanyard into a chemical fertiliser factory. This Ouse Chemical works began by producing a variety of chemical products but with a heavy concentration on fertilisers for agricultural use. The firm was incorporated in 1903 as George H. Anderton Ltd. The firm amalgamated with Richardsons of York in 1958 to become the Anderton Richardsons which you recall. "Planned to Death" is, I understand, now out of print but copies can be obtained via the usual internet searches (ISBN 0-8020-2661-3).

Posted by HMD on 21/07/2011

Andertons made sulphuric acid in the manufacture of fertilizers. The acid was stored in very large lead lined square tanks behind the bag house and sulphate shed. Acid was produced by burning a type of rock. Could anyone please tell me what type of rock it would be? In later years, acid was delivered from Sheffield by Laporte road tanker.

Posted by John on 22/07/2011

Whee! I'll try to rake up my school chemistry from the 1960s. My copy of "A School Chemistry" is long lost now. From memory the "rock" being burnt was copper pyrites which had a high sulphur content. The resulting sulphur dioxide was passed over a platinum catalyst about half way up one of the towers along with an air stream so the SO₂ combined with some oxygen to

form sulphur trioxide SO_3 . This added to water H_2O resulted in sulphuric acid H_2SO_4 . Along with this a separate stream of SO_2 was passed into the lead chambers and water sprayed into the gas creating sulphurous acid. The sulphurous acid H_2SO_3 slowly absorbed oxygen from the atmosphere to become sulphuric acid. I recall looking into a sight glass and seeing the catalyst glowing red hot. The operators used to heat it up to start the process with an oxy-acetylene torch but once running the process kept it hot.

Posted by HMD on 27/07/2011

Thanks. A little more of Howdendyke's history recalled. By the way, I remember if two pieces of the copper pyrite were struck together sparks were created.

Posted by Tim on 07/06/2011

I am sat in Schiphol airport, Amsterdam bored and waiting for a flight home, and am amazed that I have accidentally come across this website. It has captivated me for nearly an hour and brought back many memories! I promise to add more comments and fill in some gaps. Nice to hear from the Davis family!

Posted by HMD on 12/06/2011

Tim, I used to do some part time work for your dad in his greenhouses that were opposite the tillage works (Andertons). We made lawns down in Howden and dug out the sewerage ponds near the farm in the village. That was when I was not hoeing and singling sugar beet or bagging, delivering fertilizer to the farms with Harold F.

Posted by Tim on 07/08/2011

Residents by family name I think I remember from being a kid (circa mid to late-1960s).

Starting from near my dad's garage on the north side of the road: Walkers, Barlow, Kirby (Wilf), Tipping (Herbert), Tommy Palmer, Gamwell, Thompson (my family), Watson, Turnbull, Mell, Foster, Newman, Daly, Spivey, Thompson (Joe), (?), Newman, Joy, Branton, Carrington, Kirby (Archie), Hodgson, Baker, Paver, Brown and Todd, Beaumont, (?), Porteus. Jubilee Hall.

Starting from my dad's garage on the south side of the road: Wright, Collins, Davis, (?), Duffil, Abbey, Walker, (?), Bill (?) who had a garden opposite my house, (?) Featherstone, Myers, Simms, Turner, Middleton, Beaumont, Mell.

Struggle with New Row: Robinson, Kirby (Ginnie), Lawton, Waterhouse (Club), mother and daughter(?) on corner next to the Club, Coulthard, Tipping (Bert), Collins, resident pre Jack Paver. I also vaguely remember a terrace near the works offices and lab but not the residents (possibly Newman (Tommo)). Anybody fill the gaps? Thanks.

Posted by KWT on 10/08/2011

Not a bad memory Tim but like the rest of us getting old! Your gaps on north side are Hebden & Aklam. South side I remember Jeff and Brenda(?) Walker, next gap with garden opposite you was Bill Robinson, can't remember if there was another house between Bill and Featherstones.

Next to me there were two houses that had been knocked down in my very early years but Gordon and Kath Newman lived in one of them for a bit. I can't remember all New Row but there was certainly Hebdens (moved from across the road), Ernie Savage (he had a garden next to your dad's garage behind the sycamore tree), Walt and May? Collins, Mac and Vera Arnold, George Collins and his dad George(?) Phil and Lucy Lindley were at the far end.

I remember the terrace near the works office. You're right, Tommo did live there for some time and I think the Carringtons were there for a bit too. I think you missed the Smiths who lived in the house behind the riverbank that always flooded.

Posted by Caroline on 11/08/2011

Well that took some reading! The terrace house mentioned near the offices, is that the same Tommo as my dad Alan Newman? Went to Howdendyke recently, how it has changed.

Posted by Tim on 13/08/2011

Thanks for filling in the gaps. You're right we are all getting older and I can't believe I forgot those that I did. Does anybody remember the McQuillans (probably spelt it wrong)? I think the father was Irish and worked on Ouse Bridge construction. They lived for a short time in Prospect Villas and had a son Michael who was about my age.

Posted by HMD on 11/08/2011

G'day all you old Howdendykers. I wonder if any of the guys who used to work in the tillage works (Andertons) with me remember how we were each paid in notes and coin in a returnable very small tin box. Bit different now hey?

Posted by KWT on 15/08/2011

I don't suppose there are many of the blokes left who you might have worked with at Andertons, I can only think of Harold Foster, Bill Spivey, Trevor "Torchy" Walker, Archie Kirby and Phil Lindley, anybody else? I also have memories of Pete and his woolly hat. It doesn't seem that long ago that you'd see him marching to Howden with his shopping bag or to catch the "city" bus.

Posted by HMD on 28/03/2012

During my employment at Andertons, I can recollect six women working there. The first one worked sowing hessian bags, I don't remember her name but there was also Anne Coates in the sulphate bagging shed. The others all drove the Lister truck at various times, being Edith Beaton, Shirley Joy, Madge Peam and Patsy Watts.

Posted by HMD on 14/04/2012

My brother Cliff, lived in the village for a very short while before moving to Goole. I'd like to include him in this small Howdendyke synopsis.

He now lives with his wife in a small old gold mining village in Australia about the size of Howdendyke. His claim to fame in the Anderton Richardson factory history, is that as a youth he backed a lorry (that Harold Foster was the regular driver of) into a bottom shed pillar. This caused a great deal of damage to the lorry. Jack Wright (foreman) sacked him instantly. We do smile a lot about it now.

Posted by Helena on 25/08/2011

I lived in Howdendyke in the very early-1950s with my parents June and Ernie Kilbourne. Ernie worked for the Pillings, I thought as a farm labourer, perhaps I am wrong on that point. We had a tiny tied cottage, close to a shop. When my parents split, also in the early-1950s, my mother moved back to Hull. Mary Tipping (Howden Mary) was very good to my mum, who was very young at the time she lived there. We, as in my mother June, nanna, Lena Moran and uncle Sam Moran, made regular trips back to Howdendyke to visit Mary and her family. I best remember Mary and Denise and Avril. I made a trip back to Howdendyke yesterday with my friend Denise and it brought a mixture of emotions back.

Posted by Steve on 20/10/2011

Just found this page. Lived in Howdendyke for years, oh what good times were had! Lived in Prospect Villas and council houses.

Posted by HMD on 14/12/2011

Can one still walk along the riverbank from the old Boothferry Bridge to Howdendyke or Blacktoft? Also do wooden styles still exist periodically along the bank?

Posted by John on 16/12/2011

I haven't walked that route for years! The bit of riverbank past the jetties at Howdendyke might be blocked off but whether this is "proper" with diversion orders, etc. is not something I am up to date with. Maybe we have a few rambblers among the readers who can clarify the current situation? There used to be plenty of people around who walked, cycled and drove along the riverside road without let or hindrance for many years so whether the route was a public road or private to the "Chemics" would be academic since 20 years public usage would be enough to have established a public right of way. If anyone feels like a bit of work they could make a section 56 claim to East Riding Rights of Way department before the CROW act loses these old unclaimed rights of way.

Posted by KWT on 20/12/2011

I still regularly walk along these sections of riverbank from Saltmarshe to Goole and yes, there's still stiles on some sections. Except for the aforementioned section at Howdendyke and a short section under Skelton Railway Bridge everything is still accessible. I remember being told that the road between Kilpin Lodge corner and the Square was private but had to be barriered off for one day a year for this to apply. I'm sure it didn't apply as much as has been fenced off now.

Posted by John on 22/12/2011

I recall the story about the section of road from Kilpin Lodge to the old post office near the Jubilee Hall being private but I cannot recall that road ever being barred off.

Posted by David on 13/01/2012

I remember the road from the lodge corner through to the post office from the very early-1950s through to mid-1970s when I'd stay with gran during the holidays. There were never any barriers of any kind along that section although it was always reckoned to be a private section and the public road began again at the post office corner.

The road from where the jetties were just after the Square was in constant use unloading raw chemicals from barges - the stuff was toted round past Kilpin Lodge and into the factory via a gate on the public road with a pair of red Muir Hill dumper trucks. From memory Mac Arnold used to drive one of them. But the dumper traffic was one reason there were no gates or barriers.

Posted by HMD on 19/01/2012

It would be interesting to know how many Howdendyke residents (past and present) were actually born in the village. Our oldest daughter was born in the front room of 5 Prospect Villas. Incidentally, nurse Silverside from Howden was then the district midwife.

Posted by Caroline on 24/01/2012

Last week we took mother down to Howdendyke for a ride. One way in and one way out.

It was nice to see new row completed and lived in by what looks like families. Nice to see swings and a Wendy house in my Uncle Peter's garden, so good to know a new generation will grow up

in the village. Creek House is for sale and a barrier blocking off the road to the river. Have they claimed this as their land or bought it? It does not appear to be of any use and, as there was houses beyond Creek House, is there still a public right of way?

We then had a tour round Skelton and Laxton, finishing off at Gilberdyke. Mother enjoyed her trip down memory lane and how much it had changed.

Posted by Ginger on 27/01/2012

Can anyone remember all the pigeon lofts that used to be in the village?

Posted by Paul on 14/02/2012

I spent many happy days staying with my granny Gertie Watson at 8 Ferry Road (council houses) from around about 1965 to early-1970s. I was virtually a permanent resident in school holidays and for a school term or two whilst my parents were in the process of moving house from Howden to Brough and in order for me to finish off that particular school year (1969 I think).

Gertie (Gertrude Florence) had eight children, my dad Eric being one of them. At the time I was there, her two youngest had not flown the nest, they being my uncles Barry and Trevor. Granny Watson was also responsible for the care of my Grandad Harold who had suffered a stroke/seizure some years previously and had been impaired with short term memory problems.

I was very good friends with Tim Thompson who lived next door with his mum and dad and two brothers. We were schoolmates having attended Howden Infant and Junior Schools. I also remember Keith Turner, Paul Myers and Andrew Kirby as being fellow playmates. Also Pete Baker who lived at Creek House, his dad Bill being "Andertons" works manager.

I remember regular visits to Connie's shop spending 3d on blackjacks or fruit salads. I remember going to the old post office on the riverbank to buy paraffin, sweets, etc. Phyllis Porteous (nee Mell) was there then, and always had a kind word.

We played cricket in the summer in the field behind Prospect. Anywhere near the river was always a good spot to play. We were all a bit wild and left to do our own thing and I will always remember those happy days.

Posted by KWT on 21/02/2012

I think the cricket pitch in the back field must have been the most hazardous pitch ever played on, I'm surprised nobody got seriously hurt. I also remember playing footy at the garages until neighbours got annoyed by the noise, but as you say, the river was always a good place.

Posted by Dave on 21/02/2012

With you talking about the old days. I'm wondering if you still have the old Lambretta with the very long aerial and tiger's tail? You used to belt up and down the road on it, past Hail Mill.

Posted by KWT on 24/02/2012

Might be wrong here but your description sounds more like Dave, Tim's brother. I'm sure Tim will confirm although I'm also sure Tim will remember belting down the lane to Kilpin on Jacko's old moped with a "squeezy" bottle as a petrol tank. Those were the days!

Posted by Paul on 28/02/2012

It's great to hear from you both, after 40 odd years. I think you are right Keith, it was Dave who had the Lambretta an SX200 if I remember correctly. Tim can no doubt confirm this.

I still make occasional visits to Howdendyke as I do not live too far away. It is depressing what has happened to the fabric of the village, eg. Jubilee Hall, the post office, the Square, Prospect

Villas. Prof J. Douglas Porteous's book is indeed very eloquent on the subject. It is a good read for anyone associated with Howdendyke though I might venture the opinion that it might be somewhat esoteric for anyone else.

Posted by Tim on 02/03/2012

The Lambretta was my brother Dave's, as Keith says, but we did all have some great fun on old mopeds, motorbikes and scooters down Ginny Lane with Stuart and Ricky Jackson. I did at one time have Jeff Featherstone's old Vespa which at one time was connected to the duck-head sidecar - the one mentioned in an earlier input by someone. I think Shane Tipping had it after me.

Posted by HMD on 06/03/2012

You were about six years of age when we left the village but I wonder if you remember our Ian (same age) from Prospect Villas? You used to come to the place and play with dinky cars and sometimes take 'em home. Ha! Ha! Happy days, eh?

I worked casual sometimes with your dad and remember well the small Ransom caterpillar tractor that he owned. He paid me five bob an hour. He also taught me how to use a scythe to cut down long grass.

Posted by Dave on 08/03/2012

You were right about the Lambretta, it was your brother I was thinking of, now I come to remember. I think you and my sister Sue were the same vintage and knew each other at school? Another memory jogged was the Vespa scooter and sidecar, mentioned earlier, was blue and white. I thought it was a fascinating machine but have never seen another one since.

I've only ever been back to Howden and Hail Mill once since 1970 and of course there were many changes, but reading this column has rekindled my interest.

Posted by HMD on 14/02/2012

Am I correct in stating Kath Turner became Mrs Cliff Hill? Not that it matters much but I used to go rabbit shooting over the local fields with Cliff and Arthur. Kath lived two or three doors away from us.

I did a bit of hoeing and singling sugar beet as well as pea pulling, potato riddling, corn cutting and stooking in the same mentioned fields. All this with a bit of work with Alan Thompson and full time at Andertons tillage works as well.

Posted by KWT on 21/02/2012

On the button about Kath, that's my mother. She was married to Bill as I'm sure you know, who died in 1959, then married Cliff in 1963. He died in 1987 and Kath passed away in 2004. I assume you're on about Arthur the crane driver, he lived in Asselby and was K & C's best man.

Posted by Vicki on 06/04/2012

Creek House - many happy years there! Bill and Joan Baker (grandad and grandma), Peter Baker (uncle), Sue Baker (mum). Many happy memories of Creek House and Howdendyke.

Posted by Caroline on 20/04/2012

Vicki, one thing I remember was climbing that wall to listen to your uncle Peter play his music. The wall is still there, bit worse for wear now so don't think it would be a good idea to risk climbing it now. Bit strange all that area now with the road cut off to the bank where the post office was.

Posted by Jason on 26/06/2012

I live in Creek House, we've been in the village for about nine years now and love it here. As there's been a few comments asking, I put the gate up across the road that goes down to the riverbank where the willows used to be, mainly to stop people dumping stuff down there, especially cars! I bought part of the land, the road off the factory, a few years ago but haven't got round to doing anything with it. Most of the villagers with dogs still walk back through there on a round trip. Not a problem unless you're on a top of a wall when they sneak up on you like Mick Daly did to me!

Posted by HMD on 07/07/2012

It's sad to read of the changes to the old village, including your installation of the gate, but I agree that people must have their choices.

In the distant past I walked with my family (through where you say your gates is) on a few nice summer Sunday mornings to get ice cream from Boothferry Mayphil cafe. So reading your last post brought back memories of watching the odd little sail boats go up to Blacktoft Jetty on our walk too.

Posted by Sally on 04/07/2012

I was so interested to read all the entries. My grandparents, Joe and May Thompson, lived in Howdendyke, in Ouse Cottage for many years, and I have many lovely childhood memories of spending time in the village in the 1970s, meeting the people who lived there, and going on "adventures" in the countryside with my Grandpa Joe. My grandpa grew up in the village, with his parents, brother Tom and sister Aimee.

My mum Janet (Joe's daughter) was born in Ouse Cottage in 1938. Sadly she passed away in 1987. Her cousin Mary (Tom's daughter) also grew up in the village until they moved to Bradford, I believe. Also, a very good family friend, who became my godmother, also lived there - her married name was Mollie Urwin, but I believe that her maiden name may have been Watson. She lived in Hull after marriage, and passed away in 2010 at wonderful age of 97. I also remember a few other names, Connie and Bill Watson, Joan and Jim Holt, and Annie Wright.

I live in South Wales, and I haven't been to Howdendyke for many years, so it's great to relive some old memories!

Posted by John on 20/06/2013

Molly Urwin (nee Watson) was my dad's (Eric) cousin. I remember as a child visiting Molly and Harry's house in Tavistock Street on Newland Avenue in Hull.

I am starting to trace my family tree, any info on Molly and her family in Howdendyke/Kilpin Pike would be gratefully received. My paternal grandfather George Watson is being listed as born in Kilpin Pike in 1881. Thanks.

Posted by Pam on 24/10/2012

Does anyone remember Joan and Jim Holt who lived in Studley House on Howdendyke Road? Joan was a teacher at the primary school in Howden in the late-1950s/early-1960s, and Jim worked at the chemical works. They had three children, Ann who sadly died in the early-1950s, and two sons Neil and Nigel. Joan's parents lived at the mill down the road. My mum always used to tell me there was a huge pike in the millpond. My mum was Alice Saltmarshe of Howden and her parents were Nellie and Bill Saltmarshe who lived in Hull Road Avenue.

Posted by John on 02/11/2012

I remember the Holts well. They started off at 6 Ferry Road in the village then moved to Studley House. Joan and Jim have long passed. You are right that Joan's parents were the Pollards who lived at Kilpin in the old wind driven water pump house behind Sunny Bank. The pump used to pump water to the chemical works from the flooded clay pit alongside. They must have lived there for years as it was known to all and sundry as Pollards Pond.

Posted by Pam on 03/11/2012

Joan's mother was my granny Nell's cousin. My mum, dad and sister spent many happy holidays at Studley House. After Jim's death in the mid-1980s, Joan moved to a new bungalow in Hailgate Close and died a few years later. Studley House has been up for sale a few times since they left, and if my lottery ticket comes up trumps, it's mine!

Posted by Dave on 16/01/2013

I used to ride into Howden everyday with Neil and Nigel, and we left our bikes in a shed behind a pub (the name escapes me), before catching the bus to school in Goole. Strange that in all those years I don't think I ever met Mr and Mrs Holt.

I too heard the story about "the giant pike" in the pond!

Posted by Corby on 09/12/2012

I have always believed that there has never been enough history available of this village considering the very large amount of ships built there. The Porteous book only touched lightly on John Banks and William Caisley's success story.

My interest was with two of my ancestors Joseph Auckland and John Chester, both shipwrights who moved from Thorne to take part in this project. The only visible evidence now on the river is the two promontories (now called Mother Shipton's Stones(?)). I am told these were to create a haven in which vessels moored up. I remember seeing prints and sketches on the walls of the Jolly Sailor of some of the ships, so there was someone anxious to make their mark for future interest.

Posted by Caroline on 12/12/2012

I wonder what happened to those pictures in the Jolly Sailor?

Posted by Corby on 13/12/2012

I have asked that question many times. Probably Ebay or the likes. The curator at Goole Museum has told me of most unlikely items for sale there for a trivial amount appear online.

Posted by Doug on 10/02/2013

Now then. I'm Doug Porteous the author of "Planned to Death", and I have just been directed to this fascinating site. I have no plans to produce a second book about Howdendyke, but someone else should. Then the Dyke will be the most written-about village in the district.

I know most of the village names for the 1950s because I lived at the post office 1943-62 and took the mail round the village from about age eight. I did put some stories in my book but I can see from this website that there are a lot more for someone to put together: homing pigeons; getting stuck in the river mud; climbing the pylon on the Ferry House staithe and being chased down by Harry Smith; Harry opening and closing the clough; threshing at Anson's farm; the two white farmhorses out to grass; playing Howden kids at cricket (they were abusive when they lost so we stampeded the horses to give them a fright); mushrooming in Black Shed field, at the back of Vernie Jessop's greenhouses; frogspawning in that same field; skating on the grips in the back field; swinging from the Bent Tree in that field; going to Sunny Bank (Pollard's Pond) via the

Fallen Tree behind the allotments; roaming the fields with Cliff Coulthard of Sunny Bank; characters like Ernest Savage, Tommy Palmer (who told me, when I worked at the shipyard, "I'm akin to thou," and he was), Mary Brammer, and the guy in Prospect Villas who grew tobacco; HBT 90; Bonzo the dog; Holt's last bus from Goole, stopping at Elm Tree; being totally free to run about with other kids of both sexes all day without let or hindrance; trespassing in the Chemics and on the barges at the jetties; Mischievous Night November 4th; Bonfire Night in the Square, November 5th; going birds nesting; watching Bert Tipping climb to the top of enormous trees and dropping crows' eggs down into a loose jacket so they wouldn't break; going for waterhens' eggs with a spoon on the end of a brush handle; etc. The kind of freedom which rarely exists today, with all the fear and Health and Safety.

Some individual messages...

John: I remember you well, and once worked in your dad's greenhouse; thanks for being the basic fount of knowledge for the village. Keep writing.

Caroline: I remember your mother Carmen and her dog Susie, as well as her sister opposite the PO from where I got my first kitten.

David: Amazed you remember my bike! It was a ten-speed Carleton (made in Barton-on-Humber?) and I saved up 30 quid to buy it (no tick, then, except at the PO.)

Paul Watson: I sang alongside your dad in Howden Minster choir for many a year.

HMF: If Phyllis Mell at the PO was your great-aunt, I should know you, but can't work out the initials.

A Happy New Year 2013 to all Howdendykers.

Posted by HMD on 14/02/2013

Doug Porteous. Thanks for your detailed memories.

Posted by John on 20/02/2013

It's good to hear you are reading this group. I didn't recall you working for my dad until you prompted my memory. I do recall catching the school bus to Goole having left our bikes in Tommy Whittaker's garage in Hailgate each weekday.

Also I recall the three "dykemen" in waders who used to appear each year to clean out the dykes with shovels, scythes and hard work. Jim Winter, Ira Hutton and Derek Wales were known to everyone. Tiny Sherburn kept the roads clean and scythed the verges over an area covering Howden to Yokefleet which was many miles of roads. Walt Flint ran his mobile shop which called in the villages of the area, selling groceries. That was an Aladdin's cave on wheels! There was also a fishman in a van who called selling wet fish once a week. I recall a fried fish shop on wheels but I don't think it survived long due to trade being low. Also Doubtfires and Massarellas ice cream vans used to visit the village regularly. Milk deliveries daily to the door by a man called Ledger from Cotness was another service which started up when TB testing was introduced and farm supplied straight from the cow deliveries stopped.

Randy Lightowler was a regular visitor to the lighthouses on the riverbank and used to row across to a light on the opposite bank. No automatic electric lights involved just paraffin lamps which needed topping up and wicks trimming winter and summer.

There must be a few books of memories that could be written but somehow (and sadly) it just doesn't happen.

Posted by Sue on 21/02/2013

Pleased I have found this site, so interesting. My dad was George Habblett. His family has lived around Howden for many years. I went to Spaldington School when Miss Jessop was there. I have four sisters, Val, Christine, (me), Janet and Sandra. My mum was Margaret (nee Giles). We lived at Sandwood Villas. I can remember playing with Yvonne Potter on her farm. My sister Chris had a friend called Elizabeth Cook who just lived up the road. My dad worked for Bill Webster on the farm. I remember living at Bow Window(?) farm. It was on the side of the main road. We left in 1965, we are planning a trip up soon.

Posted by CRW on 26/02/2013

Came across this site by accident, fascinating. We lived in Howdendyke in the early-1950s. My sister was born in Prospect Villas. Went to Jubilee Hall to watch the coronation.

My uncle Herbert and my auntie Eleanor (Wressell) lived for many years at 2 New Row. He worked at the Chemics works, had a car which he garaged in the pig yard, as did Walt Collins, the entrance to which was opposite the shop, which was run by Mrs Branton. My uncle had an allotment at the beginning of the village on the left, next to the road to Skelton, and, if I remember rightly, opposite the allotments, the first house in the village where Wendy Walker lived.

Sometime prior to the Chemical works buying the houses on New Row, Dinky Myers moved in next door to Herbert.

Just as an aside, the ten speed bike at the post office was bought for me by my auntie.

Posted by HMD on 17/06/2013

I now know that Prospect Villas has been destroyed. I wonder if a note that I left in a crack in the stairs of No. 5 was ever found by the demolition crew? I left the note in February 1965 before leaving the country.

Posted by HMD on 19/07/2013

Does anyone know where to find the source, course, and the end of the actual Howdendyke dyke? Thanks.

Posted by John on 07/09/2013

I believe it was originally the old Derwent. I understand it left the present river Derwent just north of Loftsome Bridge where the pumping station stands now and made its way from there to Howden and then to Howdendyke. There is a book in Goole library with some information in it. I think from memory it was by Ken Powls.

Other drainage ditches joined it in Howden before it reached Howdendyke plus "Husbandmens Drain" joined it near the bridge next to Creek House. This latter drain ran under a bridge from farmland around Wardles garage on the main road.

The bridge by Creek House had a sluice gate with a crank to operate it plus a pair of tidal doors to prevent tidal flow back into the dyke when the river level rose. This was to stop silting up of the dykes.

Sometime around the 1950s a large bore concrete pipe was installed from where the pumping station now is to an outfall adjacent to the ferry slipway. I seem to recall it had a grating at the inland end and the pumping station was an afterthought.

Once the flow through the creek had been bypassed it steadily silted up and only the steel flood fence gives a hint it was ever there.

Posted by John on 02/12/2015

I revisited the reference library in Goole to refresh my memory and my reading revealed the Derwent has had quite a number of different routes throughout the passing of time. The present route between Loftsme Bridge and the Ouse at Barmby was cut during the Roman occupation. Apparently as a waterway for barge traffic which shared some of the water in the Derwent from its upper reaches in North Yorkshire. Until then the Derwent had run from Loftsme across to Howden Parks, snaked its way almost to Hive and turned to discharge into the Ouse south of Kilpin. This might refer to Kilpin Pike? The Howden Dyke was dug from Howdendyke creek to Howden, along the line of Hailgate, across the front of the Cross Keys and met with the waters of the Derwent to the North of Derwent Estate.

I couldn't find a definitive timescale for the widening and deepening of the Loftsme to Barmby section and the reversing of flow in the drainage at Loftsme.

There seems to have been some use of the Howden to Howdendyke section for transportation of goods especially for ecclesiastical work. Perhaps the Staithes at Howdendyke (Bishops Staith, Wards Staith, etc.) were instrumental in this traffic?

Posted by Kirk on 29/09/2013

Great to find this page. I used to stay in Howdendyke at my gran's, Elsie Robinson, who lived opposite from the post office/shop. I remember the post office having a distinct smell all of its own. I can still smell it now, one of those childhood things that never goes. I recall my gran used to work as a cleaner at the chemical works, and she would take me to the lab a few times just to see the human skull that was there. My father, Kenneth Robinson, also grew up there.

Posted by John on 12/01/2014

I have seen some old maps of Howdendyke. One in particular shows the village around 1880 with the old post office, the Anchor Inn which became Cliff and Jenny Kirby's house and the houses in and around the Chemics and the Square, many of which were demolished prior to the 1950s.

Posted by Corby on 22/07/2013

I don't know if this is any help to your research. On the 1871 census of Kilpin at 45 Ratten Row "The Anchor Inn" there lived:

John Watson 76 Coal Merchant
Eliza his Wife 53
Thomas son 33 Out of work Millwright
Ann France 73 Servant

I found this for next door at 46 was George Moore cordwainer and wife Olive nee Wright (my grand-aunt). George and Olive emigrated to Toronto followed later by the rest of their family.

Other notable names that lived in the street

Brunyee
Schofield
Claybourn

Posted by HMD on 18/02/2014

I assume Howdendyke was flooded at some time before the protection was installed on the riverbanks. Is it known if or when? Thanks.

Posted by John on 21/02/2014

Howdendyke often suffered minor flooding in the vicinity of the Square but every house with potential of suffering from rising water had a flood board ready cut to install across the doorway. A stock of clay was available near the Chemics air raid shelter and this was used as a seal between the board and the doorway.

The riverbanks were raised significantly in the 1950s/60s and the sheet steel pile walls driven into them. Only Bunny Smith's house on the staithe and the office of Scarrs Shipyard were "wetside" of the raised defences. There was a gap left in the sheet piles with concrete piers and drop in boards to close the gaps in the event of exceptional tides. One was just over the hill of Creek Bridge and it was this one which was reported upon recently. I suspect the problem would lie in decay of the old boards. The second gap was adjacent to Scarrs Shipyard but the building of the glucose refinery saw this removed along with the shipyard buildings and a new section of sheet pile wall created.

There was also serious flooding in the spring of 1947 with large tracts of low-lying land between Howdendyke and Howden when massive pumps were brought up from Portsmouth to get snow melt water out of the Howden dyke into the Ouse faster than the Creek discharge could handle it.

Posted by Hayley on 23/03/2014

Does anyone know when the nine terraced houses which are now called New Row were built? I live in one of them and can't find the information anywhere. Thanks.

Posted by John on 07/04/2014

I'm guessing a bit but the old style deeds for properties often went back hundreds of years. New Row was owned by the "Chemics" as workers houses for many years but I don't know if they are mentioned in Doug Porteus' book "Planned to Death". He did a lot of research in the company files and may have turned up the information.

Posted by HMD on 30/08/2014

Any idea whereabouts the air raid shelter in the tillage (Chemics) works was?

Posted by John on 09/09/2014

The air raid shelter was behind the gardens of the houses in the Square that faced the riverbank. It used to run parallel to the line of the houses and had entrances at either end facing away from the houses. There were vents on the top as well which I believe was normal but might have caused difficulty if a bomb had dropped through one.

Posted by HMD on 31/01/2015

Were any of the fields around Howdendyke flooded via the use of weirs in the riverbank? The fields then being left fallow for a period of time. I am aware "night soil" was used as fertilizer also.

Posted by Robert on 01/02/2015

Wikipedia on "Warping in Agriculture" is a good starting point, in particular its link to a very informative 1845 article by Ralph Creyke, although this is more about the lands south of the river rather than Howdendyke specifically.

Posted by John on 07/02/2015

Warping was carried out in many agricultural areas. Gaps were created in the riverbanks and the high tides allowed to inundate the fields over several tides. The nutrient laden silt carried in the water would settle out, the water drain away and the soil in the field left enriched. Often

flood limiting banks would be built some distance from the river to control how far the flooding could reach.

Good examples can be seen in the Blacktoft area where the old warping channel remains and raised field boundaries can also be seen.

Posted by Alan on 21/11/2016

I farm land at Blacktoft which was banked off to stop it being warped. My late father told me of a disagreement between its then owners and the Empsons estate of Yokefleet who warped much of their own land in Blacktoft and Yokefleet. As a result the unwarped fields are lower lying and less fertile than they would have been even to this day!

Posted by Lynne on 31/12/2015

At this time of terrible flooding I found this site as I remembered my grandmother, Edith Thompson (nee Coggrave) saying that the river did flood occasionally and all the villagers had to lend a neighbourly hand to move furniture upstairs. My mother, Mary Letourneux (nee Thompson) lived in Ouse Cottage before moving to Bradford with her husband, Lucien, her parents Edith and Tom Thompson and son Roger.

I had lovely holidays there with my great-aunt and uncle, May and Joe Thompson. I too enjoyed playing with my brother there in the fields and near Elm Tree house. We really enjoyed going to the sweet shop in the village and also sliding down haystacks at the farm. Everyone always told me that I looked just the same as mum when she was a girl there. My godmother was her best friend, Ida Hopley (nee Jackson) who lived opposite her in the village. I am now godmother to Matthew Morgan, great-grandson of May and Joe Thompson, as coincidentally, like Sally, I married a Welshman with the surname Morgan and now live in South Wales.

I really enjoyed reading Doug Porteus' book on Howdendyke as many of the names were familiar as both my mother and grandmother often talked about their memories of village life there.

Posted by John on 12/01/2017

In connection with Sunny Bank pond and windpump attached, I recall this from the 1950s when the Pollards lived there. The pump was driven by wind and pumped water from the pond to the Anderton chemical works in Howdendyke. The pipe ran along the roadside, passing Elm Bungalow, Elm Tree Gardens, Elm Tree House and Studley House along the way. The bungalow, Elm Tree House and Studley House were owned by the works and had branches off the pipe to be supplied with water. Elm Tree Gardens had a branch with permission to use the water in return for making sure cattle troughs in the adjacent field were kept full.

The windpump failed eventually and an electric pump took its place but as mains water became available it was no longer used.

I believe Brian Jackson became the owner sometime in the 1970s and he had the old house renovated plus filled in a large section of the pond which used to extend close to the door of the windpump and the front of the house. This must have vastly improved safety of walking out of the door.

For a while I lived in Elm Tree Bungalow so I'm fairly familiar with the pond and windpump. Sunny Bank Cottages have been extensively altered but originally there were six dwellings if my memory serves correctly.

Knedlington

Knedlington has an old hall and brown brick-walled and rich red-pantiled farm buildings.



It is famous for Knedlington crossroads, a notorious accident spot. This village is the start of the country road leading to Barmby-on-the-Marsh. Unless you are cycling, it is a three-mile dead end leading to the nature reserve at the River Derwent.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Heather on 03/08/2007

On discovering my ancestors lived in Knedlington and Barmby, we paid it a visit. Knedlington Hall is where my great-great-grandfather (Edward THOMPSON) lived in the mid-1800s. What a lovely, quiet hamlet. It was a Sunday, so nobody was about. He must have met his wife (Anne Twigg) on the ferry as she lived across the river from Barmby at Scurff Hall. Still researching, but they had quite a few children, one of them being Robert (my great-grandfather).

Posted by Betty on 22/11/2008

The old hall was a fascinating structure. My ancestors used to live there many years back.

Posted by Diane on 19/01/2009

Yes, the hall is just great! My great-grandfather laid one of the first stones there.

Posted by John on 15/12/2009

Knedlington crossroads used to have a magnificent stone edifice with a water trough and a brass drinking fountain. The trough had an inscription over it which used to say "drink weary traveller and give to thy cattle also". This edifice was removed during road alterations and vanished from the face of the earth. What is there on the corner now is a cobbled up poor modern substitute.

Posted by Anne on 25/07/2013

I have in my possession a photo of the drinking trough at Knedlington crossroads. The photo was found when we were clearing out my grandmother's house some years ago. It is not a snapshot but a proper mounted photo. I have no idea who the lady was and have been trying for some years to find a connection. My grandmother's maiden name was Clarke and I know the Clarkes owned the Manor but I have not found a link. My grandmother was born near Bedale in North Yorkshire and her father George was born in Thorner. They were not a wealthy family and were employed as tradesmen in the brewing industry. Why she had the photo I do not know. Any help out there?

The drinking fountain at the crossroads has the date 1901 on it and a coat of arms, as well as the inscription "drink weary traveller etc." it says "In Loving Memory THOMAS SINCLAIR CLARKE of Knedlington Manor." A very prosperous looking lady is posing in front of the

trough in Edwardian dress with two very large dogs and in her hand is a stick with a turned end like a walking stick. I wondered if she was the widow of Thomas Sinclair Clarke?

Posted by John on 15/12/2009

No one has mentioned the old Manor at Knedlington which was demolished. Last time I looked the base was still visible and some of the garden walls and an attached cottage which was occupied by Billy Andrews and his family when I was a teenager. There were extensive rhododendron bushes which had run amok surrounding an ornate fish pond as well.

The old hall used to be occupied by a Mr Waudby (Jarb). It was said that somewhere in the hall property there was an opening into the (alleged) tunnel from Howden Church to Wressle Castle. This tunnel was a regular talking point amongst the local children but I never knew anyone who had personally been into it and thinking logically the water table of the area is high which would mean the tunnel would have been almost continually flooded if it really existed at all. Maybe someone can tell me otherwise?

Old Mrs Kemp used to come from the cafe to my aunt's to help with the kitchen duties when we had a pig killing day at Elm Tree. Jack Moore, the Howden butcher, would come and do the killing and cutting up in our shed until around 1955 when we stopped keeping pigs.

Posted by Old Hall Occupier on 10/04/2010

Knedlington Old Hall in its present form is believed to have been built around 1660-1670.

In 1851 Knedlington Old Hall was occupied by Edward Thompson, farmer of 230 acres, his wife Ann, their six children, three female house servants and two male farm servants. The Thompsons were still there in 1861, but by 1871 the tenancy had been taken by Thomas Fentiman. He and his wife Elizabeth lived at Old Hall with their son John, a young nephew, John Keniwell, a governess, three farm servants and one domestic servant.

By 1891 the Old Hall was lived in by Richard Barker, farmer, his wife Elizabeth, a domestic servant and three farm servants. The Barkers were still living in Knedlington, presumably at the Old Hall, in 1901. A survey of 1910 names Cyrus Howden as tenant of the farm.

Cyril Blea of Asselby worked at the Old Hall Farm from 1940 to 1963, the year before the Old Hall was "modernised" internally in 1964. Cyril Blea recalls that the Old Hall had a bathroom and internal plumbing fitted in 1941. Cyril lived in the Old Hall for some time, I think he married during his occupancy there. The farm manager was William Waudby.

From 1964 to 2001 the Old Hall was occupied by Ken Everatt. Ken said there was a secret passage somewhere in the house.

Cyrus Howden's wife was a Backhouse - of the same family that had or has a garage at Airmyn - and lived at Prickett Hill Farm between Wressle and Brind, now demolished. Apparently there is a bound book containing a history of Knedlington and the Old Hall and it was in the care of the Backhouse family. The book was not included in the auction sale of the contents of Prickett Hill Farm when it was about to be demolished and its whereabouts is unknown.

If anyone has any information about this book, or any bits of information about the Old Hall I would be very interested to hear. Thanks.

Posted by Wendy on 20/04/2010

On researching my family, I find that William and Sarah THOMPSON were my great-great-grandparents and had links to Knedlington Old Hall. Would love to know more about my family tree. Thanks.

Posted by Matt on 30/10/2010

My grandfather was Billy Andrew (mentioned above). He was gardener for the Manor House, and married Margaret (who was the cook). They lived in the Manor Cottage, which apparently used to be the laundry for the old Manor before it was demolished. They lived there for many happy years with their children, Clive and Wendy (my mum). I still remember Manor Cottage very clearly, as they lived there until I was about eight years old. I remember the old woods around the property, and the rather spooky "horse memorial" hidden in the woods. Does anyone know if it's still there?

Posted by John on 13/11/2010

Matt, I went to school with your dad and often went to your Knedlington grandparents' house. We used to roam around the gardens but I cannot remember a horse memorial. I do remember learning to milk a goat there, a skill I put to use later when we bought a nanny goat of our own. If my memory serves me correctly, Paul's first vehicle was an ex-post office van and I went with him and your mum on a number of outings, Plumpton Rocks springs to mind as one.

Posted by Bernard on 31/01/2011

The old house was not knocked down it was burnt down - I watched it. After 40 plus years I visited Knedlington. The base and the daffodils are still there.

Posted by Janet on 02/02/2015

Regarding the old hall, my father lived in the hall as a farm horseman from the age of fourteen. He worked on the farm until about 1963. While working on the farm he met and married my mother, she worked on the farm as a land girl. His name was Cyril Blee, he spoke highly of Mrs Howden. There was also Cyrus who was dad's boss. My dad had happy times whilst working on the farm even though it was hard work walking behind the horses all day. When they married mum and dad lived in the farm cottage for a while.

Posted by Wendy on 24/05/2013

Does anyone know where the Anchor Pub was or if it still stands as a dwelling or building in Knedlington? The Waterhouse family were the Innkeepers in the mid- to late-1800s and I believe it is the same Waterhouse family that also had the Black Swan Inn at Asselby 1851-71.

Posted by Corby on 25/05/2013

I have just travelled along the road to Asselby on Google Maps. Orchard Cottage is still there, east of what once was Pinfold Lane but now a track. The first dwelling is Newcroft which may have been a farm house, followed by what I believe to be the old Anchor Inn, now a private dwelling. Large flagstones are the forecourt and in a prominent position is a large white shield. Perhaps it contained an Anchor at some time? The next dwelling westward appears to carry the name Yellow Cottage. I hope this helps

Posted by Django on 03/07/2013

I find this area amazing in its richness of history. I knew a family who lived there very well. Their names were Bessie and Henry A. Mack and their daughter Ethne. Henry's father was Joseph Mack and his wife Rebecca lived there with them for many years. They survived the tough war years with their relatives the Ball family. Most were born in Scunthorpe or Goole. They have talked about some very interesting times at the Old Hall and the surrounds.

Laxton

Estate associated with a man called "Leaxa", Old English personal name + -ing- + tun: Laxton East Riding of Yorkshire. Laxinton 1086 (Domesday Book)

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Out-of-the-way, and a tranquil place, it lies in leisurely lanes in the marshes near the Ouse. Of its church, said to have been refashioned by three sisters of Charles Stuart's day, only the chancel is left, lighted by a 14th Century east window and sheltered by a beech. On the other side of the road is the modern church, with an unusual window to Blanche Saltmarshe of 1880; it shows a kneeling figure in a purple mantle, four angels and a figure ascending, and rays of light falling on a city.

A mile-long lane bounding one side of the fine park of Saltmarshe Hall ends at the pretty hamlet which hugs the river bank. We can drive through the park. There were Saltmarshes living hereabouts in Norman times, and a Saltmarshe was here when we called.

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee



Laxton is quite a large village with a lovely church and a roadside chapel. It has its own railway station, making it only five minutes away from Goole, but many miles by road. The transpennine cycle path runs through the village, with the pub providing welcome relief for tired feet.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Richard on 24/03/2008

I am currently researching my family tree and have managed so far to get back to circa 1777. My great(x4)-grandfather was William DRIFFILL who was a blacksmith in the village of Laxton as well as keeping a pub called the Cross Keys. He died circa 1842 and I believe that he was buried in Laxton along with his wife (Jane NORTH circa 1783-1834).

Can anyone give me any information to assist me in tracing further back in history? Thanks.

Posted by Norma on 28/05/2008

I am looking for relatives of the late Mary SMART. I believe she was born in the Laxton area and was in service at Saltmarshe Hall during the mid-1800s. Mary Smart is my great-grandmother, and I am most anxious to find her relatives. Mary married a gentleman by the name of Henry WOOD. Thanks.

Posted by Peter on 31/07/2009

My great-grandfather, George LEETHAM, is described in the 1881 census as a wheelwright, the family living at the post office, Laxton. The 1841 census shows him as a one-year-old, in a family where my great-great-grandfather, Aran (Aaron?) Leetham, is shown as born in 1811. I would be grateful for any additional information, such as the existence of marriage, christening and burial records. Thanks.

Posted by John on 21/08/2010

Despite not being a Laxton resident, I had contacts with various people who were. Maurice Thompson ran the village shop/post office for many years and took a regular supply of tomatoes from my father's market garden when they were in season. Maurice had a dark green van with sliding doors which was a regular sight all over the area.

Laurie Fox was the village blacksmith and had been apprenticed to the trade at Scarrs shipyard in Howdendyke along with my father. They remained good friends until Laurie died. Laurie's apprentice, Herbert Martin, took over the blacksmith shop business.

In later years, Bill Bray took Northside Farm and often told tales of the considerable amount of work required to bring the old house up to habitable standard. He ran it as a pig unit and arable farm before handing over to his son Dave who still farms there with his family. Bill was a local councillor on Boothferry Council and was mayor for a part of that time.

Posted by Sarah on 28/10/2010

I came across the website by mistake, however Herbert Martin is my great-uncle!

Posted by David on 25/10/2011

My grandfather, George Watts, was a groom at Metham Hall Farm in 1910. My mother was born in 1911, her birth was registered in Howden. I wondered if she was born at the farm?

Posted by Kirsty on 28/12/2011

I too am related to George Watts, although a little more distantly, and would be very interested to see if you could help sort out a few tangled branches of my family tree in relation to George Watts of Metham Hall Farm. Thanks

Posted by Paul on 03/08/2013

My uncle was station master at Laxton during the 1950s. I cannot be more specific with the date. His name was Arthur Atkinson, his wife Enid and sons Peter and Barry (my cousins). I remember spending a long idyllic holiday with my brother Terry on the station, an experience never to be forgotten.

Posted by Jim on 26/12/2015

I used to catch the train to Hull in the mid-1950s as I worked on a farm in Yokefleet. One of the farm workers was called Arthur, he lived at Laxton and I remember he suffered with gall stones - until he had them out. I remember he/wife had a baby in 1956. He always wore a black beret. Silly post this, but someone may recognise Arthur!

Ousefleet

Usefleete 1100-8. "(Place at) the channel of the River Ouse". Old English fleot.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Ousefleet is very much like Reedness, only smaller and quieter. Dominating the skyline are two huge pylons which carry the National Grid across the river. It also has a large lighthouse marking the hazard of Whitgift Ness mud and sandbanks.

A new bench was built here to mark the millennium - not as impressive as the Dome, but a hell of a lot cheaper.



There is an important RSPB nature reserve, Blacktoft Sands, just outside the village. The reed, grasses and mud where the Ouse meets the Trent, is a haven for birds such as goldeneye, smew, hen harriers, whooper swans and short-eared owls.

Visitor Comments

Posted by KH on 23/01/2006

Yippee! On Friday we move to Ousefleet - leaving too many years of town and city living behind us for rural bliss and (hopefully) friendly neighbours. We can't wait!

Posted by Rosemary on 12/08/2008

I lived in Ousefleet until I was eighteen years old. I still go back there to see family. There are lovely walks along the riverbank and down the lane. Pace of life is so much slower. New people have moved into the village now, I used to know everyone there.

Posted by George on 24/11/2009

Ah yes! I too grew up there, well Whitgift actually. Used to have great fun in the tree den down the lane. Was saddened by a resident to the village telling me that there was nothing to do for her children, they don't know they are born. Great spot always has been always will be.

Posted by Debra on 13/09/2010

George, it must be 25 years since I saw you last. Ousefleet School was the best. I lived in Adlingfleet and when I was twelve, in 1978, I moved to Reedness. I have lived in Lincolnshire for the last 20 some years but I still think back on these places with great childhood memories.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 04/05/2010

Scheduled Ancient Monument West of Ousefleet hamlet/village, i.e., once a fortified manor house of Hall Garth:

On a O.S. map (satellite view) grid ref.SE 8250229 (3), this shows what was a moated area with two enclosed islands both with stone foundations and Sir John de-Usflete's rejected special Christian Chapel was once there.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 09/06/2010

In a recent book titled "Map Addict" it mentions that Ousefleet and area contains absolutely nothing. Although my wife has not been in the area, I have a few times, and found it to be a very nice place to be and walk about, including Whitgift and other areas on the other side of Ousefleet, eg. Adlingfleet. If a person also knows something of the area's history then it is more of an interesting place to know of and visit.

In 2001 it was confirmed by OS Maps that a grid square behind our house and in front of their farm contained the least detail of any in Great Britain. Some residents were interviewed by the media and the story was featured by, amongst others, the Guardian and the BBC¹.

I found the area very peaceful and, to those who know something about its past and certain people from there who became quite substantial in the formation of England, it is a special place and part of our heritage and I hope to visit the area again with my wife.

Posted by Jon on 04/01/2011

Ousefleet just mentioned on QI!

Posted by Paul on 29/06/2010

My family is from there, my gran (Mary Gray, nee Pindar) was brought up on the farm where my uncle (her nephew) still lives. Love the place, always wanted to make (or win enough) to buy the old family farm house. Spent many a weekend down there as a kid playing on haystacks and looking for horse shoes!

Posted by Sam on 08/07/2010

I recall Ousefleet very well, having worked the land around there for a good number of years. I wish I had a quid for the many times Tom Ward the foreman at Co-op was going to kick my backside for playing tricks on him or just answering him back when I was sent to his place to do some work. Good days. I also went right through Goole Modern School sat next to his daughter Jeryl, a lovely girl.

When I left the land, so to speak, I started selling farm machinery so came into contact with most farming families in and around Ousefleet and remember Joe and David Pindar well plus Harry Easton. The last tractor I sold down there was to Harry Phillipson. I also traded with Wesh Canty, Bob and Roy Leetham and remember Titch Ward used to keep my old car road worthy.

¹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/1600225.stm>

I have had some really good times in the “low toons”. It is nice to see some new blood moving into the villages and taking an active interest in keeping the place on the map. Keep up the good work.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 24/08/2010

From “The Evangelical Magazine and Missionary Chronical”, vol.16, 1838 ed. (copyright expired), Page 239.

On Tuesday, January the 2nd, 1838, the first stone of a new Independent Chapel was laid in the village of Ousefleet, in Marshland, Yorkshire, by J. Empson, Esq., jun., who in conjunction with his respected father J. Empson, Esq., of Goole, Hull, have given the ground accompanied with a handsome donation to assist in the erection. The day being fine, a considerable number of the villagers attended and manifested by their appearance much pleasure in the services connected with the occasion. The Rev. H. Earle of Goole gave out the hymns; the Rev.T.Stratten then delivered a very appropriate address; and the Rev. J. Bruce of Howden concluded with prayer.

Posted by Colette on 18/03/2011

I lived in Whitgift but walked every day to Ousefleet School and still return to see my parents who live in Whitgift. It was a lovely place to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s when you could play out in the evening, walk and explore everywhere without fear and there was a cheery wave and smile from everybody. Long walks along the riverbank and to the “black woods” and Ousefleet Show, fancy dress and fabulous teas in the big marquee. Happy memories.

Posted by George on 03/10/2011

I haven't heard mention of “black woods” for years, As for the villages well on the odd occasion that I drive through Reedness, Whitgift and Ousefleet on my way to Adlingfleet it shocks me how much they have all changed! Houses appear to have been squeezed in everywhere. It's nice to hear names like John Canty, etc. are still keeping up appearances although saddened by the loss of Frank Ella “such an all-round good egg”.

I will make it back one day to Ousefleet Show (my old school) but for now I hope you are all well out there and I'll continue to prepare for the next Grand Prix “back to back” out here in Japan, then Korea! I moved out into a much bigger world but there is no place like home, that's Oxfordshire for me these days. Look after the old place.

Posted by Polo on 21/10/2011

I worked with Geoff Harvey for a while at the CWS farms. I remember Geoff one day being cheeky to Tom Ward, the farm foreman, who decided as usual he was going to sort us young lads out so he chased Geoff around Ousefleet farm yard shouting and bawling and saying what he was going to do when he caught him. Absolutely no chance, Geoff quick as a flash ran up the sugar beet heap and then climbed up the Dutch barn stantion well out of Tom's reach and sat there laughing at him. Great days.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 28/01/2012

From “Seldon Society” publication, vol.2 (1923 ed.), page 285:

Gerard de Usflet, knight, and Thomas de Rednesse (Reedness), knight, are mentioned in a presentment dated 1394 for the earlier date Witsuntide 1382 where they sets anew in the river Ouse between Airmyn and York divers weirs, stakes and fishgarths and saving sufficient passage for ships where the river runs deep. Richard de Friseby, suitor of the King and the Prior (of Drax) said it was as was presented.

In the year 1316 what Gerard de Usflete (the 1st) had done to waterways was controversial, he being under instructions by his widowed-mother Loretta (Lora) de Usflete (nee' Furnival) and assisted by his brother John de Usflete (junior, the ex-Templar) and other members of the gentry.

Posted by Paul on 29/02/2012

Just found this site and amazed at some of the names that keep cropping up.

Posted by Sam on 07/03/2012

For my sins I worked at the Co-op with a few of the Canty family, Cliff, Bill, Bob and then there were others in the district, ie. Brian (Hoss), John (Wesh). I also knew Graham, who I think escaped to teach at Askham Bryan College. Great family and one that a number of us had some good times and loads of laughs with.

Posted by Andrea on 26/03/2012

My grandmother was Hannah Canty (1887-1962) born in Whitgift to William Canty and Hannah Gelder. Would be grateful of any information regarding the Canty family. Thanks.

Posted by Stephen on 27/03/2013

I've just stumbled across this site and recognise a lot of the family names. My dad, Alan Astbury, was the office clerk for the CWS at Adlingfleet Grange. I was a pupil at Ousefleet School starting in the mid-1960s, initially in Mrs Gunson's class then in the juniors with Mr Windle followed by Mr Clough then Mr Jones. We lived at Grange Road, Adlingfleet. Now living in Cornwall. Passed through a few years ago and stopped at the school. The playground was silent, a quite sad and moving experience. Many happy hours spent there many years ago...

Posted by George on 01/11/2013

I thought Mrs Gunson was great. I remember going flying over a milk crate in that very playground! I have never even made it back to attend Ousefleet show - it seemed to me to be the biggest thing in the world when I was young. Must say the owners of Mount Vernon in Whitgift have made a good job of our old home. Love to all from down here in Oxfordshire.

Posted by Karen on 04/07/2014

My dad was Tom Ward (the foreman at Co-op Farm, Ousefleet). I remember a lot of names mentioned but I don't know who "Sam" is who said he played tricks on my dad! And "Sam" also sat next to my sister Jeryl at school. I do remember Stephen Astbury though, my dad ended up living in house next your dad's when he retired. I can also remember myself, Kevan Phillipson, Neil Moore and Colin Walker playing football at back of Paul Canty's house. Happy days!

Posted by Steve on 08/07/2014

I remember you and all the other names you mention. Remember that big coke burning stove in the junior classroom? I called at our old house in Grange Road a few years ago. It was virtually derelict. I hope somebody has taken it on. Happy days eh?

Posted by Sam on 16/07/2014

I remember you very well, always smiling. Yeah, good times at the Co-op in those days. Your dad would have killed me had he got his hands on me for playing tricks on him, but for all that, he taught me a lot about the land and just wanted things done correctly without any backchat - my downfall, I'm afraid. I had the great pleasure of sitting next to Jeryl at the Modern School for a few terms and we always got on well. Went past the old place a while ago and was quite saddened by its demise.

I worked from Pasture Farm for Erne Kirk then for Norman who gave me, and many others, the name Sam. I was sometimes deployed to your dad's care when the farm was busy, I drove a beet harvester and one of the viners so your dad was saddled with me come what may at certain times of the year, and it nearly always turned into an epic event for us both! Just pleased Tom couldn't run as fast as me or I probably wouldn't be writing this now, ha ha. Obviously my real name isn't Sam, put Paul past Jeryl. I lived at Swinefleet. I left the Co-op in 1976 to sell farm machinery but look back on those days at the Co-op with great affection.

Posted by Taz on 12/09/2014

Just been down to what's left of Ousefleet Hall, hardly anything left now just a couple of walls. Good for the staff that the estate's been sold as a whole - if I'd had a bit more cash I'd have gone for it myself! Would like a photo of Ousefleet Hall when it was complete - don't know if anybody has one. Did you ever see one on your rounds in the local area? I remember all those nights upstairs at the Lincs Arms in Luddington where the missus used to drag me to! Tiger Feet and all that other Seventies stuff. They were a good crowd that used to get in there.

Posted by Sam on 16/09/2014

I knew the estate was for sale but haven't heard who bought it, no doubt someone with plenty of brass. No matter who buys it, I don't think they will have the memories like we have in 40 years' time. Ousefleet Hall always was a fascinating place and one could only imagine what it was like back in the day. Seem to remember the place used to scare the hell out of Bimbo if we were down there after dark, ha ha!. Listening to all the tales of horses with chains trailing galloping up the drive and someone getting on Benny's bus without opening the door, good times.

Last time I worked down there I was pushing soil back over the rotting mountain of spuds we had dumped for the PM Board in a hole dug by Porky and his dozer in the walled garden area. Seem to remember some unusual big trees in there too with strange bark. Upstairs in the Lincs Arms was pretty special in them days too.

Posted by Taz on 25/09/2014

All of the Co-op estates were sold to the Wellcome Trust for £249m. Richard Watson's is up for sale if you want to buy a decent spot! It was Old Ned that used to scare them all down at the Hall Corner with (unconfirmed) reports of tractor lights turning on with no-one near them and other strange happenings. I've been down at the old Hall at dead of night when pea-cutting but never seen anything - it's all down to the imagination!

Ned Maugerell murdered his sweetheart and hid her body under a haycock and when it came to loading the hay it was the only one that he wouldn't stick his fork into. This confirmed his guilt and he was gibbeted on a tree down the Causeway somewhere. I remember reading of this many years ago. I would appreciate if anyone could confirm this story. Thanks.

Posted by Sam on 26/09/2014

Some great stories about the old place. Good that someone has bought it as a going concern and that the staff are still employed. Wellcome are well heeled and will carry it on hopefully for many years to come. This prompted my memory about the many lads have worked there (in my era) and I got to 55! plus there must be a few more after I departed.

There were two who I couldn't complete the names of, one was a guy who worked in the Grange office in Ian Anglin's day called Gerry who lived at Adlingfleet and the other was the farm foreman at Park before Ivan Grasby? It looks a motley crew put on a list but I reckon

everyone was a character with a tale to tell and most good for a laugh. Sadly a few have passed away and most dispersed into other industries. Got to get on and write a book!

Rick Watson's will make someone a nice place as he always looked after both the land and the buildings, but as he isn't getting any younger, he maybe thinks it is time to cash in and put his feet up, good luck to the lad. I remember him and Ralf walking to the hedge between them and Pasture thinking we had a fire going, only to find it was me chisel ploughing with Mack's Ford 4000. The exhaust was red hot and belching more black smoke than Ralf's pipe! Happy days.

Posted by Taz on 05/10/2014

Sam, Gerry Oades was the name of the office manager. Harry Woolas was the farm foreman at Park and was also Ivan's father-in-law. Chisel ploughing with a 4000 - tell 'em now they'd never believe you! When I started there in 1970 the biggest tractor on the place was a 5000 and most of the wheeled tractor work was done by them but Roy Leetham was contracted in to do some with his County in the busiest period during pea harvest. When I get time I'll have a count up too!

Posted by Andy on 26/11/2014

Interesting reading your comments! We are tracing our family tree and have a record for Percy AARON (married Dorothy LEAMING) who we understand to be the stepson of Arthur Middlebrook, who according to the 1911 census owned or managed (we're trying to find out) Ousefleet Hall with his wife Susannah. We believe Dorothy's father Leonard Leaming was the gamekeeper with his wife Emma (nee Kimberley). If anyone has any information they could help us with, it would be great to hear from you! Thanks.

Posted by Pauline on 29/11/2014

Ousefleet Hall was owned by the Lister Empson family. When Mr R.C. Empson died in January 1897, the estate was leased because his only son, Mr James Lister, lived elsewhere. In August 1916, the estate was purchased by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Posted by Peter on 29/09/2016

What a blast from the past this site is proving. My name is Peter Taylor, my dad was Lenny (Thomas) Taylor, and my grandads were Goaty Taylor and Joseph Lawrence. I was wondering if any of my old school friends from Ousefleet School were on here and if they had any old school photos? Thanks.

Posted by George on 26/01/2017

Well there you are! How are you Pete my old mucker? The villages have certainly changed... we must catch up sometime for a pint...

Posted by Anon on 22/01/2018

George, not seen you for decades! One of my best mates at school then just lost touch when we all left. Also not seen Paul Atkinson or Chris Lindley in years.

Posted by George on 16/02/2018

What a blast from the past, the power of the Internet, Also a big hi to, Peter, Mark, Rob, Claire, Carol, Jackie, Fiona, Yvonne, Tony, Tracy, Katherine and anyone else I may have forgotten (by name). Oh and Peter I do have a school photo from Ousefleet with many of these people in it - about 1974 (I think)

Posted by Ray on 28/08/2017

Easting Riding of Yorkshire Archives, Beverley:

DDCS/25/2 (late 13th to early 14th Century). Demise relating to property in Useflet (Ousefleet). Parties (1 and 2). 1, Loretta widow of Sir John de Useflet. 2, John Gouk, wife Alice. Property: messuage in Useflet which by reason of Dower and which Margery widow of Sir Walter de Useflet sometimes held for her or until she wishes to resume the premises. Consideration: 10s yearly and finding hospitality for her seneschal or other ministers on her business: Witnesses: Adam de Cellar, William Cellar, John de Slingsby of Adelflet (Adlingfleet), Robert Cortewys, John de la Mar of Useflet, William his son, Stephen de Feriby, clerk. With small seal.

Posted by Raymond & Marie

From East Riding of Yorkshire Archives, Beverley (Mrs Christian Smith Documents). There are amongst these documents some for the Usflet (other variants) family during the 13th and 14th Centuries, eg., one being archive No. DDCS/25/6, year 1351. This mentions Dame Isabel Usflet, widow of Gerard Usflet (the first one) and mother of Gerard Usflet (the second one), etc.

Isabel Usflet (Isabella de-Ella/Ellay) is also mentioned being a widow Dowager of (the first) Gerard Usflet and mother of (the second) Gerard Usflet in some "Placita De Banco Rolls" (Common Pleas) at the National Archives.

The third Sir Gerard Usflet/Ufflett took with him to France a small troop of lancers and archers for King Henry V and one of the battles they took part in was at Agincourt. He lived after, yet died in France later in the year 1420.

Robert de-Useflet was father to Sir Walter de-Useflet. He and his wife Margery had Sir John de-Useflet who married Loretta (Lora) de-Furnival, daughter of Sir Gerard de-Furnival (Furnival) of Swanland. John and Lora had [the first] Sir Gerard de-Useflet who married Dame Isabel [Dowager Isabella de-Ellay/Ella] who had [the second] Sir Gerard de-Useflet [he may have married more than once]. This [second] Sir Gerard de-Useflet had a son who was [the third] Sir Gerard de-Useflet.

This is a more true Useflete (other early scribe-forms) pedigree than those with errors compiled later and indeed those from the 16th Century.

Dated 24 July 1490: Marriage Settlement between Robert Haldenby, esquire (father of Margaret, bride to be) and Walter Baildon, esquire (father of John, groom to be).

Posted by Raymond & Marie

Isabella de-Ellay (Isabel de-Ella) is listed for Whitgift/Ousefleet in the Yorkshire Poll Tax for year 1379. She paid the tax because she was widowed. (Often ladies, be they widowed or not, still used their family name (maiden-surname) for various reasons and some started to use their maiden-surname after they were widowed for reasons such as inheritance, etc.)

She was, however, Dame Isabella de-Usflet, widow and Dowager of the first Sir Gerard de-Usflet (other variants).

Posted by Raymond & Marie

The patron of St. Mary Magdalene Church and Caldecote Manor in 1239 was Gerard de-Furnival (Furnival), grandfather of the Gerard de-Furnival who held the Manor in 1287. The Manor was conveyed after Gerard to William Hurst, but rent was paid to Gerard de-Furnival's daughter Loretta (Lora), wife of John de-Usflete, the main family of John worshipping at St. Mary of the Magdalene in Whitgift near Ousefleet (Ouseflete).

Posted by Raymond & Marie

Sir Gerard Usflete (the first one):

He and the Prince of Wales were both knighted 22 May 1306.

Gerard then was ordered to meet the King later at York and also at Battle Bridge 24 June 1312, then also with the English in Scotland June 1314. He was requested 9 May 1324 to be a Yorkshire knight at the Great Council of Westminster.

Posted by Raymond & Marie

Northern parts of Suffolk came under the Archdeaconry of Norfolk and in 1335 there was an Archdeacon of Norfolk named Robert de Usflete. He is documented “from Ousfleet” (Ousefleet).

There were branches of the Ufflets/Usflets (etc.) family living in Suffolk long ago and one was “alive” for a Herald’s Visitation in 1612. They were of Somerleyton.

Posted by Raymond & Marie

The British Library MSS Department:

There are quite a few MSS for the Clopton family of Suffolk and in Harl. 1560 folio 5 there is mention of Clopton coats-of-arms and a quartering (7th) is for the scribe-form “Uffleete”, blazon thus: Argent (silver) on a fess Azure (blue) 3 fleurs-de-lis Or (gold). This is the same as the Yorkshire branches.

Also, Harl. 5861 mentions one of the John Uffletes (early-1600s) of Somerleyton in Suffolk had married a daughter of the Clopton family.

Posted by Raymond & Marie

More references to Usflete persons:

From “Charter Rolls of King Henry III to King Edward I, c.1257-1300”, (at the National Archives):

Grant to Sir Walter de Useflet and his heirs of free warren (keeping rabbits to breed, eat and for furs, but also could mean other animals) in all the demesne (owner possession) lands in Haldenby and Useflet (Ousefleet).

Grant to John de Useflet and his heirs of free warren in all the demesne lands in Swanneslund (Swanland) in Yorkshire.

Nicholas Usflete, Rector of Flixborough, Lincolnshire, year 1343 (the church was rebuilt in 1789).

Nicholas Usflete. a Mercer in York, made a Freeman of York in 1411 and in 1426 he was Lord Chamberlain, died 1443.

John de-Usflete, Prior of Drax Priory, c.1393-8.

From East Riding of Yorkshire Archives, Beverley: Mrs.Christian Smith Documents: Usflet (other early scribe-forms) family are mentioned:

Amongst the “Placita De Banco Rolls” (Common Pleas) at the National Archives (once The Public Record Office), there are some for members of the Usflet family, e.g., two at least that mention Dame Isabella Usflet, widow and Dowager of Gerard Usflet and mother of [the second] Gerard Usflet, etc.

The third Sir Gerard Usflet/Ufflett took to France for King Henry V a small troop of lancers and archers. They were at the battle of Agincourt. He lived that battle but later died in 1420 while still in France.

From Freemen of York pre-1411:

Willelmus de Useflet, tannour, c.1276.
Johannes de Usflet, mariner, c.1317.
Richardus Usflet, hatter, c.1317.
Willelmus de Useflet, mariner, c.1327.
Johannes de Useflet, mariner, c.1377-9.
Robertus Useflete, ... ?, c.1408-9.

From Wills at the York Registry (now at the Borthwick, part of York University):

Agnes Elvelay (Ellay, etc.), wife of John, clerk of York, year 1394, vol.1, folio 79.
Anne Useflete, Hedon in le Clay, year 1434/5, vol.3, folio 435.
John Usflett, (bur. at Hedon), gent., year 1505, vol.6, folio 145.
Nicholas Usflete, alderman and merchant, York, year 1443, vol.2, folio 58.
Robert Usflete, York, merchant, year 1453, vol.2, folio 289.
William Usflete, parish of Drax, (Adm.), year 1469, vol.4, folio 133.

Nicholas Useflete (Usflete, Ufflete, etc.), mercer/spicer, gained Freedom of York in 1412, then Chamberlain in 1427, made Sherrif 1433-4, Lord Mayor of York in 1438. He had married Matilda, daughter of John Northby, Alderman of York. Nicholas died in 1443 and buried in the church of All Saints Pavement, York.

From York Bridgemaster's Accounts.

Year 1384, Robert de Hoperton and John de Useflete made Wardens of Ouse Bridge.

From "Seldon Society Publications" (vol XXIV and XXX, printed in 1914) Year 1292 to year 1333:

Gerard de Useflet, knight, has a "Weir" of 14 spaces at Whitgift [and] held by Thomas Stocche (Stock?) and John Horegh(Horreck?). John and Thomas would not ferry across the river with less than two people.

From YAS Record Series vol.121, Feet of Fines for the County of York, years from 1272 to 1300: c. 1288-1289, referring to land in Usflet (Ousefleet). A mention of Walter de Usflet and his wife Margery in connection with a toft and 1 and a half bovates of land in Usflet.

From "The Reign of Henry the Fifth", by J, Wylie and W.T. Waugh (Cambridge University Press, vol.3, 1929 ed.):

The English siege at Cherbourg (Normandy in France), year 1418, on page 110: Gerard Usflete [the 3rd] was amongst those in charge of the surrender of the French. He died while in France two years later.

From “Knights of Edward I”, C.Moor, (5 vols., published 1929-32), by the Harleian Society, 1xxx-1xxxiv.:

Sir John Usflete is mentioned and that he died about 1301 or 1302, also a mention he had a son John. It is more likely that the John Usflete who was a Preceptor-Master of the Knights Templar in Scotland c.1304-6 was the son and his father earlier had been in the Welsh wars on the English side and later in the Scotland.

From “Lives of the Archbishops of York”, by W.H. Dixon and J. Raine, published 1863 by Longman, Green, etc., and Roberts: Page 373, Archbishop Greenfield, period 1304-1315.

There is a mention of the Templars imprisoned in York castle awaiting for their confessions to be heard and one of these Templars was John de Usflete,!. After the confessions it was concluded that most of what the Templars were accused of was just hearsay and their fate was not execution but to serve penance in various religious establishments in the areas of York. Although some Templars were imprisoned at York awaiting their fate, John Usflete was unaccountable-for, so he was a fugitive.

Posted by Raymond & Marie

References to the Usflete coats-of-arms

In Adlingfleet Parish Church there are coats-of-arms and on two of the Haldenby family coats-of-arms are Usflete family quarterings with three fleur-de-lis's on and also a quartering on them for the Ella/Ellay family, they having also three fleur-de-lis's on and in Wighill Parish Church near Tadcaster, there is the Stapleton tomb. On one of their coats-of-arms is a quartering for the Usflete family, i.e. a Johanna, etc. (Joan) de-Usflete having married into the Stapleton family of Wighill. The two Haldenby family shields in Adlingfleet Parish Church, one with their first crest and 8 quarterings, the other with 8 quarterings on the head panel of Francis Haldenby's tomb (no crest):

In St. Mary's Church in the centre of Oxford, there is a stone slab reading in a base mixture of old Norman-French thus “MESTRE WALTER DEULFLEET GIST? YCI? DEUESA ALME CYT? MERCY”. This is for a “Walter de-Uflete”. The stone wording is now in poor condition. It has been moved about the church more than once and now it is placed at the very back of the chancel.

In Lacock Parish Church, Wiltshire, there is the Baynard family monument and various quartered coats-of-arms, two being for Stapleton and Ufflete/Usflete.

In the Parish Church, Cheltenham, once belonging to the nunnery of Sion, there is the Lygon monument with quartered coats-of-arms, two being for Furnival and Uflete (another early variant of the surname).

In Kirby Stephen Parish Church, Cumbria: WARTON monument: 3 of the quartered coats-of-arms are for Furnival, Ufflett (other variants) and Stapleton. The Usflete coats-of-arms are often quartered by other families long after the main Yorkshire branch of the Usflete family became extinct on the paternal descent.

In West Twyford Parish Church (the one in old Middlesex county), MOYLE family monument: On the Moyles family coat-of-arms the seventh and eight quarterings are for Ufflete/Usflete (etc.) and Furnival.

On a 15th Century illuminated manuscript: Sir John Beauchamp. Arms: quarterly: 1 and 4 Gules a fess Or, between 6 martlets (3,3) of the second: 2 and 3, [Usflete/Ufflete]Argent, on a fess Azure 3 fleur-de-lis Or. The shield: ensigned with a nobleman's helm. Crest: Issuant out of a ducal coronet Gules, a swan's head Argent, beaked of the first between two sets of wings addorsed Sable. Mantling: Gules doubled Ermine.

In St. Nicholas Church, Alcaster (now Alcester), Warwickshire: Alter-tomb effigies of Sir Falke Greville, died 1559 or 1560, and Lady Elizabeth (Willoughby), died 1562 or 1565: At the footend of the tomb (1) a shield with the quartered Greville arms, (2) a lozenge with 20 Willoughby quarterings and between them (3) a small shield for Beauchamp quartering Usflete/Ufflete.

In St. George's Chapel, Windsor: The Usflete/Ufflete coat-of-arms quartered on Sir John Beauchamp of Powyk's (Powick, etc.)

In Selby Abbey, Yorkshire: Tomb of Margery de-Pickworth's effigy has holding in one hand a small shield for Usflete/Ufflete. She had been widowed to Sir Walter de-Usflete. There is also the tomb of her second husband Hugh de-Pickworth (14th Century, i.e., 1300s) who held the manor of "Elley/Ellay/Ella" (Kirk Ella, earlier Elveley) jointly with Sir... Ellay/Ella.

In Wighill Parish Church Yorkshire: The Usflete coat-of-arms is quartered on a shield on the front-panel of the Stapleton tomb

In St. Mary's Minster-Church, Ilminster, Somerset:

Tomb of Sir Humphrey Walrond (Waldron, etc.) died 1580. This is in the south transept and there are Walrond shields quartered with the Devon branch of the Ufflete family and the blazon is Argent (silver) on a fess Sable (black) 3 crosses crosslet fitchee' Or (gold), i.e., for Ufflete, the Devon branch of the Uffletes having become extinct on the paternal descent.

Most people would know who Walt Disney was and his very early roots were in Norton Disney, Lincolnshire. In Norton Disney Parish Church there is a brass plate depicting heraldic shields for the Disney family and other families connected to them impaled on the shields. On a bottom shield is impaled the Usflete Arms (3 fleur de lis, etc) twice, top left and bottom right. On a top shield same but now "pitted", so the top impalement is not noticeable at a first glance.

Posted by Bill on 22/12/2010

Raymond and Marie, I find this part of the site fascinating because a) it is so erudite and esoteric and b) it does not engender any responses. You obviously have great enthusiasm and expertise.

Posted by Raymond & Marie

We must be positively good-mind thinking and often with this we should do good loving deeds and speak from our hearts. It is a most-wonderful thing to do and gives a peaceful beautiful kind feeling and the only true path to priceless happiness. We look no further than our own hearts for this, THEN WE KNOW WE HAVE PARADISE FOUND.

Raymond & Marie

Rawcliffe

"Red cliff or bank", Old Scandinavian rauthr + klif: Rawcliffe East Riding of Yorkshire. Routhclif c.1080

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press

Part of a flat countryside, with Lincolnshire only six miles away, it stands on the River Aire. The busy road from Goole bounds Rawcliffe's fine park before passing through the heart of the village, where many old houses and a modern church are gathered round a spacious green shaded by trees.

It was the home of one of Yorkshire's oddities, Jimmy Hurst, who lived here in George the Third's day and sleeps in the churchyard. He wore yellow boots, a rainbow waistcoat, and a hat nine feet round, and lived in a house near the river. He made a pair of wings and tried to fly, but his most remarkable invention was a coach like a Chinaman's hat on wheels. It was the wonder of all who saw it as he drove up to London, where he met the king. For over 90 years he was one of the queerest of all Yorkshiremen, and when he died, his coffin was carried by twelve old ladies, a Scotsman with a bagpipe and a Yorkshire fiddler accompanying them.

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee



Rawcliffe is one of the prettiest villages in the area and consists of pubs, nice houses and a church all standing around a large village green. There is a fair on the green once each year. The River Aire runs peacefully round the back of the village and the riverbank forms a nice sign-posted walk to Goole. One of the local pubs used to have a quiz which was free to enter, had generous prizes and you even got a free pie and pea supper in the process.



From Selby Abbey to the West Riding County Council

There is a pleasing simplicity and continuity at the core of Rawcliffe's history from 1069-1919. For in 1069 it was one of the estates given to Selby Abbey by William the Conqueror at its foundation. Through the subsequent centuries bequest (and probably purchase) strengthened the Selby connection. In time Rawcliffe became to Selby as Chequers to 10 Downing Street. For the Abbot built here a Manor House that was both a "holiday home" for the monks and great house for the Abbot. By a wise interpretation of the Rule

most large monasteries had such a place where from time to time the monks could enjoy a “change of air” and some modest relaxation from the strictness of the monastic life. We can imagine some hard-worked monk at Selby murmuring to himself “only three more weeks and I’m off to Rawcliffe”. Clearly Rawcliffe was a good place to be for there are records of important visitors staying there with the Abbot. But this holiday atmosphere did not prevent the Abbots from showing a continuing concern for both the economic and spiritual well-being of the Community. The financial problems of a Mediaeval Monastery are fascinating. Basically they needed money to pay for the raw materials and the work-force without which their increasingly ambitious building programmes would fail. That sometimes centuries would pass between the beginning and finishing of some great enterprise was almost entirely due to lack of money. For the great estates with which an Abbey like Selby was endowed, though they could produce food with which to feed the great household of the Abbey, did not by themselves produce money. Hence the great rivalry between the monasteries (notably between Selby and St. Mary’s, York) to ports establish on their estates. These not only increased the opportunities of selling their own produce, but also, more importantly, gave a cash income from tolls and dues.

That Rawcliffe is on the Aire at a point where it is still reasonably navigable and has dry access by a long established road to inland Yorkshire made it an obvious place for a port. The Poll Tax returns of 1379 show that Rawcliffe was, for those days, a sizeable place and this prosperity must have been based on trade rather than agriculture. Without the help of any large single contribution from a nobleman they paid £2/8/8. The residents included one “schypmanne” and two ladies called “Avelline”. The survival of documents from the past is very haphazard but we know that in 1322 “William de Howden of Rawcliffe and John son of Ranulph de Roucliff were given a licence to trade - but with the condition that they did not communicate with the Scots or the men of Flanders”.

Rawcliffe was part of that ancient Royal Estate which made up the “spirituality of Snaith” (which was why the King could give it to Selby) and so was always part of the Parish of Snaith. But nonetheless, for over 900 years there has been a place of worship at Rawcliffe. The first chapel was licensed in 1078 but this may have been simply a room in or adjacent to the Monk’s House. But in the 14th Century permission is given that the people at Rawcliffe “should have in their Chapel newly built, a baptismal font, but without prejudice to the Mother Church of Snaith”. This Chapel was necessary, we are told, “by reason the same parochians cannot resorte to their parochie churche many tymes for the weteness of the ground and grete inundations of waters”.

The 1379 Poll Tax tells us of “Master John, Chaplain of Rawcliffe” who must have a strong claim to be the first “Vicar” of Rawcliffe whose name is known to us. With the passage of time some “well disposed people” gave “certain parcells of land towards the levinge of the incumbents thereof”.

The “Old Days” lasted longer in Rawcliffe than elsewhere. For with the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 the last Abbot of Selby became transformed into the first Squire of Rawcliffe. He had made his peace with Henry VIII and emerged with a pension of £100 and ownership of Rawcliffe Hall with its “nine rooms, namely, Hall, Great Parlour, Buttery, Kitchen, Larder, Milkhouse and Brewhouse on the ground floor and two Chambers above”. The old Abbot’s death (and burial at Snaith) in 1558 must have seemed like the end of an era. Yet the pattern set by Selby over nearly five hundred years of a resident landlord concerned with both the economic and spiritual well-being of the community was going to survive for nearly another four hundred years.

In 1558 the Abbot’s estate at Rawcliffe was purchased by John Boynton. The family prospered quietly and this meant the building of a new house to the east of the village (on the site of the present Rawcliffe Hall) in the 17th Century style to replace the now hopelessly out of date mediaeval house. This new house had three storeys: on the ground floor was the Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room Study, Library, Kitchen, Pantry and Service Room; the second floor had six chambers with Closets and Dressing Rooms, and a further “chamber

up the back stairs”, on the third floor was the “Men’s Chamber” and the “Clarks Chamber” and six Garretts opening off the long gallery.

The Boynton era lasted until the very end of the 18th Century and saw another major attempt to develop the port, and for a time between 1720 and 1780, Rawcliffe became an important trade centre. The main trade would seem to be from small vessels that took the products of the West Riding to Hull, but there was also a trade to London and further afield. And as in the previous age, the spiritual needs of the people were not forgotten.

The late 17th Century sees a succession of acts of generosity by the Boyntons. Sir John Boynton (the builder of the new house) gave a Silver Chalice to the church in 1684. His brother Francis who had left Yorkshire for a merchant’s life in London in 1694, bequeathed £500 to the Chapel of Rawcliffe together with lands in Rawcliffe and Newland with which to endow a school. And Matthew Boynton, the youngest of the three brothers, who succeeded Sir John at Rawcliffe Hall (for Francis no doubt was doing too well in London to come home) built and endowed almshouses for four poor widows and left an endowment of £20 per year for the benefit of the Minister of the Chapel at Rawcliffe. Matthew died in 1700 and we are told that his widow “Mrs Judith Boynton rebuilt the present beautiful chapel at her sole expense.”

From 1794 onwards for “Boynton” read “Creyke”. The actual succession is a complex tale for, for a number of generations, the estates had passed through the female side with the husband then taking the name of “Boynton”. But Ralph Creyke, who married the heiress of Rawcliffe in 1772 traced his ancestry back to the Danes. This family with its headquarters at Marton Hall, near Bridlington, had been an important part of the Yorkshire land-owning squirearchy for centuries. He had no intention of abandoning his surname.

So in 1794, when Matthew Boynton died, Ralph Creyke and his wife Jane and their family came to Rawcliffe. The Creykes seem to have been both richer and livelier than the Boyntons. And they very much followed in tradition of their Selby and Boynton predecessors in caring for the economic and spiritual well-being of the neighbourhood.

The second and third Ralph Creykes at Rawcliffe were both noted agriculturalists. As Sir Tatton Sykes transformed the Wolds with new farming methods, so Ralph Creyke “transformed the face of the Marshland area from swampy wet peatland to fertile arable land”. His son (1813-1858) made considerable use of the method of warping by which the waters of the river are allowed, under controlled conditions, to flood the land so that the rich soil they are carrying is deposited on the land.

The fourth Ralph Creyke (1849-1908) however, focussed his energies on the industrial and commercial expansion of the neighbourhood. His agriculturalist father had, in the spirit of the family, welcomed the Railway to Rawcliffe in 1847. There is hardly an enterprise linked to the expansion of Goole in which his son’s name does not appear. He worked hard to ensure that there were sea-going ships based in Goole. In his spare time he was also Member of Parliament for the neighbourhood. But side-by-side with this commercial acumen went a real commitment to the well-being of the village. In 1842 Ralph Creyke (the 3rd) was the principal subscriber to the building of the new church. And in 1908 it was Ralph Creyke (the 4th) who extended it with a fine new chancel. Similarly in 1824, 1854 and 1875 varying Creykes played a significant part in the founding (or helping with the founding) of schools. In 1897 Rawcliffe Hall was almost totally destroyed by fire and promptly rebuilt in great style. The Architect was Walter H. Brierly of York.

In 1908 Ralph Creyke died. His funeral marked the end of an era as surely as that of the last Abbot of Selby exactly three hundred and fifty years earlier. Surprisingly, despite his creation of a Creyke Chapel in Rawcliffe Church and his father’s burial there, the decision was taken that the burial should be with his ancestors in Marton Church. The funeral procession to the special train at Rawcliffe Station led by the Chief Constable, and with the whole village taking part dramatically represents the wealth and confidence of Edwardian England. At first it is not so easy to see why it was a turning point. For now a fifth Ralph Creyke lived at Rawcliffe Hall with his widowed Mother and his Brother. But in 1914 came the Great War and both

brothers were officers in France. Edward the younger brother was killed but Ralph returned safely. But not to Rawcliffe for long. "The new squire," I'm told by one who knew him "went in for night-clubbing in London". In 1919 suddenly the whole estate was sold. Rawcliffe Hall and the acres around were bought by the West Riding County Council. The house was to be used as a home for the mentally handicapped and the land was divided into small holdings for returning soldiers and a number of fine houses built. The distinctive style can best be seen in the "White Houses" along the Rawcliffe-Goole road. Alas, few of these small holdings flourished and they have now been for the most part absorbed into larger units. Major Ralph Creyke went to live in London. There are no links between the Creykes and Rawcliffe except that a great nephew of the last Ralph Creyke (who lives in Ireland) bears the barren title of "Lord of the Manor of Rawcliffe".

This apparently inexplicable flight is part of a pattern. In parish after parish in the Diocese of Sheffield after centuries of peaceful succession the gentry sold up and fled in the years immediately after the Great War.

The Church and the Clergy

Until 1824 (or even perhaps 1842) Rawcliffe was part of the great parish of Snaith. That the Vicar of Snaith since 1910 has been the Patron of Rawcliffe and so had had the prime responsibility of choosing the Vicar witnesses to that link. But nonetheless Rawcliffe Church has had much the same sort of history as an ordinary parish. There have been three (or perhaps four) churches in the village and they seem all to have been on the same site. The first was that "new built" by the Abbot of Selby round about 1350 in which, perhaps for the first time, a Font was allowed so that the children could be baptised locally and so escape the journey to Snaith. This ancient Chapel nearly perished at the Reformation when all "Chantry Chapels" were being done away with because they, allegedly, encouraged superstition. Yet Rawcliffe was spared "so that parishioners should cristen and have all manner of sacraments ministered there, saving burying". That was in 1540. One and fifty years later devotion destroyed the old Chapel when, around 1700, the widowed Mrs Judith Boyton "rebuilt the present beautiful Chapel at her sole expense".

In 1754, at last, the grievance about burials was put to rights when one of the Enclosure Acts both provided land for a burial ground and financial compensation to the Vicar of Snaith for the loss of funeral fees. One can't help feeling that this was the issue, rather than the "wetness of the ground" that through the centuries had kept all burials at Snaith!

In 1841 the brave decision was taken that the now populous village needed a new and bigger church. A popular firm of local architects, Hurst and Moffatt (who were later to build Goole Parish Church) produced plans for a church with three galleries to seat 700 people and cost £1,840. 1842 was not a good year for church building and it is difficult to be really enthusiastic about any of Hurst and Moffatt's churches. Yet it stands well on the village green and by 1851, as the Census Records show had over 500 people through its doors on a Sunday.

To us today the 20th Century decision to extend the church by the building of a chancel in a totally different style seems ill-advised. I'm led to believe that the intention was eventually to rebuild the whole church in the style of the new chancel, but events worked against this.

Clearly the fourth Ralph Creyke expected his family to be at Rawcliffe for centuries to come. After the great fire of 1897 the Hall was rebuilt bigger, grander and more splendid than before. And the new chancel, though it was no doubt intended to meet the liturgical needs of its day - nearly every church by 1910 had a large robed choir and that needed choir stalls and they needed a chancel - was also designed to be a Creyke family burial Chapel. After 150 years the family had apparently decided that they now belonged to Rawcliffe and not Marton, for the new church was built in 1908 - the year that Ralph Creyke died. His son's disinterest in Rawcliffe, the Great War, and then the sale of the Creyke estates has meant that the curious amalgamation has become acceptable through three quarters of a century's familiarity.

Since the Middle Ages there must always have been someone who was responsible for “the Cure of Souls” of the people of Rawcliffe. And though strictly speaking that person was the Vicar of Snaith in practice the “cure” has usually been exercised by a Chaplain or Curate appointed by either the Abbot of Selby or, after the Reformation, by first the Proprietor of the Snaith Peculiar and then by the Vicar of Snaith.

From the earliest times no doubt the Abbot of Selby appointed the “Chaplain” or “Curate” at Rawcliffe. And so as it grew into a proper parish the Abbot’s successor, the Proprietor of the Peculiar of Snaith, became the Patron and so Rawcliffe has the same succession of “Yarburghs” and “Deramores” as Snaith and Whitgift. But this stopped in 1910. For in that year the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were prepared to increase the benefice income but, by a rule of those days, they were not able to do this if a parish had a lay person as Patron. So in 1910 the Patronage was transferred to the Vicar of Snaith, who has preserved the ancient link between Snaith and Rawcliffe by appointing the Vicar of Rawcliffe since 1910. But Rawcliffe is a completely independent parish. The Vicar (now the Rector) of Snaith has no other rights in the parish than that of nominating the Vicar.

“Rivers, Rectors and Abbots”, David Lunn - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Robert on 18/12/2007

My father Leonard Haeness was born in Rawcliffe in 1908. He was one of the first babies to be christened in the newly built transept as reported in the parish magazine. He lived in Bell Lane and later on Riverside. My grandfather Charles William served through World War I in the 4th Battalion KOYLI and is buried with my grandmother Beatrice in the local cemetery. My uncle Eric still lives in Goole and I think my cousin Boyd lives in Goole. Does anyone remember or have any information on the family or on the 4th Battalion? Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 27/08/2008

I am trying to find information about Nego House, Rawcliffe. In the 1901 census my wife’s great-grandfather Ralph Morris and his family lived there. Ralph was Nego Firelighter foreman. His sons Walter and Henry were railway engine cleaners. Sons, John, Albert and Arthur were firelighter makers. The rest of the family were mother Sarah (nee Wood) also Lilian and Rose.

Posted by Dorothy on 15/06/2009

My grandmother was born in Rawcliffe, being the daughter of Robert RUSBY. Robert, his wife Sarah and her parents (Richard and Sarah HILL) are all buried in the churchyard, near the door. I visited there in 1999, hoping to find out more about my ancestors, but didn't have any luck, as I wasn't there long enough. Grandma was Kate Rusby and she married Thomas George Craven from Goole.

Posted by Cliff on 22/07/2009

I was born and raised in Rawcliffe and went to Rawcliffe and Snaith schools. My first job was apprentice riveter at Craggs Shipyard, Old Goole. I worked for Jack Peacock who had a coal business at the west end as well as both Turners and Rostrons paper mills. I worked on the river board and Frank Morley was the foreman. I have great memories of Rawcliffe and vividly remember getting barred from the Craykes Arms by Harry the landlord for riding my motorbike into the pub. I now live in Wakefield but until November 2008 my mother still lived in Rawcliffe.

Posted by Wendy on 30/08/2009

I have photocopies of marriage certificates from the Registers for the following, free to anyone if interested. Goole Library have BMD details for Goole and surrounding villages on microfilm along with a lot of other info, well worth a visit.

William Henry Harrison 21 to Emily Dobson 21, 1885 Rawcliffe

Campbell William Kirkpatrick 35 to Jane Butterill 22, 1893 Rawcliffe

Fred Spivey 21 to Mary Taylor 19, 1890 Rawcliffe

Thomas Mapplebeck 28 to Harriet Chalker 22, 1858 Rawcliffe

Posted by Wendy on 30/08/2009

Is anyone researching or belong to the CAWOOD and YOUNG families in Rawcliffe? In particular Hannah Cawood married John Young 1863. Hannah had several children before her marriage to John Young, does anyone know if she was married before? Her daughter Elizabeth Cawood (also known as Young) married John Clayton of Patrington/Keyingham but was working in Rawcliffe on the 1881 census living with Brookes family. They married but as yet not found the details. They then left Rawcliffe for a life in Staddlethorpe/Gilberdyke where they outlived their lives and had family. Is Cawood related to Caward in Rawcliffe? Thanks.

Posted by Robert on 30/08/2009

The people Wendy mentions are in my family tree. I have contacted her directly.

Posted by CA on 23/01/2010

I worked at Rawcliffe Hall on night duty in 1971-72. I remember nurses Pugh, Annis, Sylvia(?), sister Jean(?) and sister Holdsworth. One nurse also had a local taxi service. We used to have pantomimes and dances with visitors from other hospitals

Posted by Mel on 18/09/2010

Looking for details on the KIRKPATRICK family, Campbell, William and Charles. Thanks.

Posted by Robert on 22/09/2010

Campbell William Kirkpatrick married, first, my great-great-grandmother's sister Emma Ledger in 1877, and second, Jane Butterill in 1893 after Emma died. Jane died in 1894 and Campbell in 1901. Campbell and Emma had seven children I know of: Ellen (b. 1877) who married John W.K. Strachan and died in Leeds in 1946, Charles (b. 1878) who had lupus and died in 1909,

Louisa (b. 1880) who married Henry Corner in Leeds and lived in Dewsbury, Arthur (c1881-1984), William (b. 1885) who married Sarah E. Robinson, Ann (b. 1886) and George (b. c1889).

One of William's children, Wilfred, became an accomplished Arabic speaker and government advisor and was murdered in Pakistan as reported in the Times 7 April 1965. There were also two articles about him in the Goole Times in July 2009 relating to the history of Goole Grammar School.

Posted by Gary on 08/10/2010

I have already been in contact with Robert who has given me the Kirkpatrick detail above. I am the great-grandson of Ellen Strachan (nee Kirkpatrick) who was the eldest child of Campbell William Kirkpatrick and married John W.K. Strachan in 1898. I would appreciate any further details on the Kirkpatrick/Ledger family.

Posted by Carl on 20/11/2010

My grandmother was Helen Strachen, her mother was Ellen, married to John Kirkpatrick. I am interested as I now am working in Goole.

Posted by Sharon on 16/02/2014

Just stumbled across this as searching for my husband's uncle Wilfred Kirkpatrick who was murdered in April 1965 in Pakistan when he worked for British government as an envoy! My husband's father was George Kirkpatrick, Wilfred's brother... anyone have any more information on this? Thanks.

Posted by Robert on 19/02/2014

The Kirkpatricks, like me, descend from John Ledger (1815-1880) and Sarah Green (1819-1896). Regarding Wilfred Kirkpatrick (1913-1965), he was christened at Rawcliffe on the 29 June 1913, son of William Kirkpatrick, signalman, and Sarah Eliza (or Elizabeth) Robinson. Wilfred became an accomplished Arabic speaker and Government advisor, before being murdered in Peshawar, Pakistan in April 1965 (reports in The [London] Times 7 April 1965 and 8 April 1965).

Two articles about him appeared in the Goole Times in 2009, one by Mike Marsh on 16 July 2009 as part of the series on the history of Goole Grammar School, and one on 23 July 2009 which from a younger brother, Colin, who in 2009 was aged 79 and living in Scarborough.

Posted by Sharon on 15/11/2014

Colin Kirkpatrick died this year on 5 June at Scarborough we have just found out... so now trying to find Wilfred's grave.

Posted by Sandra on 30/11/2014

My grandmother was Ellen Kirkpatrick William's sister. Our family would also like to find graves keep us posted.

Posted by Jill on 11/01/2015

I am Colin Kirkpatrick's daughter, sadly he died on 5 June this year but for anyone interested in the family, I have lots of stories and knowledge, happy for anyone to email me. Uncle Wilfred's grave is in Pershawa Graveyard, it is a big black plaque with his name on it.

Posted by Stephen on 09/09/2012

I have a lot of ancestry links to Rawcliffe. My great-great-grandfather Thomas Ward was born there in 1831. Also one of my ancestors was a Samuel Ward (b. 1829) who served in the Crimean

War. We have a Joe Mundy who worked at Rawcliffe papermill as manager possibly in the 1960s Does anyone have information on any of these people? Thanks.

Posted by Kevin on 16/08/2013

We may be distant relatives - I am a descendant of William Ward who I believe to be the younger brother of your great(x3)-grandfather, Thomas's father, Samuel.

I have got back a further generation to Joshua Ward who married Mary Pearson in 1779.

Posted by Stephen on 17/11/2012

Does anyone know if there was another churchyard besides St. James that occupies the village square? My family appear to originate from around that area, Airmyn, etc. but I noticed that the church was a relative new build. Records for the church are vast, I have burial records, obviously some cannot be any longer located in the churchyard... or is there another one elsewhere? Thanks.

Posted by Robert on 19/11/2012

There is also Rawcliffe cemetery located along Snaith Road, off to the left not far after the "bad corner". Last time I asked, the burial records were still with the Parish Council and unavailable for consultation.

Posted by Melanie on 16/09/2013

My descendants were the Ffrance family who resided in Rawcliffe Hall in the 1800s, ownership of the hall was passed in a will to the family lawyer on the condition he took the name Ffrance (Wilson - Ffrance). I have conflicting info on why it was passed on out of the family, one being the last squire died without issue and the second his son became Catholic. So have a few bits of the jigsaw puzzle missing! If anyone has any further info would love to hear. Thanks.

Posted by Ron on 14/05/2014

Just found this site by accident whilst looking for something else. Lots of fabulous memories of the Rawcliffe area Bell Lane, West End, etc. Just wanted to say I am related to the Butterills, Morleys, Foxes and Bucks from Rawcliffe and Rawcliffe Bridge also the Whittons from Snaith. My dad was George Butterill (Gud pronounced Jud). If anyone knows any of the above it would be nice to hear from you. Sadly will be in Rawcliffe tomorrow for the funeral of my uncle, Tom Morley dad of Jennifer and Brenda.

Posted by Adam on 15/07/2014

I am a direct descendant of the Whittons of Snaith and Rawcliffe. My grandfather Robert and his wife Sheila retired back over that way to Blacktoft in the 1990s and my great-uncle Jarvis used to run the "Hope and Anchor" pub there. I still have cousins living around there in Gilberdyke, etc.

Hopefully one day I'll make a visit to Rawcliffe and Snaith to have a look where my ancestors came from.

Posted by Ron on 15/11/2014

Adam, I am part of the Butterill clan from Rawcliffe and we may be distantly related. I am the son of the late George Butterill and I am also related to the Whittons from Snaith, my aunty Dollie (nee Butterill) was married to George Whitton. I last saw family a few weeks ago, ie. Whittons, Morleys, Kirkhams, Bucks (sadly at another funeral which is the downside of coming from a large family)

Posted by Steve on 18/05/2014

My great(x3)-grandmother was born in Rawcliffe around 1794. She was Alice Sykes. She was one of many children of the blacksmith Richard Sykes. As far as I know they were in business from around 1800-1900. Does the building that would have been the blacksmiths and perhaps ironmongers still exist? Thanks.

Posted by Gordon on 12/04/2015

I was born and raised in Rawcliffe and we used to watch the blacksmith shoeing the farm horses, as far as I know the building that was the blacksmiths shop is still standing, if you know the village it stood back from the junction of the Green and Station road, there was also a Bank next to it.

Posted by Stephen on 13/04/2015

Thanks for your reply Gordon. I actually went through Rawcliffe the other day as we went to Snaith church to see where Samuel Ward 1789-1837 got married to Alice Sykes 1793-1874 in 1812. So next time I'm in the area I will endeavour to locate where the blacksmiths once was. Alice Sykes was one of the daughters of Richard Sykes (1760-1835) and she was one of about eighteen children as far as I can make out, so he was a busy chap!

The church in your Rawcliffe I have to say is quite impressive, with the balcony, etc. and I see there are many of the Ward family and Sykes buried there.

Posted by Pauline on 15/04/2015

Re Wards in Rawcliffe Churchyard. According to the booklets issued by the Doncaster FHS, the first burial was in 1753. The booklets record burials up to 1900 and there are 33 members of the Ward family in the churchyard.

Posted by Helen on 07/06/2015

Just been reading the comments on here, I'm descended from Samuel Ward and Alice Syke's son Thomas. Nice to see someone else is looking at the family. I agree the Wards and Sykes families are huge.

Posted by Stephen on 08/06/2015

Helen, which of the sixteen children of Thomas do you descend from?

Posted by Helen on 30/08/2015

I'm descended from Thomas' daughter Emma to his first wife, she married George Pepper.

Posted by Steve on 30/08/2015

Helen, I think we may have been in contact before, but yes I know a small bit about Emma, but like most historians I lack photos! However if you look at the Ancestry website you will see the large wedding picture that I have attached to Thomas. Our Emma may well be on there.

I asked which of the sixteen children you're descended from. We come from Jane Isabella Ward.

Posted by Steve on 30/08/2015

Ada Ward (bapt. 20/07/1866 at Airmyn), her mother Ann (perhaps known as Hannah/Anna) was buried at Airmyn on 31st July 1869. I was shocked when I saw this as it means she must have had complications after the birth of which she succumbed... Small world as his second wife is from whom I'm descended.

Posted by Jeffrey on 22/12/2014

My grandfather, Morris Cowling, married Elizabeth (I think) Boynton who died when my dad Fred Stanley was aged about two years old. My father wanted to include Boynton into my name but mum said no. The Boyntons then lived at 14 Portland Street, Rawcliffe Bridge, near Goole.

Posted by Robert on 31/12/2014

I have just read the short history of the Creyke family which some of it my father used to tell me about before his death in 1996. My father Leonard Harness was born in Balle Isle Rawcliffe, to Charles William Harness and Beatrice Hannah Dent originally from Cowick, on 18 October 1908.

One of the many stories he told me was that he was one of the first children to be christened in the newly built chancel. I was to prove correct after his death when I found a Church Newsletter in the Doncaster Archives. I wish had found it before he passed away. My grandfather Charles William Harness served under Captain Creyke in the 5th Batt KOYLI in World War I. If anyone as any info or photos of the 5th Battalion I would love to see them. I have a few I could share.

Posted by Lyn on 30/01/2015

My great-grandfather was Godfrey Butterill born in Rawcliffe.

Posted by Ron on 29/03/2015

I am part of the Butterill clan from Rawcliffe. My dad was George Butterill. My granny and granddad lived at the bottom of Bell Lane in a cottage that was joined on to the old pub that was on the corner. I am also related to the Bucks and Morleys from Rawcliffe and Whittons (from Snaith). Lots of happy childhood memories of visiting Rawcliffe as a kid.

Posted by Lyn on 22/07/2015

Ron, I believe your George Butterill may be connected to my Butterills. My great(x3)-grandfather was Godfrey Butterill, his daughter Sarah was my great-grandmother.

I believe your George was the son of Robert Butterill, he was my great-grandmother Sarah's brother and he married his wife Mary on the same day as my Sarah married. Robert was a witness at the marriage.

Posted by Craig on 15/08/2016

My grandad was Ernest Butterill originally from the Goole/Rawcliffe area and late of Pool in Wharfedale and was married to Lily (nee Webster). They had three children Joyce and twins Colin and Keith. Colin was my dad. I remember visiting relatives over Goole way as a child but unfortunately cannot remember any names. Perhaps we are related?

Posted by Richard on 23/07/2016

My great-grandfather (Robert, parents Thomas and Sarah) was born in Rawcliffe in 1828. He moved to the U.S. in 1848, served in the Union Army in the civil war, lost a leg, but still managed to farm and raise a family, and legend has it, walk to town for a beer daily. My daughter and I will be visiting Rawcliffe in early October.

Rawcliffe Bridge

A common place-name in the old Danelaw areas of the Midlands and the North, usually "farmstead or estate of the freemen or peasants", from Old Scandinavian karl (often no doubt replacing Old English ceorl) + Old English tun.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press

This is technically still within Rawcliffe, but is the name given to the village between the railway line and the point where the road crosses the Dutch River on the way to Thorne. The village is now dominated by overhead traffic thundering past on the M62 between Leeds and Hull.



The railway line has very few trains nowadays and hardly anybody uses the station. It does however give rise to the least used stretch of road in the area when an underpass was built under the line.

This came into existence, of necessity, when the Dutch River was built. It was needed so that the people of Rawcliffe could continue to use their ancient pastures. But it was the coming of the Canal and the Railway in the 19th Century that turned it into a place where people lived and worked. For a time it flourished and then in this century was rescued from final decline by the coming of Croda. In 1896 St. Philip's Church was built for much the same reason as St. James' had been built five hundred years earlier - for the "ease" of parishioners living at some distance from their Parish Church. Chapel, school and shops helped to complete what before the invention of the motor car must have been a lively and self-contained community.

"Rivers, Rectors and Abbots", David Lunn - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Steve on 03/02/2007

Worked with some good people in Rawcliffe Bridge for 22 years had some good laughs. Hope they are still working hard. Wish I was back on that folder gluer! ha ha.

Posted by Prim on 08/05/2007

My family, Ben PROCTOR, wife Adelaide and children Frank, George, Addie, Eileen and Annie all lived at Elms Farm. Would love to hear from anybody who knew/knew of my grandparents.

Posted by Vulcan on 15/04/2008

I knew Evelyn Procter and her sister when they lived in Frog Row at Rawcliffe Bridge. Croda has long since built over all this area leaving no trace. I knew Ben and also his dad who I think was also named Benny.

Posted by Matt on 05/02/2008

I am researching my family tree. My grandad Charley TRINDER and wife Mary GUNN lived in Rawcliffe Bridge. My grandad's family home with his parents was 19 Dobella Road. According to maps this doesn't exist. Can anyone help? Thanks.

Posted by Krebs on 13/08/2008

My grandad said there was a farm on Dobella Lane run by Trinders.

Posted by Yvonne on 29/03/2010

This is a little off track... but am wondering if anyone can help here too, please?

Am following up on my family tree, and it seems they were at Dobella farm too. John Blacker was farming there (according to the 1841 census) along with his second wife (Ellen) and his family from his first wife (Hannah - nee Lawrence - she had died a few years earlier). Thanks.

Posted by Colin on 16/04/2010

Fond memories of Rawcliffe Bridge. I think it was Dobella Avenue not Road and I think I might know some of the Trinders.

Posted by Pauline on 17/04/2010

Colin from Paper Mill Road? Would you be Marjorie's big brother by any chance?

I often think about all the little ones that played down the backs. I have a photo, taken in the early-1950s(?) of you two with Wendy and Linda Butler, Yvonne Morris, Glenn Turner and a little girl called Anne. I think she was Mr Young's grand-daughter so I think her name was Thompson. Do you remember them all - and Mr Young who used to cut your hair?

Posted by Colin on 10/06/2010

Hello, yes we are both fit and well, I live in Hull with my wife of 40 years. My wife met up with Glen Turner at their work where he is a fire officer. I lived at 17 Papermill Road, can't remember your number

Posted by Pauline on 20/06/2010

Colin, I used to live at No.1 - the last house on your side of the street. My dad worked with your dad at the pit. Alan, Shirley and Glenn Turner lived at No. 5.

Posted by Colin on 26/07/2010

Matt, the reason you cannot find Dobella Road is because it is now called Paper Mill Road. The numbers were changed when the name was changed so that No. 59 became No. 4

Posted by Shirley on 27/08/2014

I was born at 43 Dobella Road, Rawcliffe Bridge which eventually became 5 Paper Mill Road. I think it changed when the council houses were built. My name was Shirley Rose Turner. My

brothers are Alan and Glen. Paper Mill Road was once known as Pulp Row, presumably because of the Turner paper mill (no relation).

Posted by Shirley on 27/08/2014

Matt, I know yours is an old post but I went to school with Peter Trinder. I was born at 43 Dobella Road, which is now 5 Papermill Road, and this is why you will not find it on a map.

Posted by Matt on 06/06/2017

My uncle Peter Trinder is still going strong and lives in Hook currently. Still after information on anyone who knew any Gunns or Trinders in Rawcliffe Bridge, my great-grandad Gunn used to have the chip shop on the corner of Portland Street.

Posted by Reg on 28/02/2008

I am researching my family tree. My great-aunt, Lucy BUTLER married William ASPINALL a blacksmith in 1909. I have been told that at some time they kept the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel. They had two daughters, Phyllis and Nora I believe. I would be very interested to hear from anyone still around that remembers them. Thanks.

Posted by Pauline on 21/11/2008

Reg, you missed out grandad and grandma Aspinall's middle daughter Jean. Phyllis (my mother) and Jean died in 1999 but Nora is still alive. Got a picture of them outside Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel before they retired about 1952/53.

Posted by Mike on 12/02/2011

I saw the reference to the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel and the name of MACHIN. I am trying to find about who ran the Hotel.

My wife's great-aunt Hannah Norbury married William Drury. He died in 1919 and the rumour is that she on to run a hotel in the Goole area (sometime between 1919 and 1935-ish). In 1934 she married Harry Coates who had a daughter Muriel Coates. I have now found out that Muriel Coates married a widower Frank Machin who had a daughter from his first marriage, Janet S. Machin, and they ran the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel.

Would anybody know owned/ran the Hotel in about 1934? Thanks.

Posted by Margaret on 13/02/2011

Mike, I remember Frank's wife Muriel, I also remember her mother. Alan Proctor is the person you need to get in touch with, he married Janet (Muriel's daughter) and he still lives in the village.

When my parents retired and left the village, Janet's grandmother gave them a small vase, I still have it. If you can give me your email, and then give me your address, I will gladly send it to you. Don't think that it's worth much but I sure you will like it for sentimental reasons.

Posted by Pauline on 30/11/2014

Past landlords of the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel keep coming up so I'll add some facts for interested parties. In 1940, the licensee was a Mr Woodliffe. My grand-father, William G. Aspinall and his wife Lucy took over in 1942 and stayed until he retired in 1951, when they went to live in Portland Street next door to Mr James (Keith's family). Mrs Coates took over from my grandparents.

Posted by Corby on 16/03/2009

Does anyone know of a Sonny or Sunny Dickinson who lived in Rawcliffe Bridge? Real name Lawrence. I am hoping to find family members. His grandmother was my great-aunt Georgina.

Posted by Alan on 09/03/2010

I have lived in village for 66 years and knew Sonny Dickenson and Ada Fielder very well. They lived at the Pastures and then moved on to Goole. Every weekend my parents and Sonny and Ada used to go for a drink at the Black Horse and call back at our house for supper and knees up at 43 Paper Mill Road.

Posted by Linda on 21/05/2013

Alan, I feel really proud that you've mentioned my grandma Ada Fielder and Sonny Dickenson. They were a lovely pair weren't they? I'm Don Thorpe and Betty Fielder's daughter. We all had some good times at Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel and the Black Horse didn't we? I remember you well. Nice memories!

Posted by Corby on 23/05/2013

Linda, I probably knew your father Don. He was three years older than me and lived down our street. I also knew your aunt Doreen who married my wife's uncle Bob Hall. We visited Doreen shortly after she lost Bob. Doreen had a daughter whose name escapes me but I have a photo of her sitting on her Granny Hall's knee at our wedding. Please give Doreen our regards. We lost touch over the years.

You mentioned Sonny Dickinson. His grandmother was my grand-aunt, being my granddad's sister Georgina. I also have a photo of her on her wedding day.

Posted by Linda on 23/05/2013

Corby, it's a small world isn't it? Yes you're on the right track. My dad's brothers and sisters are Doreen and George who are still alive and Edith and Enid deceased. Doreen's daughter is my cousin Annette who lives down South. My dad was in the merchant navy a number of years so he was away a lot.

Sonny Dickenson and my grandma on my mother's side lived together for many, many years, so many that I always called him granddad. She was Ada Fielder, a lovely woman. Thanks for getting in touch.

Posted by Corby on 24/05/2013

When you place messages on these pages you never know who may be watching. We live in Southampton and Doreen did say her daughter was down here. There are a few Fielders in Goole. I do not recognise the names of yours. I knew the Edinburgh Street ones Gladys, Lucy, Norah, Nancy and Alan. I know, in their teens, Doreen was friendly with Lucy Fielder and my sister Elsie. A strange coincidence is that Sonny as a boy lived across the street from Doreen.

Posted by Linda on 24/05/2013

My grandma Ada was married to Robert Fielder who was brother of Gladys, etc. We're talking about the same family. Unfortunately Robert died in the war. I remember my mum's aunt Gladys very well, although I was very young.

Posted by Pat on 16/03/2015

It's been interesting reading some of the comments. I recall some names and places mentioned. I'm Betty and Don Thorpe's daughter and my sister is Linda x. Our grandma and granddad was

Sonny and had a dwellers at the Blackhorse. Good times, haha. I remember my grandad Sonny playing the piano in a drunken state performing the laughing policeman.

Does anyone remember our great-grandma Cowling who lived between the bridges across from the Blackhorse? She was a little lady, always had a strong cup of tea and a piece of apple pie for anyone who called in!

Posted by Corby on 17/03/2015

Pat, I love these little snippets that keep coming up from the Rawcliffe Bridge area.

I remember the Thorpes in Stanley Street, George and Alice with Doreen and Don. I believe that they had more kids. Doreen used to knock around with my sister Elsie and also Lucy Fielder, they were the same age.

Doreen ended up marrying my wife's uncle Bob Hall. Shortly after Bob's death we visited her in a large house near where "the green houses" used to be. She had a daughter who may still live in Goole.

If it is Sonny Dickinson that you are speaking of, then we were related going back to a Norfolk immigrant Georgina Bunting. His father used to live almost directly opposite the Thorpes with sons Donald, Lawrence (Sonny), Georgina and her little sister.

Posted by Joe on 31/03/2009

I live in Rawcliffe Bridge at the moment and have noticed some creepy goings on at the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel, a figure been seen countless times. Was told something might have been built there before the hotel, or there could have been a death there, and that is why there is a presence. Just curious if anyone has info about these going-ons? Would like to know.

Also a friend of mine was at the school to watch their children perform at Christmas. She was walking through the school when she felt a child's hand grip hers, thinking it was her son she looked down but no one was there. When mentioning this to a friend in the playground a teacher overheard and said that someone had seen a young girl in a classroom on a few occasions. Can anyone help?

Posted by Nathan on 01/02/2010

I live in Rawcliffe Bridge and there has been some odd going-ons in my house. Lights appear fly across the room and vanish. I have seen this outside, normally at the early hours in the morning. I also have a voice recording on my phone of a girl saying "I am real, open the door." Tea lights in my living room are upside down when I get up in the morning. If anybody knows of anything about things of this matter then please contact me. Thanks.

Posted by Margaret on 04/04/2010

The ghosts at the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel must be fairly recent ones. I lived next door (when it was a police house) and never saw, or heard anything unusual.

I remember hitting top speed on my bike when returning home, in the dark, from my friend's house (Grace Walker, Spring Cottages) past the old glucose factory and the ponds. Very creepy! Also, going over the little drainage bridge near the ponds and being dive-bombed by a huge barn owl which used to lie in wait for me.

Posted by Nigel on 14/01/2016

Could anybody from round the Rawcliffe area tell me if the Black Horse Hotel/pub is haunted? We stopped there last Saturday night and had a ghostly experience. I am not a believer but what me and my wife saw was so strange. So if anybody could help it would be appreciated. Thanks.

Posted by Irene on 25/05/2016

Joe, the school is haunted - something to do with school house - I was brought up there. My dad was Squire Bradley, he worked at Turner paper mill (Linpac) which is also haunted. We lived in Bridge Terrace, weird things happen there.

Posted by Diann on 30/12/2009

I was from Rawcliffe Bridge and my dad was Herbert Lee who was the foreman at Turner Papermill then a gardener at Rawcliffe Hall hospital. He was related to the Walker family in Rawcliffe Bridge and married Enid Wroe of Thorne.

Posted by Pauline on 01/01/2010

Hello Diann, I'd given up hope of ever seeing a name I knew on this page! Write some more and see if you can find any school pals from way back. Happy New Year.

Posted by Doug on 28/01/2010

I was born in Canal Cottages (Frog Row) in 1939 and well remember Herbert Lee and daughter Diane, also Pauline Reddall. Over the years I have kept in regular contact with David Chafer who was born at Greenland Farm and Peter Barnett who still lives in the village.

Posted by Pauline on 02/02/2010

Doug, have your ears been burning? At a Post Card Fair, I bought a super card of Frog Row and yours was the only name I could associate with it. I passed it on to Shirley Turner (now Goole Town councillor Mrs Marshall) and she passed it to her brother Alan. Alan did come up with lots of names but none that I remember, but that's not surprising because we only moved into Papermill Road in 1947 and I had left in 1953. Postcards of Rawcliffe Bridge are very scarce so I was very lucky to find it.

Posted by Matthew on 05/02/2010

My grandparents lived at 21 Portland Street, Rawcliffe Bridge, as did many of my nan's sisters (the Gunns). Would be interested in anyone who has any stories or even better photos to assist my family tree. My grandad was Charley Trinder (Chuck) and nan was Mary Trinder (nee Gunn).

Both my great-grandparents (Gunn and Trinders) were involved in the paper mill and they had the shop on the end of Portland Street at one side and a chip shop at the other side. I have fond memories as a child staying with grandparents of a man called Geoff who used to always stand on the corner of Portland Street and wave to everyone that passed by.

Posted by Pauline on 06/02/2010

Matthew, the Geoff you remember was Geoff Goddard, son of Harold Goddard the butcher. He had a sister Margaret - do you remember her? He went to live with Margaret after his parents died. I have a photo with their grandmother on it, taken in the 1950s and she was a widow then, so maybe it was his parents that you remember. Harold Goddard walked with a limp from a war injury.

Posted by Margaret on 04/04/2010

Names are flooding back... Kath Harrison, Rita Kinder, Susan(?) (worked at Rawcliffe Hall as a nurse), Micheal Leake, Clive Broughton, John at the Post Office/garage and the family at the pub.

I can't remember the family's name at the pub but know that they had a daughter called Janet who eventually bought the house next door and had a daughter called Heather.

Many memories... all of them happy.

Posted by Alan on 07/04/2010

Margaret, I assume your parents were Jim and Marion Freeman and you had a brother called David? We were good friends of your mum and dad. I married the girl from the pub called Janet Machin who unfortunately died fifteen years ago. Your father and I were on the committee to get the first playing field up and running, which we did.

Posted by Margaret on 09/04/2010

Alan, yes, of course, I remember you now; I think you were working in construction at the time. I am so sorry to hear about Janet.

Posted by Shirley on 04/10/2011

Have just been reading the comments on this site. I was born in Dobella Row Rawcliffe Bridge, No. 43 in 1936, and have my birth certificate with the address. I never moved, always lived in the same house, which became 5 Papermill Road, when the council houses were built. My dad was George and my mum Mary Hannah. There were three of us, Alan, myself and Glen born in 1947.

Posted by Margaret on 20/10/2011

Shirley, I remember Glen. He was a good friend of David my brother. He used to call in often to see us, especially when he came home on leave from the army. I also remember his wife, I think her name was Doris? David died when he was 58. I hope that Glen and his family are well. Nice memories.

Posted by Doug on 10/12/2011

Shirley, just picked up on Rawcliffe Bridge blog. I remember all your family very well, I was born at Rawcliffe Bridge in 1939 and lived for sixteen years at 2 Canal Cottages before moving to Papermill Road (57?), next door to the Snell family. I am sure I remember Alan having a Francis Barnett motorbike at a time when most of the lads had motorbikes.

Posted by Freda on 30/11/2012

My stepfather worked in The Co-operative shop (the Co-op) at Rawcliffe Bridge around 1948-49. He was Charles Edward Watmough, a grocer from Goole, with a long association with the Parish Church there.

Edith (Edie) Broughton was single, worked at Burton's tailoring in Goole and lived with her two brothers in Rawcliffe Bridge too. When she was approximately 70 years old she married Edward (Ted) Wheldrake from Snaith (born in Whitgift). They then lived in Rawcliffe Bridge in her home and travelled extensively to Adelaide, South Australia three times and also back to Malta, as Ted was there in the navy after World War II.

I hope this helps to ring some bells. With warm regards from Sunny South Australia,

Posted by Sasha on 15/01/2013

I was wondering if anybody has any memories of the Black Horse at Rawcliffe Bridge? I'm currently the manageress and love to hear about the history of the pub. I've lived at New Cottages for the last eleven years. First came to the village at fifteen to New Cottages. Then moved to Rawcliffe, then back to New Cottages! I know lots of people but nobody knows much about the

pub. Old photos of the pub would be a god-send as I'm redecorating soon and would love some photos to frame and hang in the pub. Heard it use to be two cottages. Any info would be fantastic.

Posted by Stephen on 12/01/2014

I know somebody who lived in the pub for 23 years and left nearly 60 years ago. I'm sure he would love to answer some of your questions about its history.

Posted by Ian on 24/01/2013

I try find Rawcliffe Frog Row. My granddad, George Fredrick Raynor, lived at No. 3. My father Leslie William Rayner was also born there. Are there any photos of Frog Row cottage?

Posted by Glenys on 15/09/2015

My parents used to live in Frog Row, Rawcliffe Bridge. If anyone has photos of frog row would it be possible to send me a copy. Tracing my family tree. Thanks.

Posted by Pauline on 16/09/2015

I can send you a picture of Frog Row - proper name, Canal Cottages.

Posted by Linda on 19/02/2013

Does anyone know of a Nancy Walker's whereabouts? She was born and lived at 9 New Cottages, Rawcliffe Bridge until aged 20ish. She had a younger brother and sister, and an older brother and sister. So one of five. They lived there in the 1950s. Their mother worked as a farmhand and their father as a peat digger for British Peat Moss Company. I am trying to trace my mother Nancy Walker who would now be 79 or any of her children/family. Any information would be fantastic.

Posted by Angela on 01/04/2013

Linda, have emailed you some info.

Posted by Patrick on 09/02/2014

I lived in Stubbs Villa with my brother and sisters Mareen, Shirley, Julie plus David. I am the youngest Patrick. I used to go to Rawcliffe Bridge Primary School. Does anyone remember me?

Posted by Nadine on 12/10/2014

Patrick, I remember your family well. I spent a lot of time at your house. I was friends with Maureen and we all went to primary school together.

Posted by Colin on 21/11/2014

Joe Mundy was the chief engineer at Rawcliffe Paper Mill, and a director. His wife Ada was related to the England family, possibly her maiden name. My family all worked at the mill until it closed in 1966. My dad was director of production.

Posted by Glenys on 27/11/2014

Just been looking at Rawcliffe Bridge on the web. I recognised few names. Ada and Sonny. Betty and Don Thorpe we are related. I went to Rawcliffe Bridge primary school. It would be nice to hear from anyone who remembers me. I live in Wilmslow in Cheshire now but I am still a Yorkshire lass. I lived down Harvest Way.

Posted by Amy on 04/01/2015

My dad Keith Jackson "Ruffy" passed away nine years ago. He grew up in Rawcliffe Bridge. I wondering if anyone had any memories or pictures of him. Thanks.

Posted by Mick on 13/12/2020

Amy, I've just found this site for Rawcliffe Bridge. I realise the question about your dad is over five years old but I remember your dad very well. Ruffy was my best mate for many years. We lived next door to each other on Bridge Terrace. We spent all our time together playing football, cricket, tennis, etc. He was a brilliant sportsman especially at football. He was also a great lad. We never argued and always got on really well. We also went on quite a few holidays together including France and Spain.

I have many happy memories of your dad.

Posted by Nicola on 30/01/2016

My grandparents Mary and George Turner used to live at 5 Papermill Road. I have many fond memories of playing in the back lane and by the railway tracks. I would love to have some wonderful stories of my lovely grandparents. My grandma was a true lady and my grandpa helped everyone! My sister and I felt unique as we were the only mixed race children in the village. We treasure our memories and wish well to all that know us, God bless.

Posted by Irene on 25/05/2016

Anyone remember Squire Bradley? He used to play drums at Black Horse. Worked at Turner paper mill (Linpac).

Posted by Shirley on 26/05/2016

My dad was George Turner from 5 Papermill Road, Rawcliffe Bridge. He was great friends with your dad Squire Bradley and George Houghton, think the three of them were known as the "Last of the Summer Wine", my dad being the little scruffy one. My youngest brother was Glen.

Posted by Irene on 27/05/2016

Shirley, I remember my dad and your dad being pals. I always say my dad reminded me of Compo (the scruffy one). They were good hearted blokes. Miss him.

I remember Glen. My brothers were Peter, Stephen and Ernest. Stephen died about two years ago Ernest must be ten years since he died.

Posted by Elaine on 07/06/2016

My ancestor Esau Wells was a brickmaker at Rawcliffe Bridge from about 1833 until his death in 1870. The 1851 census says he employed fourteen men at his brickworks. I saw in the history of the sugar mill that it was a brickworks in the 1800s. Could this be the location of Esau Wells yard? His son John possibly inherited it, but didn't last. Esau is also listed as owned of 48 acres of land.

Posted by Jo on 10/09/2017

I am trying to trace family from Goole/Rawcliffe/Hook area. My great nana, Eva MAW (died around end of 1990s) had three children I think, Peter, Patricia (my nana) and Clive. I visited my Nana's old house around twelve years ago with my nana, we knocked and the lady who lived there very kindly let us come in and chatted with my nana about the different people they knew and where they ended up. My nana Patricia (Pat) went on to work at the Station Hotel in Hull before marrying Ronald Walker and moving to Norfolk.

Posted by Pauline on 02/04/2018

I first moved into Paper Mill Road in 1948 when I started Grammar School and I think the Maw family were still in the street. I do remember that they were one of the first families to move into the new council houses opposite the Rawcliffe Bridge Hotel. I have a photo of Pat's father taken in the 1950s.

Reedness

Rednesse c.1170. "Reedy headland". Old English hreod + næss

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Reedness stretches over a couple of miles and contains many buildings, including a windmill, pub, post office, old folks home, red telephone box and a bus stop. The whole village is under sea-level and all the riverbanks were recently raised to provide long-term protection to the houses.

Like most of the riverside villages, it has a Wesleyan Chapel. John Wesley lived only thirteen miles away in Epworth, so the Ouse borderland formed his early preaching ground.



The local pub was once famous for its one-eyed cat and a landlord who would only serve you during the adverts. However, it was compensated for by the real ales. If you walk along the riverbank, you can just glimpse the Humber Bridge in the distance, and the night skies here are glorious, especially if you're lucky enough to see a shooting star or the Northern Lights.

Reedness and Ousefleet are indeed distinct townships with their own history. But their circumstances are so similar and their history so alike it seems right to deal with them together. The stranger to Marshland reading this needs to remember that Swinefleet, Reedness, Whitgift and Ousefleet all lie along the southern shore of the Ouse and - moving from west to east, from Goole to the Trent - in that order.

A "ness" is another Old Norse word and it means "a headland, a point of land, in the bend of a river". A "fleet" as we have seen can be an "inlet" but also can simply mean "a stretch of river". But as through the centuries the Ouse has meandered across these lands that are barely, if at all, above sea level, its course must have changed so often that it is now hardly possible to decide what it was about a particular "ness" or "fleet" that led people to use them for the naming and distinguishing of one small community from another.

The history of all these Marshland riverside communities is the history of the building - and sometimes alas the failure - of the defences that keep water and land separate. The earliest of these walls and banks takes us back before the beginnings of written records and when the records begin there is the constant complaint of "banks much broken and in decay" and comments about "grete inundations". The Economic Historian

would tell us that one of the reasons that lay behind the generous gifts of Kings and Earls to the Abbeys of Selby, Thornton, Drax and St. Mary's, York, were that these lands were uninhabitable and almost worthless until there had been this investment in drainage and defences. The early history of Reedness and Ousefleet is the story of that investment.

So we begin to find people living in these places - and sometimes people of sufficient importance and wealth to get into the history books and sometimes leave some trace of where they had lived for us to see. For a time the Usfleets of Ousefleet were very important people indeed. They were closely related to the Furnivals, Lords of Sheffield and Hallamshire. Their fortified Manor House, "Hall Garths", still shows the moats that surrounded it and some traces of the once-great house in which Sir John de Usfleet was licenced to have a Chaplain for his Chapel. The last of the line fought at the Battle of Agincourt, supported by nine lancers and thirty six archers.

Similarly the "de Redenesse" family flourished at Reedness. In 1287 a licence was given for the building of a Chapel in the Manor of Reedness. In 1346 "Sir William de Redenesse" was granted "pardon for his good service in the War of France for homicides, felonies, robberies and trespasses committed before September 4th last". (They must have been a wild lot at Reedness for in 1386 John Elmsall, a servant of Thomas de Redenesse, is pardoned for the murder of John Mundson of Swynflete). Traces of a mediaeval house can be seen at Mawgre, inland from Reedness, but this is first mentioned in the 15th Century and I would think that the villainous Sir William lived more at the centre of the village nearer to the river. Surprisingly, Redenesse pays more in the 1379 Poll Tax £2/13/6 than anywhere else in the neighbourhood except Snaith. Ousefleet escaped with 19/10.

Ousefleet was involved in the struggle between Adlingfleet and Selby for ecclesiastical control of the area. Sometime after 1164, Walter, Rector of Adlingfleet, had built a Chapel for those he claimed to be his parishioners at Ousefleet, and around 1200 it was ordered that it be "thrown down to the foundations".

There are some references to "The Church of Reedness" but it seems likely that this actually means "The Church at Whitgift". To this day the sign saying "Reedness" is within inches of Whitgift's churchyard wall.

Reedness seems in later centuries to have had a continuing life as a small port. There was a price to be paid for this. In 1633 Lord Wentworth (who was to become Earl of Strafford and beheaded by Parliament's command in 1641) wrote to tell London that "Pestilence has come into divers parts of Co. York. Redness and Airmin are furiously infected and 100 persons dead, this being brought out of Lincolnshire... it was brought into the suburbs of York by a lewd woman from Airmin... the passages from Lincolnshire have been stopped as much as possible."

The Civil Wars, despite the comings and goings of great persons and the importance of Hull in the struggle, have left few marks on the history of the neighbourhood. Parliament built a fort in 1643 at Whitgift to guard the river but that, I suspect, was a "nine days wonder". But tragedy came to Ousefleet. For Whitgift's Registers tell us that John Hobson, who had been christened on 30 July, 1614, "was slaine in ye warre being taken prisoner for ye King, a boy came behind him and shot him with a pistoll". The Puritanism of the clergy suggest general support for Parliament. But the Empsons were in trouble with Parliament for their support of the Royal cause.

The Admiralty Court's fining of Reedness in 1693 for not removing "the piles and stumps of an old staithe called King's Staithe in the Constabery of Rednesse" suggests that sometime between 1633 and 1693 the port had closed down. Perhaps it never recovered from the plague.

Through the centuries, fashions in generosity change. In the 12th Century there were many small gifts to the Abbeys. By the 15th Century it was the gifts of tenements and lands in "Rednez" and a "messuage" in "Uslytte" that endowed the "Guylde Preyst" in Whitgyfte Church. But by the 17th Century the major concern was for schools. In 1705 John Wressel bequeathed 70 acres of land to a minister at Whitgift and directed that £15

a year should go to a schoolmaster for the education of poor children at Reedness. In 1727, not to be outdone, Emmanuel Empson had set about the founding of a School at Ousefleet. And of course at much the same time the Grammar School at Fockerby had come into existence.

The 18th Century and early 19th Century too had seen the building of Methodist Chapels in the villages of Marshland. The nearness to Epworth encouraged the growth of Wesleyan Methodists and the Trent was the road down which Primitive Methodists travelled north.

"Rivers, Rectors and Abbots", David Lunn - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by SG on 06/09/2006

Pub no longer has a one-eyed cat or telly-addict landlord, and the beer has improved - good on ya, Richard!

Posted by Lorraine on 03/10/2006

I agree with previous comment, Richard is doing a fab job. I heard of a comment recently from another pub landlord who will remain nameless (since I don't know it!) who said it wouldn't last as the new landlord didn't know anything about hospitality. Well sorry nameless landlord, the hospitality at the Half Moon is first class and the atmosphere and food great. A massive improvement on a one-eyed cat!

Posted by Michael on 24/01/2011

Did you know that in 1861 the Half Moon Inn was occupied by Thomas Lazenby, a rat catcher by profession, together with his wife Mary, son John and daughter Selina? I stumbled upon this nugget while researching the Lazenby ancestry for my cousin in Canada.

Posted by Jean on 15/02/2007

My dad (Ron) and his brothers and sisters were raised in Reedness. My grandfather built his own house, with the help of my grandmother who laboured for him. The house was sold and I think it became the post office. My dad and his brothers played cricket for the village in the 1940s and 1950s. My dad went to the village school and was educated by Mr Butler, who taught the children all he knew!

Posted by Christine on 09/07/2007

My father came from Reedness. His father was a Walker and his mother a Hemingway. He and my mother started their married lives at Bank House. My Aunt Rose Walker (nee Leeman) and her husband, Thomas Hemingway Walker, kept a shop there. The most significant thing that I can remember about my visits there is that the lavatory was an earth closet. I hated it.

I have a photograph of children (probably infants) at Reedness school in about 1912.

Posted by Lisa on 07/11/2007

Do you have any idea of the children's names on the photo? Is there a copy on the web anywhere for us to look at?

Posted by Graham on 15/11/2007

My dad, Brian Ward, was evacuated to Reedness during the war. He was from Hull. A Mr and Mrs Yule brought him up after his mum was killed by a bomb at the hospital where she worked.

I am trying to trace a family tree, and if anyone knew my dad, can they get in touch. Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 25/02/2008

Does anyone know of a family who lived in Reedness? The head was Herbert Hewson Harrison (b. 1870 in Gainsborough). He married Lucy Ellen Lawman in 1905 and had a son Herbert Ronald (b. 1910 at Bank House). What I need to know is when H.H. Harrison died and possibly also his wife. I would appreciate any info on this family. Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 19/09/2008

I have ancestors who lived in the Reedness area (Reedness Common). Does anyone remember Solhearns farm or Solhearns cottage? Thanks.

Posted by John on 05/05/2009

I was born in Reedness in 1963 and what a stunningly beautiful place it is. As I got older I met the girl got wed and moved away but the pull was far too great to keep away and was lucky enough to buy the little council house I was born in which my parents lived in for 40 odd years. Trust me life does not get any better than this, especially since Rich and Ann took over the pub.

Posted by Susan on 13/08/2009

I have BELL ancestors from Reedness and Whitgift. Does anyone else out there have them? Thanks.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 05/12/2009

St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Whitgift, (just near the Ousefleet village border sign): This church has (or had) three bells and the second or middle one had/has on the name “Tho[mas] Ella, Ch[urch] Warden, year 1792”.

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 11/09/2010

From “West Riding [of Yorkshire] Election”, year 1841 (a poll to elect two knights of the shire):
“Whitgift Township: Including other residents, the poll also included Thomas Ella of Whitgift, William Ella of Adlingfleet Grange and John Ella of Adlingfleet Grange.”

Posted by Jan on 14/11/2010

My first teaching post was at Reedness school in 1969. I used to travel there on a scooter. I remember taking my class to see the goats at a local farm. I was called Mrs Roffey then.

Posted by Michael on 02/01/2011

I was born in the house in 1943 opposite the farm known as Ivy House farm owned by the Cowling family. My family was the Clark family. My grandfather was the local builder and built the house himself.

I went to Reedness school. In those days the school had only four classrooms and was large enough to accommodate all the children in Reedness, Whitgift and the common. Just the last two years of my schooling were spent going to the Goole Modern School.

Reedness was a nice place to live. I never went on holidays, I was always told Reedness is where people like to come on holiday.

Posted by Linda on 10/07/2011

My grandfather, Herbert Barley Cooper, was born in Reedness in 1894, his mother was Maria Cooper, her father Edward Bell Cooper. I cannot find an address on the census forms, would be pleased if anyone can help. Thanks,

Posted by Josephine on 14/09/2011

Linda, I may be able to help you with Maria Cooper and Herbert Barley. Maria's parents were my husband's great- great-uncle and aunt.

Posted by Simon on 20/11/2011

Herbert Barley, husband of Maria Cooper, is my great-grandfather, Tom Edwin Barley's brother. I have a photo of him before his early death. I assume that Herbert is Herbert Barley Cooper's father.

Posted by Jill on 16/08/2011

My ancestor Thomas Clark was master corn miller in Reedness according to the 1881 census. His two younger children Alfred and George were born there and there were at least six older children, Walter (my great-great grandfather), Thomas, Henry, Annie, Theodore, and Agnes (who had moved there from Swinefleet).

Thomas senior was born in Keyingham. I believe their mother was London-born. Walter also went on to become a miller. Does anyone know if there are any school or church records which might fill out my picture of their lives there? Is the windmill pictured the only mill in the village as if so that must be where they lived? Thanks.

Posted by Peter on 28/11/2011

My great-great-grandmother came from Reedness and was the eldest daughter of John Cornelius Sheppard, the wheelwright and Hannah Ellis. I would like to contact any other descendants.

Posted by DS on 21/05/2016

My great(x3)-grandad was John Cornelius Sheppard, the wheelwright who married Hannah Ellis.

Posted by Brian on 06/05/2012

My father's uncle (full name John George Hermon Lefley!) married Alice Ann Shipley in 1904. He was a "market gardener" and the extended family lived at Amcotts, Pasture Lane and in Scunthorpe. He died in Goole 1953. Does anybody have any clue?? Thanks.

Posted by Lorraine on 29/11/2012

I have found a reference in a new book on Reedness.

It mentions a Mr Jack Lefley and daughter Ivy occupying a property on land in Reedness which is now occupied by Parkin's Patch, near the school. There used to be a mill there so I think it was probably referring to Mill House.

Posted by Brian on 12/12/2012

Thanks for the info Lorraine! I went to a Family history day at Goole library recently and met some members of the Marshland Local History Group. One of them knew John (Jack) Lefley as a young girl. He lived at the house near the Windmill at the Carroll. The society has an excellent little book called "the Marshland Trail" with interesting local photos.

Have found the book you refer to. It is "Memories of Reedness" published by the Marshlands Local History Group at £9.95. Excellent read - available via their website.

Posted by Brian on 11/10/2012

Does anybody know where "Carol House", Reedness was (or is)? Thanks.

Posted by Jackie on 16/10/2013

My mum's great-grandfather was George William Thornton Middlebrook of Reedness Hall. My grandad and his sisters had a privileged upbringing with a governess, their father is recorded as a gentleman and landowner. He had married a May Jane Mapples a farmer's daughter from the area.

I am looking into the family tree and it's very interesting. In the lawn of Reedness Hall is buried a barrel of brandy placed there when my grandad was born and to be opened on his 21st birthday but by then the house had been lost to gambling.

Posted by Vicky on 24/03/2015

My mum's mum was from the Middlebrook family of Reedness - George William Thornton Middlebrook is my great(x3)-grandfather. According to my nan, his son John Robert Martin Middlebrook was a "bit of a rogue" who wore gold hoop earrings and rode a penny farthing. Who knows how true that is!

Posted by Trevor on 12/12/2017

John Robert Martin Middlebrook was my grandfather and I have a lot of history about him, including his school details. My mum was one of his seven daughters and also two brothers. I have the family register together with photographs.

Posted by Fiona on 30/01/2018

My grandmother on my mother's side was related to the Middlebrook family of Reedness. Elsie Ann Middlebrook was my great grandmother. I believe she was the eldest of eight children. I'm wanting to find out more about this side of the family.

Posted by John on 30/11/2013

Can anyone throw any light on the reason the road takes a loop around the back of Reedness School? The playground surface forms a straight line which logically would have been the line of the road before the school was built.

Posted by Christine on 12/12/2013

My family originate from Reedness. My grandad and grandma were Mr and Mrs Joseph Dixon, they lived at Woodgarth House. My granddad was the joiner there. I remember he used to do funerals and made the coffins. My dad was Stanley, he had a brother called Ronald and three sisters Mavis, Doreen and Glenys. I have happy memories of Reedness.

Posted by Alan on 27/03/2015

My grandad lived opposite school and was the caretaker at the school. The house was a farmhouse with a hand pump in the front garden (got a photo of it with grandma). We used to go and play there. He died on a foggy night the same night that a ship ran aground.

Posted by Karlie on 13/07/2015

My parents live at Parkin Patch in Reedness and it is built on the land where the old mill used to stand. They still have an original mill stone in the garden which is now used as a lovely feature and table.

Posted by Patricia on 18/11/2017

Does anyone know of a coal merchant from Reedness called Herbert or Joseph Penistone? He originally had a business in Mariners Street, Goole but was moved when they built the POW camp there in World War II.

Posted by Clive on 19/02/2020

My great-great-grandfather Anthony Drury was born at Reedness Hall but not much is known about his father Benjamin Drury (b. about 1745) or how they became residents of the Hall. I know he married Ursula Duckles and many Drurys were buried at Whitgift churchyard. Can anyone oblige me with further details? Thanks.

Saltmarshe

Saltemersc 1086 (Domesday Book). "Salty or brackish marsh". Old English salt + mersc.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Saltmarshe Hall, set in a beautifully wooded surround, is typical of an estate landscape. Although completely moulded by man, the house mellows with the yellow cover of rape blossom and the varied shades of green leaf and creates a rarely seen haven on the lower Ouse, as most trees have been felled by farmers.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Janni on 12/03/2008

Who built Saltmarshe Hall? When was it built? Where can its history be found? Thanks.

Posted by Fiona on 23/04/2008

It was built by the Saltmarshe family in 1825, architects Prichett & Watson with additions by JB & W Atkinson.

Philip Saltmarshe was the last member of the family and he had no heirs, he died in the early-1970s and the house was sold. It is still a private house and I have heard the gardens are open to the public as part of the "Yellow Book" scheme.

There is an entry about it in Pevsner's "Buildings of England" series "York & East Riding of Yorkshire" 1995 edition.

Posted by Stuart on 28/05/2008

Although Saltmarsh Hall is not open to the public, it does have an "open day" for people to look round its gardens.

Posted by Norma on 14/03/2008

Who was the owner and family who lived in Saltmarshe Hall during the 1860s to early-1900s? Is this now a hall that one could tour? I am looking for the name Mary Smart who was employed there sometime during 1860 or maybe a little before.

Mary was my great-grandma, am most anxious to find family members in the area. Thanks.

Posted by Patrick on 07/06/2008

My family live in the two cottages on the Saltmarshe estate that were occupied by the coachman and the butler's families. The hall that now stands is the second one being built in the early 19th Century, the first was a wholly smaller affair and was 200 meters nearer the village and river. This was used as a school in the 1800s. The Saltmarshe family can trace its ancestry right back to Domesday and have been residents in the hall up until 1970.

All sorts of characters can lay claim to the name ranging from judges to mad old men with 50 cats or more - typical aristo's one might say! We are ourselves unsure of the actual date of the cottages but think they are about 250 years old. It's hard to pin them down in the census as there are no names or numbers. We can't identify the houses anyway before the butler's profession is named.

There is also a whole book on the Saltmarshe family, written by Captain Philip Saltmarshe, but alas can only be viewed by visiting Goole Library as it's in the archives and cannot be removed.

Posted by Duncan on 10/06/2008

With scant info and taking a long shot, there is a family of Smarts listed on the 1861 Census in Portington, which is approx. five miles from Saltmarshe.

Thomas SMART, 42, agricultural salesman

Jane SMART, 39, wife

? SMART, 11, daughter

Mary SMART, 9, daughter

Alice SMART, 7, daughter

Bentley SMART, 6, son

Elizabeth SMART, 3, daughter

Sarah SMART, 1, daughter

If you want to research you could use www.1901censusonline.com

Posted by Norma on 10/06/2008

Thank you so much Patrick and Duncan - whoever you are - for the information. I hope to be in England next year and possibly can make a trip to the Goole Library. I am new at this so feel like it is an arduous task. My great-grandma's second name was Ellen, employed at Saltmarshe Hall. If only I could at least find some ancestors who had information. My cousin, Jack Day now lives in Hook (Mary was his grandma). My grandma was Sarah (Sally Outwin). Mary Smart was of course her mother.

Posted by Barry on 12/08/2008

I have many fond memories of Saltmarshe, Skelton and Laxton as a young lad. I was brought up in one of the railway houses at Kilpin crossing near the delphs. No electric, no tap water, but happy days. Remember having to go to Saltmarshe Hall to get a fishing permit from Capt. Philip Saltmarshe, a rather eccentric looking old man - he used to frighten us boys. I remember him driving a white Triumph Vitesse car.

I left the area when I was twenty, but I've still got family in Skelton. Would like to hear from anyone who remembers me. Thanks.

Posted by John on 27/11/2009

I recall the old railway crossing cottages which Barry mentions. There were two and the other one was occupied by Lewis Coulthard and his family. I know Lew worked for the railways and operated the crossing gates but I think he also or maybe later worked on the swing bridge over the Ouse.

The earth to build the railway embankments was dug out leaving a great hole which filled up with water and was sometimes used for swimming and also for angling. There used to be some huge stuffed pike in glass cases in the Ashes Playing Field Pavilion in Howden which were

caught in the ponds (known locally as Skelton Delphs). After Colonel Saltmarshe died, the Delphs were made into a nature reserve and the local kids lost an amenity.

The dairy farm behind Saltmarshe Hall is presently occupied by a branch of the Sweeting family who own and farm much of the old estate now. I don't think this is the same family as Barry would belong to?

Posted by Judy on 21/08/2008

My mother-in-law, Elise McLaughlin-Hunt, was born in Leeds in 1909. At age fifteen (1924) she went to work in Saltmarshe Hall, said she scrubbed floors on her hands and knees.

Posted by Pojo on 11/05/2009

Elsie Hunt, nee McLaughlin was my grandmother. I do not have her original birth certificate, but her passports state that she was born in Laxton, not Leeds.

Posted by Duncan on 25/09/2008

I am carrying out research into my family history but have drawn a blank on part of it. My grandmother's birth certificate shows her mother as Sarah BARRET, kitchen maid at Saltmarshe Hall. The year was 1913.

Does anyone know of said Sarah or where I may find further records of the servants of the day? 1901 Census shows no record of likely candidates. Thanks in advance for any offerings.

Posted by Richard on 05/11/2008

Try the spelling BARRATT when searching. My family were living in Laxton and Metham around 1900. No knowledge of Sarah, sorry

Posted by Duncan on 22/01/2009

Thanks for your comments Richard. I'll do some more research as suggested and see if anything turns up.

Posted by Patrick on 08/02/2009

If you can get into Goole Library, upstairs in the archive department, all census records are kept on micro film and I have seen all maids and staff for the hall at Saltmarshe listed, as I was looking for the butler's name because of the connection to our cottages.

Posted by Duncan on 09/10/2009

Thanks Patrick for your comments all that time ago. For those interested, I tracked down Sarah BARATT (well done Richard) on the 1911 census aged 24 and working at Saltmarshe Hall. She was born in Pattingham, Shropshire, not far from Wolverhampton. I've also found that she died in Goole in 1917 aged 30 years. The hunt continues!

For those looking for names of servants etc., the 1911 census for Philip Saltmarshe lists all those at the house including William DAWSON (footman) and Charles PARKER (houseboy)

Posted by Sue on 15/05/2009

My dad was a footman at Saltmarsh Hall in the early-1940s. I think, his family lived in Saltmarsh. His name was Harry Wainman, his mother Agnes and auntie Edde.

Posted by Sheila on 27/05/2009

My great-grandparents (Henry and Eliza Rabey) worked on the Saltmarshe estate in 1901 at the dairy. Their daughter (Mary Jane Rabey) worked at the hall, although I cannot find any evidence. Does anyone know where the housekeeping records went when the house was sold? I would be

very interested to see them as they are usually a fairly accurate record. My mother Myrtle Scarrow, born 1921, was named after one of the Saltmarshe family who died in 1918. She has many memories of the area in the 1920s and 1930s.

Posted by Wendy on 14/06/2009

The Saltmarshe records could well be at the Treasure House, Beverley or the Bortwick Institute at York. Both of these places holds the records for this area, it just depends where the records were deposited or they could have been kept privately. I think if anywhere it would be the Treasure House.

For anyone wanting information on Family History, the Goole Times weekly local newspaper has a Readers Section and would welcome anyone wanting to seek information, etc.

I was brought up locally so know these places very well, still local in Goole.

Posted by Matthew on 06/07/2009

My grandfather was evacuated there to live with his grandparents during WWII. His grandfather was Richard Atkinson who was the chauffeur there and Alice Atkinson who did the laundry. They all lived at Laundry Cottage on the estate.

Posted by PN on 24/11/2009

I remember Richard "Dick" Atkinson as a child. I believe he was a chauffeur, not to the Saltmarshes, but to the Schofields on the nearby Sandhall estate. Yes, there is a Laundry Cottage at Sandhall, he lived there with his wife. My daughter rented the cottage for a while a few years ago. The old washhouse was still intact and it had to be preserved as it was years before although not in use.

Posted by Katie on 29/07/2009

The last picture on this header is the grave of my great-grandad Bertie BRIGNALL. He lived at Corner Cottage and worked this land, he also worked at Saltmarshe Hall, My dad Ivan now owns the remaining acre of land which my great-grandfather used to rent. His ashes are buried there. That's where he wanted to be, in the tranquil setting of Fox Lane.

Posted by John on 15/12/2009

Does anyone recall a ship going aground in the river at Saltmarshe near the hall? I have a recollection of cycling from Howdendyke with my father to look at it as a youngster. It was best viewed from just along the bank from the gate into the hall gardens which was located at the end of the village. When we saw it there was quite a gathering of locals observing it. There were a couple of ropes from it to trees in the gardens to stop it drifting around with the tides. This must have been in the 1950s I think but I can't recall the name of the vessel.

Posted by Robert on 19/12/2009

Probably the SS AIRE which collided in the river with the German collier HELENE B. SCHUPP at Saltmarshe on 6 October 1958.

Posted by John on 23/12/2009

I had a faint idea the grounded ship I recalled was some years earlier than 1958. Maybe around 1953 or 1954 but it's only a dim memory now. Maybe there were two incidents? If not, it's a hazy memory.

Posted by Fiona on 09/03/2010

My grandfather Fred Barrow was a manager at AHL when the ship sank. I have a lot of the photographs he took. When I was little (I was born the year after the calamity) he used to take me to Saltmarshe Park and show me the chain scars on the trees there. The story of the loss of the ship, the life of one of the crew and the fact it was exploded fascinated me.

Posted by Paul on 15/02/2010

Intriguing mystery highlighted by the new history section of Hull Library. They are in possession of a single left-handed duelling glove donated by the Saltmarshe family, approx. 1804. Reputed to have belonged to Captain Philip Saltmarshe. Two military men fought, blood spilt, but whose? All I can find is that Philip was dead by 1807, when his youngest daughter Anne Catherine died. Were the Saltmarshe family living before 1825?

Posted by Linda on 28/02/2010

My ancestors William Henry Walmsley and Henry Walmsley were millers at Saltmarshe Mill. Listed in the 1861 and 1871 censuses. I guess I probably still have distant relatives in the area.

Posted by Phil on 17/05/2010

My grandma on my father's side was an upstairs maid at Saltmarshe Hall, I think around 1920. Would love to see any photos from that period. Her name was Betty Backhouse, she was a farmer's daughter from Skelton. My mother (Dorothy Wilkinson) lived at the railway crossing (the triangle) in the house next door to Sweetings when she was about ten years old.

My mum and dad have an edition of the book written by Captain Saltmarshe, the only other one I think is in Goole library. I think the records from the hall were all sold in the auction in the 1970s. My dad has a salmon rod given to him by Philip Saltmarshe. I remember going to pick it up with him. I still live in Skelton.

Posted by Lesley on 16/12/2010

Can anyone tell me a date of when the cottages in Saltmarsh were built?

I refer to the two cottages (after Joiners Cottage) when you come out of Saltmarshe Park along the river side as though you are going to Laxton. I am having difficulty with the insurance company who are insisting on knowing a definitive date before I can insure with them, all records my mother holds are vague. Thanks.

Posted by Victor on 03/02/2011

We attended the sale of the contents of Saltmarshe Hall early in the 1970s, and we purchased amongst other things the Library Chair belonging to Captain Philip Saltmarshe. Could anyone please tell me what was the exact date of the contents sale, and the name of the company who conducted the sale? My wife (who made the purchase!) re-covered the chair and it is still in superb condition and in constant use today. Any help with these details would be gratefully received. Thanks.

Posted by Jennifer on 09/07/2012

I have a photocopy of part of two pages of the catalogue given to me over twenty years ago by English migrants to Australia. No year readable, but first day, Tues 15th June: jewellery, silver, plate, pictures, library of books. Second day, Wed 16th June: china, glass, brass, copper and other metalwork, furnishings of the reception rooms and domestic offices. Third day, Thurs 17th June: furnishings of two staff wings, bedrooms, main landing, corridor and staircase, ornamental and

ancillary items, fishing tackle and firearms, shotguns and antique pistols and outside items. I'm sure they told me early- to mid-1970s.

Posted by RB on 01/03/2011

I'm trying to locate where the Punch Bowl pub would have been in Saltmarshe in the 1820s. I have seen from the Baines trade directory that my ancestor, Thomas Barker, was the landlord in 1823 and I would like to find out more about him as I suspect this line of the family originates in the Saltmarshe/Howden area.

Posted by Helena on 13/03/2011

On 3 June 1817, Emma RAWSON of Halifax married Christopher SALTMARSH, Esq. of Saltmarshe. He died 15 October 1852. She died 15 July 1834. Can anyone tell me what trade the Saltmarshes were in? I presume they were in trade because, in the research I am doing, there is a mention of his warehouses on the riverbanks. Thanks.

Posted by Phil on 07/05/2011

I was booking clerk at Staddlethorpe railway station, now called Gilberdyke, nearly 50 years ago and Captain Philip (spelt with one "P") the last of his line, was still alive and living at the Hall. The family originally came over to England with William the Conqueror and the family settled on the banks of the River Ouse. The Saltmarshe family were important military figures, some being generals etc. Captain Philip was ADC to the Governor General of Australia in his early career.

The railway station at Saltmarshe is actually in Laxton village. Part of the contract of the Saltmarshe family, in selling the land to the then railway company, was that the station had to bear the name of the Saltmarshe family and the Saltmarshe family had the right to have any train stopped, especially at Saltmarshe for them to board, usually one of the London trains. Captain Philip's father, the old Colonel, would inspect several compartments to decide where he was going to sit before boarding often taking several minutes to do so.

Posted by Shirley on 04/06/2011

My aunt and uncle, Hannah and George Pratt lived and worked at Saltmarshe Hall, back in the 1950s. They lived in a cottage on the estate and this is the one and only time I remember seeing my grandmother, Hannah Richardson, descendant of Matthew Brunyee (1605-1645). My mother, father and two brothers and sisters all went up for a holiday and alighted at a small railway station (Saltmarshe?) and walked to the cottage where my aunt and uncle lived with their large family. Happy memories.

Posted by Corby on 05/05/2012

Does anyone have NORWOOD/BEALBY connections?

I am searching for a husband of Mary Norwood born 1736 in Saltmarshe. Father Michael and mother Mary Bealby. The husband's name was Thomas COOK. Where was Thomas born? Thomas and Mary were married in 1759. Thanks.

Posted by Anon on 21/07/2012

Who used to own Saltmarsh and could the property be passed down to family members? (me as I am family according to my mum and all her family) My mother's grandfather used to own Saltmarshe Hall. I wish I had lived there. It looks very grand and beautiful.

Posted by Pam on 05/08/2013

If your mother's family owned Saltmarshe Hall, you'll have to share it with me as my mother was a Saltmarshe. ;-)

I doubt your grandfather owned it, as the last owner, Colonel Saltmarshe, died childless in the early-1970s.

Posted by Paul on 23/10/2012

My grandfather, William Heaton Elmhirst (who I remember), was a curate who lived at the vicarage at Laxton at the end of the 19th Century. He had eight sons (my dad was number eight so got the middle name of Octavius) followed by one daughter. As a result my grandmother was known as “the hardy annual”.

My oldest uncle remembered Colonel Saltmarshe leading the procession of torchbearers to light the beacon on the banks of the Humber for Queen Victoria’s Jubilee in 1897. I recently tracked down 70 letters which the eight brothers and their sister had written as a round robin during World War I. It is called “The Family Budget”. One was killed on the Somme and one was killed at Gallipoli. One became an Air Marshal in World War II.

Posted by Les on 28/11/2012

Saltmarshe Hall is a Grade II* listed building. Full listing on historicengland.org.uk². I was one of 200 volunteer photographers who took 270,000 photos of listed buildings “as at” the Millennium.

Posted by Saltmarshe Hall on 25/01/2013

It’s very interesting reading through the history of Saltmarshe. If anybody has managed to find any old pictures I’d love to see them. We’re trying to gain as much history of the hall as we can.

For those wanting more up to date pictures of the hall you can see some at our website <http://www.saltmarshehall.com>

The hall is celebrating its opening as a venue for weddings and events by hosting a Masquerade Ball on 23 March (2013). For those wanting to see the hall it will be a great opportunity for that as the hall and gardens will be open throughout the event.

Posted by Darren on 03/05/2015

I’m looking for info on a young stable boy who apparently worked at Saltmarshe around 1900 or 1910. His name was Edward Fisher. Thanks.

Posted by Dave on 02/07/2018

I recently found out my ancestors, Mr Urias Pratt, was headkeeper at Saltmarshe Hall and the last miller, 1882. If you or any one knows of any information about him I would be grateful to hear from you. Thanks.

Posted by Corby on 05/07/2018

My maternal roots were from Asselby, where I know of the mill which was there and the miller, who also had a mill at Howdendyke. I believe your ancestor arrived from outside of the area. The only graves in the Minster burial ground with the name Pratt were:

- Robert who died in 1843 aged 20
- Anne who died in 1873 aged 57
- Eliza who died in 1878 aged 56
- There was one who died at Garforth

When he was a miller, where did he work? Good luck with your quest

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1203298?section=official-list-entry>

Skelton

"farmstead on a shelf or ledge", Old English scelf (with Scandinavian sk-) + tun.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Skelton is strung out along a narrow road which follows the bend of the Ouse. All the houses have nice views of the concrete wall which protects them from the swirling river.



The Hull to Doncaster railway crosses the river at Skelton via the huge Goole Swing Bridge. As with all the villages around here, the roads are a pleasure to cycle along. They are usually free of traffic and surrounded on both sides by trees.

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Norma on 14/03/2008

Looking for relatives of Mary SMART, said to live in Skelton during 1860-1870 or thereabouts. Was in service at Saltmarshe Hall around 1860-1870. Married Henry Wood, lived in Goole on Carter Street. Had five or six girls, my grandmother being the first one Sarah or Sally. Thanks.

Posted by Jane on 27/11/2009

My grandfather was born at Manor Farm House, Skelton in 1870. Has anyone a photo of the house or any info about it? Thanks.

Posted by John on 13/12/2009

Skelton had a couple of shops to serve the population in my youth. One was at the end of Jenny Lane and formed part of a block of houses which looked out towards Wards Staithe on the riverbank. The whole block is now offices for the “new” jetty and yard. Following this block was a terrace of houses (still standing) then a larger house set back, and a couple more houses attached to the Jolly Sailor Pub, a Hull Brewery inn. Horace Prince held the licence right through my formative years and Horace together with his sons Bill and Jimmy supplemented the family income as window cleaners and chimney sweeps over a wide area around Howden, Howdendyke, Kilpin and Skelton.

Next to the Jolly was an open space which in the past had been Skelton Shipyard. As a boy I saw old disused wooden derricks in the yard and metal rails running across the road from the yard, through a planked gap in the bank to the river’s edge. We were told the ships used to be launched off these. Next to the shipyard was a row of houses, now demolished and replaced. Dick Abbey lived in one of the old houses but I do not recall which.

There was a gap of a couple of field’s width before the next houses which were alongside a grass lane, connecting to Jenny Lane. This group of house was known as Crow Trees and I think one was occupied by Jack Carter. Another field then the old chapel and a couple of houses, one of which was occupied by Johnny Jackson.

Yet another gap then Clough corner followed by a series of farms with Bill Clayton’s being the first. As I recall these were much spread out with several gaps between them. All the gaps are now filled in with new houses right along the way to the block of houses which contained the other shop “Henry Claydons”. Henry was also a basket maker and had a shed down a lane behind the houses where he practised his trade. I recall he had a daughter Molly who sometimes served in the shop. After the block with the shop was a terrace of houses before the next gap of open fields followed by a farm which in later years was occupied by Rob Jarred. At the end of the village was (and still are) the railway houses attached to the Swing Bridge.

Beyond the railway was the Sandhall estate but that’s another community.

Posted by Corby on 15/12/2009

Although I never lived that side of the river, your posts on the area of the villages have brought back many memories. My friends and I used to use the Jolly Sailor pub but before that, fishing at Kilpin Pond for roach or perch - once caught returning them to the water. We would visit my friend Derek Cutts’s grandma, Mrs Wheldrake, who lived quite close to the pub. I also remember a candlestick she had which was made from the metal with which the R100 was built, for Derek’s mother worked for Barnes Wallis and his father for Neville Norway Shute.

My own father spent many clandestine visits on the Saltmarsh estate between the wars. People called it poaching but I would like to rephrase it and call it surviving. Of course my main interest in the area now is to find out more about the shipbuilding that went on in the mid-19th Century by Banks and Caisley. On the 1871 census of Skelton there was Bridge Cottages, six in all. The families were J. Milust (gardener), W. Coultard (agricultural labourer), R. Hales (engineer), C. Cook (engineer - my great-grandfather), J. Hope (engineer) and T. Gill (signalman).

My wife was taught music by your aunt Jessie at the Modern School and always remember her for turning up riding a motorbike, quite trendy now, but a living a bit before her time then. A trend setter! I always remember me allowing my wife (then my girlfriend) to ride my Triumph

Speed Twin along Westfield Banks. She went off quite easily on her own but when I climbed on the back, we both came off laughing. Happy days.

Posted by John on 15/12/2009

Was the Banks and Caisley shipyard you mention the same one I recall next to the Jolly Sailor? This would be about opposite the old Cleveland oil storage tanks which were on the Hook side but are now demolished and houses built on the site.

As to the music teaching it would be my aunt Judy rather than Jessie (maybe the pupils called her Jessie as most of us Jessops got that as a nickname at some time or other) who taught at the Modern School. She had a motorbike but changed to driving a car in the 1950s. Her first car was an Austin A30 then some years later she changed to an A35.

Posted by Corby on 16/12/2009

My wife agrees Judith sounds right. A good choice for her first car. The yard in question was the one you described next to the Jolly. My interest lies in the fact that the ships built there were special. They travelled worldwide and there is very little being put down on paper to carry on their memory or the men who sailed them and also built them. I remember seeing on the walls of the Jolly photos and sketches, so some made an attempt to capture the moment for posterity.

Posted by John on 07/01/2010

Sandhall Estate lies beyond the railway bridge at Skelton. When I was young I used to occasionally cycle through the park and onwards to the riverbank. The first thing you came across is the gate across the road with a gate lodge alongside it. Passing through this gate you entered the park and before long encountered a second gate. Through this gate was the area surrounding the hall with the main house on the left. Facing this on the right was the old stables block followed by a number of estate workers cottages which backed onto the riverbank.

Continuing along the road there was a third gate giving access to the park grassland with yet another (fourth) gate where the grass field finished and arable land started. Some way down this road was the farm and buildings with a couple of tied agricultural workers cottages facing it. Neville Thompson was farm manager for the estate around the 1970s.

The road carried straight on until it ended at the last farm which was at the riverbank. During the 1950s some refugees from the Hungarian uprising came to live at this last farm. I recall the children starting at Howden School unable to speak much English but they learned pretty quickly and soon settled in.

The estate was owned by the Schofield family at that time and Mrs Schofield was quite a character. She would cycle from Sandhall to the shops in Howden, sitting very erect on her bicycle wearing a long tweed skirt and the bicycle had panels covering the back wheel to prevent this skirt being entangled in the spokes. She made a point of always greeting folk she met including children.

I have not been down to Sandhall for some years now but I believe the last farm fell into dereliction and may not exist today.

The old school in Skelton became the E P Schofield Memorial Hall.

Posted by John on 10/01/2010

Kilpin seems to have been lumped in with Skelton but was actually a completely separate community spread out along a couple of miles of road. During the 1950s it started at Elm Tree corner where there was Elm Tree House and Elm Tree Gardens where my father grew tomatoes and cucumbers etc. A little way along was Elm Tree Farm on the junction with Bellcross Lane.

This was owned by Ernest Austwick and his sister Mabel. Also living there was an ex-German prisoner of war George Richnau. A couple of hundred yards further on the right was Elm Tree Bungalow, occupied by Claude Baines and his wife.

Continuing further, on the left was Pollards Pond which had a house and wind pump that pumped water to the chemical works and also supplied a number of chemical works houses along the way. Tommy Pollard allowed people to fish in this pond for the princely sum of 3d a day. In the summer he sold bottles of lemonade to fishermen. Access to the pond was via a track alongside Sunny Bank which was a group of five cottages. Ken Jackson lived in one, a woman known as Beattie in another and at the front lived Joe Otter and family and Cliff Coulthard and family.

Next was another pond with house and greenhouses belonging to Chris and Madge Kettlewell who also grew tomatoes and were friends of our family. Their pond was not open for fishing but I was allowed to fish there a couple of times.

Some distance further on were a couple of cottages. In the first, next to a grass lane, lived Barry Watsons family but I can't recall who lived in the second. The road curved round into Kilpin village proper after that with the new hall on the right, occupied by Longthorpes. They owned the farm opposite.

A tee junction next with the road to the left going to Balkholme over the common with wetland and trees at each side of the road which was said to belong to the freemen of Kilpin but no-one knew who they were. From the common end of the road the first house was Dairy Farm, occupied by George Grandin who had been an Italian prisoner of war who stayed on when the war ended. Next was Harold Johnsons farm, then Les Camplejohns. Les was a keen pigeon fancier and won many races with his birds. At the other side of the road was a chapel which has now been converted into a house, Jenny Lane, which runs through to Wards Staithe at Skelton, Eric and Bernice Wards farm which eventually was bought by Moses Oates and became Garden King Frozen Foods for a time. Between this farm and the hall were three or four cottages which I believe were tied cottages for the hall farm. Much further out of this group of houses and farms was a lone house (now demolished and ploughed out) on the junction with Skelton Broad Lane but I can only recall this as derelict, however it did have a crab apple tree in its garden. The fruit was completely inedible it was so sour!

Posted by Caroline on 15/05/2010

When we used to walk to Skelton to Henry Claytons shop, I always used to think that the path resembled chocolate squares. I can remember them making baskets there as well. We got our dog from them, bless him he died many years ago and his resting place is at Howdendye where Mr and Mrs Smith's house is still standing at the side of the river.

Posted by Phil on 17/05/2010

I know what you mean about the blocks of chocolate. The path alongside Henry's shop. His and Annie's daughter still lives in the house next door. Do you remember having to ring the bell?

Posted by Caroline on 16/12/2010

Yes, I remember having to ring the bell. We would also think nothing of walking up to see Rose Bains and her family at the gate house going on to Sandhall Park. We used to love to go exploring in the wood then for dripping and bread. Would kids walk that far for sweets now I wonder?

Posted by Rebecca on 01/06/2014

Henry Claydon is my grandfather and I love to hear the memories people have of his shop. My dad Kenneth Claydon was born in that shop and my Auntie Molly lived in the house next door.

Posted by Caroline on 06/04/2011

Has anyone got any info on my grandad Charlie Newman or Kitty Newman, so I can add to my tree? Thanks.

Posted by Rowland on 03/03/2016

Charlie and Kitty had four sons John, Sid, Charlie, George and two daughters

Posted by Lucy on 29/10/2013

I have just moved back to Skelton. I was born here in 1950 at Crow Trees. My parents were Jack and Alice Carter and my sister Margaret. I have such good memories of my childhood in Skelton, and the people who lived here, I knew everybody in every house, what lovely people. I have moved to School House, which I have a photo of my Grandad Keeble outside of one of the houses dated 1928. Granny Keeble was caretaker at the village school, which my cousin Bob Lightowler attended when he was a boy.

Posted by Barry on 13/01/2014

So pleased you have become a Skeltonite once again. You went out with John Muttock when we had motorbikes together, along with my cousin Brian Sweeting. I left Skelton when I was nineteen and went to live in Norfolk, but 46 years later still refer to Skelton as home. So many lovely memories of Skelton and surrounding villages. I'm the same as you could name everyone who lived in the village

Posted by Lucy on 04/02/2014

Barry, I remember the motor bikes, Mike Pitter and Rob Sherburn also had bikes. Your mum Betty went potato picking with my mum I think? They worked hard in those days. I love this village, I've had fifteen moves and gone full circle back to Skelton, it's definitely the last move.

Posted by Barry on 06/02/2014

Yes you're right about mum pot picking with your mum. That generation worked hard as you say. I've got some great memories of growing up around Skelton and surrounding villages. Wag Pitter and Rob Sherburn had bikes, great days.

Posted by Laddie on 28/12/2016

Where have the last 50 years gone?

Recently I cycled around and through Laxton/Skelton/Howdendyke and, although the inevitable changes gave my journey a sense of "oh my, what's happened..." it was so nice to "be back". It seemed like yesterday! I smiled and talked to myself like a nutcase! Remembering the romance that once was. What a great place to be "in". I've "been around the block" but would give my right arm to "be back"

Posted by Corby on 01/10/2017

In my family records is a census taken at Bridge Cottage Skelton. My grandfather Joseph Auckland Cook was five years old and his father Charles was the engineer working on the bridge.

I recently visited the site and was cordially invited in. The two end cottages are no more, the remaining four are now two. I was shown how small these homes were - the overhead beam indicating the area lived in, with the original fire place.

Snaith

Snaith c.1080, Esneid 1086 (Domesday Book). "Piece of land cut off". Old Scandinavian sneith

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



A tiny old-fashioned market town with narrow winding streets, it stands by the River Aire. A lane runs by the foundations of an old hall, and not far from the church is Nicholas Waller's grammar school, a little grey building supposed to have been built in 1628, and restored last century. There are fine chestnuts and beeches near the marshes.

The clerestoried church is a great possession, a splendid place 170 feet long, with battlements and pinnacles adorning walls of light grey stone, and a squat massive tower rising at the west end between the aisles. Except for its pinnacled crown, the tower is from the end of the 12th Century, and it is about 30 feet square. Some of the transept walls and parts of the arches are Norman; the chancel arch, the two chapels, the aisles of the nave and the greater part of the arcades are 14th Century. The clerestory is over 400 years old, the west door has 15th Century woodwork, and an old chest is hewn from one block of wood. In the 19th Century the porch was altered, and the striking east window was erected. Its lovely glass is arresting, showing St. Lawrence with the flaming grid-iron. By him are the Romans, and from below comes a winding procession of humble folk, a coloured motley - blind being led, sick and lame and a mother with her children riding in quaint carts. They were the saint's answer to the prefect when he demanded the treasures of the church.

In the floor of the chancel is a stone on which one of the biggest brass portraits in England once lay; it was a mitred figure with a staff, perhaps an abbot of Selby, to which this church was given in the early Norman days. In the Dawnay chapel is the tomb of Sir John Dawnay of 1493, adorned with painted shields. Here hang a helmet and shield, a sword and gauntlet, relics of a 17th Century Dawnay, and here is Chantry's marble status of Viscount Downe, wearing a mantle with a fur collar. Among old glass fragments is the Dawnay shield with three rings, a link with Sir William Dawnay to whom Richard Lionheart is said to have given a ring. In the north chapel is the bust of Lady Elizabeth Stapleton of 1683

"The King's England", edited by Arthur Mee

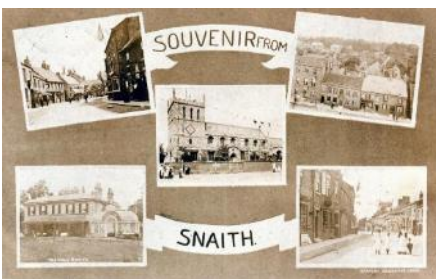


Snaith is a small town between Goole and Selby and historically very important. The most dominating landmark is the church, but it also famous for the Old Mill brewery and its narrow, York-like streets. Locally the area is known as the “Three Rivers”, the river Aire runs close to the town and Snaith was a busy port in medieval times with a harbour and a ferry.



The Snaith Town lock-up is an 18th Century Grade II listed building which may have been used by the church or by the local constables if they had trouble from outsiders during market days who then had to pay a penny to get out. The lock-up has been restored and perhaps it may be used in the future to stem the drinking that takes place there every Sunday.

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Jack on 11/09/2005

Beautiful pictures of the church. This is where the Ellerthorpe family members were married from the year 1750. Also they lived in the village of Rawcliffe.

Posted by Valerie on 21/04/2008

I was really interested to find the photos of Snaith, especially the lock up, as my great-great-grandfather was the jailer at the town lock-up. His name was William Braithwaite, who gave his occupation as jailer in the 1861 census when he was 58 and living in Rawcliffe, where the Braithwaite family, very many of them, lived. They now seem to be spread quite widely over England.

Posted by Jackie on 01/07/2008

On the 1891 census, my great(x3)-grandfather Joseph Arnold was head of household and was a groom/servant at Hall Lodge, Snaith. On the 1901 census he had become the victualler at the Kings Arms, Pollington. His grandson (my grandfather) Edward Percy was born at 6 Paradise Place, Hook, son of John Fred and Alice Arnold. Would like to know anything about the Hall Lodge Snaith and Paradise Place, Hook. Thanks.

Posted by Stuart (Webmaster) on 01/07/2008

Paradise Place is actually part of Goole, which was originally part of Hook Parish.

Posted by Norman on 13/12/2009

I have traced my family tree back to Snaith, my great(x3)-grandfather Richard BROOKE was born in 1810 in Snaith and moved to Thornhill. He was a travelling wheelwright and died in 1870 in Rotherham. Any relatives still in Snaith?

Posted by Hugh on 29/03/2010

I have traced my family name back to Snaith and while there about five years ago I visited the church cemetery. With the help of a local gentleman, I was able to find the gravestone of my great(x3)-grandfather John KNOWLES and his wife Mary (MICKLEWATH). John Knowles came from a small area outside of Snaith and Mary was from a town north of there called Carlton according to some family records we came across.

My parents are aging and this October I would like to bring them over to Snaith. We hope to be able to visit the church and talk to priest and hopefully find a good town historian to converse with before we make the trip.

Posted by Kay on 07/07/2010

Does anyone know of any REDHEADs in Snaith? My family passed through in the 1800s and I think my great-grandad was born there. He used to say he was "born in a clock" and I wonder if this could pertain to some kind of pub that existed - as his dad was listed as an innkeeper and a wheelwright. Anyone know if an inn existed? It was William Redhead, probably from East Butterwick. Thanks.

Posted by John on 26/11/2010

In the Whites directory of 1837 for Snaith. There is a listing under Inns and Taverns for "Clock Face", proprietor Elizabeth Gilderale.

Posted by Paul on 07/01/2011

I have just started to look at my family tree and have come across Elizabeth Gilderdale who was the Inn Keeper at the Clock Dial Inn, Market Place, Snaith (1841 census). I know my great-grandad was born in Snaith in 1861 so hope there is a link there.

Posted by John on 15/10/2010

Anyone in Snaith have a connection with a Henry Buttle HOLMES (bapt. 07/06/1809 in Snaith). Any info may help me continue with my family tree, would be only too pleased to share any info I have. Thanks.

Posted by Roy on 29/11/2010

My family, WATERLAND, were connected with Snaith from early the 17th Century (at least) to the middle 19th Century and lived in Snaith, Cowick, Gowdall and Heck. If anybody has any information regarding them, then I would be very glad to hear. Thanks.

Posted by Val on 10/03/2011

I am researching my ancestor, Jane ELLERTHORP (various spellings!) who I understand originated in the Snaith area. Apparently the family moved to Horsleydown, Southwark where Jane married John Nelson 7 October 1781 at St. Olave, Southwark. The curate who married them was W.J. Iveson and witnesses were John Ellorthorp and John England. Would love to hear from anyone who has links with the Ellerthorps.

Posted by Allison on 19/06/2012

My boyfriend is searching for his family history. His last name is SNAITH. Does anyone know if this town is named after his family? He has just begun his search, his father has passed away and all information with him. They were from the New England area when Larry was born and moved a lot. Father and family were separated for numerous of years.

Posted by Stacy on 13/01/2013

My grandfather's name is Larry Snaith. I know that our descendants came from Snaith, England. We have our own family crest. Maybe your boyfriend is related to us. We just found out that my dad (William Snaith) has a half-brother.

Swinefleet

A common place-name in the old Danelaw areas of the Midlands and the North, usually “farmstead or estate of the freemen or peasants”, from Old Scandinavian karl (often no doubt replacing Old English ceorl) + Old English tun.

“A Dictionary of English Place-Names”, Oxford University Press



There are many old brick houses with pantiled roofs in this old waterside village, where the Ouse is broad and deep as it flows to the Humber, carrying ships to the sea. There are dykes with high banks, and from Swinefleet we look across the fields and woods in a big loop of the river to the tall spire of Goole’s church and the cranes of its docks. Swinefleet’s church is modern.

“The King’s England”, edited by Arthur Mee



The village may owe its name to pig farming with the “swine” been watered in the “fleet”, but others associate the village with Scandinavian invaders. The chieftain “Sweyne” is believed to have moored here before founding his famous bus company. The river at Swinefleet was notorious with many ships being lost on the curve of the river known as the “Swinefleet Bend”. This was eliminated in 1884 with the Ouse (Lower) Improvement Bill which strengthened banks and retaining walls to make life easier.



The “Metropolis of Marshland” used to suffer problems with thieves and vagabonds, so a vigilante group was formed at the Ship Inn pub who set out to catch all villains. However life is more peaceful today and the pub is just full of people making the most of the lock-ins.

Swinefleet has twice as many streets as the other Marshland villages, although traffic is now diverted along the road away from the river. It is also the only town in the area to have a statue, the War Memorial, which greets the passing traffic.

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Fred on 24/09/2006

I have just discovered that my great-great-grandfather James Sanderson was born at Swinefleet in 1803 at a place called “Willowsoft”, Water Lane. No such names exist in the village as far as I can find out, does anyone recognise them? We as a family moved from Goole to Leeds in 1941 but many family members continues to live their life out in the Goole/Hook area.

Posted by JR on 21/10/2006

I have learned that my grandmother’s brother-in-law, the Reverend William JAMES, was the vicar at Swinefleet church, Goole in the year 1903. He was married to her sister Victoria Gertrude (Coates). I am interested in genealogy, and tracing my grandmother’s English roots. Any information would be appreciated. Thanks.

Posted by Ceri on 17/08/2008

My grandfather, Thomas James, had an elder brother, William James who was said to be the vicar at Swinefleet. He qualified at St. Bees College, Cumbria in 1881 and gained a second class in the Preliminary Examination of Candidates for Holy Orders. I have a short letter addressed to my grandfather from the vicarage.

Thomas and William also had another brother, Shem James, who travelled to Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, BC, but unfortunately he died in Wellington BC. He was one of Nanaimo’s Pioneers.

I would be glad to hear from anyone with details on the Rev. William James. Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 25/09/2009

William James, clerk in holy orders, married to Victoria Gertrude. Children: William Lloyd (b. 27/10/1903, bapt. 30/12/1903), Ifor Darcy (b. 24/10/1905, bapt. 22/02/1906).

William and Victoria are not mentioned in the 1901 census, hope this is useful.

Posted by Ceri on 05/04/2010

I believe he was vicar at Swinefleet in 1903 onwards - I wonder if Swinefleet was his last “calling”? Could he be buried there? Can anyone confirm this?

I am pleased to say that I met the Robinsons in Victoria BC, where coincidentally Shem James, William's brother is buried in nearby Nanaimo BC. (see above)

I am grateful to them for saying a prayer at his graveside.

Posted by Patricia on 27/04/2010

I have found this memorial inscription for plot 298 St. Margaret's cemetery. "In loving memory of the Rev. William James vicar of Swinefleet died 7 December 1906 aged 54 years. Bound in the bundle of life with the Lord my God 1 Sma xxv 29. And of Victoria Gertrude his wife who died 22 February 1940 aged 74"

Posted by Patricia on 26/07/2010

I came to Swinefleet a couple of years ago hoping to photograph the gravestones of my ancestors. I know they are there and I know the plot numbers but the churchyard was so overgrown I was unable to find them.

Posted by Ceri on 02/08/2010

Patrica(s), I wish to thank you both.

It is sad that the Rev. James died at 54 years, so it seems he had not been vicar at Swinefleet for too many years. Up to the age of about 20 years he had been a coal miner in South Wales, then graduating at St. Bees College in 1881. I do not know when he arrived at Swinefleet.

I would have loved to have visited the Church at Swinefleet but I have missed the date of the "patronal weekend". It is also a long way from Swansea (Mynydd Buchan), the early home of the James family.

I have found a small "snapshot" of the Rev. William James, sitting with full suit and waistcoat - as they dressed then - on the seashore sands of Swansea Bay, with his wife, Victoria Getrude James and a young boy in a cap.

Posted by Mary on 15/05/2007

I am researching my family and am trying to find information on Pigeon SYKES - who is reputed to have brought the first buses to the area. The buses all had a pigeon logo on the rear.

Posted by W on 02/07/2007

I'm fairly sure Pigeon Sykes lived in the last house in High Street Swinefleet about 25 yards from the junction with Church Lane. His garages extended behind the house about one third the length of Church Lane.

Posted by Patricia on 19/09/2012

He was my wife's grandfather, whose mother was a Sykes. You correct where he lived. He died about 1968.

Posted by Dave on 16/06/2007

We have recently moved into Swinefleet and live at the White House (Rose Cottage) on Church Lane. Since moving in we've heard a number of the local people call our house the "Murder House". Naturally we are curious/scared. Can anyone help? Yours nervously awaiting...

Posted by Peter on 15/08/2007

My wife Sadie was born in Swinefleet. She recalls crossing over the street as a child so as not to walk past the front door of your house in the early-1950s. The house got its name from the murder of a sister by her brother because she nagged him so much. He hit her with a hammer. He was sent to prison, where he died of old age. My wife thinks this occurred in the late-1940s.

Posted by BC on 09/09/2008

I too was a resident, as a child until the age of 20. I can confirm the information re “the murder house” is quite correct. The murder occurred in the early-1950s. The house adopted this name from then onwards.

Posted by Margaret on 27/03/2013

My mum’s friend Elsie Cowling lived at “Murder Cottage” for many years up to her death in the 1970s. It was really interesting to read other people’s correspondence. It supports the facts my mum told me that her friend bought the house cheap because no one wanted to live there.

Posted by Linda on 18/03/2015

Does anyone know anything about Elsie Cowan? Possibly lived in the “murder house”. Had she been married? Did she have any children? Was she in a wheelchair? Thanks.

Posted by Transportman on 18/03/2015

Do you mean Elsie Cowling? Big woman, lived at “murder house”, Church Lane; never married; no children; wheelchair in later life; died in the mid-1970s.

Posted by Richard on 22/03/2008

My great-great-grandmother called Elizabeth - maiden name Dealtry. I would have thought that she was born sometime between 1830 and 1860.

According to the Swinefleet Church records, a butcher called William Dealtry was one of the men responsible for bringing Methodism to the town. Does anybody know or can anybody put me in the right direction as I would like to know if Elizabeth Dealtry was any relation to the William Dealtry?

I have also found details on the 1871 Workhouse register details of an agricultural labourer called William Daltry. This is how Dealtry was pronounced and I wonder if this is also a relation and that Daltry was a mis-spelling of the name Dealtry. Thanks

Posted by Brian on 07/01/2016

There are some fascinating comments here. I am currently researching my wife’s ancestry. Her great-grandparents are William and Emma Dealtry, her great-great-grandparents are Robert Dealtry (Jnr) and Mary A. Dealtry, her great(x3)-grandparents are Robert Dealtry (Snr) and Mary Dealtry. Robert (Snr) was born in 1796 in Rawcliffe and was a butcher. He had a son Robert (Jnr) who was also a butcher and who, by 1861, was a successful butcher on High Street, Swinefleet (his wife Mary A. was born in Swinefleet). In 1871 when his son William was also working as a butcher. By 1881 William had married Emma and had moved to Sampson Street, Eastoft. By 1891 William had become a farmer and was living in Luddington Road, Eastoft. By 1901 William now has a farm and was living in Washingham Lane, Eastoft. If anyone can help with information about the Dealtry family as butchers or their connection with the Methodist church I would be most interested and grateful. Thanks.

Posted by Gary on 24/04/2008

Does anyone remember my favourite uncle, Keith Masterman, who died only a few years ago? He was a great character, and his wife Dolly who was an amazing pastry cook and no stranger to labouring in the local fields.

Posted by Roy on 18/06/2008

My sister Val remembers Keith and Dolly. I also remember Dolly from my days living in Swinefleet, in fact I was at school with Ken, Dolly’s youngest brother.

Posted by Gary on 20/06/2008

Graham was in fact in my class at school and he and Colin Chapel were best mates. You must have another brother too, a couple of years older than Graham, but I don't remember his name. I believe Dolly's maiden name was Noon. Her nephews, Keith and Russell Noon lived in Fourth Avenue across the road from me until I was eight (about 1961). Their mum, maybe Dolly's sister, used to make George the ice cream man cups of tea every afternoon in the school holidays when he used to stop for a break and gossip with the neighbours in St. Andrews Terrace. Keith and Dolly had at least three kids that I remember, a girl and two boys. Isn't it terrible, they're my cousins but I only remember the names of one of them, the middle one, Stephen; who was a big Manchester United fan, and no doubt still is. Please give my regards to Graham, I last saw him one lunch-time in The Old George in 1987. Does he still have a record player?

Posted by Polo on 27/02/2009

Gary, there's a name I know. If you went to school with Graham Gunson you went to school with me too.

I reckon you were in Chester House at the Modern School and sometimes played in goal instead of me? Remember Jarvo, Graham Skinner, John Revell, Pud Rice, John Pettican, Turkey Burton, Jimmy Mann, John Harding to name but a few lads. I thought you immigrated to Oz? Some of the girls I remember were Jeryl Ward, Joan Kirk, Katy McBride, Janet Whitely.

Knew your uncle Keith and aunt Dolly well. Stay lucky mate.

Posted by Gary on 15/03/2009

Who is this "Polo" bloke who remembers me so well? Fancy remembering I was in Chester house. I must thank you for the memory rush you gave me by dropping all those names. Yes, they are but a few. I remember all of them and more. Now let me see, who did I replace in goal (though I find that hard to believe), probably lives or lived in Swinefleet, and knew my favourite uncle and his dear wife, Dolly?

I have a theory but I won't mention the name here. Yes, I did immigrate to Oz, and I'm still here. Anyway, I was back in England in 1973, 76, 87 and 91, and visited Swinefleet on each occasion. I'm long overdue another visit. Luck be with you, too, my mysterious friend.

Posted by Polo on 20/03/2009

You did recall me ok from the schools page. I often say to my wife about this lucky guy called GM going to Oz when we were kids and wondered if you were still there. Really good that we have had chance to come together again.

Posted by Andy on 28/07/2009

Gary, are you the dishevelled hippy that knocked on my mam and dad's door in late-1970s/early-1980s? Janet is the oldest, then Steve, then me. My auntie Shirly Noon was my mams sister-in-law, she married mams brother Colin. My dad never really got over my mam's death, although he did get a new lease of life when he had his second triple heart bypass but in the end it contributed towards his death. Lost touch with the family since then. Still see aunt Eva and uncle Alan now and again but not seen my favourite uncle Des since mam's funeral. How is every one at your end? Hope all is well with you and yours and look forward to hearing from you soon, Andy.

Posted by Gary on 04/08/2009

G'day Andy! Great to be talking to flesh and blood at the other side of the world, and I hope you and yours are keeping well, too. Yes, that was me at your place in 1976, though I'm not so dishevelled anymore. Your dad was my favourite uncle from when I was very young. I'll always remember him for his generosity and dry sense of humour. In fact, when bullies from Old Goole learned I was Keith Masterman's nephew they quickly decided I was their buddy. We didn't visit you all that often when we were kids but when we did your mum and dad always gave us a warm welcome. It was usually a Sunday, and always your mum had her many cakes and pies cooling on the kitchen table, I could smell them as soon as we got out of the car. Come to think of it, maybe that's why my dad always chose a Sunday to visit. Salt of the earth, your mum and dad, but I'm sure you don't need me to tell you. Eva and Alan are good value, too. I remember Des, of course, but can't put a face to him.

Posted by Polo on 04/12/2009

Hi Andy, so you too have discovered a good website. It was nice to find your Gary contributing from Oz. It was a pleasant surprise to me as I went to the Modern School with him but lost touch when he emigrated. I was always envious of him doing a trick like that! It is fascinating to see just who turns up on the web from all corners of the globe. Yea, I knew your mam and dad, Dolly and Keith very well, really nice people, down to earth and they always said it as it was. Your Steven was slightly younger than me and Janet just a bit older than me. Alan and Susan lived at the other end of the road.

Polo, it was a nickname given to me for whatever reason by Sagi Woollass at the garage and I still use it on the odd occasion. I lived two doors away from your mam and dad that's how I knew them so well. I now live in deepest Lincolnshire.

Posted by Simon on 01/05/2008

I lived in Swinefleet with my grandparents Wilf and Mary Batty in mid-1960s. I used to love going up in the riverbank to watch the great ships coming into Goole. I now live in a part of rural France that looks just like North Lincolnshire. Funny that!

Posted by Roy on 14/05/2008

On Thursday 1 May 2008 a few old codgers plus one young lady may have been observed strolling round Swinefleet, pointing here and there and generally discussing different places and houses. The purpose of the visit was to show Lisa Parkin from Gainsborough where her great-grandparents Mr and Mrs Albert Clements lived and worked.

The first place we visited was St. Margaret's Church where there is a stained glass window dedicated to Albert Clements who was a church warden for some 30+ years. At this point I would like to express our thanks to Pat Taylor for her hospitality in making sure we could observe the window from the inside of the church.

The next port of call was No. 83 High Street where Mr and Mrs Clements lived for a number of years passing the site where Mr Clements worked, namely Roberts blacksmiths, where now stands a bungalow named "The Forgings". We viewed the house from the High Street and proceeded around the Ship Inn onto the bank and observed the house from the riverside, we passed the time of day with Charlie Hill busy working in his garden.

We proceeded to walk along the bank to the Goole end of the village and then walked back towards the Village Hall along Low Street, pointing out where several buildings used to stand, ie. the George Hotel yard opposite the School, the Methodist Chapel and schoolroom and the

Wesleyan Chapel in Common Piece, stopping on the way to have a word with one of my old school chums, Ken Harrison, who was busy helping to dig out what looked like a swimming pool, but I got it wrong! It was a drive way.

On our arrival back at the Village Hall we were greeted by Frank Ella who had seen us and presented a "Marshland Messenger" to Lisa's mother Pauline who promptly said "I used to go to school with you". I was greatly impressed as Frank recognised Pauline from their schooldays by saying "it's Pauline isn't it".

After spending a pleasant two hours or so in the village we all made our different ways home vowing to do the same again at some time in the future.

Posted by Elizabeth on 15/09/2008

I am tracing the COWLING family tree and have discovered my father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather all lived in Swinefleet, the earliest two being farmers John and William. My father's name was Percy, grateful for any info. Thanks.

Posted by Polo on 21/04/2009

Loads of Cowling families around Swinefleet, mainly farming related.

Posted by Sue on 23/10/2008

I have just started to trace my family tree. I know that my dad was born in Swinefleet and from what I understand his family (possibly an uncle) had a butchers shop for many years. The family name was NEEDHAM, my dad being Edward (known as 'Ted), his dad was Harry, married to Winifred TRISS (known as 'Triss). Does anyone have any information that would help me fill in the blanks and move further down the line? Thanks.

Posted by Wilf on 23/10/2008

I remember Harry's butchers shop. It was on High Street next door and east of Gorbets shop, which was at the top of Common Piece which joined High Street to Low Street in the middle of the village. He would have been born about 1910.

Harry's son, I can't remember his name, was a couple of years younger than me. I think he had a Masters Mariners certificate.

Posted by BC on 25/11/2008

The last family of Needham (butchers) in High Street, Swinefleet, was as I recall Mr Les Needham who had a daughter by the name of Barbara. I can't be sure but I think the shop traded in the Needham name up to the late-1960s possibly early-1970s.

Posted by John on 09/12/2013

Les Needham was my great-grandfather and owned the butchers shop in Swinefleet. He had a son John Needham who indeed got his mariners certificate and was a captain for 20 years. He passed away back in 1985. I am actually trying to find out myself if Les Needham had two sons or not. I am living in the United States and his side of the family was very small.

Posted by Margaret on 20/12/2013

John, I have asked a friend of mine, who lived there for many years and still visits very regularly, about your great grandfather, and she said he only had one son but also had a daughter called Barbara who died fairly young but had two daughters herself. My grandparents and dad were from Swinefleet and I lived there until I was seven years old, but that is 55 years ago now (where have the years gone!). I can remember seeing your great-granddad taking a pig down the street and round the back of his shop, I was only five years old at the time and in my innocence

thought he was taking the pig for a walk but it was going to be killed in the back of the premises as they did in those days. Hope this bit of information is of help to you.

Posted by John on 24/10/2019

This is so many years after these posts about the Needham butchers but I am John Needham's son. So John L Needham II. Les was my grandfather I never got to meet and Miriam was his wife. He did have a daughter called Barbara who died in 1975. My father John L Needham did indeed go into the merchant marines for many years and was a captain. He passed in 1985 of cancer. My two cousins still live in Swinefleet I believe Yvonne and Karen Wimsey was their last name back then. I know my great-grandfather had the butcher shop too. It was demolished back in the 1990s and two apartments were made from the place or flats I should call them. Also, I am not sure if my father had a brother that passed or drowned in his teens if anyone has any info on that. Anyway I hope this helps a little.

Posted by Taz on 09/11/2019

I remember Les Needham the butcher who would be your grandfather but think he packed up in the 1960s. His shop seemed to be empty for a long time before it was knocked down. I remember the big window acting like a mirror when you drove around the corner.

The butchers shop and house were demolished and now form part of the front garden to a recently (1980s?) built bungalow.

Gorbutts shop a little further on is where the flats were built plus a parking area.

Jack Wimsey died a few years ago but his daughter Karen, married now, still lives in the village. I think Yvonne lives in Old Goole.

Posted by Chris on 24/10/2008

I was just wondering if anyone remembered by grandfather Alfred Andrews. He was born in Swinefleet in 1895 and lived there or in Reedness all his life. He died in 1970. I know that he worked for Fred Hill as a wheelwright for many years.

I'm also related to the Bell, Woolas, Gunson, Theaker, Risebury and Tuke names. Any information would be very much appreciated. Thanks.

Posted by Gillian on 30/08/2009

My great-grandma (b. 1892) was a Theaker before she married Mr R.J. Hitchcock. Her father was called Thomas Theaker (b. 1851). Her mother was called Mary Elizabeth Theaker (b. 1854). They lived in the High Street, Eastoft. Would love to swap notes.

Posted by Malcolm on 28/06/2009

My father George Edward McGowan was born in Swinefleet in 1907 and lived at Fisk Square, Swinefleet. Is there anyone who can help me in my trace for my father's family tree? His family was said to have come from Ireland in the 1800s. Thanks.

Posted by Melanie on 28/06/2009

Fisk Square was owned by our family who lived in Swinefleet as far back as my father can remember. My great-great-grandad, David Daniel Fisk, owned Fisk Square and he was a dentist who lived in the square as well. Previous to that, there must have been other Fisks but my father cannot recall their names.

My great-grandad John George Fisk, also lived in Swinefleet and set up Fisk & Sons painting and decorating firm established in 1840. This was passed down to my grandad Herbert William Fisk but later liquidated in the 1960s.

If anyone can help me with the Fisks before David Daniel Fisk, I would be grateful. Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 28/04/2010

David Daniel Fisk is listed in parish records as a painter and had several children Hannah Mary (bapt. 04/04/1867), Elizabeth (bapt. 22/09/1869), Ada (bapt. 21/03/1875), Dennis (bapt. 18/02/1877), John George (bapt. 14/08/1881).

David Daniel was born in Hull, and his father David was born in Lexfield, Suffolk. His mother was born in Knottingley and the other children Thomas (b. 1832 in Yarmouth), Mary (b. 1836 in Yarmouth), George (b. 1845 in South Cave), Rebecca (b. 1846 in Swinefleet)

Posted by Andrew on 27/02/2011

My great-great-granddad Alfred Edward Wells Shearsmith married Hannah Mary Fisk, so she's my great-great-grandmother. I'd be interested to share some Fisk family history with you. The bit about being a painter fits nicely with Alfred who was a builder - perhaps explains how he and Hannah got together. I also have a photo of Hannah from 1955 and one of Alfred from 1944...

Posted by Patricia on 05/08/2009

My great(x3)-grandfather, William Scutt, was born in Swinefleet in Solhearns Cottage in 1788 and later lived at Solhearns farm until his death in 1863. Does anyone know where these places were because I do not think they exist now unless the farm has changed its name? Thanks.

Posted by John on 15/08/2009

In my late father's possessions I have an envelope bearing the seal of the INCORPORATED CHURCH BUILDING SOCIETY addressed to The Reverend JWS de Cobam or De Coham, Swinefleet Vicarage, Goole. Bears penny purple stamp and stamped on the rear 5.30am JY23 98, so it relates to July 1898. Is this name known to anyone? Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 18/09/2009

I have just found a note in the transcription of parish records available from the Doncaster and District Family History Society that states in 1897 John William Fletcher DeCobain was the vicar. His children are listed as Gwynneth, Eric Edward St. Lawrence and Dorothy Isabel Spofforth. His wife's name was Dora Georgiana. The eldest child was Eric and he was born in 1887 when his father was already clergyman and vicar.

Posted by CP on 03/09/2009

My mother and her brother were evacuated to the Vicarage. In the 1940s the vicar was called McPherson.

Posted by Joan on 18/09/2009

I used to live in Swinefleet in the 1960s. I went to the primary school for one very miserable, brutal year (anyone remember a Miss West), married from the church there. I went to Chapel in Whitgift at the same time as Frank Ella and his twin and sister Kathleen. Anyone know who lives in 74 High Street house? Used to be a wheelwrights and then stored bags in the large barn. Then taken over by a joiner.

Posted by Bob on 11/10/2009

Pleased to hear from anyone knowing anything of my ancestors with surnames of: Duckles, Hope, Furniss, Brigham from around this area.

Posted by Patricia on 25/10/2009

I have some parish records for Swinefleet and Whitgift in which several Duckles are mentioned but no Hopes. If you could contact me I will give you what records I have.

Posted by Wilf on 25/11/2009

I was brought up in Swinefleet being born 1932. I remember there was a Billy Hope lived in the village, I would think he would be born in the early-1900s. He was well known as a collector of wild mushrooms, cycling all-round the area. I can't remember exactly where he lived or worked.

Posted by Sam on 26/02/2010

Wracking my brains here to put a name to a pub in Swinefleet that has now gone.

It was on the High Street on the left going towards Reedness. If I remember correctly it was painted green and white and just past it you could access the riverbank. I believe there was a haulage company opposite it. Anyone know of it? Thanks.

Posted by Wilf on 26/02/2010

I think the pub was called the Neptune(?) The haulage company opposite was L & A Read. The piece of land giving access to the river was known as the Hobb. In the 1940s there were two large orchards down Reedness Road, just outside the end of the village, stretching from the road to the riverbank. The near one was owned by the Moy family who lived in Church Lane and the far one by the publican at the Neptune.

Posted by Sue on 10/02/2012

Anyone else remember the pub which was discussed above - we believe it was The Neptune? Was it at 49 High Street?

Posted by Taz on 15/02/2012

The Neptune was further along than No. 49 - probably about 101 High Street next to the bungalow on the left opposite Reeds haulage yard entrance.

Posted by Ken on 15/03/2010

I have been reading this with interest. I was born in Swinefleet in April 1946, my mother's name was Nancy and father was known as Jock.

Soon we moved to Couper Street in Old Goole and then some years later we moved to Carter Street in Goole. I am interested in finding any photos of the River Ouse in 1947 when it was frozen solid. I vaguely recall my mother telling me this. Thanks.

Posted by David on 12/07/2010

Would be interested if anyone has any recollections of my grandfather (Michael O'Donnell/O'Donald) and family who moved from County Mayo in Ireland around 1863/64 and lived in Swinefleet until the mid-1880s. They lived in Moors Cottages and he died in 1878 from sunstroke, I believe. Would also like to know if Moors Cottages are still standing.

Posted by Chris on 04/11/2010

I am writing on behalf of a friend of mine, her name is Janet Russell (was Cottam) and she lived in Swinefleet from 1950 up to 1965. She would like to know if anyone is in touch with someone

who was called Margery Grey and lived in the High Street opposite the fish and chip shop in Swinefleet around the same time period. Then moved to Scunthorpe. Thanks.

Posted by Sam on 18/02/2011

Margery Grey, remember her and she had a brother Phillip, Flint by any other name, good lad and a good laugh whilst we were mooching the streets of Swinefleet. Can't shed light on where they are now but definitely moved to Scunny.

Posted by Ian on 16/06/2011

Flint and Madge my aunt and uncle, both live in Scunthorpe.

Posted by Sam on 20/06/2011

Ian, I knew someone would eventually come up with info on Flint, you can't keep a good man down. It is really good to know the guy is still alive and kicking. Not a lot to do in Swinefleet on a dark night but mooch around in gangs eventually ending up at the chippy near your uncle Walts. The chippy's bright lights were a magnet to us lot.

Remember me and my mate jumping out of a dark door hole on Low Street just as Flint was passing one night, I can see him now running into the road shouting obscenities at us and saying if he'd had a bad heart he could have died! We were in hysterics but he would get his own back. He was a good lad to know so all the best to him when you see him.

Posted by Helen on 21/11/2010

Looking for anyone who can tell me anything about the Walsh family of Swinefleet. Winifred Walsh was my mother, born in Swinefleet 1929. I know very little about her family so any info would be very welcome.

Posted by Patricia on 09/01/2011

The only Walsh birth registered in the Goole area in 1929 is Mary whose mother was a Coates. I cannot find any Walshes in parish records but there are several Coates if this is the same family. I do not have nonconformist records so they could be there. Do you know if your grandmother was a Coates?

Posted by Vicki on 13/02/2011

I have a BRISTOW connection to Reedness/Whitgift. Interested in hearing from anyone else who might also.

Posted by Mark on 26/03/2012

My grandfather was called George Bristow and I believe that he had many brothers. My father is Eric Bristow of Old Goole and he had brothers called Roy and Ernie. I believe my family originate from Swinefleet.

Posted by Ian on 16/06/2011

I was born 63 High Street, my grandad Walt Tune lived there (sadly gone). Spent all my summers in Swinefleet, mates with Jonny Drury.

Posted by Corby on 09/08/2011

I have no memory of Walter Tune but have many photos of the Bill Tune family of Swinefleet. Bill Tune apparently fell asleep in his chair with his pipe going and burnt himself to death.

Posted by Taz on 09/10/2011

Walt Tune lived on High Street next to, or where the Ship car park is now. I think his brother Tommy lived with him. They lived near "Bod Billy" whose rows of bird cages seemed to stretch all the way along the narrow back yard and into his house.

Posted by Ian on 12/04/2012

Walt Tune lived at 63 High Street next to the Ship car park as it was (now part of the car park) straight across from Mrs Ogalties's shop. Walt's brothers lived next door to him Tommy and Alf Tune (Alf was a bit like Compo). His daughter Florrie lived with him.

Posted by Sam on 17/06/2011

OMG. I lived in Swinefleet until 1985. I went out with Andrew Masterman and was best friends with Lorraine Cowling. Some of my best memoires were sitting outside the church on the wall or in the phone box opposite the garage. I lived on Church Lane - what a brill place! Think I need to revisit.

Sitting on the church wall brings back loads of memories, if it could only talk! Generations of kids have made it the place to congregate in Swiney. The old phone box has some tales to tell as well, plus it was very useful when it was raining. Sagie Woolass at the garage wouldn't let you linger in the shop long keeping out of the rain, unless you were spending money of course, so the phone box was the next best thing. But no matter what, the phone box never got vandalised, suppose it and the one on Gunsons corner were the only life lines out to civilisation. Don't know what the record is now a days but we managed to get thirteen kids in the box and shut the door.

Remember me and my mate sat on the wall one Saturday afternoon when Pete Rowells, the village copper, stopped in his Ford Anglia and accused us of and I quote "obliterating a normally erected sign post" as he said passing motorists couldn't see the chevrons for the corner, and if we were there when he came back he would clip our ears. Brilliant days.

Posted by Taz on 02/10/2011

I was the mate obliterating the sign post with you and the same one who jumped out in front of Flint. The old place was better in the days when there was a copper in the village instead of one riding through about once a month!

Posted by Sam on 04/10/2011

Taz, well, well it's nice to hear from you my old mate, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since them days but still the memories seem to be as crystal clear as yesterday. Don't visit the old place much as it seems to be too far from the dreaded motorways today. Did see our old boss and his missus (DHP) a couple of years ago but age is creeping up on them as well, DH is well into his 70s now.

Can you remember jumping out of the graveyard one night at Weedy Leighton on his bike coming back from Sagies? Hell, did he get a spurt on. I told someone about the "bomb" Frank Tabiner had in his shed when I nearly bricked myself the day he dropped it, you and him couldn't stop laughing as I tried to climb over you to get out... Crazy days.

Had chance to have a mooch round Pasture and Common a few years back, unrecognisable, but the memories are still there, so much so I wrote a series of stories about those days and the folks who worked there, one of them is the story about you running after a rat with a stick over the frozen beet field and you accidentally fell on top of the rat! How things have moved on since our youth. Well nice to talk to you again, stay lucky.

Posted by Taz on 09/10/2011

Yes, you could certainly write a book about the characters we knew back then. The bomb and the rat are two that I have recounted many times since. Have Petty's got the part for your Yamaha yet? I remember going with you there nearly every Saturday to see it slowly disappearing under the dust.

DHP is one of the best blokes I have ever known. My times spent with him have had a lasting influence on me - his wise words often come back to me. "You young lads" he used to say to us when we weren't doing things the right way because we knew best. I remember him saying that you could write a letter on the top of the cab of the 165 when you got stuck one day with the spud wheels on!

Posted by Sam on 10/10/2011

Yea DHP's words come back to haunt me now and again too, some you didn't understand when you just a young lad but time makes them much clearer. An amusing one was his boots when he said he'd give you that up the 14th lace hole, ha ha. Remember Swinefleets "heavy gang" Herby, Jacob and Les? I only recalled Herby's reply the other day when someone asked the quickest way down from a roof "shut your eyes and walk about"

Where has all the time gone Taz? Done so much yet there's so much more left to do. I had to recall some of the Bimbo stories, they brought tears to my eyes laughing at his antics when writing them down. I also recall the 165 incident, it was DHP's fault, he should have had the field drained, wet holes all over it! Like you I have met some weird and wonderful folks over the years but the old Swinefleet days and the characters around there still take some beating.

Hope you and yours are doing ok no doubt speak again sometime.

Posted by Kate on 07/07/2011

My great-grandfather Thomas Walker Martin was born in Swinefleet about 1780 as was his brother Charles born about 1796. Their father was Thomas Martin, stated on the marriage certificate. They were both farmers, so I expect their father would be too. If anyone can help me find out more about the family I would be very grateful. Thanks.

Posted by Patricia on 21/11/2011

Thomas Martin married Mary Walker at St. Mary Magdalene church, Whitgift 24 December 1782. Swinefleet church didn't open until 1813 and even later for marriages. Their children were:

Thomas (b. 16/02/1783)

John (b. 20/03/1785)

Elizabeth (b. 01/04/1787)

Ann (b. 01/05/1789)

but these are also listed as children of Thomas and Elizabeth:

Hannah (b. 17/03/1791)

Jane (09/05/1793)

Charles (23/08/1795)

There must have been a remarriage somewhere but I cannot find a death for Mary and the early baptisms are given as children of Thomas without a wife's name being given.

Posted by Jill on 16/08/2011

I believe my ancestor Thomas Clark (b. circa 1834 in Keyingham) was the miller at Swinefleet at some point between 1867-1876 as several of his children were born there according to the 1881 census (Thomas, Henry, Annie, Theodore and Agnes) They moved to Reedness c. 1877 where further children Alfred and George were born. If anyone can provide me with any info about the family or the mill, I would be very interested to hear. Thanks.

Posted by Swinefleet on 11/11/2011

My family are all Swinefleet raised. My father is Trevor Noon, my (late) grandfather Eric Noon and my grandmother on my mum's side is Joan Tabiner.

Posted by Harold on 12/07/2012

I am related to the Swinefleet Tabiners, my dad was Harold, brother of Jack, Ben, Frank and May. They lived three doors from the last house in Swinefleet before Kings Causeway opposite Walt Ellas farm.

My dad worked at the starch factory next to Ocean Lock in Old Goole, Jack was a foreman at Fisons, Ben for what I understand took the surrender of some Japanese forces in Burma(?) during World War II. Frank was the crane driver on the Goole Bight and later the mobile crane driver for the shipyard alongside the Lep shed and the dry docks.

My aunty May lived in a house on High Street(?) that had a garden and walls that were coated in shells. I don't mean a few shells but hundreds of thousands that covered the walls and even some massive clams (the big ones) about one and a half foot across. (I was only young but the memory is good). Were they all came from I do not know and I often wonder if they are there now.

It's been a long time since I was in Swinefleet. I wonder if the broken gun on the war monument has been replaced?

Posted by Julie on 19/11/2011

My family is the WOOLASS family and have lived in Swinefleet all their lives, I think. My mum is doing a family tree. Is there anybody out there related or know of the Woollass family? Thanks.

Posted by Alan on 19/11/2011

I have a friend called Mike who lives in Cheshire but is related to the Woollass family and has history going back to 1769. I have asked him to contact you through this website.

Posted by Julie on 29/11/2011

Does anyone remember my uncle Morris Woollass? He was killed outside the school. My mum said he was a lovely boy and everyone loved him.

Posted by Mike on 04/12/2011

It is true that I have on file quite a lot of history for the Woollass family. Contrarily my maternal grandfather insisted on this spelling! I won't take credit for establishing the file as much of the work was done by a distant relative who now lives near Edinburgh. I can be contacted via the Webmaster.

Posted by Maxine on 01/01/2012

My late father Joseph Wilson was born in the George pub in 1928. My great-aunt Ada was married to a Woollass.

Posted by Chris on 23/04/2012

I researched the Andrews and Woolas families a lot - I have the Woolas line traced back to circa 1750. Alf Andrews was married to Ann as his second wife. Alan, I think this was you wife's grandmother.

Posted by Graham on 15/11/2011

My father John Alcock was one of the original members of the SAS. He was awarded the French medal the Croix de Guerre after returning from an operation behind the German front lines near Metz in 1944. He blew up a train, he had to fight his way out of a house in the forest when trapped, killing several Germans in hand to hand combat. He married Maud Cowling during the war from Swinefleet and in the 1960s came back to Swinefleet to live. I live in his house and have done so since 1980. My father originally came from Goole.

Posted by Taz on 15/02/2012

Can anyone remember the Rising Sun pub?

Posted by Roy on 26/02/2012

The Rising Sun was next to the Kings Head on High Street, Swinefleet.

Posted by Myrtle on 22/01/2013

I'm trying to trace the FREEMAN family. Susan Freeman married George Thompson a farmer from Goole Fields.

Posted by Janet on 22/01/2013

Susan Freeman was my auntie, who farmed at Goole Fields. Her daughter also called Myrtle, my cousin married Hubert Fletcher who had a daughter, called Maureen. My mother was Eva Alice Freeman, her sister, who was in service with her.

Posted by Myrtle on 23/01/2013

Janet, so thrilled to hear from you. I am Margaret Freeman's daughter named after my auntie Myrtle. I have been doing a family tree. I wonder if you knew where my uncle George Thompson family live now? I believe he had five boys and one girl.

Posted by Jane on 28/01/2013

I am Jane Freeman, daughter of Roger, Janet's cousin (hi Janet!), the only son of George Freeman, who was Eva's brother. Don't know a lot about the Freemans - just a few bits, but would be glad to help if you think I can.

Posted by Myrtle on 30/01/2013

Jane, my grandma Susan and your grandfather were brother and sister. I wonder if you knew much about my great-grandad Freeman other than we think he was a vet and farrier?

Posted by Jane on 14/02/2013

Myrtle, I don't know any more than you really. I had heard rumours about him being a vet, but when I did some dredging a few years back, I think he was listed as a farrier. On going much further back (early 19th Century) I found a vet. Unfortunately most of the research was lost in a computer meltdown, but could be retraced. It was just done using census records.

You will know that great-uncle Bill is commemorated on the war memorial in Swinefleet, having died in the last few days of WWI. His medal passed to my dad, and thence to me. It is still in its original envelope addressed to great-grandma - the address is Clough Head, 7 Swinefleet, if

that is of any help. I also have a photograph of the family outside their home, which I can scan and send you, if you haven't already got it.

Posted by Margaret on 17/03/2013

My dad's family came from Swinefleet and I lived there until the age of seven when my family moved to Scunthorpe in 1956. My maiden name was Thompson and we lived at No. 1 Old Hob, on the High Street opposite Cowling's farm. The house no longer exists, it's an opening leading to the riverbank now.

I can remember my best friend was called Nadine but can't remember her surname, she had a niece called Corrine who I think was a couple of years older than her. Nadine lived nearly opposite the butcher's shop on the High Street, I would love to know what happened to her. I used to attend Sunday School on Low Street and still have my attendance books from there. I can still remember the teacher or cook from school making the Christmas pudding and everyone in class having a stir and making a wish. I can also remember being taught to knit - unsuccessfully in my case, I had more holes in my dishcloth than I had dishcloth! Happy memories.

Posted by BC on 26/03/2013

Nadine's surname was Cooper and did live opposite Needham butcher's shop. Her cousin Corrine's surname was Garthwaite.

Posted by Margaret on 26/03/2013

BC, thank you so much for your information about Nadine and Corrine, as soon as I read Nadine's surname I recognised it straightaway. I hope they are both well, it must be about 55 years since I saw Nadine and even longer since I saw Corrine. Many thanks for your information.

Posted by Hilary on 19/02/2015

Anyone know anything about the WOMBELL family? Thomas (b. 1825/26 in Swinefleet) was a joiner/wheelwright and his father Rev. William Wombell (1792-1876) in 1851 census lived at Lowgate and Low Street in 1871. Thanks.

Posted by Fiona on 18/05/2016

We moved to Swinefleet in April 2014. I am most interested in finding out anything about the house we bought, No. 6 High Street, Swinefleet. We were told by a neighbour that it was once a threshing mill? It has a plaque on the front stating "Walkers Buildings 1875". Would really appreciate any guidance on where to start digging for information. Thanks.

Posted by Wilf on 02/06/2016

Fiona, I was brought up in a cottage on Goole Road and walked past your back gate on the way to school until about 1942. I can only recall seeing the barn door open on one occasion. No. 6 was occupied by George Cowling and family. George was an electrician. He had a battery charger and charged wet batteries which were used in radios. I seem to think he charged about six old pence for the service. I was friendly with Norman who lived at No. 4 and they shared the back yard with No. 6. I can remember most of the names in the area.

Posted by Geoff on 06/01/2017

Wilf, my dad was George Cowling. We lived at No. 6 High Street as you say and my dad charged the batteries. I still live in Reedness.

White City

This isn't really a village and it certainly isn't a city. It is the name given to a group of eight houses on the road between Goole and Rawcliffe. These houses all have white walls (except for a short time when one had brown stone cladding), hence the name.



The greyhound track has long gone, but the village still has the highest refreshment to house ratio of anywhere in the north as the eight houses share a transport cafe, Brewers Fayre pub and even a McDonalds. The Glews Garage site has expanded greatly in recent years although perhaps the McDonalds would have been better built in town centre. The old Goole to Selby railway line used to pass nearby but the wildlife has been concreted over to build the link road to Drax.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Shuffleton Streets on 20/03/2006

My mother's brother and his wife and family inhabited White City before World War II, prior to their move to the metropolis of Luton.

Posted by Gary on 24/04/2008

I have many fond memories of White City. My best friend lived there in the 1960s before we moved to Australia in 1973. He had the greatest mum whose bramble and apple pie was unforgettable. The house with the brown cladding was indeed awful. Nice to hear someone with taste has got rid of it.

Whitgift

Witegift c.1070. Probably "dowry land of a man called Hvitr". Old Scandinavian personal name + gipt.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



There was once an important ferry at Whitgift. The ferry landing is no more, but the name lived on in the village inn, once aptly named the "Angel and Ferry", and more recently "The Angel Inn" before it closed.



The village church is famous for its clock, erected in 1919, which displays XIII instead of XII. There are two tales behind this, either the painter had one pint too many in the pub during his lunch break, or the original number was painted out because the new dials were out of sync, only for the gilt of an original I to show through.

The beginnings of Whitgift and its Ferry

For us today someone either owns a piece of land or he doesn't! In the Middle Ages such a concept of absolute ownership would have seemed absurd. Then it was taken for granted that there were a number of people with interlocking rights. The lawyers kept it all working more smoothly than we would expect and much of our knowledge of this distant past comes from their determination to preserve the key documents.

Whitgift and its linked townships of Swinefleet, Reedness and Ousefleet illustrate this very well. Firstly no-one denied that the whole area was within the Lordship (or Soke) of Snaith. This area had achieved some such identity before the Norman Conquest. It had become a Royal Estate and in due course the King had given it to the Lacys, Earls of Lincoln. From them it passed by inheritance to Thomas of Lancaster and after his execution reverted to the King. Eventually it was returned to a revived Duchy of Lancaster. Though that Duke made himself King the ducal estates were kept separate and the Duchy of Lancaster has kept the Lordship of Snaith ever since - though nowadays its powers are distinctly shadowy. Then in 1100 the King's Church at Snaith was given to the Abbey of Selby and the Abbot established an authority in spiritual matters for the Soke or Spirituality of Snaith comparable to that of the Lords of Snaith in temporal matters. Despite attempts to claim that Whitgift was not in the parish of Snaith, it soon became generally agreed that it was. And so, until very recently indeed, the right to appoint a priest to Whitgift has rested with the Abbot of Selby

and after the Dissolution of the Monasteries his successor who was, rather oddly it must be admitted, the lay Proprietor of the Spirituality (or Peculiar) of Snaith. Thus until as recently as 1956 Lord Deramore as successor to the Abbot of Selby appointed the Vicar of Whitgift.

But these temporal and spiritual overlords did not prevent a variety of people owning the land in the more modern sense of the word.

For Whitgift the most important of these was the Abbey of St. Mary's, York. Soon after 1100 the King (who was at the time Lord of Snaith) having seen that the Church at Snaith was given to Selby Abbey, yet gave to St. Mary's Abbey at York "Useflete and Eyreminne et quod habui in Kaldenby et quicquid continetur inter Useflete et Ereyminne cum omnibus pertinentis suis" (Ousefleet and Airmyn and what I have in Haldenby and whatever there is between Ousefleet and Airmyn together with all that belongs to them). Yet despite this gift, through the centuries, there was an annual rent to be paid for these lands by St. Mary's Abbey to the Duchy of Lancaster. Yet St. Mary's York amidst the multitude of conflicting claims seems consistently to have been the strongest influence in the coast villages of Marshland. "Earls of Lincoln, Crown, Queens Isabella and Philippa, Selby Abbey, and Duchy of Lancaster, intervened at various times but at the Dissolution St. Mary's was still regarded as possessing the Lordship of Marshland including Whitgift, Reedness, Swinefleet, Hook, Goole and Ousefleet and the Lordship of Airmyn". And the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal of 1971 that summed the matter up like that could have added that the link survived at least into the 17th Century. In 1670 the visiting Henry Johnston tells us that "the Manor is called the Manner of Whitgift cum Airmyn, belonging to the Abbey of St. Marie's Yorke" and that the towns of "Reedness, Swinefleet and Ousefleet or Usfleet" are also in the parish. The monastic offices of Bailiff and Collector of Marshland or of Whitgift and Airmyn continued until the 17th Century.

The beginnings of Whitgift are uncertain. In 1154 Selby claimed that a fishery at "Whitegifte" had been one of the Conqueror's foundation gifts to the new Abbey in 1070 and there seems no reason to doubt their word in this. Whitgift is an improbable place for both town and Church. As can be seen it stands at a corner of the river well below high-water park. Its history is punctuated with cries of woe at the "great inundations". Before the decision to build a Church there must have been a decision to build the sea defences. In 1356 a Commission sitting at Whitgift tried to work out who was responsible for all the sea defences: it recorded that they had been built "at a time to which memory (or tradition) does not reach" and that the various local landowners were responsible for their maintenance. This probably takes it back before 1150. By 1231 there was a Market or Fair at Whitgift and this was a St. Mary's, York venture. My guess is that the ferry came first, then the sea defences and then the town, market and church. The Abbot of St. Mary's claimed (in 1253) that the town of Airmyn was a new foundation deliberately created by the Abbey. Was Whitgift with its ferry a similar St. Mary's, York commercial enterprise? It seems probable.

Clearly the Ferry was important and so too the roads leading to it. It was for the use not only of travellers moving north and south but also for those travelling east and west to and from Hull. For the route via Turnbridge and the Whitgift Ferry was drier and safer than the northern alternatives, it is said. Our unchanging fondness for bad news is shown by the fact that the ferry is better remembered for the handful that perished in the crossing than the multitudes that got across safely.

The Poll Tax returns of 1379 suggest that there may not be a great deal more at Whitgift than the Church and the Ferry. The total to be paid was only 13/6 but this included two sixpences from "John de Walcote and his wife and Robert Toure and Alicia his wife" who were the Ferrymen.

The Church at Whitgift

The first Church at Whitgift seems to have been built around 1130. As the Fair which is more ancient than the second church "is held yearly at the feast of the Blessed Mary Magdalene" it would seem that this first church was also dedicated to that Saint. In the settlement that was finally made between Selby and St. Mary about parochial rights and tithes in the Marshland, rather surprisingly the tithes of Whitgift and Reedness

remained with St. Mary's, York. I take this to mean that the first church had been a St. Mary's initiative. After about 100 years it fell victim to the ambitions of the Rector of Adlingfleet and was totally destroyed. But it is possible that the large stones at the base of the Tower with their clear evidence of subsidence are part of this earliest church. And even though the church was destroyed the churchyard continued to be used for burials. And some right of sanctuary still clung to the ruins. For "William son of Richard de Whitegifte fled by reason of a trespass committed by him against the King's peace to the churchyard of Whitegifte, which is a cemetery dedicated to God, in order that he might there be defended and saved by the liberty and immunity of the church, other men pursuing him withdrew him by force and arms from within the cemetery, and bound him with chains and carried him thus bound to prison in the castle of York". The King is appealed to for help and orders that he be taken back to Whitgift churchyard and "replaced in the same state as he was in before". Alas we neither know what his "trespass" had been or what was his ultimate fate.

In 1250, both Selby and St. Mary's, York were in retreat under the blows from John the Frenchman, the all-powerful Rector of Adlingfleet. By 1300 it was a different world and Selby's power was near its peak. Certainly they took the lead in the rebuilding of Whitgift church.

In November 1304 Henry de Lacy, Count of Lincoln, granted to Selby Abbey "the cemetery in the vill of Wytegift consecrated a long time ago, as it is enclosed by ditches, as far as a certain place where our fair is held yearly at the feast of the Blessed Mary Magdalene, which church or chapel the present and future inhabitants in the vills of Ousefleet, Wytegift, Essetoft, Redenesse and Swynflet, and also the tenants of XI bovates of land in Folquardeby and XIII bovates of land in Haldenby, which aforesaid vills are within the boundaries of the parish of Snayth, will hear divine office and will receive and have the church's sacraments". It is no wonder that this splendid charter which sets out so clearly the largest claims of Selby-Snaith was carefully preserved in the Abbey of Selby. And it means that there must be very few ancient churches whose date of building is so precisely known. And though the South Aisle is Elizabethan and the Chancel Victorian and every generation has made its repairs and alterations with varying degrees of skill, basically the church we see today is the church that was built in 1304. The money to rebuild the church did not all come from Selby Abbey and the Earl of Lincoln. As with the river banks it would seem that some sort of levy was laid on all land-owning parishioners towards the cost - an early example of a "church rate". For a deed of 1314 records the lease by William Threl and Alice his wife of Useflet of a selion (that is a strip in the open field) of land to John Gouk of Adlingfleet "on condition that if any expenses are placed on these lands for the building of the church at Whytegift they will acquit John and Alice for the said selion during the said term".

The new church was clearly a dependent chapel to Snaith. In 1409 it was carefully decreed that the Abbot of Selby should appoint for Whitgift a "parochial stipendiary chaplain to be removed at the pleasure of the Abbot to take upon the care of the saide chapel without ordination of any vicarage or appointing any Vicar". I have failed to discover when Whitgift became a separate parish. I think it may have happened gradually as the "curates" whom the Abbot could dismiss at will, acquired some sort of "freehold" and so became "perpetual curates". This ominous phrase is not as sinister as it sounds and until this century was the correct title for a large number of incumbents: they were "perpetual curates and titular vicars". Throughout the 17th Century the "vicars" of Whitgift called themselves "curates". The church was undoubtedly within the "Spirituality or Peculiar of Snaith", but from about 1570 onwards it seems to have been generally thought of as a separate parish. Unlike the other ancient chapels in Snaith parish it has no liability for the repair of the churchyard wall there. The 1547 list of chantry chapels speaks of "the paroch church of Whitgyfte". We get a rare glimpse of pre-reformation church life here. For it tells us that there was a "guylde" with "certain landes given by well disposed persons ther... to the fundynge of the priest... to pray for the sowles and prosperitie of the parochians ther and to say masse in the saide churche at his pleasure". The "Guylde Priest" in 1547 was William Marshall and it would seem that he was also the Vicar. From this Guild he was paid 63 shillings. This wasn't really a "chantry" at all but a way in which devout parishioners of the past had given some modest endowment for their Vicar. All these centuries later it still seems outrageous that government of the day (Henry VIII and Edward VI) stole it.

Unusually, Whitgift Church was extended in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. This may just possibly be the result of some reflected glory in having John Whitgift as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1583 to 1604. His father belonged to Grimsby but the family affirmed that they had an ancient link with Whitgift in Yorkshire.

Today Whitgift Church feels as though it hasn't changed much since then. Despite the steady increase in the height of the river banks the river feels very close and passing ships from all parts of the world see Whitgift Church Tower and marvel at its clock which tells us that there are thirteen hours in the day.

The Parish Registers survive (despite various crises: they were stolen by Babthorp a Jesuit in 1648 and recovered in 1655) from 1593. The account of the great frost of 1607 makes good reading:

"Anno Domini 1607: in this yeare there began such an extreme frost beginning ye first of November and so continuing dayly freezing so extremely to about Twelve day, being ye sixth day of Januarie. After men, women and children, horses and wagons loaded went on ye water at Ouse here at Whitgift ferrie and so continued until ye XIII day of Februarie after going away in such safetie to ye pleasure of God and ye benefit of men without any danger at all. God be thanked".

"Rivers, Rectors and Abbots, David Lunn" - Bishop of Sheffield, 1990

Postcards



Visitor Comments

Posted by Peter on 07/06/2007

I grew up in the village and I must say never have I met a more kind and friendly set of people in my life, Yes it is quiet and yes it is small but the big heart of the village outshines all.

Posted by Susan on 13/08/2009

I am looking for BELL ancestors in Whitgift 1500-1800. Does anyone else know of these people? Thanks.

Posted by Pauline on 09/01/2010

How do I find out who is where in Whitgift Churchyard? I've been researching the LINDLEY family and I know Mr and Mrs Gervas Lindley and Mr and Mrs Sam Lindley are there somewhere - but where?

Posted by Patricia on 25/03/2010

I am looking for any information on my ancestors who lived in Whitgift before 1800 up to 1891. Their name was PARROTT. Thanks.

Posted by Wendy on 27/10/2013

I recently viewed a film at an LDS family history centre: Whitgift Parish Registers for the years 1568-1812. I came across the name "Parrott" a lot! This included births, christenings, marriages and burials. The film No. is I-64538 or 0098542 (both numbers were on the box. I'm not sure which one is the call number.) Good luck!

Posted by Jo on 15/07/2015

William Parrott was present at the death in 1884, of my great-grandfather, Edgar Oswald Hart, who was the vicar of Adlingfleet Church. I think William may have been the sexton of the church. He certainly was living next door to the vicarage in 1881.

Posted by Lighthouse on 28/09/2010

I am fascinated by the lighthouse at Whitgift, when was it built, etc.? The church is beautiful and the whole area is a lovely hour or so drive.

Posted by Jan on 14/11/2010

During the war, Lord Haw Haw, who used to broadcast propaganda for the Germans, said "we know where the clock with the No. 13 on is".

Posted by Colette on 18/03/2011

I was born in the village and remember growing up there the generous spirit of the people. A rural community with great heart. I have lots of happy memories.

Posted by Edwin on 07/11/2011

I was born in Whitgift in 1949, the son of Harry Kennen, vicar-curate(?) of the parish. Thank you for the website, I hope to visit one day. I have always understood that a ship sank in the river around the time of my birth. I wonder if anyone has any knowledge of that? Thanks.

Posted by David on 08/11/2011

I am trying to trace the parents of Benjamin DRURY (b. 1745, d. 1833) buried in St. Mary Magdalene churchyard adjacent to the entrance to the church door. His wife Ursula DUCCLLES occupies the same grave. I do know that Benjamin and Ursula married in this church but Benjamin's birthplace and parentage are not shown. My grandfather was Septimus Drury (b. 1851 in Reedness). Thanks.

Posted by Searcher on 19/11/2011

Any info on a Marcus KNIPE, born Airmin 1703? I believe he was a farmer in the early-1700s in the Whitgift area. His daughter married an ELLA, who were farmers. I believe his daughter's name was Penelope. Thanks.

Posted by Peter on 01/05/2012

The Ella family still farm in Ousefleet, close to the school I think.

Posted by Rebecca on 11/09/2012

My father's side of the family is originally from Ousefleet and my grandparents are buried at Whitgift. I would like to be married in Whitgift church.

Posted by Claire on 07/11/2012

I was very interested to read about Whitgift, having just found out (from the England Births and Christening database at FamilySearch) that my ancestors William Priestley and his wife Hannah Mosley christened seven children in the parish church at Whitgift: John Mosley (in 1794), Thomas (1795), Mary Ann (1797), William (1799), Edward (1802), Hannah (1803) and (Sarah 1805).

The oldest son, John Mosley Priestley, was born in Ousefleet according to the census. He was a farmer at Camblesforth in 1841, and had retired to Rawcliffe by 1861. I am descended from a younger son, Henry, who was born at Bankside, parish of Thorne in 1808 and became a druggist in Pontefract.

I'm not sure where William Priestley was from, but I believe Hannah was from the village of Hook which is in the bend of the river Ouse just north of Goole, because that's where she married William in 1793. I guess she was the Hannah, daughter of John Mosley, who was christened at Hook in 1767.

Posted by Brian on 03/12/2012

Would anybody know where Boatman Terrace, Whitgift, is (or was)? My ancestor, John LEFLEY lived there (1911 census). He is described as working on the Aire & Calder Navigation "building walls on river". I take this means flood defences. Thanks.

Posted by Martin on 09/04/2013

I am researching the STOVIN family and wondered if there were any of that name in the churchyard? Thanks.

Posted by Jose on 04/08/2013

I am researching the family name MORUM and there was one, possibly two or three, families in the area with the surname Morum in Whitgift in the 1500s (according to the IGI). Can anyone point me in right direction? Thanks.

Posted by Wendy on 21/10/2013

I recently visited Whitgift Churchyard to find the grave of my grandfather, Thomas John Knipe, who was buried in 1931/32 and my great-grandmother Mary Foster Knipe who was buried 1941/42.

My mother who visited the graves until 1942 states that the graves were against the wall on the lane side but there is no longer a wall nor are there any graves. Can anyone tell me if the graves have been moved and where to and when the wall was demolished? I took my mother on her 91st birthday and we would love to find the answer.

I am also looking for more details on Marcus Knipe. I have him as being born in 1701 and passing in 1761. He was married to Ann Haldenby and I think he was born in Ousefleet. I have recently visited the family home in Ousefleet and am trying to find more info on the dates the house was owned by the Knipe family. My grandfather died there in 1931.

Posted by Wendy on 24/11/2014

Marcus Knipe died in Ousefleet in 1761. I think at the time the family were farming in White House farm on Narrow Lane. The family moved from Hook to Ousefleet around the time Marcus was born - his father Robert was born in Hook in 1670.

The family farmed in Ousefleet until the 1940s when my great-grandmother Mary Knipe died leaving her son, then elderly, the farm. We do not know precisely what happened to the farm during the war although we have family rumours as to who "inherited" it - not a Knipe we do know.

Posted by Angela on 02/02/2014

I'm researching my paternal family name SHERIFF. My ancestors lived in and around Whitgift/Reedness and some are buried in Mary Magdalene graveyard and many were christened and married there. I would be grateful for any historical information on the Sheriff family such as what they did and where they lived. Thanks.

Posted by Judith on 21/06/2014

My husband's family came from Reedness and are buried in Whitgift cemetery. Has anybody any info on the FOSTER family? John Foster was a wheelwright in Reedness and he married Maria Burtwistle from Ousefleet.

Posted by Cindy on 09/08/2014

I'm trying to pinpoint my brother's unmarked grave in Whitgift churchyard. His name was Robert William Smith, 19-month old son to Robert and Irene Smith. He was buried there on 24 September 1949 by a Methodist minister by the name of Lawson. On a microfilm I have seen is the number 864 which I am hoping is the plot number but I need to see a map to locate and verify this. As a small child I was brought to the churchyard to tend to both my grandma and granddad's grave along with my brother's and know them to be very close to each other. I would be eternally grateful to anyone who could point me in the right direction. Thanks.

Posted by Martin on 16/06/2016

I'm trying to find out more about my great(x4)-grandfather Richard Gibson (b. 1802 in Whitgift, d. 28 September 1842 in Leeds). He was a tailor and married to Sarah Bullass (b. 28/03/1808 in Reedness, d. 03/1844(?) in Finningley). Where would I be able to look over the parish records please to check, dates, family members. Etc.? Thanks.

Posted by Megan on 31/12/2016

Two branches of my family appear to have moved to Whitgift around the 1740s, namely Arthur GARNER, who I believe came from Epworth, and Francis TYSON, who may have come from Normanton. However by the end of the 18th Century both families seem to have left Whitgift for Adlingfleet. Does anyone know of a possible reason for this please? Family rumour suggests that the Tysons were mill owners. If anyone is connected to these two families I would love to get in touch. Thanks.

Posted by Alison on 25/09/2017

I am researching my grandmother's family, she was Laura BULLASS (b. 1897 in Sykehouse) and was a descendant of the Bullasses of Reedness. I have traced her line back through William (b. 1824); George Gilliard (b. 1799), William (b. 1769) and then to William of Hatfield. My mother and I visited the churchyard recently and found a couple of Bullass graves and wondered if there were a list/plan of where others were in the graveyard. We would also like to know any further details about the family if any stories are known? Thanks

Posted by Raymond & Marie on 17/12/2018

East Riding of Yorkshire Archives, Ref. FMG/393/3: Certificate of Primitive Methodist Chapel as a place of Religious Worship, 18th April, 1860, Whitgift. Ref. EMG/396/6/7: Photographs of the laying of foundation stone of Whitgift Primitive Methodist Sunday School, 15th May, 1924. Reverse of postcards annotated with details of the ELLA family, 10 pieces/items. EMG/396/1: Primitive Methodist Sunday School Union report form, year 1931, relating to Whitgift, 5 teachers, 47 scholars, secretary Mr Henry Ella. Other documents in collection.

Yokefleet

lucufled 1086 (Domesday Book). Probably "creek or stream of a man called Jókell". Old Scandinavian personal name + fleet.

"A Dictionary of English Place-Names", Oxford University Press



Yokefleet lies on the opposite side of the river as Ousefleet and so has scenic views of the electricity wires strung across the huge pylons. There are several old lodges here, a throwback to the time when things were wilder and smugglers may have used the area.

Visitor Comments

Posted by Nicola on 12/04/2008

Before moving to Goole two years ago, I lived in Yokefleet for about ten years. Whilst it is true that the riverbank is very pleasant in summer, it is also true that aside from nice views and abundant wildlife, the only exciting things in the village are the phone box and the thrice-weekly bus to Goole.

Posted by Ruth on 16/09/2009

My mother lived in Yokefleet nearly 20 years ago and still have family close by. I now live in Brisbane but I'm looking for any information I can get on Yokefleet Hall and surrounds for a novel that I am researching.

If anyone can tell me anything about the building, the history of the Hall or the grounds that would be most appreciated. Thanks.

Posted by Fiona on 14/11/2009

If you haven't seen them already, there are detailed descriptions in "Pevsner's Buildings of England, East Riding of Yorkshire" (latest edition). I went in the house about 20 years ago and I think at this time it had hardly been altered since its building, I do not know if this is the case.

Posted by John on 27/11/2009

I recall the occupant of Yokefleet Hall was a Major Empsom, fondly known as the Metham Madcap as he had a car which he drove quite quickly by the standards of the day. He was there during the 1950s and 1960s. One Sunday night he had called at Wardles Garage on the main road (A614) coming home from Goole and been filled up. Unfortunately the pump attendant had put diesel fuel in the tank instead of petrol with the consequence that by the time the car reached Elm Tree corner the engine died. As a boy I was entertained to watch a man who had been summoned from the garage with a can of petrol and a siphon tube sucking diesel up the siphon tube and getting a good mouthful to splutter on before the siphon would empty the tank of diesel to allow petrol to be put in.

The diesel went on the verge and killed the grass in front of my aunt's house so to apologise they received a brace of pheasants after the next shoot on the Metham estate.

Posted by Caroline on 28/08/2014

On the 1911 census there's Arthur Reginald Empson at Yokefleet Hall. His son was William - a well-known literary critic.

My mum lived in one of the Yokefleet Hall's lodges with her granny for a while - Margaret Richards, daughter of Annie. If anyone remembers them or their ancestors please let me know. I'm doing the family history. Thanks.

Posted by James on 08/12/2014

I lived in Yokefleet in the mid-1950s and remember Major Empson who always wore a deerstalker hat and plus fours. He was a magistrate at Howden. I worked for peanuts on a local farm and earned more in two days bushbeating for his shoots than I earned on a farm working for a week. I remember a shop being built and it was owned by Mrs Epworth. I remember farmers, Bell Glossop; Herbert Stead who had the windmill farm; Tom Sweeting; Mrs Crisp who had a small farm by the church at Blacktoft Jetty.

Posted by Tina on 17/02/2015

Mrs Epworth was my grandmother and owned the village shop. My dad worked for Tommy Sweeting in his younger years, I think, before he joined the RAF or maybe after - I'll have to check with him. My grandmother's good friend Mary Sellars worked at Yokefleet Hall when I was growing up and I remember visiting the hall's kitchens a few times where there would always be a hot kettle on the wood stove and something always cooking.

Posted by James on 28/04/2015

Tina - I remember your gran very well as I lived on a farm locally and was only sixteen years old. When I was broke she would always let me have half an ounce of Old Holborn tobacco to see me through the week - as wages in those days for teenagers was poor. I always paid her back as soon as I was paid. Mrs Epworth. A nice kind friendly lady!

Posted by James on 27/07/2017

I visited Yokefleet last year, the first time for 60 years, to see the Sweetings sons. I remember their mum and dad. She was from Gilberdyke and worked for Co-op farms. Mrs Sweetings mum and dad (John's mum's mum) lived on the railway station at Broomfleet. John Sweeting lived at the farm with his dad, Tommy. Tommy had a brother at Thorne near Doncaster and did dairy products. Tommy Sweetings dad made a living out of owning a Hereford Bull. John Sweeting kept pigs. They had two dogs, Mick and Rex.

Posted by John on 21/12/2009

I recently found out there had been an Archimedes screw located at the riverbank end of Hutch Lane. It is said it was used to lift water out of the broad dyke which runs alongside Hutch Lane between the riverbank and the village street and pump the water over the riverbank into the Ouse. Evidently during times of flood risk a tractor would be taken to the screw and used to drive device via a flat canvas belt.

All I could see when I visited the site was a gearbox on a plinth and a pulley on a shaft. I am guessing the screw would be under the floor level and need digging out to view it. Can anyone give further details about this early aid to the village drainage? It seems quite an important bit of local history. Thanks.

Posted by Steve on 31/03/2010

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the DOBSON family who lived in Metham Hall in the 1970s? Rosemary and Paul were two of the children. Thanks.

Posted by Paula on 30/08/2010

I lived in Yokefleet for 21 years and had many relatives there. My gramps still lives there and has done all his life – he's now 86! He worked on the farm there until he retired at 65 due to ill health. Anyone who knows Yokefleet and its occupants will certainly know the man.

Posted by Maxine on 08/10/2010

Does anyone know if there are any records or pictures of the staff who were employed at Yokefleet Hall, in the early-1900s? My father was born in London and on the 1911 census it shows that he worked at Yokefleet Hall as a butler.