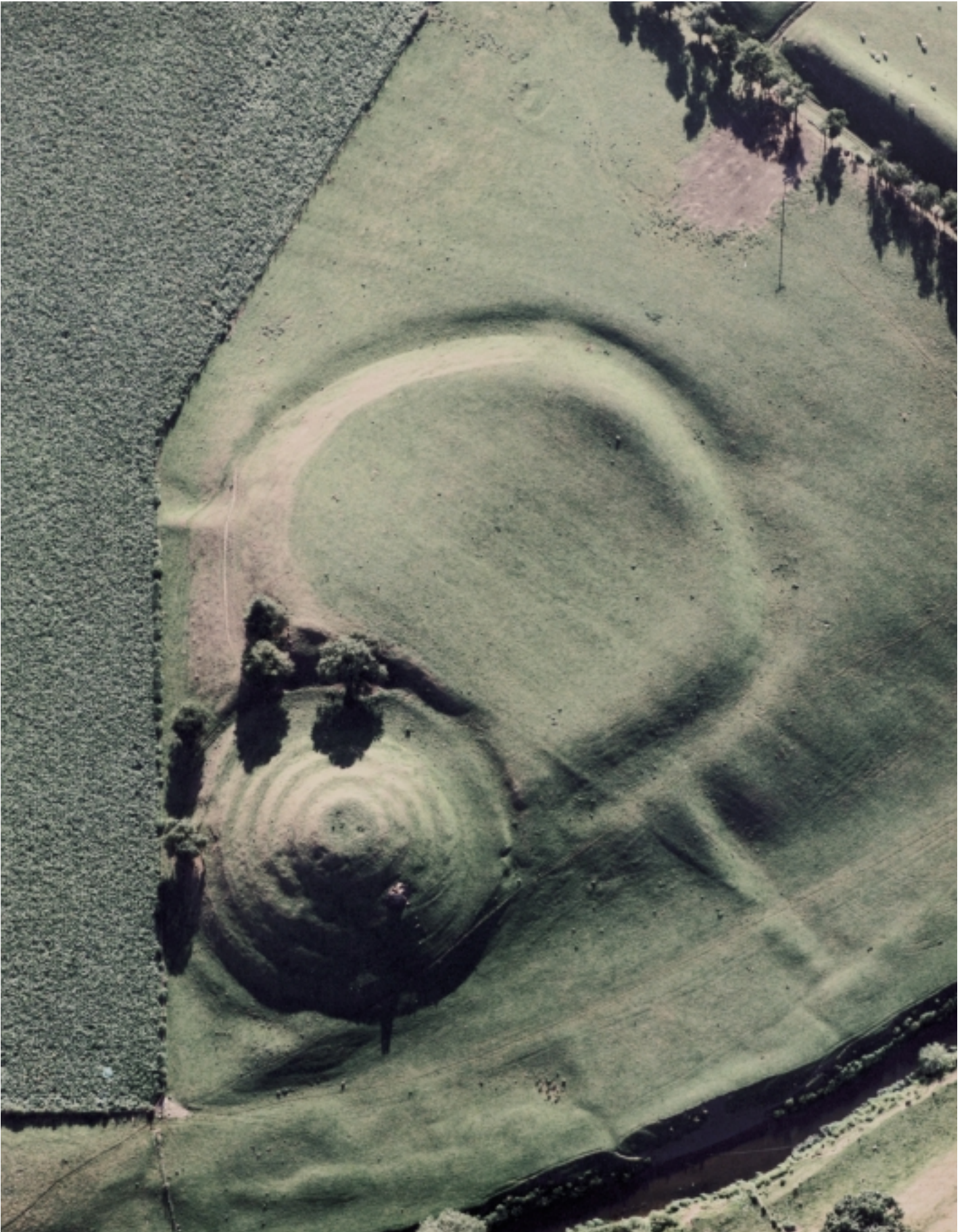


THE MILLENNIUM BOOK OF TOPCLIFFE

John M. Graham



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Introduction

The inspiration for writing "The Millennium Book of Topcliffe" came out of many discussions, which I had with Malcolm Morley about Topcliffe's past. The original idea was to pull together lots of old photographs and postcards and publish a Topcliffe scrapbook. However, it seemed to me to be also an opportunity to have another look at the history of Topcliffe and try to dig a little further into the knowledge than had been written in other histories. This then is the latest in a line of Topcliffe's histories produced by such people as J. B. Jefferson in his history of Thirsk in 1821, Edmund Bogg in his various histories of the Vale of Mowbray and Mary Watson in her Topcliffe Book in the late 1970s.

The approach of the Millennium also provided an excuse, if one was needed, to rake over the past and present it again in a modern format. Generally, book printers didn't like the format that we were proposing because it mixed up all the photographs and postcards with text. They wanted to separate out all the photographs and put them into a plate section in the middle. That did not seem to me to be the best way to present the information in an interesting format. So, this book has been produced and printed by computer. I hope you like the final result.

The Millennium also provided a target date for publication. The original plan for the book envisaged something like fifty pages. As can be seen, this has been exceeded, just a little! The present 200 pages could, in fact, have been a lot more but finance for publication, rather than lack of information, became the limiting factor.

In producing the book I have acted largely as an editor and collator of information, which has been provided from across a wide spectrum of the inhabitants of both Topcliffe and Asenby. There are many people to thank for their inputs. In addition I have spent a lot of time trawling around the various County Record Offices and archives, in order to dig a little deeper into the past. I have no doubt that once this book is published more photographs and postcards will come out of the attics in Topcliffe. Also the mistakes I have made will be immediately obvious to those who know more about particular aspects than I do. Please, do let me know the mistakes, or let me have more information if you have it, or let me copy your photographs. There may be an opportunity at some time in the future to print a second edition.

I hope that you enjoy reading the book as much as I have enjoyed the last two years in putting it together.

J. M. Graham January 2000

Acknowledgements

First of all to my mentor on Topcliffe village, Malcolm Morley, for his continuous encouragement, interest and comments, and for all the time he has spent in scanning in to the computer and printing photographs, postcards etc. He is responsible for the overlay work in photograph Ph 1.7. Malcolm also arranged, with the help of Mary Halliday, to input all of the tithe map information into a computer data base, to enable it to be manipulated. The original work for this was done by Linda Nuttall who spent an enormous amount of time in copying the tithe map by hand together with the associated information, in great detail and with great accuracy. As a result of this work there is another full booklet on this subject alone. Only the information on central Topcliffe is included in this book. Linda also made available notes of her own work and lots of references to Topcliffe which she is compiling towards her eventual aim of producing a bibliography for Topcliffe. This enabled the research for this book to go ahead more quickly.

Doug Allan volunteered to do the proof reading for the book. Perhaps he thought that it was going to be a fifty page book too. Two hundred pages later, having read all the chapters in detail and not in sequence, at least twice, he too has put a lot of his time into the production of the book.

Lots of people volunteered photographs, postcards, newspaper cuttings, information and old books. It came in large bundles from Jean Dickenson and Margaret Josephs, together with extended memories of the village in times past. It came in large packets and small ones and also in word pictures from Shirley Brown, Keith Brown, Alan Gatenby, Dr & Mrs Dias, Alan Dickenson, Alan Reeder, John Rayner, Mary Watson, Karl Heim, Marion Snelling, Steve Sidebottom, Ralph Morris, Anne Marie Barningham, Vic Rawlings, Philip Turner, Tony Ardron. Sandra McGrail, Mary Dickinson, Ron Friar, Nellie Ascough, Tom Smirthwaite, Jim Burns, Mrs Crane and Carole Ford who loaned me her study on the evolution of Asenby.

Mr William Shepherd was happy to discuss the castle site which is on his land and he gave permission to take photographs.

David Haddon-Reece helped with information on the church, Ralph Hindmarch with information on the school and Rev. Neil Graham helped with some background on the Chapel. Charles Shaw gave permission for extracts to be taken from the "Guide to Saint Columba's, Topcliffe" which he and Mary Dickinson compiled some years ago. Charles is also the artist who drew the old church line drawing. Keith Surgey allowed us to use his line drawing of the present St. Columba's, not only in this book, but also on the Millennium Mugs presented by the Parish Council to the children of Topcliffe to commemorate the millennium.

Mrs E R Jackson of Sowerby gave me permission to use her late husband's research on the Charles I Ransom at the Toll Booth

Philip and John Lister provided information and background help on the Mill and Nigel Graham helped with the railway research.

Mr D. Buttery helped with the Baldersby Park section of the book and gave permission for photographs to be taken. He also allowed me to take away and copy some of the Baldersby Album photographs. My thanks are also due to some of the girls from the school who gave me an escorted tour of the building, and to Ian and Margaret Angus for their co-operation in letting Mr Buttery be involved.

The RAF have played their part and arranged for me to have access to the memorial room at RAF Linton on Ouse. The RAF Operations records in Figs 5.12 and 5.15 together with some of the extracts in the text were obtained from the RAF records about Topcliffe and Dalton in the Public Record Office in Kew.

Geoff Hall, Secretary to the Feoffees, loaned me the old Feoffees minutes and record books.

Mr. P. A. Hill-Walker of Maunby kindly gave permission for us to include extracts from the Stubbs Walker Papers.

Mr Ashcroft and his staff at the North Yorkshire County Record Office assisted with lots of information and in specially microfilming church records. NYCRO also gave formal permission for extracts from the various papers to be reproduced.

Mrs Alison McCann, Assistant Archivist at the West Sussex County Record Office, did her best to answer my letters and queries on the Topcliffe papers in Petworth House. She also kindly arranged to move a large batch of original papers from Petworth to the CRO in Chichester so that I could study them myself. This was a well worth while exercise. She also obtained permission from Lord Egremont to include information from the papers in the book.

The North Yorkshire Reference Library staff in Northallerton were very patient with me in my search for information and very helpful too.

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The East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Record Service helped me to locate the information on the Court Leet and also gave permission for some of the documents to be included.

The West Yorkshire Archive Service helped with the search through the Newby papers and allowed the work to be used.

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society kindly agreed that extracts from a whole range of their published papers could be made.

The photograph of Maidens Bower on the front of the book and in photograph Ph 1.4 is Crown Copyright. It is reproduced by permission of English Heritage acting under licence from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, with the consent of The National Monuments Record in Swindon.

The Ordnance Survey for maps of Topcliffe and area are reproduced with the kind permission of the Ordnance Survey Crown Copyright NC/99/075 and Hambleton District Council actually provided some of the maps from the Planning Department.

The close-up aerial photograph of Topcliffe opposite the contents page was obtained from the Northern Echo.

The photograph of a train passing through Topcliffe Station in Ph 4.46 was taken from a Silver Link Publication of British Railways Past and Present 11 by Alan R. Thompson and Ken Groundwater.

The Clerk to Linton Lock Commissioners, Mr Michael Oakley, allowed me to search in his archives for information on the Swale Navigation. They proved to be a gold mine.

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I should like to thank the Parish Council who formally backed this work, not with cash, but they have willingly provided a focus around which everyone could work. It was the formal group from which requests for information could be made and also from which a grant application was made to the Millennium Lottery Fund to provide the cash to print the book.

Finally, my thanks to the many other people who have responded positively to many many questions during the last two years of research, some of whom loaned articles and books. It is impossible to name everyone.

Wherever possible permission for the publication of possible copyright information and/or photographs has been sought.

Among the many books and documents consulted in the preparation of this book were the following:

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CHAPTER 1

Topcliffe's Beginnings we don't know a very great deal about. There are some references, which may or may not have applied to Topcliffe. There are some suppositions which have been made which seem to be taken as fact by some of the late 19th century books, but they were given to romanticising history on little evidence. Nevertheless, for what they are worth and for completeness some of them are repeated here. But, before that, it is interesting to set Topcliffe in the overall development of the countryside after the last glaciers from the Ice Age retreated northwards around twelve thousand years ago.

As the landscape started to be formed, the first people began to appear in the area. These were the Old Stone Age Men who were short stocky hunters moving from place to place in search of their prey. Over a period of several thousands of years they remained hunters, but they had started to produce flint tools.

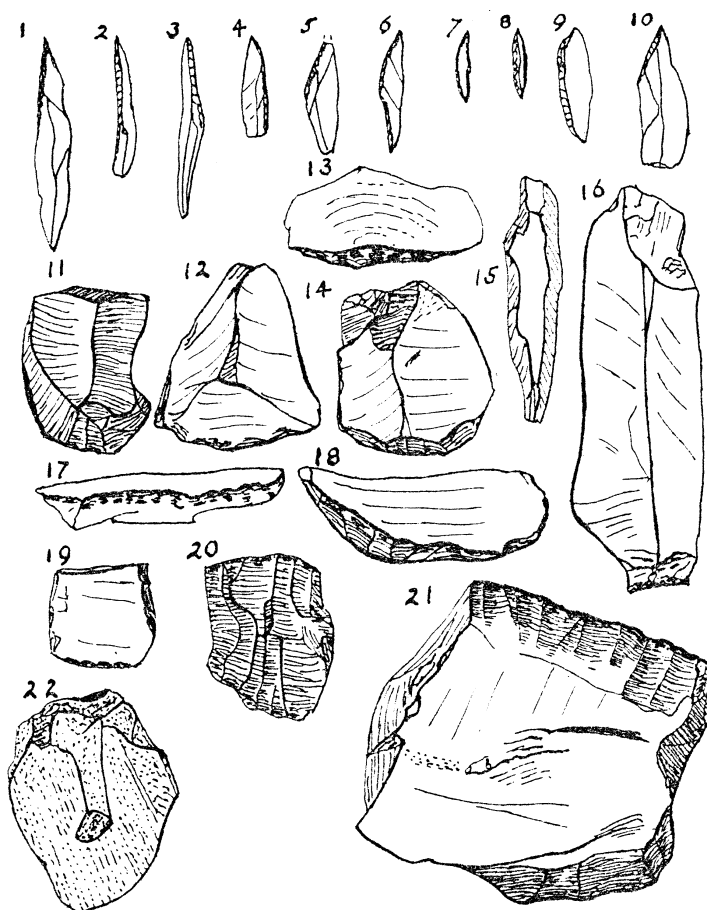
It is these flint tools that give us the first clue that these Stone Age men were the first people of Topcliffe. They too, lived and worked in the castle area but long, long before it was a castle. Dr. T. Carter Mitchell, who used to be the doctor in Topcliffe, writing in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* of 1887, reports that in 1878 he made a discovery when about 40 yards of the river bank had been carried away in the Maiden Bower area. It had left an almost perpendicular section of the bank exposed at a part, which was about 12 feet above the summer level of the river. He found a flint chip that had been exposed to the action of fire and so he searched around. He discovered that along nearly the whole face of the exposed bank at a depth of 10 feet below the present field the soil was reddened by fire and contained a quantity of charcoal. Over the next few years he found a quantity of flint chips most of which "by the bulb of percussion", he

says, were struck off in the manufacture of arrowheads.

Sixty years later, in 1947, there is another report in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* by E. T. Cowling and H. J. Strickland which describes the land adjacent to the river in the castle area, as flat alluvial plane. Along the Swale this deposit of sand is some 15 feet thick and it rests on a thin layer of clay, which is superimposed on the glacial gravel, composed largely of limestone, which forms the river bed. About 300 yards upstream of the confluence of the Cod Beck and the Swale there was a stretch of 200 yards of the bank containing three strata of occupation, evidenced by hearths of burnt stone and charcoal, the lowest of which (and hence the earliest) lies on the gravel surface. The site was observed for ten years as the river eroded the bank. Even when the site was first observed the artifacts that were recovered were not in situ, having been washed out of their strata by the river undercutting the bank.

Analysis of the charcoal from the lowest level indicated that the site was from the late Mesolithic

Ph 1.1 Flints discovered at Maiden Bower, Topcliffe circa. 1935/47



period. The great majority of the flints were of a chalky patination, which in general does seem to be an indication of age. There were also some clear brown and grey flints. One of the flint boulders weighs 2 lbs. 10 ounces and has a thick yellow cortex common to those from Norfolk and the microliths are small red flint flakes, similar to flint found in the Bridlington area. This may indicate the route by which these Mesolithic people reached Topcliffe. Some of the finds are shown in Figure 1.1. There are some Neolithic or even Bronze Age artifacts among them such as No. 22, which is a fragment of a greenstone axe.

In the late 1950s a Neolithic axe head was found by Mr. E. R. Jackson of Thorpe Fields. It was found at Middle Farm, Sowerby Parks, just over the Topcliffe boundary. It is still in the family's possession and they

Ph 1.2 Stone Age Axe head found by Mr. E. R. Jackson



kindly allowed the photograph of it to be taken.

In 1879 a flint dagger was found in Topcliffe and is now part of the Greenwood Collection in the British Museum. The records in County Hall, Northallerton also talk about a bronze socketed axe head being in the British Museum, but now they seem to have no trace of it.

Hence, there is clear evidence that this area was occupied from the very earliest times.

Agriculture was next to appear with the *New Stone Age Men*. As they were farmers, as opposed to hunters, they did not move from place to place and found it necessary to build houses. One of the most interesting remains from this period are the Devil's Arrows at Boroughbridge.

The next invaders around 2,000 BC, were the Beaker Folk who knew how to work bronze. At this time the low-lying ground was covered with pathless forest and swamp. Topcliffe, being on slightly higher ground, would have made an ideal place for a settlement. The Beaker Folk were followed in their

turn by invaders from Gaul who arrived around 300 BC. They were a more civilised race who had learnt to make their tools with iron. These people were the ancestors of the Brigante who probably had a camp or settlement in the angle of the Swale and Cod Beck.

Mesolithic - Middle stone Age
Neolithic - Late Stone Age

By the first century the Brigante were well established in the area. They were a warlike people relying for their success in battle on broadswords, darts and pikes. This is said to be the origin of Britannia's trident. Among their towns were Catterick, Aldborough and York

In 43 AD the Romans invaded southern Britain and within a few years occupied up to the Humber. They could not feel safe, however, because of their warlike neighbours to the North. So eventually they moved against the Brigante and by 77 AD most of present day Yorkshire was under Roman control with the IX Legion headquartered at York.

To hold the land the Romans built towns and military outposts. To facilitate the rapid movement of troops between their towns and camps they built new roads, often building on top of roads already built by the Brigante. Two of their roads were Leeming Lane going north from Aldborough, and that from York through Thornton Le Street to Northallerton and Catterick. It is, maybe, not fanciful to speculate that there was a connecting road from Aldborough to Thirsk, fording the Swale at Topcliffe and protected by a Roman Camp in the angle of the Swale and the Cod Beck.

This possibility was given some strength by the discovery of a Roman coffin, which was reported to the Yorkshire Museum in March 1944, by Mr J. Rooke, a farmer at Cod Beck Farm, Topcliffe, just off the A168. During ploughing operations, the blade of the plough had struck a stone about 15 inches below the surface. Thinking that it was a boulder, farm workers dug round the object and recovered a complete coffin. It measured 7ft. in length and was 2ft. wide at the head, 18 inches deep and had sides 5 to 6 inches thick. The lid had been broken, apparently in the Roman period, and it was empty except for earth and a few shards of pottery, including the rim of a 4th Century cooking pot. Mrs D. Chitty from the Museum suggested that the site might be a forgotten or disused burial ground from before the 4th Century. The coffin was made of West Riding stone. It is still in situ, covered with earth, but it was seen in 1969 by the farmer at that time Mr W. Knowles.

With the Roman occupation we had the start of written records but as yet, none for Topcliffe.

Around the year 406 AD, Rome withdrew its soldiers from Britain and once the Roman Legions had departed there was no defence against the fierce warlike tribes from the continent. Over the next two centuries they conquered the whole country and it was the Angles who settled in what came to be called Yorkshire, but was then called Deira. After the Angles conquest they settled and organised themselves into Tens and Hundreds and the members of these associations were responsible for each other. In time, the names of the associations were transferred to the land they held and the area was divided with Tithings and Hundreds. But, as the original division was personal, the amount of land held by the various tithings and hundreds was different and the area of the land to which these names were applied varied accordingly.

The first known king was called Aella, who reigned from 560 AD. In 625 his son, King Edwin, married a Christian, Queen Ethelburga. When he got married he agreed that Paulinus, a Christian priest, could live at his court and Edwin was eventually himself baptised in his capital city of York on Easter Day 627 AD. The ceremony took place in a little wooden church which had been hastily erected for the occasion - the first York Minster.

One of the doubtful stories told about Topcliffe involves Paulinus. In 627 AD he is said to have baptised 10,000 people in one day, in the Swale near Topcliffe. This event, if it happened, may also have been at Helperby but the writer Mr Bogg preferred Topcliffe as a location, probably just because he preferred Topcliffe as a place. However, Jefferson in 1821 says that the same exploit is told of St. Austin and his river Swale was in the south of England and ran into the Thames.

Nearly three hundred years before the Normans came, the Vikings began to attack Britain and, under Ivar the Boneless, captured York in 867 AD. The boundaries of Yorkshire up to the boundary changes of 1974 marked, more or less, the boundary of the district settled by the Danish army. The number of Danes who actually came and settled was quite small compared to the English population and after the fighting was over they settled down inter-married and were absorbed into the English nation, but left their Danish place names throughout the county.

The Danes introduced new divisions to the area. They introduced the three Ridings with each one represented in the Parliament in York, which was called the "Thing". The Tithings of the Angles disappeared but the hundreds were retained. The Ridings were subdivided into Wapentakes and the Wapentake Courts met at convenient centres.

Ph 1.3 Castle area in relation to Topcliffe Village



Topcliffe village area was in the Wapentake of Birdforth but some parts of the greater church parish were in the Wapentake of Hallikeld.

The Wapentakes were military in origin. In Birdforth the people assembled for the transaction of all public matters, to arrange for defence and to administer justice. On such occasions the freemen performed the ceremony of touching, with their weapons, the spear of the chief in token submission. From this ceremony is derived the word weapentake or Wapentake. These hundred or Wapentake courts were by statute of Edward III discontinued in 1340 and the business removed to the Court of the County. The meeting

place of the whole North Riding was under a maple tree near Thirsk.

In August 946 AD, the West Saxon brother of Edmund, was crowned King of Britain. He was the first monarch so styled. However, the Northumbrians revolted but they were subdued and in the following year, 947, King Aedred came to Tadencliff and there Wolstan, Archbishop of York, and all the Northumbrian Wittan, took an oath of allegiance to him. All the nobility of the North Country made their homage to Eadred at this town. This story is told by old Lambard on the authority of Simeon Dunelm, 948 AD. However, another writer, called Ingulphus, says

that the ceremony of taking the oath was carried out by Chancellor Turketule at York. Wherever it happened, soon after, they reneged on their oath and chose Eric, a Dane, to rule over them whereupon King Eadred invaded and destroyed much of the area, including the Abbey of Ripon.

In 1016 Canute became King of England and built a short-lived Danish Empire. He was followed in 1042 by Edward the Confessor. From the domesday survey we know that Topcliffe was certainly in existence at this time as its rental values were given. But it had a Saxon Lord of the Manor called Bernulf.

Topcliffe Manor House was located near the junction of the River Swale and the Cod Beck, but in 1042 Cock Lodge was not yet in existence. Presumably Bernulf had his own manor, but it may have been in the village near to

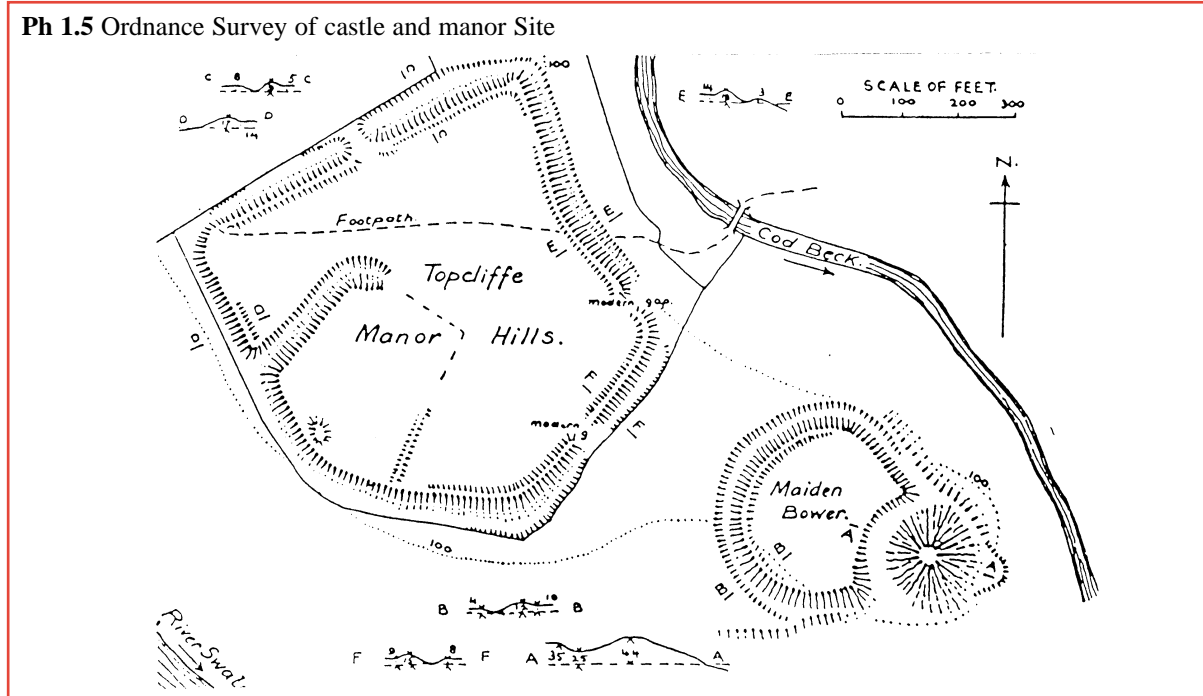
Ph1.4 Site of Maiden Bower, the Topcliffe Motte and Bailey Castle 1997.



the church, ensuring that he was closer to the villagers. Our earliest written knowledge of the manor, as a whole, comes from the Domesday Book. On page 323 of that book the entry about **Topcliffe** lists the Manor as belonging to William de Percy but before that it belonged to the Saxon Lord Bernulf of whom we know very little. The only thing we really know for sure is that he belonged to the losing side at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and, as a result, he lost all his lands. The Topcliffe Manor was granted, along with many others, by William the Conqueror, to William de Percy one of his knights from Percie in Normandy.

One of the first things that William de Percy did soon after 1071 was to build a castle in Topcliffe and he chose the best position to be able to defend himself -

interdependency that eventually became known as the Feudal System. As this feudal landlord/tenancy relationship developed, the Lord's residence became the most important in the district and the centre of all administrative activity. From this it was but a short step to fortify the Lord's residence to protect it against revolt by his own vassals or against attack by another feudal lord. Initially, the fortifications were quite simple ramparts and timber stockades. Nevertheless, the dwellings so defended were, in all essentials, castles. They were built for the defence of the private individual and his followers. Only indirectly were they concerned with the defence of the community at large. It is this fact that distinguishes castles from the fortified cities of the Romans and those on the continent, which had been built to protect the community.



the castle site at the junction of the Swale and Cod Beck. The castle, which was of the Motte and Bailey type, became his principal stronghold and remained one of the chief strongholds of the Percy family until they acquired Alnwick in Northumberland in 1309.

The origin of castles lies in the break-up of Charlemagne's Empire in Western Europe. As central government broke down and ceased to protect individual communities against the Viking onslaughts, it fell to the "strong" men and large landowners to prevent the spread of anarchy. The lesser people gathered around them for protection and the strong man gave the smaller landowners his protection in exchange for the acknowledged ownership of their lands. The lands were given back to them in exchange for services and payments. It was a system which built up a great pyramid of

From the departure of the Romans to the Norman Conquest, England stood apart from the mainstream of European history, but it still felt the pressures of threatening chaos and the Viking invasions. This led to a similar development of Anglo Saxon feudalism, but the English lords did not fortify their houses. There were some communal fortifications but there were no castles until around 1048, when some were built under influence from the Normans. Then, when the Conquest came in 1066, the Conqueror's first act was to build a castle in Hastings. The fact that the English had no castles made it that much easier for the Normans to subjugate the country and they then erected large numbers of castles to consolidate their victory and Norman dominance.

After the conquest, the Saxon landowners were dispossessed of their lands and they all passed to the

crown. The lands were then re-granted by William to his followers, who became his tenants in chief. William created a feudal system, which was peculiar to England. He granted the lands in such a way that no one tenant in chief had such a large coherent block of territory that would provide a power base strong enough to challenge the crown. Exceptions to this were in the border areas with Scotland and Wales, which needed to be strong for defence.

After the conquest there were a mass of castles which sprang up through the length and breadth of the country, but they were not the massive stone structures that we tend to think of as castles; these came later. Rather they were of the Motte and Bailey type. They were built by the Barons as their residences and for holding down their fiefs. They were of a type which the Normans had been used to in their own country and, typically, consisted of an artificial flat-topped mound of earth (the motte) with an attached enclosure (the bailey). Both the Motte and Bailey were surrounded by ditches and the Motte was accessed by a bridge spanning the ditch from the Bailey. The top of the Motte was surrounded by an earthen rampart with a stout wooden stockade with a tower in the middle. The Bailey was defended by a rampart and stockade on the inner side of the ditch. Its function was to house the garrison and serve as a first line of defence to the Motte.

Upwards of forty of these castles were built in Yorkshire. The Maiden Bower site at Topcliffe is one of these and it has particularly well preserved earthworks. The Motte and Bailey castle had the advantage that it could be built quickly with earth and wood, using local forced labour. In the early years of the Norman period very few castles were built with stone and Topcliffe was no exception. Even though it was the principle castle of the Percys, until they acquired Alnwick in the 14th century, it remained a typical Motte and Bailey fortress with stockades and buildings of timber, right up to the time of its abandonment.

It is known that in 1174, Geoffrey Plantagenet, Bishop of Lincoln, fortified the castle in support of his father, Henry II, against the Mowbray rebellion and the Mowbray fortress in Thirsk. He spent some money, £7. 10s. 2d., on building and strengthening it.

The Castle was a fortress-cum-residence but its main task until the 14th century was defence. The spaciousness and comfort of the residential buildings were of less importance. Slowly but surely, however, the need for greater comfort began to rise and instead of castles, the fortified house made an appearance. The Manor House had a different and more peaceful priority as the countryside became more settled and Topcliffe too, followed this trend. This was when the Old Manor House on the Cock Lodge site made its

appearance and it became the main home of the Lord of the Manor when he was in residence in the manor. Many of these earlier houses, which were of largely timber construction, have disappeared. This was the case with the Topcliffe Manor site. There is no trace whatsoever of any buildings but the earth works remain to tantalise us with the thoughts of what it was really like. The Cock Lodge site is quite big and probably contained, not just the Manor residence, but many of the administrative buildings necessary for a busy Manor, a sort of County Hall for the Manor, with the main residence, administrative buildings, stables, perhaps the mill etc.

The aerial photograph (Ph 1.4) shows the Motte and Bailey site at the junction of the River Swale and the Cod Beck in Topcliffe. The photograph quite clearly demonstrates the standard Motte and Bailey structure with its ditches and ramparts. The Motte might, or might

Ph 1.6 Maiden Tower and Cock Lodge site



not, have existed here before the Normans came. Some of the late 19th century books ascribe it to an earlier defensive need and some to a religious significance, but they seemed not to know that it was certainly William de Percy's first castle. There are descriptions of the Bailey as a British camp and/or a Roman encampment and the Motte as being built by the Britons for religious purposes. There has also been much discussion as to what the terracing on the Motte was for and one description goes into a long explanation of the religious significance of the site, linking it to the seven terraces on the Motte. Unfortunately, if the site had any religious significance it was long before the Motte was built. There is probably a much more simple explanation. It

was terraced as part of a gardening and landscaping scheme in later years when it had been abandoned as a castle and the Percys lived in their new Manor House.

The next aerial photograph (Ph 1.6) shows the entire site with the Motte and Bailey towards the top (south) and the Manor site spread out across the entire field at the bottom (north). This is the field, which leads directly off the southern end of Winn Lane. The whole site is now a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. It is described as "Maiden Bower and Cock Lodge, a Motte and Bailey castle, moated site, windmill mound and associated linear outwork."

Ph 1.7 Site overlaid with ordnance survey and a castle drawing.



The Motte is located at the southern tip of the spur and would have been an ideal defensive site, surrounded by the two rivers and impassable marshland. The Cock Lodge site is a large moated site occupying the largest part of the spur between the two rivers. Such sites with their wide ditches, which were often water filled, enclosed islands on which stood the domestic and religious buildings of the manor. This particular site has a five-sided plan with the arms still clearly evident. The south eastern arm faces the earlier castle. The north western arm has an old causewayed entrance at its midpoint. About half way along the south western arm, a ditch runs north east into the interior of the island for a distance of 80m, defining the north western edge of a slightly raised rectangular platform. This is the site of the manorial building, Cock Lodge itself, described by John Leyland in 1538, Henry VIII's Librarian and Antiquarian, as

"...a pretty manor place, standing on a hill, about half a mile from the town ..."

This prestigious Manor House was built of wood by the Percys in about 1200.

Fig. 1.8

Timeline for destruction of the "Olde Mannor"

1537	Henry, the 6th Earl, died in 1537 with no children and his brother Thomas was executed also in 1537 for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace and his lands were attainted.
1538	In 1538 John Leyland, Henry VIII's antiquarian describes Cock Lodge as a pretty manor place standing on a hill about half a mile from the town. So it would seem to have existed at this point in time.
1557	Thomas, son of the above Thomas, succeeded at age 9 but he did not succeed to the title of 7th Earl until 1557 because of his fathers attainder. He was encouraged to live at Petworth by Queen Elizabeth. However, his sympathies were with Mary and when she was imprisoned he and other insurgents met at Topcliffe to plan her release. The rebellion became known as "The rising of the North"
1562	In the meantime, we can see from the account, made by Peter Kryke for the period 1562 to 1564 when he was Clerk of Works in Topcliffe that he was building a new lodge presumably on behalf of Thomas
1569	Thomas was, however, defeated and he fled to Scotland in 1569.
1570	Queen Elizabeth commissioned the Humberston Survey, which describes a new mansyon house of timber and tyle built by Thomas.
1572	After three years Thomas was handed over to the English and he was executed in York for his part in the rising. The next Earl, Henry Percy, 8th Earl was compelled to live at Petworth but eventually he reverted to catholicism and was drawn into plots on behalf of Mary
1577	By 1577 a new survey of the estate, describes the Old Mannor House as ruinous and describes a new Mannor or lodge built on the other side of the Cod Beck as being "meete for a noble man to lie at"
1585	Henry, imprisoned by Elizabeth was found dead in the Tower and the next Henry, the 9th Earl, concentrated on estate management.
1602	In 1602, James 1st stayed at Topcliffe on the way to take the crown and was reputed to have been entertained by the Percys. The stay was previously assumed to be at Cock Lodge (The Old Manor House) but with the evidence of the above it would appear to have been the new lodge, built where the present Manor Farm stands.
1605	Henry, the 9th Earl, was later suspected of being involved in the gunpowder plot and was imprisoned for 15 years in the Tower. He was known as the wizard Earl and when released spent his last years at Petworth.

There is also a mound on the site, which was probably the base of a type of windmill. This is not the mill mentioned in the Domesday listing, however, as windmills did not appear in Britain until 1191. There are other earth works across the whole area of the island indicating areas of medieval agricultural and horticultural activity. This moated site is also sometimes known as Manor Hills.

The ordnance survey for the site is shown in Fig. 1.5. In addition we have “doctored” the aerial photograph Ph 1.6 to produce Ph 1.7 which has the ordnance

reason of the minority of the heir, and in the custody of Eleanor, late wife of ...etc”

In the reign of Henry VIII the Little Park was described as having 247 deer and the Great Park had 435 deer. The Great Park was spread over hundreds of acres which John Leyland described as being 6 or 7 miles in “compace” and well wooded.

An account by Peter Kryke, written for the period 1562 - 1564, describes much building work going on in the Little Park. He was described as Clerk of Works

Ph 1.9 View from the top of the Motte 1998



survey superimposed onto it, thus enhancing the land contours, making the layout more clear. In addition by superimposing a drawing of a typical Motte and Bailey we have tried to show what the site might have looked like.

Further to the north of the moated site, the Swale and the Cod Beck lie up to 650 metres apart and the land levels out. At this point the spur of land is protected by a bank and a ditch often described as the Park Pale. Originally, this was probably a further defensive measure, only later becoming the Park Pale. Between the Pale and the ditch around the castle site was a Home or Little Park with the Great Park being beyond the Pale. There is a “Roll” of 1316 which has the following *“appointment during the King’s pleasure, of Robert Dammory, to be surveyor and superior keeper of the King’s venison in the chases of Toppeclive and Spofforth and in the parks of Toppeclive and Spofforth, late of Henry de Percy deceased tenant in chief, in the King’s hand by*

and buildings. Initially it was thought that this document was describing the refurbishing of the old manor house but, taken together with a survey carried out in 1577, it is clearly describing the building of a new house, together with a bridge over the Cod Beck. Further transcription of this document reveals statements such as “felling of trees, making the orchard, amending the gates in the park, making fences, building chimnies, garden walls, thatching hedging and ditching, felling elms to make furniture, flooring chambers, making doors for chambers and perhaps most telling of all “Occupied in pulling down the old lodge and old brewing and baking house, using old timber. etc etc.”

In 1577 there was survey of the manor carried out in great detail and there are two key sections: -

The first is headed *The Old Mannor - The ancient mannor house their hath stood in the little park on the west side of the water of Codbeck and near unto*

Uncle unto the Earle that nowys but now utterly ruined defaced and decayed. And a new Mannor house (or rather a new lodge) hath been since erected and builded in the said little park on the East side of the said water of Codbeck...."

The second is headed *"The Little Park - The Pale of the said park is now in good and convenient repair. There is also in the said park a certain piece of ground entrenched about, containing by estimation 3 acres which was the site of the Mannor house termed by the name of the ould mannor and now utterlie ruined and decayed. There is also in the said little park a very fair lodge builded with timber and covered with tile, with dyverse fair lodgings in the same, convenient and meete for a noble man to lie in the same park verie pleasantly and for the most part is now in very good repayr....."*

This 1577 survey makes it pretty clear that by that time, the old manor was in ruins and a new lodge had been built on the other side of the Cod Beck. In fact, probably where the modern day Manor Farm stands, or very close to it. The dating of these reports and surveys has been put on a timeline in Fig 1.8 and it seems pretty obvious from this that the problems which the Percys had with the sovereigns obviously created the situation in which the old manor became ruinous and Thomas Percy replaced it with a new lodge.

After the Rising in the North in 1570, Queen Elizabeth sent Commissioners north to ascertain the extent and value of the estates, which had been forfeited by the leaders of the rising. Their report is known as the Humberstone Survey and a part of it deals with Topcliffe. This makes it clear that the manor house had been recently built by Thomas Percy. (See the extract below.) Unfortunately, Thomas' politics ensured that he had little time to enjoy his new lodge before he was executed.

Fig 1.10 Extract from Humberston's Survey 1570

"Topclyf is a stately manour, and ys scytuat vpon the water or river Swale, syxtene myles from York, in the rodewey towards Barwyke, wherin th'erle had his mansyon house in the Little Parke, for the most parte of his owne buyldying, all of tymbre and covered with tyle. And this last erle dyd moche deluyght to lye there for the greate comodyte of huntynge and hawkyng in the feldes and small ryvers nere vnto the same manour, which are very well replenyshed with all kind of game and fowle, apt and mete for that pastyme.

To the said maour belongyth two parkes, th'one called the Greate Parke, conteynyng in compas fyve myles, wherof one Christofer Stockdale is foster in fee, as apperith by a decree vnder the seale of the Courte of Augmentacions, and hath for his fee yerely lxs., xdl., And suche other casuall proffittes as to the same apperteyneth. And the sayd parke ys well planted with wood and tymbre, and ys a very parkelyke ground and well replenyshed with deere.

The Lytle Parke adioynyth to the south est parte of the towne, and ys very well planted with coppyes, woodes, and great tymbre, and conteynth in compass i9 myles and a half, and ys well replenyshed wyth fallow dere; and to the same belongyth one keper, which hath for his fee yerly lxs., viijd. And suche other casual profittes and comodytees as to the same offyce apperteynyth.

The manour of Topclyf extendyth into the hamlettes of Skypton, Carleton, Catton, Greysthwayte, Thorpefeld, Assenby, Dalton, and Crakehall, the tenauntes wherof held their landes for the most parte by indenture for terme of certeyne yeres, and are very fynable after th' expiracon of their leases.....

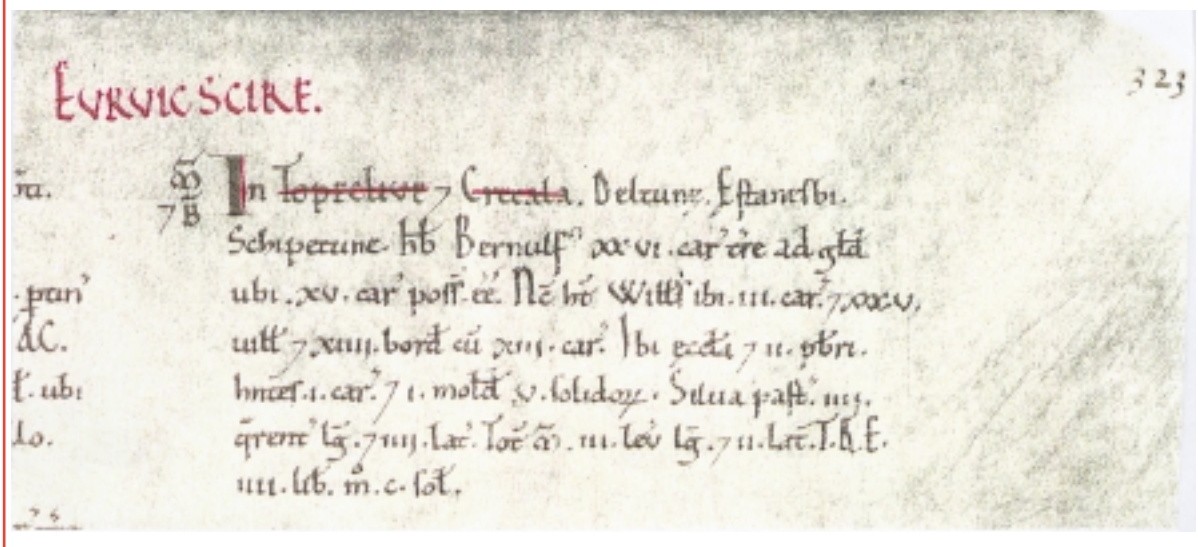
For all the tenantes of Spofforde anf Topcliffe, to my understandinge, be much dearer rented than thei be with us, and the groundes be not greatlie fructfull, either by corne or grasse. Thei have great commons for the sommer tyme for stoore cattle upon the moores. In Spofforde and Topcliffe is muche great tymbre, but muche spoiled with snaithinge, and the underwoodes cleane destroyed both in the parke and outwoodes

The Domesday Survey

was ordered to be taken by William the Conqueror at a Council in Gloucester at Christmas 1085. It was executed in the form we have it, with the written report, in one year and nine months. This must have been a tremendous achievement in those days and must have occupied

about 80 enjoyed effective wealth i.e. greater than £100 per year. The King retained a seventh of all landed wealth, the church a quarter, and another quarter was in the hands of 10 - 12 people. In the north, in particular, many areas were described as "waste" largely as a result of the harrying of the north from 1069 to 1070. After a series of rebellions in the north William was determined to end northern

Ph 1.11 Entry for Topcliffe in the Domesday Book



most of the literate and numerate people in the country for some time. William wanted to know how much land he held and how much it was worth. He also wanted to know how much revenue he could expect from the shires and the towns, what Geld (land tax) he

Translation of Domesday entry for Topcliffe

In TOPCLIFFE and Crakehill, Dalton (near Topcliffe), Asenby (and) Skipton on Swale, Bernulf had 26 Carucates of land to the geld, where there could be 15 ploughs. Now William has three ploughs there: and 35 villians and 14 bordars with 13 ploughs, there is a church and two priests having one plough, and one Mill (rendering) 5s., (and woodland pasture 4 furlongs long and 4 broad. The whole Manor (is) 3 leagues long and 2 broad. TRE (worth) £4; now 100s

could extract and the relationship of that tax to the value of the holdings of his Tenants in Chief. Most of these were new to their holdings and were glad to have a reliable statement of their own wealth and rights. Although the shiring process was not complete in 1086, most of the shires in the Domesday Survey remained recognisable up to the changes of 1974. The strategy of the survey was planned to show who the major landowners were and how much tax they were responsible for. The basic unit was The Manor.

The survey showed that in the whole country there were only 1400 Tenants in Chief and, of those, only

resistance once and for all and the action he took was to ravage and lay waste the area. He is said to have ruined it completely destroying all crops and herds, and thousands of people died of starvation. Simeon of Durham asserted that between York and Durham no village was inhabited and remained so for nine years.

However, William spent the Christmas of 1069 in York. Would he have done this if it was a blackened shell? So too, it was likely that some of the villages escaped, or perhaps suffered less, if they had a strong Norman Lord to protect them. In the Domesday Survey, half of the villages are described as wholly or partially waste, but many more had a reduced number of ploughs etc, against the earlier survey carried out in King Edward's time. The description "waste" was also used to write off land to nil value by the assessors. This was done for all sorts of accounting reasons, so it cannot necessarily be totally relied on as an exact statement of the condition of that place. The entry for Topcliffe Manor is shown in facsimile format taken from the original manuscript.

The value of the land TRE means the value of the land in King Edward's time (or more precisely "on

The Domesday Book was so called because either its record was supposed to stand until the day of doom, or because the book was kept in the chapel of Domus Dei at Winchester

the day King Edward was alive and dead” - 5th January 1066. In general the value of land fell by about a third between 1066 and 1086 as a result of the ravaging process, and by 1086 there were no native landowners surviving in Yorkshire amongst the Tenants in Chief, except Gospatric.

A Carucate was nationally the size of a farm that could be ploughed in a year by a team of eight oxen. The natural division of this was a bovate or eighth. In practise the carucate was about 120 acres. However there was also the real or field carucate as opposed to the fiscal carucate. The actual size depended on the quality of the land

William de Percy was the eighth biggest landowner in Yorkshire with 101 Manors, totalling 385 carucates. In addition to the Topcliffe Manor, on the same page of the Domesday Book, William de Percy is shown as holding Rainton, previously held by Eardwulf and Arnketil and previously worth 20s. but at the Domesday Survey only worth 2s.

He also had Catton, previously held by Beornwulf, Thorn, Karli and Ulfgrmr, previously worth 30s. but at the Domesday Survey worth only 10s. There was also a place called Berghebi (in Topcliffe) held by Knut worth 20s. but in 1086 it was waste. Perhaps it never recovered as we don't know where this was.

From our viewpoint of Topcliffe we tend to think of the manor as being as big as the village is now but this was not true. The population of the country as a whole was probably only around $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ million people and in the whole of Eboracshire (Yorkshire) only about 30 to 40 thousand. Nevertheless, Topcliffe Manor is recorded as having about 50 heads of families which

would give a total number of people (using a factor of 5) of about 250 plus the Percys and sub tenants, and administrators. This would give somewhere around 300 people spread in Topcliffe Manor itself and the Berwicks of Crakehill, Dalton, Asenby and Skipton. The Domesday record lists the people as 35 Villans and 14 Bordars. **A Villan** (or Villein) was an unfree tenant. They held land from the Lord and paid their rents but were subject to other obligations, including rendering week work to assist in the cultivation of the Lord's own demesne land. They could not live away from the manor without obtaining the Lord's permission.

A Cottar was one of the poorest and humblest people on the manor. They held no land but were employed by the Lord or by more substantial freeholders, as labourers. They may have held a small cottage and garden.

The size of the woodland pasture in the Topcliffe Manor was four furlongs by four furlongs i.e half a mile by half a mile. The whole manor on the other hand is described as being three leagues long by two broad. The league was an old Gaulish measure, which the Romans had treated as $1\frac{1}{2}$ of their miles. From 1066 it was used commonly to mean 12 furlongs or one and a half English miles. Although the two should have been clear they were often confused in practice. The league was, in fact, the normal measure used to estimate woodland and uncultivated land.

It is interesting that the value of the Topcliffe Manor was more than it had been in King Edward's time, going against the normal trend elsewhere and, in fact, in William de Percy's other manors in the area. He had obviously provided his home base with some protection against the general wasting.

Ph 1.12 View of Maiden Bower and the manor from across the Swale



William de Percy I,

was Tenant in Chief of manors in the three ridings of Yorkshire and the Manor of Topcliffe was one of his main residences. He was given the Manor of Topcliffe, along with many others, by William the Conqueror, after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. He came to Topcliffe in 1067 and built the Motte and Bailey castle at the junction of the river Swale and the Cod Beck. He later married Emma de Port who was the daughter of a Saxon.

The Percy family in Normandy were descended from the companions of the Great Danish Viking (pirate) who sailed up the Seine and the Loire and founded the Norman race.

Although the Percys are now identified with Northumberland, the first line of Percys was essentially a Yorkshire family, after their initial arrival from Normandy. Their most numerous manors were in Yorkshire, there they made their alliances and Yorkshire was the scene of their earliest military victories.

It is interesting to note that the title of Northumberland was borne by twelve other earls before it was taken over by the Percys.

It is recorded that in 1070 William was engaged in work in York, connected with the rebuilding of York Castle after its destruction by the Danes. Later, around the year 1086 he re-founded the monastery at Whitby and in 1096 he set out with the first Crusade to the Holy Land. It was there that he died and was buried at Mount Joy, near Jerusalem. When he died his heart was enclosed in a casket, according to the custom of the time, and it eventually found a resting place under the high altar of Whitby Abbey.

Throughout their history the Percys remained closely associated with the Kings, either for or against them, and they were essentially men of action

His son, Alan de Percy, followed him as the **Second Baron**. He was a benefactor of St. Peter's Hospital in York. He had an illegitimate son, also called Alan, who took service under King David of Scotland and on whose side he fought at the Battle of the Standard in 1138. On the other side, amongst the barons, fighting for King Stephen, was the next William de Percy, the **Third Baron**, legitimate son of Alan. It was this William de Percy that gave Topcliffe Church to St. Peter's in York. He was also founder of Sallay Abbey, probably Stainfield Priory, and was a benefactor to Byland and Fountains Abbeys.

At Easter 1175, when William died, there being no son and heir, the Percy inheritance was divided

between the husbands of the two daughters, Agnes and Maude. Maude was married to William, Earl of Warwick, and Agnes to Jocelin of Louvain. Maude had no children so it was from Agnes that the second house of Percy came. Her husband took the name Percy and became the **Fourth Baron** and it was from the Louvain coat of arms that the famous Percy lion came. The Topcliffe Manor seems to have passed through this sister's hands as there are records of her making agreements with regard to lands in Dalton by Topcliffe and Catton. Her husband, Jocelin, was the brother of Queen Adeliz, second wife of Henry 1st. She and her second husband the Earl of Arundel gave Jocelin the honour of Petworth. So, rather interestingly, Topcliffe has had a connection with Petworth for rather longer than its connection with Alnwick.

In 1170, Jocelin was one of the knights sent to forbid Archbishop Becket's approach to the young King's court and in about 1174 he visited the Holy Land. Jocelin died in 1180, with Agnes surviving him for another twenty four years. Henry de Percy, their son, took the title of **Fifth Baron** as a courtesy, while his mother was still alive, but he too died before his mother, in 1198. At that time his son, William, was still a minor and when his father died, to be followed in 1204 by Agnes, it was her next son Richard who seized the Barony and it did not pass fully to Henry's son, William, until Richard died. The division of the Percy inheritance between Richard and William led to difficulties and disputes for several years. In the

The Barons forced King John to accept the **Magna Carta** at Runnymede on 15th of June 1215. It is traditionally seen as guaranteeing human rights against the excessive use of Royal Power.

meantime, Richard, as the **Sixth Baron**, was one of the twenty five barons approved to enforce the provisions of the Magna Carta and was among those whose excommunication was procured by the King in 1216. In the same year he was one of the barons who subdued Yorkshire on behalf of the French King. As a result the English King ordered that all Richard's lands be given to William de Percy. These were, however, returned to him on his return to allegiance. In 1221 he besieged and destroyed Skipton Castle for the King. He was a Justice in York in 1228. In 1230 he served in the King's French Expedition and in 1237 he was present at the Great Council of Westminster. He built a chapel in Topcliffe churchyard and when he died in 1244 he was buried at Fountains Abbey.

On Richard's death, William finally succeeded to the Barony and became **Seventh Baron**. He inherited Petworth, which had been held by his father and he also inherited from Maud the rest of the Percy inheritance that had been split between her and

Agnes. In 1214 he had been to Poitou on the King's service and served again on the King's expedition to France in 1230. In 1241 he was one of the King's four Commissioners to survey the Royal Castles in Yorkshire. When he died he was buried in Sallay Abbey.

The **Eighth Baron** was William's son Henry. In the Baron's disputes with the King he sided with the Barons and had his lands seized. They were restored when he submitted. He accompanied the King to the siege of Northampton and was in Rochester Castle when Simon de Montfort began to besiege it. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Lewes in 1264 and freed just over a year later

This was the second baron's war. It was led by Simon de Montfort against Henry III and the future Edward I.

He was married in 1268 but died shortly afterwards in 1272 and he too, was buried at Sallay Abbey.

His first son John, the **Ninth Baron**, died when he was 23 and his brother, Henry, who had been born at Petworth, after his father's death, succeeded to become the **Tenth Baron**. In 1294 Henry was summoned for military service in Gascony but actually accompanied King Edward I on his expedition to Wales. He was knighted by the King at the capture of Berwick in 1295, and fought at Dunbar in 1296. He was appointed to many positions in the Borders and received the submissions of the Scots prelates and nobles, including Robert the Bruce. From 1297 to 1298 he was a member of the Council of the King's Son and Regent during the King's absence abroad. He was summoned to Parliament from 1299 to 1314. In 1309 he bought Alnwick from the Bishop of Durham and he became the **First Lord Percy**. He rebuilt the outer walls of Alnwick castle as they now stand. After Parliament he spent the rest of his life either fighting in Scotland or preparing for campaigns there. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Married to Eleanor, sister of Sir Richard de Arundel, he died in 1314 and was buried at Fountains Abbey. His wife died later, in 1328, and she was buried at Beverley Minster. The Percy Tomb and Canopy, which is still in the Minster, is in her memory.

His son, Henry, the **Second Lord Percy**, succeeded him. Henry was given custody of Alnwick castle in 1318, while he was still a minor and in 1321, custody of Scarborough Castle. He was knighted by the King, Edward II at York in 1322 and in that same year was summoned for service in Scotland. He spent much of his life in that service or in guarding the Marches. He acquired and rebuilt Warkworth Castle. In 1324 he was Keeper of the Coast of Yorkshire and in 1325 of

Northumberland. In 1327 he was Keeper of Skipton Castle and Chief Commissioner to see the Scottish truce observed. He was one of the ambassadors and later Chief Plenipotentiary to make peace. In 1331 he was one of the King's envoys, sent to France to treat for peace. In 1332 he received full power as Warden of the March to keep the peace in view of the threatened invasion. With Lord Neville he defeated the Scots raiding into Redesdale.

During the Scottish campaigns, Topcliffe was a frequent meeting place for the King. During his first campaign, in 1327, Edward III journeying from York stopped at Topcliffe and in 1333 returning from Newcastle he was again at Topcliffe on the 9th of August. He spent a week to-ing and fro-ing between Topcliffe and Knaresborough, probably hunting with the Percys in the Great Park.

In 1337 Henry was a Commissioner to define the boundary between Yorkshire and Westmorland. In 1344 he took Newcastle for the King. He

Ph 1.12.1 The Percy Tomb and Canopy in Beverley Minster, to the memory of Eleanor wife of the First Lord Percy.



commanded the Third Division at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346 and took part in the invasion of 1347. In 1350 he was a Commissioner to treat with the Scots for final peace. He died at Warkworth in 1352 and was buried at Alnwick.

The **Third Lord Percy** was also called Henry and was aged about 30 when his father died. He fought for King Edward III at Crecy in 1346, at the siege of Calais, and in the King's victory over the Spaniards of Winchelsea. He was a Commissioner to receive King David of Scotland on his return to captivity and later, from 1353, he negotiated with the Scots to return King David and for peace. In 1355 he was made Marshall of the Royal Army in Calais and took part in the King's expedition to Champagne. He died in 1368 at the age of 49 and was buried at Alnwick. It was in his time that his cousin, Walter Percy, of Rugemont, gave the timber for the rebuilding of York Minster.

The **Fourth Lord Percy**, another Henry, succeeded his father in 1368 and was made Marshall of England in 1376. He supported Edward III in his claim to the throne of France. He was created **First Earl of Northumberland** in 1377 by Richard II, under whom the Earl held various offices, civil and military. So far the Percy wars had been of a patriotic nature in defence of the country or its liberties. They were now to enter upon a more dangerous period and far less creditable in nature. There ensued a period of civil strife which was to last for five generations. Various expeditions into Scotland in which the Earl took a leading part were followed by reprisals from the Scots and finally produced the Battle of Otterbourne. His son, Sir Harry Percy, better known as Hotspur, also took part in the battle and was taken prisoner there. Hotspur was often at Topcliffe when he wasn't fighting the Scots. He got his name because of his persistent pricking against the Scots.

A large part of his life was taken up with the question of the succession to Richard II. Initially the Percys supported Henry IV, helping him to seize power from Richard. Their main motive for this was because Richard II elevated Sir Ralph Neville to the title of the First Earl of Westmorland and had given him authority as Warden of the West March, a position previously held by Percy. This action initiated the Percy - Neville feud.

In 1399 when Richard II was deposed, it was Sir Thomas Percy's voice which rang out in Parliament, amongst the assembled lords, when Henry Bolingbroke entered Westminster Hall - "Long live Henry of Lancaster, King of England"

By 1403, however, the Percys had become dissatisfied with their new King feeling that they had

never been properly rewarded for their support in the usurpation of the throne by Henry. They conspired among themselves and with Owen Glendower and Earl Douglas of Scotland to overthrow the King and replace him with Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March. This rebellion led to the Battle of Shrewsbury. In this battle the seeds were sown for the Wars of the Roses, half a century later. In the battle, Hotspur was killed and the rebels broke and fled. Sir Thomas Percy was taken prisoner and executed two days later. It is said that Hotspur was brought back to Topcliffe for burial in 1404 but was later dug up again and quartered. The quarters were sent to different parts of England as an example. Northumberland, himself, was pardoned but soon allied himself with the Scots against Henry IV and was killed at the Battle of Bramham Moor in 1408. In 1406 he was attainted in Parliament when all his honours were forfeited.

When Henry was slain, it was his grandson Henry who succeeded as the **Fifth Lord Percy** at the age of 15. He lived at Leconfield, near Beverley, and served Henry V faithfully for many years. One of Henry V's first actions on coming to the throne was to restore Hotspur's son to the Earldom of Northumberland and hence he became the **Second Earl**. However, though he got the title, some of the estates were not returned. Two of these had been granted to Lord Cromwell one of Henry VI's ministers. In 1453 Thomas Neville was to marry Maude Stanhope who was co-heiress to the Cromwell estates and the prospect of some of his estates passing by inheritance to the Nevilles was too much for Henry Percy. He arranged for the bridal party to be attacked on its way to Sheriff Hutton Castle near York. The attack was led by Percy's second son, Lord Egremont, but Thomas Neville, accompanied by his father the Earl of Salisbury, was able to beat off the attack. This was regarded, in retrospect, as the first military action of the Wars of the Roses. This was because it led to a series of tit for tat raids against each others estates and it drove the Nevilles to seek the help of Richard, Duke of York.

Richard ruled England as protector for 14 months in the period when Henry VI suffered a total nervous breakdown and lost his mind. During this period the Percys without royal protection fared badly at the hands of the Nevilles. When the King recovered, the Percys breathed a sigh of relief and offered their support to the King's side. So the battle lines were drawn with the Percys now very firmly in the Lancastrian camp. The Wars of the Roses had begun. Unfortunately, Henry, the second Earl of Northumberland, was slain at the first battle in St Albans in 1455, trying to fight his way to a refuge in the Castle Inn.

His son the **Third Earl** was born in 1421 and was

Came from Percy - en - Auge
in Lower Normandy

The Saxon Lord
Bernulf lost his
Manor at Topcliffe
to William the
Conqueror in 1066

William de PERCY d. 1090
1st Baron

Came to Topcliffe in 1067 and built
Motte & Bailey Castle.
Married Emma de Port,
a Saxon heiress.
William was killed in 1st Crusade

Brother called Serlo
Prior at Whitby Abbey

Another brother

Alan de PERCY d. 1135
2nd Baron

Married Emma daughter
of Gilbert de Gant

William de Percy
Abbot of Whitby

Alan
Legitimate - took service under King
James of Scotland and fought on his
side at the Battle of the Standard

Married 1. Alice de Tonbridge,
2. Sibyl de Valognes widow of Robert de Ros
Fought at the Battle of the Standard in 1138
on King Stephen's side.
Gave Topcliffe Church to St Peter's, York

William de PERCY d. 1175
3rd Baron

Walter

Geoffrey

Alan de Percy 1112 - 1168
died before his father

Walter
illegitimate

Maudie de Percy
Married William de Newburgh,
Earl of Warwick - No children

Agnes de PERCY d. 1204
Agnes married Joceline de LOUVAIN
half brother of Queen Adela,
(who gave him Petoath in 1151.)

He adopted the name Percy
and became the 4th Baron de Percy

William de Percy
illegitimate, otherwise he would have
been sole heir

Henry de PERCY d. 1198
married Elizabeth de Brus
Died before his mother
By courtesy styled 5th Baron

Richard de PERCY d. 1244
6th Baron

One of four commissioners to survey
Royal Castles in Yorkshire
Married 1. Joan, one of daughters of his
guardian Sir William Briwere
2. Ellen, daughter of Ingram de Balliol

William de PERCY 1183 - 1245
a minor at his father's death
7th Baron

Richard was one of the Barons approved to
enforce the provisions of the Magna Carta
He built a chapel in the churchyard at Topcliffe
He married 1. Alice
2. Agnes daughter of Geoffrey de Neville of Raby

Fought at Lewes in the Barons' War
Married Eleanor, daughter of John, Earl
of Surrey

Henry de PERCY 1235 - 1272
8th Baron

William de Percy
Canon of St Peter's, York

John de PERCY 1270 - 1293
9th Baron

Henry de PERCY 1273 - 1314
10th Baron
& 1st Lord Percy of Alnwick

In 1297 received submission of Scottish nobles including Robert de Brus
In 1309 bought Alnwick from the Bishop of Durham
Taken prisoner at Bannockburn in 1314
He married Eleanor Fitzalan, daughter of the Earl of Arundel
She is buried in Beverley Minster (The Percy memorial was erected in her memory.)
He was buried at Fountains Abbey

Henry de PERCY 1299 - 1352
9th Baron & 2nd Lord

Spent most of his life guarding the Marches.
He was one of the Commissioners appointed to define the boundary
between Yorkshire and Westmorland.
He commanded the 3rd Division at the victory of Neville's Cross.
In 1350 he was a Commissioner to treat with the Scots for a final peace.
He married Adeline daughter of Robert de Clifford.
He was buried at Alnwick and she under the Percy shrine in Beverley.

Henry de PERCY 1320 - 1368
10th Baron & 3rd Lord

Fought at Crecy 1346
Fought in the King's victory over the Spaniards at Winchelsea
Married 1. Mary, daughter of the Earl of Lancaster
2. Joan, daughter of John, Lord Ormby

Henry de PERCY 1341 - 1408
11th Baron & 4th Lord
Created 1st Earl of Northumberland
Marshall of England

In 1406 all his honours were
attained
Killed at Bramham Moor in 1408

Sir Harry PERCY 1366 - 1407
died before father so never came into
title

Called "Hotspur"
Killed at Shrewsbury Field 1403
His body is reputed to have been brought back to
Topcliffe for burial before it was dug up again and
quartered. The quarters were sent to different
parts of the realm as an example.
Shakespeare dramatised the rebellion led by
Hotspur in Henry IV Part 1

Henry de PERCY 1393 - 1455
2nd Earl of Northumberland

Restored to forfeited Earldom of Northumberland.
A stout Lancastrian in the Wars of the Roses
Killed at St Albans 1455
Lived at Leconfield near Beverley

Slain at the battle of Towton
and attainted

Henry de PERCY 1421 - 1461
3rd Earl of Northumberland

Sir Thomas
killed at Northampton
in 1460

George
a priest

Sir Ralph
Loyal to House of
Lancaster
killed at Hedgeley Moor

Sir Richard
killed at Towton

Henry de PERCY 1449 - 1489
4th Earl of Northumberland

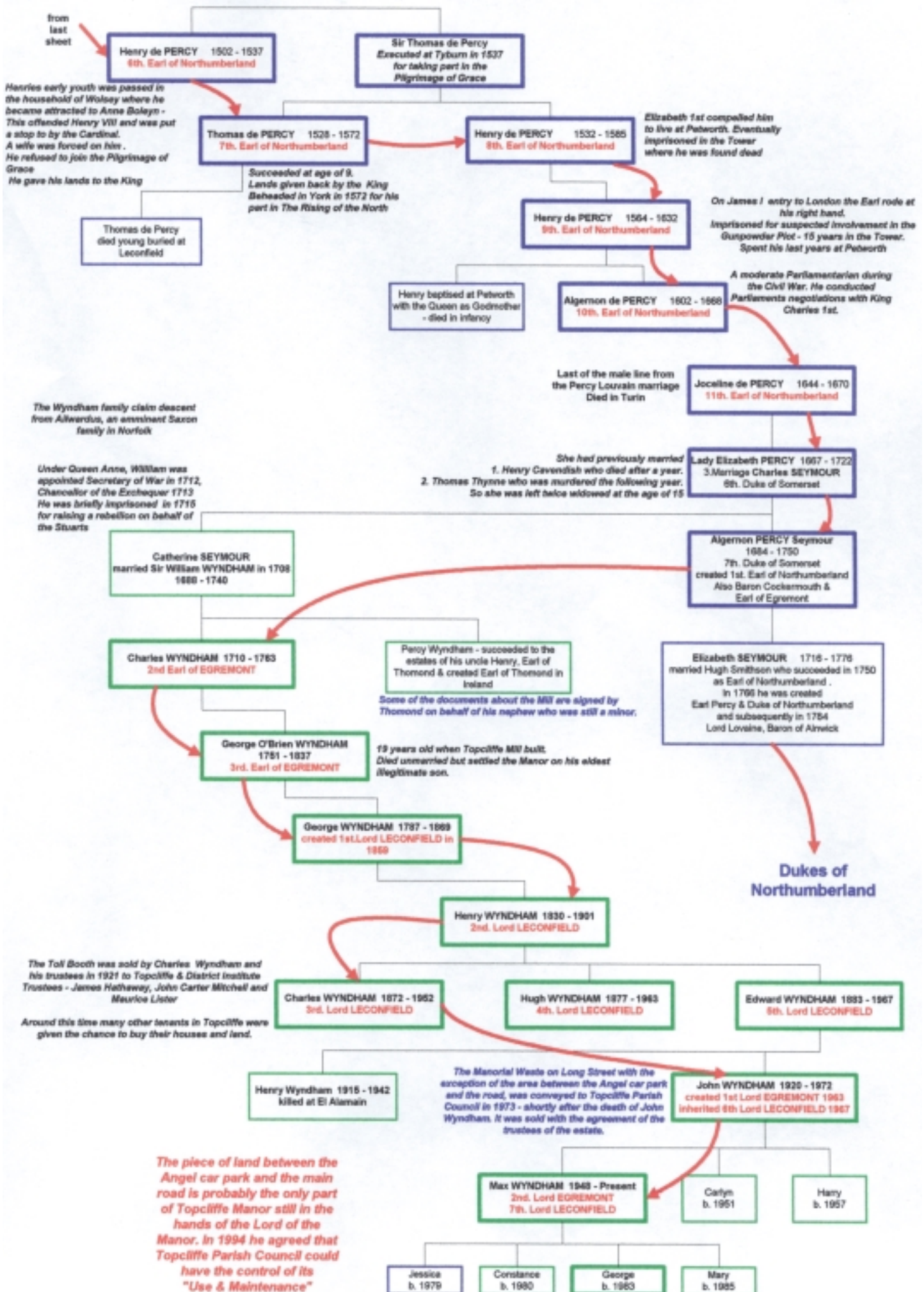
Murdered at TOPCLIFFE
Buried in Beverley Minster

William
Killed at Battle of Flodden

Henry de PERCY 1478 - 1527
5th Earl of Northumberland
"The Magnificent"

Joceline de Percy
of Newlands & Beverley
Beverley Percys descended from him

The descent of the MANOR of TOPCLIFFE



summoned to Parliament in 1446. He too was embroiled in the Wars of the Roses and was the third Earl in a row to be slain on a battle field. He lost his life at the battle of Towton in 1461 where he was among the 28,000 killed - the largest single loss of life on English soil. Once again the estates were attainted. His brother, Sir Richard, was killed in the same battle and the young Henry Percy was taken prisoner and spent the next nine years in the Tower. Another brother, Sir Thomas, had been killed at Northampton.

When his father was killed the **Fourth Earl** succeeded him at the age of 12. After his nine years in the Tower, he regained the families confiscated estates. The Earldom was restored to him in 1470 and he served as Lord Great Chamberlain to Richard III. The Fourth Earl took the field for Battle at Bosworth in 1485 on Richard's side but did little to support him. After Richard was killed in the battle the Earl was taken prisoner but in time allowed to go free and he switched his allegiance to Henry VII. The battle at Bosworth brought about the end of the house of York and ushered in the house of Tudor. The Earl became the Tudor King's main representative in the north.

However, the people of the north, with whom Richard had been popular, never forgave Northumberland for sitting on the fence at Bosworth. In 1489 he became even more unpopular when he tried to enforce the levying of a new tax to help Henry VII to carry on a war with the French. The tax was so oppressive that Yorkshire and the Bishopric of Durham refused to pay it. Henry informed the King of the problems he had created and tried to persuade him not to levy the tax. The King, however, was insistent in case a precedent was created. When the Earl tried to impose the tax the local population became inflamed and he was murdered by a mob which included some of the local gentry, John a' Chambre and Sir John Egremont amongst them, which broke into the Manor House in Topcliffe. He was aged 40. His funeral was a huge event. His body was embalmed and placed in a leaden coffin with oak covering. The procession setting out from Topcliffe for Beverley was several miles long. There are many descriptions of the grandeur of this procession. His tomb still resides in a chapel in Beverley Minster, close to the Percy Memorial. Unfortunately, it is quite difficult to find, as the chapel has been closed off and is presently being used as a general box room for the minster. Something of a come down after so grand a funeral.

The tax which cost Henry his life was afterwards repealed to the inhabitants of Topcliffe and the area, as evidenced in a document from the King to the Collector of Taxes in the North Riding:-

"Whereas Eleanor, widow of Henry Percy, has given us to understand for herself and the

inhabitants of Topcliffe, Gristwayt, Astenby, Difford, Renington, Newby, Crathorne, and Kilmington, that the said villages have been burnt by the rebellious Scots, our enemies, and that their goods and chattels have been destroyed or carried off by them; through which circumstances the said Eleanor and her vassals are unable to pay the taxes; we taking into consideration the damage they have received, hereby issue a supersedeas, relieving them from all burdens, and from the payment of all taxes levied on the same."

Also on November 20th 1314 a Calendar Patent Roll records the proclamation:- *"Simple protection for 1 year for Eleanor wife of the late Henry de Percy. Nothing is to be taken against her will of her corn, carts carriage or other goods for the use of the King or any other."*

The next Percy, the **Fifth Earl** was Henry Algernon Percy, aged 12. The fifth Earl's household was modelled on that of the court with every grade, rank and function of his servants being described in great detail. He was known as the "magnificent" and was more like a prince than a subject. Like Henry VIII he wrote poetry and was exceptional for his learning. But he was very extravagant and in 1516 he fell foul of Thomas Wolsey, who was then Archbishop of York, and was fined £10,000. He died in 1527 at the age of 49.

Yet another Henry succeeded him as the **Sixth Earl** and not only inherited his father's debts but increased them by bad management. He spent much of his early youth in the household of Wolsey where he became attracted to Anne Boleyn. However, as this offended the famous Henry VIII he was warned off by Wolsey and a wife was forced on him. He refused to join the Pilgrimage of Grace. He died quite young at the age of 35 in 1537.

The Pilgrimage of Grace was a rebellion against Henry VIII originating in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. The uprising was directed against the policies of the monarch, such as the dissolution of the monasteries and the effects of the enclosure of common land. A truce was arranged in 1536 but when the demands were not met, a further revolt broke out in 1537. This was severely suppressed with the execution of over two hundred of the rebels

Henry had no son and his brother, Sir Thomas Percy, had been executed at Tyburn for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, so the succession passed to Thomas's son Thomas Percy who was nine years old at the time. Thomas, did not succeed to the title of the

Seventh Earl until 1557 due to his fathers attainder. He was encouraged to live at Petworth by Queen Elizabeth because she was suspicious about his loyalty. She was quite right in her suspicions as he did, in fact, favour Mary Queen of Scots as the rightful heir and fomented rebellion in the north following her imprisonment. The first meeting of the insurgents was held in Topcliffe, but before the plot was implemented, the conspiracy was reported to Elizabeth and the Earl narrowly escaped capture in his

Extract from the household papers of the Ninth Earl :

Paid by the said Accomptaunt about the making of provision for his Lordship's howse at Topcliff, viz. for xlj yerdes of linnen clothe to make sheets and mattresses for the gromes of his Lordship's stable, xxij s. ij d.; for a hoppe basket, and abroad basket, iij s. for amending and newmaking of the brewing vessell,..... lxj s. viij d. for vj wyne hoggesheads for beare..... For the charges for bringing of bedding, pewther, spyttts, brasse, and other things from Wressell to Topcliff xvij s. iij d. For the charges of his Lordship's hawkes at Topcliffe before their departure, as may appear, xxv s. ix d..... For ix bushell of oats for his Lordship's horse there, x s. iij d..... And for a horse bought by William Robinson of John Nelson, for the falconers, lxx s. in all at Topcliffe, as by a booke of the particulars thereof may appear:

own home in Topcliffe. The leaders now assembled their forces at Durham and marched to Staindrop, Darlington, Richmond and Ripon, where they put to flight the force sent against them led by Sir William Ingleby. They then laid seige to Barnard Castle which capitulated after 11 days. But this was their last success and in 1569 the Seventh Earl fled to Scotland where he was imprisoned and after three years handed over to the English Parliament. He was held for two months at Berwick until Elizabeth decided he was to be executed. She set the date whereupon he was moved very quickly to York. The journey by way of Alnwick, Newcastle, Darlington and Topcliffe took only three days. While the horses were being changed at Topcliffe he was able to take a last look at the home he loved so well and the new lodge which he had built across the Cod Beck from the ancient manor house. The next day he was summarily executed on the Pavement in York, opposite the church of St Crux. His body was buried in St Crux without a memorial and his head was exposed on Micklegate Bar.

In 1576 the estates were restored to his brother, the **Eighth Earl** Henry (Sir Thomas's own son had died early and had been buried at Leconfield.) He was imprisoned in the Tower of London for 18 months and

even when released was forbidden to live in the north. The Eighth Earl reverted to Catholicism and was drawn into plots on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots. He was imprisoned again in the Tower on suspicion of treason and was found shot dead. It was never really sorted out as to whether he had been murdered or had committed suicide.

His son the **Ninth Earl** was brought up as a Protestant and put his mind to household and estate management, increasing his annual income from £3,000 to £6,650 within a few years and by his death in 1632 to £13,000.

He was on the right hand of James 1 as he rode into London to take the crown. This probably explains why James stayed at Topcliffe on his way south from Scotland. He was entertained at the Lodge by the Percys. However, unfortunately for Henry, he was suspected of being involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and was imprisoned in the Tower of London for 15 years. His distant cousin Thomas Percy was, in fact, one of the conspirators and he had visited him on the day the plot was revealed.

Although he had lost his freedom he lived in great luxury in the Tower and one of his fellow prisoners was Walter Raleigh. He didn't waste his time in the Tower, spending it in a wide ranging self education. The Ninth Earl's reputation as a scientist, astrologer and alchemist earned him the title of the "Wizard Earl". He spent his last years at Petworth, dying in 1632.

"The Commonwealth" was the period from the execution of Charles I in 1649 until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 when Britain was a Republic. During this period there were two Lord Protectors, Oliver Cromwell and Richard Cromwell.

He was succeeded by Algernon Percy the **Tenth Earl**, two of his older brothers having died in infancy. He lived in the Tower from the age of six until he went to Cambridge. He travelled widely in Europe and shared the artistic interests of Charles I's court. He did, however, prize the liberties of Parliament above the royal absolutism. He was prominent in the King's government as Admiral of the Fleet, Lord High Admiral, Commander of the Army in the second Scottish War, and a member of the Council. In 1642, however, he defected from the King and was a moderate Parliamentarian during the Civil War. He conducted Parliament's negotiations with the King. He opposed the execution of the King and retired from public life during the Commonwealth.

The Earl supported the restoration and he acted as High Constable at the Coronation. In his time the

Percy stronghold in Wressell was dismantled and reduced to ruin by Parliament.

When he died in 1668 he was succeeded by the last male from the Percy Louvain line. Coincidentally, he was also called Joceline, the same as the founder of the line in the 13th century. This last and **Eleventh. Earl** died on a visit to Turin in 1670. and was followed by his three year old daughter, the Lady Elizabeth Percy, his only daughter and heir. She was popularly, though wrongly, considered to be the **Baroness Percy**. She was born at Petworth in 1667 and was married to Henry Cavendish when she was twelve. He died a year later whilst on a continental tour, after which she was married Thomas Thynne in 1681. She found him so repulsive that she fled to Holland to avoid him. He was murdered less than a year later, leaving Elizabeth twice widowed at the age of fifteen. Finally, she married Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset in 1682. On her death in 1722 her second son Algernon, the first having died, was summoned to Parliament as Lord Percy in the erroneous belief that he had inherited from her the ancient Barony of Percy created by special writ in 1299. However, on 2 October 1749, he was created Baron Warkworth and Earl of Northumberland and a day later Baron Cockermouth and **Earl of Egremont**. He died in 1750 when many of his titles became extinct.

Algernon's daughter Elizabeth married Hugh Smithson and on the death of his wife's father Hugh became **Earl of Northumberland** and took the name Percy. It is from this marriage that the present Dukes of Northumberland descend. However, he left all the Yorkshire, Sussex and Westmorland estates to his nephew Charles Wyndham. (Charles was the son of Algernon's sister, Catherine.)

The Topcliffe Manor followed the succession from Algernon Percy to his nephew Charles Wyndham who succeeded to the Baron Cockermouth and **Earl of Egremont** titles. The Wyndham's came originally from Norfolk. Charles was Tory Member of Parliament for Bridgewater, then Appleby and later Taunton. After his succession to the Earldom he allied himself to the Whigs. He was Lord Lieutenant of Sussex. He died of apoplexy at Egremont House in Piccadilly in 1763.

The Third Earl of Egremont was George O'Brien Wyndham who was born in 1751 and was only twelve when his father died. His uncle, the Lord Thomond, was his guardian during his minority years and it is Thomond's signature which can be found on documents dealing with Topcliffe during this period, such as the transfer of the Mill lands when the new Lock, Weir and Mill were built. In 1784 the 15 year old Elizabeth Iliffe became his principal mistress. George had seven illegitimate children by her, before he finally

married her in 1801, when he was fifty. In all he had 43 children by his many mistresses. He was a patron of J.M.W. Turner the artist. He died in 1837 at Petworth and was buried there.

His first son George inherited his father's estates, including Petworth House, but not his titles because of his illegitimacy. The Cockermouth and Egremont titles went to the Third Earl's nephew and on his death in 1845, they lapsed.

In the meantime George, who was known as Colonel George Wyndham after 1830, was created the **First Lord Leconfield** in 1859. This was the name of the Percy fortress and estate near Beverley which had come into the family in the 14th century. When his brother died, in 1845, he inherited the Cockermouth and Egremont estates, but not the titles.

The Topcliffe Manor then followed the Leconfield line through the **Second and Third Lord Leconfields**. Much of the Topcliffe Estate was offered for sale to the tenants by the Third Lord Leconfield, Charles Wyndham, in the 1920s. It was in the 1920s that the Toll Booth was bought for the village for the grand sum of ten pounds by the trustees of the Topcliffe and District Institute. Charles was wounded in the South African War of 1899 - 1902 and served in the First World War. When he died in 1952 the estates passed to his heir John Wyndham whilst the title of Leconfield went to Charles' brother, Hugh, and then his other brother Edward before finally being inherited by John in 1967. John Wyndham spent the Second World War as Harold Macmillan's right hand man at the Ministry of Supply, the Colonial Office and at the Air Ministry. He later became Harold Macmillan's private secretary in 1957 when Macmillan was Prime Minister. John Wyndham was created **First Lord Egremont** in 1963 before he succeeded to the title of Leconfield. He died in 1972 and was succeeded by the present Lord of the Manor, Max Wyndham, the **Second Lord Egremont**, who still lives at Petworth House in Sussex.

The total extent remaining, of his Lordship's Manor of Topcliffe in North Yorkshire, is now the small area of land between the Angel Inn car park and the main road along Long Street. He has agreed that the Parish Council can manage the use and maintenance of this last piece of the ancient Manor of Topcliffe.

A reading of the above descent of the manor will give some understanding as to why it is so difficult to look at records about Topcliffe. They are spread all over the country depending to a large extent where the Lord of the Manor of that time lived. Besides being in the North Yorkshire Record Office in Northallerton, they are to be found in Alnwick, Beverley and Petworth in West Sussex.

The Toll Booth is the oldest building in Topcliffe and is to be found at the junction of Front Street and Long Street. It is a medieval building and is the last remaining trace of the Manor of Topcliffe. Here, the Lord of the Manor collected the market tolls and held the Court Leet. It is now a Grade II listed building in the care of the Parish Council, who are the Trustees. Its main claim to fame is that on an oak table, in the upper room, a ransom was paid to the Scots for Charles I. There are many versions of this story, some wrong, some confused and, only occasionally, some nearly correct.

Ph 1.13 The Toll Booth in the 1920s



To clarify the confusion, the story was researched in about 1968 by Mr E. R. Jackson who was at that time Chairman of Thirsk Civic Society and a Trustee for the building. He published his findings in a Bulletin of the Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society in 1973 and also in The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal. The story which he found is included in the following paragraphs:

In 1646 King Charles I had his Court at Oxford, but the Civil War was not going well for him. He had had a series of defeats that culminated in his defeat, by Cromwell, at the Battle of Naseby, on 14th June 1645. After much deliberation, the King decided that further resistance would be hopeless and that his capture was imminent. So, in May 1646, he left Oxford and placed himself under the protection of the Scottish Forces who were encamped at Southwell, near Newark. He judged that he would be better treated by the Scots than by the Parliamentarians.

The Scots realising their good fortune and fearing his capture by the Parliamentary forces, moved him rapidly to Newcastle. The journey is described by Sir

Henry Slingsby in his memoirs. It took them five days to reach Topcliffe, where the King dined on 11th May. We don't know if any of the Percys were present but at this time the Baron, Algernon Percy, probably lived at Petworth in Sussex, which is where the present Lord of the Manor lives.

During a visit to Topcliffe, on his honeymoon in 1630, Algernon Percy, the 10th Earl, described Cock Lodge as being "so many piles of ruined masonry". It is likely therefore, that 16 years later, Charles stayed with William Ingleby, who was Steward to the Percys. He had a house in Topcliffe which was in a fit state to receive King James I on his way from

Scotland to London in 1603. It is very likely that this would have been the new lodge built by Peter Kryke in 1562.

After a one night stay, the King was then taken on by the Scots army to Newcastle, where they arrived on 16th May. This visit of the King to Topcliffe is often confused with the paying of the ransom, but it was a completely separate occasion and it took place before any negotiations for a

ransom or payment were entered into.

The King was now held, as a virtual prisoner, by the Scots in Newcastle. He was held in relative comfort and even allowed to play golf with the commander of the Scottish Forces, the Earl of Leven. The Scots now negotiated with the Parliamentary Commissioners for eight months or so, before agreeing the terms under which they would hand him over. These terms are listed in the House of Commons Journal for the 1st January 1647.

1. *That £400,000 be paid to the Kingdom of Scotland . . . for the pay of their army, brought into the Kingdom of England, for the assistance of this kingdom by virtue of the treaties between the Kingdoms of 29th November 1643.*
2. *That £200,000 now ready, part of the said four hundred thousand pounds shall be sent forthwith to the City of York and shall be told, by the treasurers in whose custody the money*

now is and by such as shall be appointed by the Kingdom of Scotland.

3. That the first £100,000 . . . shall be told within six days after the arrival of the said money in York;
4. That the money . . . shall be sealed up in the several bags, each to contain a hundred pounds, by the seal of both parties...and shall forthwith be put in chests, a thousand pounds to each chest: and the said chests also sealed up by the aforesaid people to Tell the said money.
5. That the said persons appointed by the Kingdom of Scotland to Tell the said money, shall continue with the same to see that there shall be no aalteration made thereof, after Telling and Sealing the same.
6. That within five days after the two hundred thousand pounds is told at Yorke, One Hundred Thousand pounds thereof shall be paid at Northallerton to Sir Adam Hepburne or Mr John Drummond or to such as the Kingdom of Scotland shall appoint to receive the same.
7. That when the said Hundred Thousand Pounds shall come to Topcliff in the County of Yorke, and before it pass any further towards Northallerton . . . the Kingdom of Scotland shall there deliver Hostages . . . there follows a list of hostages
8. That within one day after the Performance of all the particulars mentioned . . . the said hostages of the Kingdom of Scotland shall again be re-delivered unto them, within half a mile of the works on the North side of Newcastle.

This operation proved to be a major undertaking.

First of all the money had to be raised quickly. The House of Commons Journal for December

10th 1646 states:

"Ordained by the Lords and Commons for the Treasurers for the sale of Bishop's Lands to send £200,000 into the North for payment of the Scots".

Then there was the journey of over 200 miles to York in winter. On 16th December Thirty Six carts conveying the money, set out in convoy from London. On January 3rd they reached York, ...*"the waies being very bad and monies overturned, the boxes dirty"*.

On arrival at York, counting was proceeded with immediately, at the Guildhall. On Saturday 15th January counting was completed, after a scare that the deadline would be overshot, because of the refusal of the Scots to carry on counting on the previous Sabbath. They made a start on the journey to Topcliffe on the Saturday as soon as counting was completed. An officer of the guard reported *"On Saturday last we marched to Awne and the next to Topcliffe where we stayed Monday because the Scots Hostages came not till late at night."*

On Tuesday they went on to Northallerton and expected to pay the first £100,000, but no one came to collect it until Thursday, one day later than arranged by Parliament. An official receipt was given over by J. Drummond, the Deputy Treasurer of the Scots army. The transaction took place at what is

Summary of Events

1646

May 5th	Charles I surrendered to the Scots in Newark
May 11th	King and Scots army at Topcliffe
May 16th	King "a prisoner" with Scots in Newcastle
Dec 16th	36 carts with £200,000 set out from London

1647

Jan 3rd	Convoy reached York
Jan 16th (Saturday)	Counting finished at York Convoy set out towards Awne (Alne)
Jan 17th (Sunday)	Convoy arrived in Topcliffe
Jan 18th (Monday)	Stayed at Topcliffe. Hostages due at noon, but did not arrive until late at night
Jan 19th (Tuesday)	Convoy went on to Northallerton
Jan 20th (Wed)	Waited for Scots in Northallerton
Jan 21st (Thursday)	Money paid out and receipt given
Jan 27th	Convoy set out from Northallerton
Jan 30th.	Convoy arrived in Newcastle Scots Commissioner delivered the King to the English

Ph 1.14

The
Toll Booth
from the
east.

Shows where
The single
storey
building
was



now called Porch House in Northallerton.

The hostages were kept at Northallerton until the first of the obligations undertaken by the Scottish army were fulfilled. The King was handed over on January 30th.

In documents and papers, examined by Mr Jackson, no mention of the word **Ransom** was found, although local histories use the word freely. Perhaps the fairest explanation comes from Scotland. The Scots had made up their minds to return home when their arrears were paid. They could not keep the King except by taking him to Scotland, and such an act would have implied at once suspicion and hostility towards those

who had long been their allies. And so the King was handed over to the English Parliament and the Scots went home. Charles I was tried and was subsequently executed in 1649. As a result, the Commonwealth came into existence, with Cromwell at its head, enforcing a system of government more despotic and tyrannical than that which had brought Charles to the block.

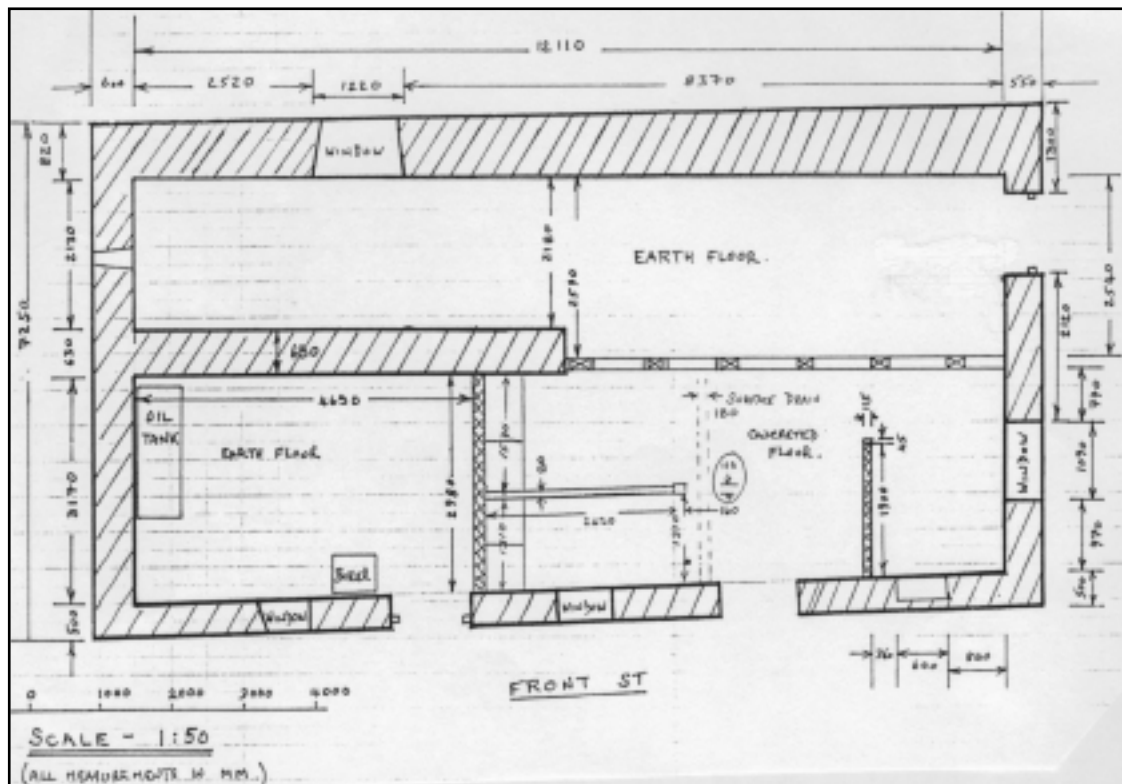
No actual reference to the Topcliffe Toll Booth was found either, but it has been a very strong tradition that the treaty for the payment of a ransom for Charles I was signed in the Toll Booth. The tradition was proved to be historically correct in principle, so it would seem reasonable to accept it as reflecting

Ph 1.15

The Famous
Black Oak Table.
in the Village Hall
1999



Fig 1.16 Plan of the Toll Booth 1998



some actual fact. One might, therefore, infer that a receipt for the hostages was signed in the Toll Booth when they presented themselves, in exchange for the money. This may well have been endorsed by local residents, as witnesses, and so the oral tradition could have developed that “Topcliffe was the only market in England where one could buy a King”

It is highly unlikely that having “Told” (counted) the money in York, put it in bags and then in chests that the process was repeated on the famous old oak table in the Toll Booth. To have unloaded the number of carts used and carried all the boxes up to the upper room and then recounted all the money would have been a task which would have taken far longer than the time which was actually spent in Topcliffe. The idea that all this money was counted on the old oak table, whilst attractive, has to be substituted by the more likely fact that the receipt for the hostages was signed on the table, after the

chests of cash had been counted on the carts, without opening them.

The complicated method of transferring the money was due, no doubt, to distrust between the parties. It is easy to see why there has been so much confusion as to the actual amount of money that was paid. The second £200,000 was to be paid within two years.

What else do we know about this building which had

From North Riding Quarter Session Records

Thirske July 8th 1607

...the overseers of the poore at Topcliff for not relieving Margaret Williamson widow, with meat and lodgeing or other weekly allowance according to statute.

Topcliff 2nd/3rd October 1610

There were many petty cases from a wide area including Middlesbrough

Will Dickenson of Topcliff, carpenter, for stealing a piece of wood ("a rale") there, value 4d, belonging to one Thos Sowerby.

John Egglefield of Topcliff for making resistance against the Petty Constables there (Will Dickenson being one), They beinge taking post horses, and for that the said John Egglefield in contempt of the said service Rode away with his mayre. (i.e. resistance to being impressed for the Kings service)

Henry Hall of Topcliff for brewing without a license and for lodging rogues

a part to play in the history of our country? It was originally the Toll Booth, where the market fees were paid to the Lord of the Manor. It stood on the south eastern corner, of what would then be a village green. It was probably, originally, a single storey building, and was smaller in area than it is now. From the photograph Ph 1.14, it is possible to see that the original single storey had a better quality, dressed stone finish, unlike the later work. This can also be seen inside the building, on the Front Street side of the central wall. The position of the doorway in the north eastern corner can also be seen from the photograph and also from an inspection of the inside wall.

In 1527 Henry, the Sixth Earl, succeeded to the title. He not only inherited his father's considerable debts, he further increased them by bad management. When he died in 1537 he had no son and his brother Thomas Percy had been executed for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, so the succession passed to Thomas's nine year old son Thomas. He was encouraged to live at

Originally **The Court Leet** was a criminal court and existed only in those manors to which the King had granted petty criminal jurisdiction. As a Royal Court it ranked higher than the Court Baron. It could deal with all felonies except homicide.

The Court dealt with breaches of the peace and also with cases of adultery, eavesdropping and scolds. It exercised some control over trade by the assizes of bread and ale, which regulated the sale of these items. It appointed officers to see that bread was properly weighed and that the ale, brewed without hops by every tenant, was of good quality.

Petworth by Queen Elizabeth. It would seem that it was during this overall period that the ancient Topcliffe Manor House fell into decay. We know that Thomas instituted the building of a new Lodge around 1562 and one could surmise that, around the same

*Barony and Manor
of Topcliffe*

*Court Leet with the view of Frankpledge and Great
Court Baron of the right Honourable George Earl of Egremont
held at Topcliffe the Twelfth Day of October in the Year of
Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine Before
James Collins Gentleman Steward of the said Court.*

A Pain was laid that George Peacock and George Croft shall sufficiently scour their respective parts of the Watercourse from the bridge across the Road in George Peacock's Pasture up to Ralph Dales Topcliffe little Parks to be done before Old Martinmas next in Default to pay for every Rood not then done sixpence.

A Pain was laid that George Croft Shall sufficiently scour his watercourse over his Hagg Close so that it take the water from Ralph Dales plowing field in the little parks to be done before Old Martinmas next in Default to pay for every Rood not then done sixpence.

A Pain was laid that no person within this Township shall let any Cart Waggon or other Carriage stand in the Streets or lay any Wood Timber or Dung therein for each offence to pay the sum of ten shillings and sixpence

A Pain was laid that William Wood and John Lascelles do make a sufficient Gutter and Fence from George Walbron's field adjoining Ralph Dale's Parks up to John Lascelles Intack to be done betwixt and 22nd November next in Default to pay for every Rood not then done sixpence

Mr. Joseph Dresser)
Thomas Donaldson)
William Pickersgill)
Henry Fall)
Henry Johnson)
Thomas Gains)
Christopher Gregg)

Jurors

(John Pickard
(Francis Kidson
(Thomas Paul
(John Kay
(John Brittain
(Christopher Gibson
(John Watson

Examined by Jas. Collins

Steward of the said Court

Barony and Manor Court Leet with the View of Frankpledge
of Topcliffe and Great Court Baron of The Right Honorable
George Earl of Egmont held at Topcliffe the
eleventh Day of April in the Year of our Lord 1801
one thousand eight hundred and one Before
James Collins Gentleman Steward of the said Court

The Jury impanelled and sworn present Richard
Shelby for his Carriages standing in the Streets 3
The said Richard Shelby for his Dunghill laying in
the Street 6
John Yates for the like offence 6
The said John Yates for his Carriages standing in
the Street 3
Henry Shires for the like offence 3
The Reverend Mr. Ramshaw for his Dunghill laying in
the Street 6
20. Oct. 1801 Read the above Presentments
J. Collins 10 6

A Pledge that no Occupier of any House or Inhabitant within
this Township shall suffer their Pig or Pigs to go in the Streets in
Default to pay the Sum of one Pound.

A Pledge that no Occupier of any House within this
Township shall depasture in the Common Lanes or Streets
any more than one Horse, one Aps, one Beast, or three Sheep
except the punder who is allowed to depasture one Horse, one
Aps, one Beast or three Sheep more than any other Inhabitant
in Default to pay one Pound sixteen Shillings.

A Pledge continued that no Wagon or other Carriage shall
stand in the Town Streets or Turnpike or Durg to load therein
in Default to pay the Sum of one Pound ten Shillings.

John Smith	Jury	William Hudson
George Wallbron		William Wood
Joseph Diefser		Richard Shelby
Thomas Donaldson		Bernard Dickinson
William Pickeringill		Henry Fall
Thomas Fall		Richard Hudson
George Coates		Thomas Jennings

Examined by

J. Collins

Steward of the said Court

Fig 1.18 Court Leet Minutes

time the size of the Toll Booth was increased and its
use extended to become the main estate office for the
manor. And so the building was expanded, both in
ground area and in height. The beams, which hold the

first floor, are massive for such a small building and
one could imagine that they were beams saved from
the old manor house and put to use. The structure of
that floor has been carefully pre-designed, not put

Ph 1. 19

Toll Booth
1998 from
Front Street



together on the spot. Each joint has a Roman numeral scratched against it, so that it could be constructed exactly. The stonework used in the reconstruction was not so good as the original, however, and this can be seen from its present condition, particularly on the roadsides. With the work complete the village had a new building whose upper floor could be used for all sorts of important occasions such as paying “ransoms” for Kings and holding quarter sessions and courts. It also had a downstairs, some of which could be used as a village lock-up and the rest as shops.

In 1577 Christopher Hopper, John Scott, Elizabeth Jossell and Ann Maperley were tenants at will of the “Toulbooth” and three shops, at a rent of 6s. 8d per annum.

After 1613 Thomas Burton, Cuthbert Kettlewell, Elizabeth Kirckbie and Ellen Bradlye each had a shop in the Toll Booth. They opened into the road or High Street and were still at a rent of 6s. 8d per annum.

By 1757 a lease was granted to Catherine Leadley, a widow, for the Angel Inn plus about 70 acres of land and the Toll Booth, all formerly the property of John Jackson senior. (This is probably the father of the John Jackson who in the 1760s was the resident engineer for the building of the Topcliffe Lock).

By 1797 Abraham Peacock was tenant of the Angel Inn, plus 36 acres and the Toll Booth, which even then was described as an Old Stone Building. There were two main courts in a manor - The Court Baron and the Court Leet. From 1796 until 1869 the Toll Booth was

used for the manor court which by then had become a combined “Court Leet with the view of Frankpledge and Great Court Baron.” By that time, it also dealt with a much more restricted range of matters. The Toll Booth was known as “The Court House” and the record books for this court are in Beverley in the East Riding archive. There is a “Call Roll” i.e. a list of possible jurors and minute books of the Court. The Jurors and those charged with various offences were summoned by the issue of a certificate. (See reproduction in Fig. 1.21). The minutes of the meetings record the attendance of twelve or more jurors, including a foreman, and seem at this point in time to be mainly concerned with issuing “Pains”, which were essentially local bye laws relating generally to agricultural practice and regulated how the village was run. The Court had a Steward of the

At the Court Leet held on 19th April 1800

	£. s. d
<i>The Jury Impannelled and sworn present Richard Eshelby for his carriages standing in the Town Streets</i>	0 0 6
<i>John Yeates for the like offence</i>	0 0 6
<i>Richard Kerby for the like offence</i>	0 0 6
<i>Henry Shires for the like offence</i>	0 0 6
<i>Thomas Cook for the like offence</i>	0 0 6
<i>Thomas Webster for his Dunghill laying in the street</i>	0 0 6

Court appointed by the Lord of the Manor. In 1796 it was James Collins, who held the post for 20 years. In 1818 it was taken over by Martin Richardson for 39 years and finally, in 1857, the last Steward, who served for 12 years, was Henry Newton, a solicitor from York.

The Court met every six months, around May and October and regulated the village of Topcliffe. The Court also met on different days to deal with all of the other villages in the Parish and there was a separate book and jury for those outside Topcliffe. The Court work included ensuring that the watercourses, particularly Thacker Beck, and drains were cleaned out. They issued Pains to stop pigs, ducks, horses, cattle etc being loose on the streets. Other Pains were issued to stop people dumping dung heaps and wood on the streets. In case the Pains were not carried out they devised scales of fines and later were responsible for applying them.

The minute books look remarkably like the modern Parish Council minute books but the Court had more power and backed it up by the issue of fines. From May 1837 the Court only met annually and then after the 1853 meeting the periods became irregular and the last one was held in 1869.

By the late 1800s the upstairs was being used as an

An Institute Balance Sheet from 1921

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
Caretakers Salary	26. 00. 0	Balance B/F	60. 11. 10
Evening Papers	1. 5. 8	Subscriptions	18. 16. 0
Barningham's	4. 8. 3	Billiard Table	30. 10. 6
Nixon's Account	2. 6. 10	Billiard Hands	1. 12. 0
Coal	5. 8. 5	Library	5. 10. 2
Reddon's Account	7. 10. 0	T. Wood (Rent	
Steven & Harlow		Stable)	1. 0
(Library)	18. 8. 0	Bank Interest	<u>1. 1. 0</u>
Riley's	3. 15. 3	Total Receipts	126. 13. 3
Income Tax	5. 1	Expenditure	<u>73. 19. 5</u>
Insurance	1. 2. 0	Carried Forward	<u>52. 13. 10</u>
Dresser's	9. 0		
Mills & Co	1. 2. 0		
Rates	6. 10		
Sundry	1. 10. 0		
Cheque Book	<u>2. 0</u>		
	73. 19. 5		

Institute and Reading Room for the village. In 1891 a village committee was installing paraffin lamps to light the village and one was put on the steps to the

In 1914 the President of the Topcliffe & District Institute was The Rt Hon Lord Leconfield and the Vice President was J. Brennand of Baldersby Park.

Reading Room. In October 1921 the Toll Booth was conveyed from Lord Leconfield to the trustees of the Topcliffe & District Institute. The trustees were Maurice Lister of Topcliffe Mills, James Edward Hathaway of Baldersby Park Gardens and John Carter Mitchell. The conveyance also preserved a lease for another 21 years, which was in the favour of a Thomas Wood. Mr Wood leased the downstairs as a stable. The top floor was used by the Institute mainly for the playing of billiards.

When the Second World War came along the Toll Booth was taken over by the YMCA, the billiard tables were moved out to an RAF station and the two upstairs rooms were used as a canteen for the RAF and RCAF servicemen from Topcliffe and Dalton aerodromes. It was run by a rota of volunteers

Fig 1.20 Margaret Burton's Certificate

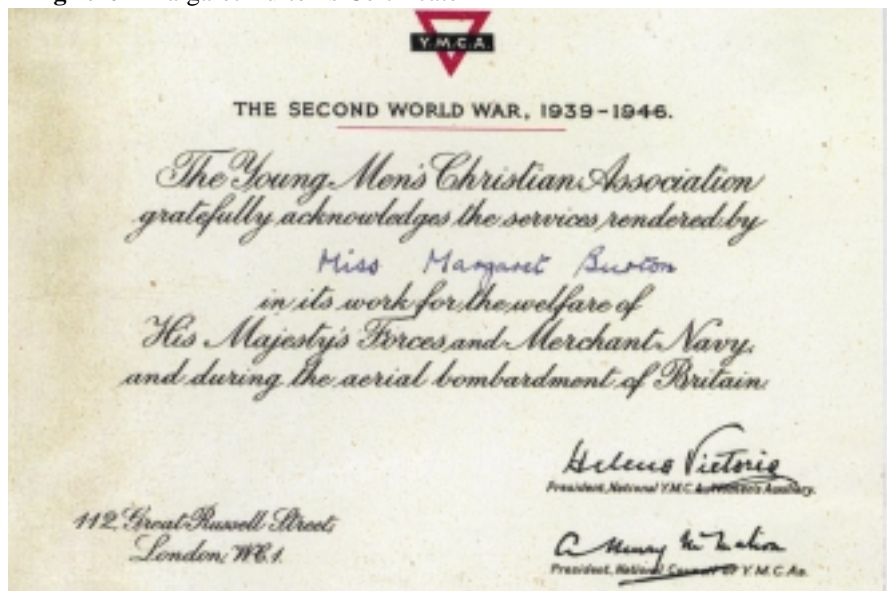


Fig 1.21 Summons to attend the Court Leet in the Toll Booth at Topcliffe

MANOR & BARONY OF TOPCLIFFE.

BY Virtue of the Precept of HENRY NEWTON, Gentleman, Steward of the said Manor, to me directed I hereby summon you to be and appear at the next Court-Leet, with the view of Frankpledge and Great Court-Baron of The Right Honorable GEORGE LORD LECONFIELD, Lord of the said Manor, to be holden at the usual Place in Topcliffe, within the said Manor, on the Day of , at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to do and perform all such things as shall be then and there lawfully enjoined you ; and hereof fail not. Given under my Hand the day of , 186

WILLIAM DALE,
Bailiff of the said Manor.

*To all and singular Freeholders,
Tenants, and others, owing suit
and service at the said Court.*

In case any person (not summoned on the Jury) cannot conveniently attend it is requested that he will previously pay his essoign (2d.) to the Bailiff. Those who neither attend nor pay their essoigns will be fined.

each evening. Margaret Burton, then at school in the village, was one of those helpers and she remembers that the equipment was extremely limited, comprising a toaster and a battered saucepan for poaching eggs. One night she broke the record by poaching 60 eggs (and only broke one of them). The canteen also served beans on toast and various sandwiches. It was in the canteen that she first saw peanut butter, which was popular with the Canadians. Their favourite drink was Horlicks, but they also enjoyed a special brew consisting of tea with a flavour of coffee and drinking chocolate. It was to facilitate its use as a canteen that a serving hatch was knocked between the two rooms.

In 1948, several years after the war was over, the Toll Booth was handed back for village use. By 1968 it had fallen into disuse and was unloved, but when the County Council proposed to knock it down to

improve traffic safety on the corner, attitudes changed. Even while it was being discussed at county level it was some time before the village heard about the proposal and then the village forces gathered to save it. At this time it was unkempt and served little practical use in the village except to remind those who knew about it, of the village's historical past. It was at this point in time that Edward Jackson set about finding out about its history. There was only one of the original trustees left, Maurice Lister. The outcome of all the action was that the Toll Booth survived and Mr Lister agreed to a new set of trustees, who took over in December 1968. They were Mr E. R. Jackson of Thorpefield and Dr Y. M. Dias of the Old Viacarage. Within two years the trustees had been changed again. This time the Parish Council agreed to take over the building and it was transferred to them in April 1970. It remains in their care.

Ph 1.22

The
Toll Booth
from
Long Street

1998

The steps
To the
Court Room



The upstairs was again used for billiards and snooker and this activity is still going, thanks to the efforts of Dave Bowman, over a long period of time.

In 1999, the Toll Booth was the subject of a preservation project initiated by the Parish Council in liaison with Hambleton District Council, to ensure that it will survive well into the new millennium. Before this work started the Yorkshire Vernacular Society carried out a historical survey of the building. This was then followed by a structural survey of the building in order to confirm that it could continue to be safely used. Once this was confirmed, it was possible to start the project. The main aspects of the project were to treat all the timber in the building, to

put in a damp course and repair the doors, frames and thresh holds to keep the weather out. The miscellaneous timber additions and the toilet from the Second World War were removed and an access knocked through from east to west on the ground floor. On the ground floor, the walls inside have been pointed and a new flagged floor has been put in the long room, replacing the earth floor. As the project went on, a gas boiler was installed, a new floor is to be put in the boiler room and one of the last major stages is for the roof to be stripped off and relaid.

After all this work the snooker club will be able to continue in the upper room and it is hoped that a new use can be found for the ground floor.

Ph 1.23 In recounting the history of the Manor, the Percys and the Wyndhams, the other place, besides Topcliffe, which appears repeatedly is Petworth House in West Sussex. This is Petworth House.



Chapter 2

Church, Schools and Chapel

The Church of St Columba in Topcliffe dominates the village and the surrounding area. The present church was built in 1855. However, there has been a church in Topcliffe since Saxon times. Christianity came to Britain not only from the south, coming from Rome

with the Norman Conquest. The cross is believed to be a relic of an early stone church on this site.

The first stone church may have been erected by the new lord of the manor, William de Percy, after he came to Topcliffe in 1067 or, from the evidence of the cross, it may have already been there when he came. Certainly a church existed by the time the Domesday Survey was carried out (1085 - 87). At that time it was described as having two priests. The church was under the patronage of the Percys until it was given to St. Peter's Cathedral in York by the third Baron William



Ph 2.1 Topcliffe Church 1998

with St. Augustine in 596, but it also came from the north, through Scotland from Iona. It is likely that this part of Yorkshire was converted by Aiden, Finian and Colman, disciples of Columba, who came from Scotland during the seventh century and the fact that the church is dedicated to St. Columba is traditionally regarded as proof of this. That first church is thought to have been built around 650 AD and would have been built of timber and thatched with reed.

In 794 the Danes invaded Yorkshire and destroyed, amongst many other churches, Lindisfarne. It is likely that the little church in Topcliffe suffered the same fate around the same time. In the porch of the present church, on the ledge, there is a stone wheelhead cross. The design is pre Norman in origin. Crosses of this type are to be found in many places in Yorkshire. This one is made from a light buff sandstone, 17 inches in diameter and is about 51/2 inches thick. It probably comes from the Danish period, which came to an end

Charter of Lord William de Percy

William de Percy to all who shall see, or hear of this charter: greeting....You should know that I have given, conceded and by this present writing have confirmed to the church of St. Peter at Yorke the church of Topcliffe with all its appurtenances as a perpetual arms; for the repair and building of the Minster according to the decision of the Lord Archbishop and his successors and of the Chapter of York as to which things in the church are to be built or repairedetc...I have made this donation and grant for the salvation of my soul and that of my wife Sybil, and those of my father and mother, and also of my sons and daughters, and of all my ancestors, so that the blessed Peter, keeper of the keys of the kingdom of heaven, should intercede for us to the Lord.

de Percy, around 1162, to maintain the fabric of York Minster.

This gift was subsequently confirmed by William's successors, in particular Richard de Percy, who confirmed the gift in his charter of April 1226. In return York would provide priests for the church in Topcliffe. In 1258 Archbishop Walter Gray ordered that there should be a perpetual vicar in this church and a vicarage was established in Topcliffe with the living being the gift of the See of York. The Dean and Chapter of York also owned other land and houses in the parish including the area of the village still known as Dean's Square.

Jefferson in his writings on Topcliffe says that it is a matter of history that Topcliffe Church was burnt down by the Scots after the Battle of Bannockburn. This would seem to tie up with the York Minster fabric rolls of 1362 where there are some notes, which say, "from the village of Topcliffe the fabric derived very considerable revenue. The church of that little village has been recently rebuilt..." This would imply that the church, which was demolished in 1855, was built around 1362. Like many medieval churches, St. Columba's had endowments called chantries, which were left so that prayers could be said for the founders

and other nominated souls. At the suppression of the chantries there were six in the Parish of Topcliffe. The chantry of St. Mary the Virgin had been founded in the Parish Church in 1499 by Richard Grome and Thomas Allanson. There was another to St. Mary the Virgin in the churchyard of Topcliffe which had been founded by Richard de Percy (6th Baron). Yet another to the Virgin, was described as a Gild. One of the duties of the incumbent was to teach six children to sing for the choir. There was another within the manor chapel,

**from York Fabric Rolls (Surtees Soc Vol 35)
January 1578 - January 1579**

*...for repairing the rest of the leades of the channcell at Topcliff, not finished last year, 3L. 10s. 8d
... to a catchman for caryinge two webbess of leade in his catche to Burrowe bygge for the repayrynge of Topcliff Channcell, 2s. For cuttinge Knyfe and a thixtell for the plumber to dresse the leade webbe wthie,, 18d. For an Yron gavelcke, 3s. 8d. ...*

necessitated because the Parish Church was half a mile distant, one in Dishforth about a mile and a half from Topcliffe Church and the last, St. Gyles, in Elmire founded before 1338.

A chantry was a religious ceremony, which could be

Ph 2.2 The pre-1855 Church



Ph 2.3 Wheel Head cross at the church 1998



held at an existing altar or in a specially constructed chantry chapel. They became widespread in Europe reflecting the acceptance of the doctrine of purgatory. They were suppressed during the reformation and abolished in England in 1547.

On June 22nd 1515 a licence was issued to the curate of Topcliffe to marry William Worme, servant of the Earl of Northumberland, and Anne Forster from Topcliffe, in the chapel within the Manor House of the Earl there.

In the medieval church, two side chapels probably occupied what is now the north aisle. The first was the Percy chapel, the second, reputed to have been founded by the de Topcliffe family, was dedicated to

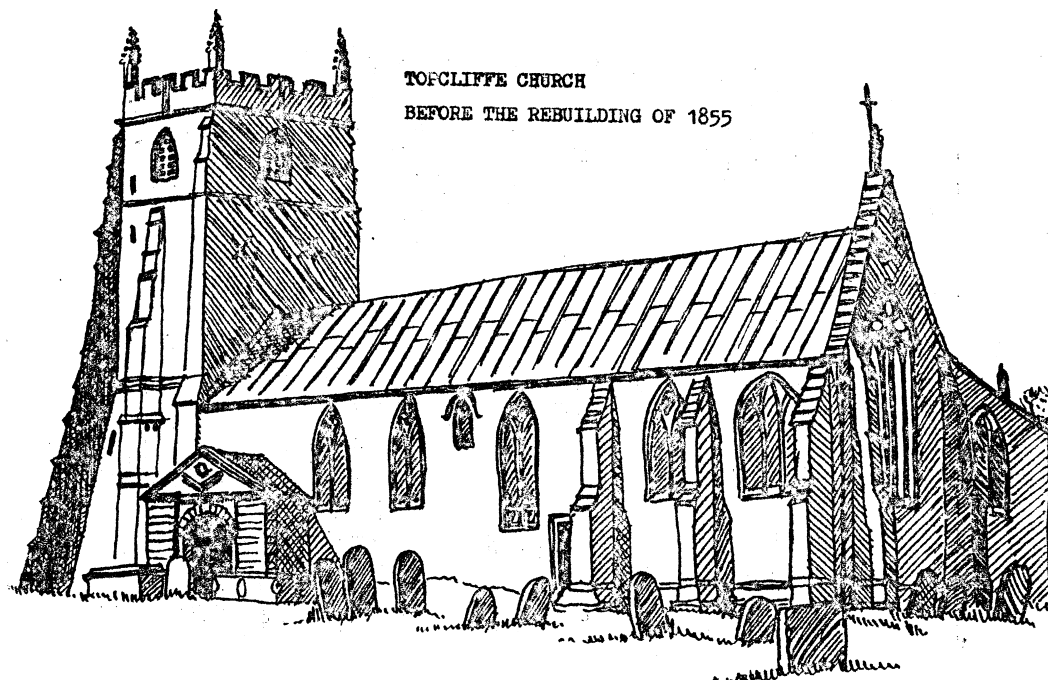
St. Thomas the Apostle. There was probably another chantry at the altar of St. Margaret and St. Catherine, since Walter de Sylton left his Eucharistic vestments to it, in his will of 1401. The will of John Fox, who died in 1519, specified that he be buried *"within the choir of the chapel within Our Lady's chapel, nigh to the lavatory"*

It is reputed that Henry "Hotspur" Percy was brought home to Topcliffe church after he was killed at Shrewsbury in 1403. He was however later dug up and quartered with the various parts of his body being sent to various parts of the kingdom as an example to the King's enemies.

During the 16th and 17th centuries the fierce religious controversies stimulated the destruction of church ornaments and fittings regarded as being idolatrous and superstitious. Secular powers took advantage of this to acquire treasures and the ministers of Henry VIII and Edward VI were particularly involved in this. St. Columbas probably suffered some destruction when the small monasteries were suppressed in 1536. Later, at the suppression of the big monasteries in 1539, many church brasses were taken and melted down, so Topcliffe was quite fortunate in retaining its de Topcliffe brass. Further destructions occurred during the English Civil War and the Commonwealth which followed, from 1649 to 1660 under Oliver Cromwell and his son and successor Richard Cromwell

In the time of the Rev. Waddilove, on 6 August 1775,

Fig 2.4 Line drawing by Charles Shaw, taken from watcolour done in Rev. Waddilove's time



a Vestry meeting gave instructions that an inspection be carried out on the church and a report be produced specifying what needed to be done and how much it would cost. The inspection was carried out by J. Peacock, F. Moyser and Thos. Harrison. They found the church to be in a dire state:

"...The Steeple is in a very shattered and ruinous condition, partickertely the bottom part up as high as above the second floor it being Bug'd and Crack'd by weight by which it is very much weakend and so that when the bells are rung at or near to the height one may discover the cracks and even the whole steeple to spring and play very much ..."

They considered the cost of replacing the tower would be *"...an emence expence"* so they proposed to support it with buttresses and cramps, and they made drawings as to how it should be done.

The roof over the main part of the church was considered weak and insufficient to support both itself and the weight upon it and they thought that this weakness was probably the reason for the walls giving way. They therefore proposed a method of tying and supporting the roof. Along with that, they thought it would be necessary to take down some of the non-perpendicular pillars and arches between the chancel and the back aisle and to move their bases, rebuilding them vertically, in the new position, to support the

Ph 2.5 The east window



Ph 2.6 The window designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones



roof. The main back wall was also not perpendicular, but here they proposed to buttress it. These jobs being accomplished, they thought the church would last many more years. A watercolour done in the time of the Rev. Waddilove (1774 - 1828), who was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, shows the church, after the buttresses had been installed and before it was rebuilt completely in 1855. (See Ph 2/20/2). A line drawing done from that painting is shown in Fig 2.4. The tower of the old church was more irregularly shaped, was about another bay further to the west and was heavily buttressed to save it from collapsing down the bank. The same was true of the north wall of the church, which was also heavily buttressed. The north aisle roof was a lean-to against the wall of the south aisle. The porch may have been a Georgian addition.

From Parish Register 1779

" . . there are no dissenters of any kind in this parish excepting one old man, a Quaker, unmarried. . . "

And so the repairs, instigated in 1775, lasted until 1855 by which time the state of the church was such, that it had to be rebuilt.

NOTICE

The ratepayers of the Parish of Topcliffe are requested to attend a meeting to be held in the Vestry of the Parish Church on Tuesday January 9th 1855 at two o'clock pm to take consideration the plans for the restoration of the Mother Church and to decide upon the means of defraying the expenses of the said restoration Topcliffe

December 30th
1854

Signed: Thomas Walbran
Churchwarden

The meeting called in the above notice was held and was probably a long meeting as it was adjourned by its chairman Rev. H A Hawkins to the 12th of January. The next meeting which was chaired by Edwin Churton, the Archdeacon of Cleveland, produced some resolutions:

1. That in the opinion of the meeting the church stands in need of substantial repairs.
2. That it is expedient to consult an Architect who may report what part of the necessary repairs and the expenditure will fall to the lay Rectors or pertaining to the Chancel and what part to the Parish and give such information as the Churchwardens may require.
3. That Mr. Andrews be the Architect consulted..

There was a further Vestry meeting on 23rd February 1855 which was also a long meeting. It started in the church and then adjourned to the Free School Room. The meeting concluded with the following resolution: ". . it was proposed by Mr Mark Barroby and seconded by Mr Kidson that a Rate of a shilling in the pound be made for the repair and rebuilding of the Parish Church. It was carried by a large majority.. . it was proposed by Mr Barroby and seconded by Mr Exley that the shilling rate be raised according to the rating of the poor. It was passed by a large majority..."

It is interesting to note that this ability to set a compulsory rate was withdrawn by Act of Parliament in 1868. A shilling rate was a huge rate to set. The normal annual rate was more like $\frac{1}{2}d$ or $\frac{3}{4}d$.

And so the work went ahead, during which much of the fabric of the medieval church was destroyed. Only the east window and wall behind the main altar and the south wall of the chancel are left from the old church. For the rest, the old box pews were taken out, the gallery at the west end, where fiddles and viols had provided the music, was demolished and the rest

Ph 2.7 South Side Window



Ph 2.8 Probably the funeral of the Rev. A. Hawkins in 1892



was virtually razed to the ground. Examination of the stonework of the south and east walls clearly shows the difference in stone work between the medieval work, which is older stone, worn and russet in colour, and that of 1855, in a newer and whiter stone. The refurbishment cost was £3,158. The account for this is shown in Fig. 2.9. As can be seen, the public subscribed £1,347 towards the cost of rebuilding. Of the rest £721 was raised by selling the lead off the old roof and about £1,090 by applying the rate levy of 1s in the pound in all the townships in the Parish.

The public subscription list included Queen Victoria, who gave £50, and most of the important people of the area at that time. The Lord of the Manor of Topcliffe, George Wyndham (of Petworth) gave £270. But his donation was bettered by one of £350 from Viscount Downe of Baldersby Park. The link with the earlier owners of Baldersby Park, the Robinsons, was preserved with a donation from Henry Vyner of Newby Hall for £10.

The architect for this rebuilding was G. T. Andrews. He was a railway architect who had worked for George Hudson's railway companies. He was responsible for the design of York's first railway station in 1841. That station is inside the city walls. He was also the architect for stations at Durham, Beverley, Hull Paragon, Richmond, Scarborough and Whitby. Hudson had also employed him at Newby Park, for various alterations, including the two lodges. It is likely that Hudson used his influence, to have the new church designed by Andrews. However, by the time the church was rebuilt in 1855, Hudson was in disgrace and had already sold Newby Park, in 1854, to

the Seventh Viscount Downe. One of the last great occasions in the old church occurred in 1854, when Hudson's daughter, Ann, was married to Count Suminski. It was noted by Edmund Bogg in his book *The Golden Vale of Mowbray* (1909) that "...George Hudson's square pew in the church was upholstered in rich crimson in which he had a reading desk, where he used to stand up, with his portly back turned on the vicar, and if the sun shone on the occupants of the pew, Mrs. Hudson would put up her fine parasol..."

The new owner of Newby Park, Viscount Downe, who changed its name to Baldersby Park to avoid the confusion that had always existed with Newby Hall near Ripon, had used an architect called William Butterfield on his estate at Sessay and he employed him to build a new village church and school, which he called Baldersby St. James. Unfortunately, the Viscount died before the new church was completed and so he was temporarily buried in the new Topcliffe Church, possibly in a vault. Later, when St. James was finished, his body was moved to its final resting place below the chancel there.

The vicar during this period of rebuilding was the Rev. Henry Annesley Hawkins. Once the church was built, the **Stained Glass** was contributed by parishioners. The east window is made up of four lights with a four petal motif in the head, which is typical of the fourteenth century. The glass for this window and the reredos were given by Thomas Petch of Marton Le Moor which was then part of St. Columba's large parish. In this window, the figures across the centre, from left to right, are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Ezekial and

The Account of the undersigned Churchwardens of the Parish of Topcliffe, in the North Riding of the County of York, showing the Amount of Monies received and paid by them for the Rebuilding and reinstating the Parish Church of Topcliffe, commenced in the year 1855, and completed in the year 1856.

Dr.

By Rates as under at 1s. in the Pound.

1855.		£.	s.	d.
Township of Topcliffe	258	2	3	
Dishforth	132	19	3	
Rainton	134	17	3	
Dulles	88	5	3	
Carnon	66	17	0	
Elmsire	38	7	3	
Skipton	57	8	3	
Aweby	75	14	6	
Baldersby	157	11	9	
Marton-le-moor	82	16	0	

By Subscriptions as under.

+ The Queen (by The Hon. Charles Gore)	50	0	0
+ His Grace the Archbishop of York	10	0	0
+ The Right Hon. Earl de Grey	109	0	0
+ The Right Hon. Earl Beaumont	25	0	0
+ The Right Hon. Viscount Dering	350	0	0
+ Col. Geo. Wyndham	270	0	0
+ The Dean and Chapter of York	202	10	0
+ The Rev. H. A. Hawkins	25	0	0
+ Mr. Hawkins' Children £1 each	10	0	0
+ Mrs. Barker, Stockton	36	12	6
+ Miss Walker, Maunby	42	0	0
+ Mrs. Richardson, Dishforth	21	0	0
+ Henry Vyner, Esq., Newby Hall	10	0	0
+ Thos. Pugh, Esq., Marton-le-Moor	40	0	0
+ Mark Barroby, Esq., Dishforth	15	15	0
+ The Rev. Geo. Cogland, York	5	0	0
+ Thos. W. Lloyd, Esq., Cowesby Hall	2	0	0
+ Chas. Osley, Esq., Ripon	5	0	0
+ Miss Barroby, Dishforth	5	5	0
+ Geo. Walbran, Esq., Brentford	5	0	0
+ Miss Walbran, Do.,	2	0	0
+ Miss Ann Walbran, Do.,	2	0	0
+ Wm. Appleton, Esq., Skelton	5	5	0
+ Thos. Walbran, Esq., Norton-le-Clay	5	5	0
+ Chas. Barroby, Esq., Baldersby	5	5	0
+ Mr. Geo. Plummer, Topcliffe	5	0	0
+ Mr. Wm. Clark, Aweby	5	0	0
+ Messrs. James and Henry Kidson, Birkin	5	0	0
+ Henry Gilling, Esq., Bridlington	2	3	0
+ John Milnthorpe, Esq., Topcliffe	2	2	0
+ Mr. Thos. Shipley, Aweby	2	0	0
+ Mr. Jas. Kay, Stockton	1	0	0
+ Mr. Henry Greenhill, Newsham	1	0	0
+ Mrs. Mann, Thirsk	1	1	0
+ Madame Pecolia, York	1	0	0
+ Mrs. Heddon, Baldersby	1	0	0
+ The Rev. Wm. Sweeting, Skipton	1	0	0
+ Mr. Geo. Yeates, Skipton Bridge	1	0	0
+ Mr. Halliday, Topcliffe	1	0	0
+ Mrs. Appleton, Dishforth	5	5	0
+ Mr. Jas. Marrens, Dishforth	0	10	0
+ Mr. Miles Rainforth, Rainton	1	0	0
+ Wm. Riddell, Esq., Dishforth	1	0	0
+ W. W. Wharmaker, Esq., Kirkstallington	5	5	0
+ J. Richardson, Esq., Thirsk	5	0	0
+ Mr. Robt. Thorpe Field	1	0	0
+ Mr. Thos. Walbran, Topcliffe Manor	1	0	0
+ Mr. Jas. Kidson, Topcliffe Common	1	0	0
+ Mr. Joseph D. Croft, Wetherby	0	10	0
+ Mr. Wm. Hawswell, Thirsk	1	0	0
By sale of lead to Uriah Brotherton	720	0	0
By sale of old Iron to George Yeates Aweby	1	5	0
By amount collected at the opening of New Church	42	13	4

Total Receipts £3158 10 7

Cr.

1855.

	£.	s.	d.
To Geo. Satten, Esq., for Faculty	8	13	0
Messrs. Driver and Wilson, Contractors	1498	5	10
Wm. Wilkinson, Joiner, Stockton	429	15	0
Robt. Chapman, Plasterer, York	108	8	0
Wm. Ellis, Shiner, York	267	0	0
Brotherton and Anson, Plumbers, Thirsk	266	0	0
J. and H. Barton, Painters, Ripon	86	12	0
Haden and Son, for Hoisting Apparatus	62	10	0
R. Bradley, York, for Font	15	0	0
J. Jones, York, for Font Cover	7	0	0
Geo. Yeates, Aweby, for Ironwork	15	0	0
Thos. Franklin, York, Chain &c., for Font	3	14	0
Josh. Gibson, York, for Wine Glasses	4	0	0
Jas. Edson, York, Clerk of the Works	124	4	6
Josh. Gibson, York, Wine work for Bellity	7	0	0
Hargrove and Co., York, for advertisements, for ?	1	14	9
Contracts	150	0	0
Errors of late G. T. Andrews, Esq., Architect	42	19	11
Jno. Richardson, Esq., Solicitor, Thirsk	0	10	0
Carriage of Font from York, &c., &c.,	1	10	0
Mr. Thos. Walbran, for Sundry Expenses	1	0	0
Printing and Postages	1	0	0
By Balance paid to new Clock Account	0	13	1

Total Payments £3158 10 7

THOMAS WALBRAN,
CHRISTOPHER BARROBY,
MARK BARROBY,
MARTIN WADDINGTON, } Churchwardens.

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Fig. 2.9

Daniel. The other groups of figures tell the Easter story, starting in the bottom left hand corner. Here we see Mary anointing the feet of Jesus, then moving to the right, there is Jesus and the sleeping disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, the trial of Christ and the scourging of Christ. Above the prophets and gospel writers are the road to Calvary, the crucifixion, the burial of Christ and the resurrection. At the very top of the window we see Christ in Majesty, with Mary and Moses below him and the Archangel Michael in the centre below them.

The most easterly window, on the south side of the chancel, contains three panels. The one nearest to the altar showing the annunciation, was designed and signed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones in 1857, just after he left Oxford. Burne-Jones was an English painter, who also designed tapestries and stained glass. He was an apprentice of the Pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The centre panel is the Visitation,

Ph 2.10 Vestry window



Ph 2.11 St. Columba holding the church in Iona



showing Mary and her cousin Elizabeth and the right hand panel is the Incarnation, showing the Holy Family. Both of these were designed by Michael F. Halliday, a pupil of Millais. The window, as a whole, commemorates Henrietta Hawkins, who was presumably a relative of the vicar and it was made by Lavers and Barraud

The next window, on the south side, is by Henry Holiday, a close friend of Burne-Jones, and it continues the story of the Holy Family. On the left, Joseph is warned in a dream of the Massacre of the Innocents and on the right the child Jesus is seen in the temple. This window is in memory of Mary Pickersgill of Salmon Hall Farm, who died in 1873.

The stained glass window in the nave has the theme of evangelism. John the Baptist, in the centre, is flanked by St. Columba, holding a model of the church on Iona, and St. Paulinus, who is reputed to have baptised 10,000 people in the Swale near Helperby in 627.

The window in the vestry at the base of the tower was given by the Rev. Hawkins. It is an example of a common type of Church Memorial commemorating a young man who died in some distant part of the empire. In this case, it was the vicar's son who died in Bombay in 1873. The four scenes in the window are: the baptism of Christ, the presentation of Christ to Simeon in the temple, the children of Israel crossing the Dead Sea and the Ark making a safe landfall.

In the top of the east window in the Percy chapel are a few fragments of medieval glass. The glass depicts a skeleton, possibly from a doom, a crowned woman - almost certainly the Virgin Mary. There is also a heraldic panel with three silver pikes (or lues). This is described in the Baptisms Register of 1695 - 1769 where it is written..."The arms in a north window of Topcliffe church are three Lucies or Pyke Fish [haurient] - The arms of the family Lucy, probably quartered with some branch of the Percy family. This blazonry appears to be the only surviving physical evidence of the Percy family.

In the South Wall of the chancel, which is the section of wall surviving from the medieval church, there is an ambry, which is a recess or cupboard for storing communion plate. There is also a piscina, which is a basin for washing communion plate, and three priests seats, which are called sedilia. Since the floor level was raised these seats are rather too low for comfort.

The High Altar itself dates from the seventeenth century. It is in fact a Jacobean table, which was not originally designed for use as an altar. It is said that the table was taken away from the church by the puritans in the time of Cromwell and then, at the restoration, it was rescued from the Angel Inn where it had served in a rather different capacity for several years. The Bishop's chair to the left of the high altar also appears to be of Jacobean design but it was not presented to the church until much later, by the Rev. Hawkins (incumbent 1838 to 1891). Topcliffe has some fine early communion plate, a paten of 1680 and two early chalices. One chalice is inscribed "Topcliffe Tho. Gregory William Raper Church Wardens 1664".

List of Vicars In 1258 Archbishop Walter Grey ordered that there should be a perpetual Vicar in this church

1258	Ricardus Capellanus	1661	Geo Cooke
1288	William de Spofford	1662	Will Davison
1290	Ric de St Nicholas	1680	John Radclyffe
1310	Ric de Toppeclive	1687	Tim Platts
?	Ric de Alta Ripa	1693	Thomas Newsam
1349	Robt de Alta Ripa	1753	Francis Day
1351	Peter de Rykell	1763	Charles Cowper
1335	Robt de Pickering	1774	Robert D.Waddilove DD
1355	Ric Wryth	1828	William H.Dixom MA
1394	Syggleston	1834	Charles Hawkins MA
1414	Ric Blackburn	1838	Henry A. Hawkins MA
1417	Hen Watkinson	1892	Walter E. Rowsell MA
1431	Will Monkton	1902	Henry King Quilter MA
1453	Thos Covell	1905	John Julian MA DD
1463	Ric Yeton	1913	Charles B. Pauling
1472	Will Rieghshawe	1939	Charles H. Pauling L Th
1480	John Bramhow	1958	Arthur W.G.Fletcher BA
1504	John West	1963	Bernard C. Goode
1504	Ric Morley	1965	Bruce O. Allan BA
1505	John Baxter	1982	William C. Slade MA D Th
1506	Andr Newman	1987	James Thom BA Dip Th
1523	Thos Eorne	1993	Stanley R. Baxter MA Dip Th
1530	John Scringer		(Priest in Charge)
?	Arth Middleton		and Elizabeth M. Baxter BA Dip H'Ed
1581	Rod Kaye		(Curate)
1614	Geo Kaye	1998	Christine M. Haddon-Reece
			B.Th., L.Th (Vicar

The Commonwealth

The other is inscribed as having been presented by Sir Metcalfe Robinson in 1669. This is the Metcalfe to whom the main Robinson monument in the church is dedicated. The Robinson Arms are also engraved on the side of this chalice.

The church is unusual in that it has a subsidiary north aisle but no subsidiary south aisle. This design is more usual in Cornish churches and they were conceived as chantry chapels, founded by persons of substance residing in the Parish. They were also burial places for the founders family. They were appropriated for public use after the reformation. In this case, the Percys are the likely founders or Thomas de Topcliffe who is also buried in this aisle, (according to a description, in Jefferson's history of Thirsk 1821, of the church before its rebuilding), as is William

Robinson who died in 1736. Jefferson also says that there are other monuments and sepulchral tablets too numerous to mention. Other than the Robinson Memorial, there are very few other monuments or obvious gravestones in the church, despite the fact that quite a lot of Percys were buried in the church and also several of the Robinsons. This led to the thought that a church of this age which clearly had a Lord of the Manor, if not two, would normally have had a family vault. There is no trace of a vault now, so what happened to it? Was it bricked up during the reconstruction in 1855 and perhaps during this reconstruction all the gravestones were covered up when the floor was raised. It is certainly strange that a church, which with its predecessors has stood on this site for over a thousand years, has so few memorials.

Some research in the church records began to yield some clues. There is a note in the Baptism Register in November 1784 that . . . *"by leave of the Vicar, R. Waddilove and the Rt. Hon. Lord Grantham, Messrs Francis Moyser, Joseph Dresser and John Fall Jnr were permitted to build each a pew in Topcliffe church over the vault; and that they engage to remove the whole seat (or three pews) at their own expense. Signed by Richard Ramshaw, Curate"*.

As permission was sought and obtained from Lord Grantham, this would indicate that it was a Robinson vault. Unfortunately it didn't say where it was.

Ph 2.12 Rev. Henry A. Hawkin's gravestone



Ph 2.13 Presentation by members of the Church Council to Rev. C. b. Pauling on his retirement July 1939



Left to right as faces show:

Jack Mitchell, W. Ward, M. Waine, Mrs Mitchell, M. Moore, A. flintoff, Mrs Holdroyd. h. Garagan, Dick Wilkinson, Mrs Burton, Mrs Clark, Miss Pauling, J. Clark, Mrs Flintoff, Rev. Pauling, G. Burton, Mrs Egan, Miss Mitchell, E. Dresser, G. Hudson, M. Sigsworth, Muriel Halliday, Mr Holdroyd

But that isn't the last reference to a vault. In some papers dated during 1907/1908 there is revealed yet another major refurbishment, carried out by John Julian. The tower was repaired and the Robinson memorial was moved to its present position to facilitate making a vestry in the bottom of the tower. There is some correspondence with Lord Ripon, descendant of the Robinsons, about arranging for him to come to take a look at the vault with a view to giving permission to have it sealed up. There is also an invoice from Thomas Metcalfe, builder, of Topcliffe, for "bricking in the top of the vaults". The word on the invoice is plural, so perhaps the Percy Vault was also included. Hence it appears that the vault(s) disappeared from view as late as 1907 and they weren't covered up in 1855. Once again it didn't say exactly where it was, but this time there was a clue. There was some discussion about the flue from the boiler not affecting the vault. This tends to place it somewhere near the boiler room and ties up historically

Ph 2.14 The Parish War Memorial



Ph 2.15 The inside of the church in the late 1800s



with the north aisles being chantries and places of burial. Perhaps the boiler room area itself was the original vault entrance?

Besides moving the Robinson memorial, the Rockcliffe memorial was moved. The refurbishment also included restoring the pinnacles on the tower, installation of the weather screen, moving the pulpit and choir stalls, moving the organ to its present position (its original position is not mentioned) and alterations to the screens. Interestingly, the installation of gas lighting. was also part of the refurbishment. (Electric Lighting was put in in 1933) The west window was repaired and general painting and refurbishing work was carried out. The total account for the work was £360, of which £250 was donated by Lord Leconfield.

The monuments to the Robinson family are now to be found near the **Percy Chapel** on the north wall. The most elaborate is to Sir Metcalfe Robinson 1628 - 1688. He represented York three times as Member of Parliament and the citizens of York subscribed for his tomb in Topcliffe Church. Of the two smaller memorials one is to Metcalfe's nephew, Sir William Robinson, (1655 - 1736) and the other to the grandson of Sir William, yet another William Robinson (1713 - 1770). The story of the Robinson family is told in the Baldersby section of this book and there is also a photograph of the memorial in that section. It was Sir William who laid out the Park and built the present house in Baldersby Park, then called Newby Park. He was Member of Parliament for Northallerton and later York and also High Sheriff of York and subsequently Lord Mayor of York.

Also in this area of the church, there is a model of the church, made in matchsticks by Les Bowman. The present model supersedes an earlier one, made in plywood, by William Dunning who emigrated to Australia.

Near the back of the north aisle is the **Parish War memorial** inscribed with the names of those who died in both the First and Second World Wars. The

numbers killed in the First World War were rather more than in the Second World War. It was not uncommon for several members of a family to be killed. The two Jaques brothers, Harry and William, are buried in Winn Lane cemetery just to the left of the Second World War graves.

In the south aisle attached to the wall near the lectern is another survival from the medieval period. It is a **Monumental Brass** which is one of the finest examples of Flemish brass in the country. In 1852 this brass was on the floor in the north aisle and, before

Ph 2.16 Brass rubbing of Thomas Topcliffe and wife Mabel 1391



being mounted on the wall, it was for a time on the floor in the chancel. During the restoration of the church in the 1850s the Rev. Mr Hawkins had noted that it was engraved on the reverse. The brass is a “palimpsest” brass, which means that it is made up of pieces of earlier brasses, which have been turned over and reused to make a new brass. It is not possible now to see the reverse side, but it was taken down from the wall and examined in 1934 by the Monumental Brass Society. It was possible to see that one of the pieces has a date of 1335 and another 1361. A third has parts of a man, woman and a ship on it. On the front, as now presented to the church, there are the full-length effigies of Thomas de Topcliffe who died in 1362 and his wife Mabel who died in 1391. They are both wearing long tunics and mantles.

Sir Thomas’s feet rest on a lion and his wife has a small dog wearing a collar with bells attached to it, nestling at her feet. These figures are placed against a background of flowing patterns and their heads rest on embroidered cushions, each held by an angel with outstretched wings. The two effigies are surrounded by tabernacle work with angels playing musical instruments. Above their heads are arches and above these more angels. In the centre panel above each effigy is a crowned figure on a throne carrying up the soul of the departed. The border round the brass is in old English script, interrupted at the corners by symbols of the gospel writers. The angel, in the likeness of a divine man, at the top right, is the symbol of St. Matthew. The winged ox, at the bottom right, is the symbol of St. Luke and the winged lion at the bottom left, is the symbol of St. Mark. The missing corner would have contained an eagle rising in the sky, which symbolises St. John. Half way up each side of the border are the de Topcliffe arms, a chevron between two peg tops above and one below. This brass was originally set in the floor and was probably moved to its present position at the time of the church reconstruction in 1855.

At that time the de Topcliffes were obviously one of the leading families in Topcliffe. They were related by marriage to the Percys. In 1310 the vicar in Topcliffe was Richard de Topcliffe and he was followed by Richard de Alta Ripa who was in turn followed by Robert de Alta Ripa in 1349. Alta Ripa would seem to be the latinised version of Top Cliff.

Alan de Topcliffe was one of the bailiffs of the City of York in 1390. John de Topcliffe was rector of All Saints, Pavement in York in 1466 and John de Topcliffe was Canon of Hexham priory and Abbot of Whitby at its dissolution in 1538. It is possible that the

Ph 2.17 Brass of Thoms Topcliffe and wife Mabel



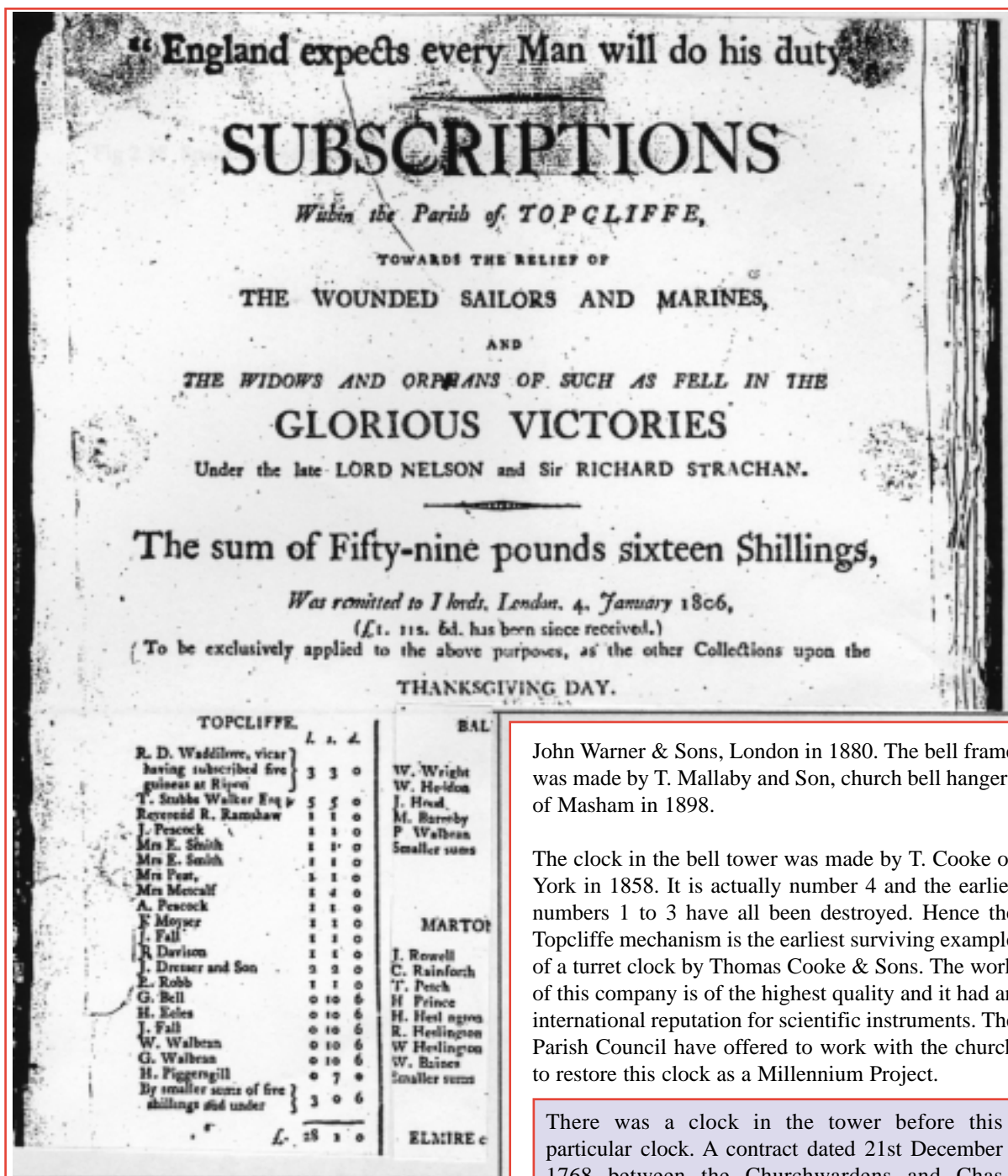
old mansion, which was afterwards the George and Dragon, the largest hotel between York and Edinburgh, was the residence of the Topcliffes and it was sited somewhere near to the Toll Booth.

There is one more memorial on the south aisle wall, which was put up in 1998 by the RAF Association to commemorate the crew of a RAF Neptune killed when their plane crashed in Mull in 1956. (See RAF section for photograph).

Various items in the church such as the war memorial (W.W. II) have the mouse carving, trademark of Robert Thompson, “the Mouseman” of Kilburn.

The Organ is by Holditch circa. 1890. There are presently plans in hand to replace this organ with a Father Willis organ removed from a church in Sheffield.

The Bells in the bell tower are from the previous church. There are four of them. Two bear the



inscription "Jesus be our speed" and are dated 1620 and 1622. Both were made by W. Oldfield. The third

There were bells in the church at a much earlier date. A record of 12th June 1524, says "John Austyn, balie of Topclif, toward byeng of a bell which shall be the iijth bell to the other thre, the beyng vjL. Xiijs. Iijjd. (£6. 13s. 4d)

is inscribed "Deus salvet ecclesiam suam, 1725", made by S. Smith II and the fourth "All ye that heare my mournful sound, repent before ye lye in the ground, 1664". It also has the initials of seven people WD, PM, IB, RB, CD, ID, IR. This last was recast by

John Warner & Sons, London in 1880. The bell frame was made by T. Mallaby and Son, church bell hangers of Masham in 1898.

The clock in the bell tower was made by T. Cooke of York in 1858. It is actually number 4 and the earlier numbers 1 to 3 have all been destroyed. Hence the Topcliffe mechanism is the earliest surviving example of a turret clock by Thomas Cooke & Sons. The work of this company is of the highest quality and it had an international reputation for scientific instruments. The Parish Council have offered to work with the church to restore this clock as a Millennium Project.

There was a clock in the tower before this particular clock. A contract dated 21st December 1768 between the Churchwardens and Chas Johnson and Wm Warin ... "agreed to make a Turret Clock with brass wheels and steel pinions in a good substantial and workmanlike manner and fix it in the steeple"

The clock was originally ordered by the Rev. H. A. Hawkins in March 1858. The specification was for an 8 day, strike the hours, Cookes Dial, 4ft 9ins, fixed, complete for £105.

Outside in the churchyard, in the wall of the south chancel, there are some stones which are marked with deep grooves. It is thought that these are marks caused by people sharpening swords and arrows before going

to fight in the belief that weapons sharpened on a consecrated building would be more effective in battle.

In 1823 Lord Leconfield gifted another piece of land to extend the churchyard. This area was that covered by the present terraces. By 1906 there was need for

St. Columba's is the principal church in the United Benefice of Topcliffe with Baldersby St. James, Dalton, Dishforth and Skipton on Swale. Its parishes also include the villages of Asenby, Baldersby, Catton and Rainton.

On 16th June 1674 the Commissioners of Charitable Uses instituted a governing body of twelve trustees, or

Comparison of Feoffees distributions

Fig 2.18

	Money in 1801	Money in 1846	Cloth in 1846	Money in 1998
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	Cloth : Wolsey Yards : Yards	£. s. d.
Topcliffe	2. 3. 0	13. 7. 3	19 : 1	200.00
Dishforth	1. 13. 0	9. 1. 3	9 : 43½	50.00
Rainton	1. 9. 0	5. 0. 9¾	4½ : 42	50.00
Baldersby	1. 9. 0	6. 2. 5¾	4½ : 42	55.00
Marton le Moor	11. 0	2. 15. 7½	0 : 18½	30.00
Dalton	14. 0	2. 16. 9	9 : 24½	95.00
Asenby	16. 0	2. 12. 6	4½ : 15½	25.00
Skipton	13. 6	2. 3. 7	4½ : 24½	25.00
Catton	13. 6	2. 1. 1	4½ : 24½	
Eldmire with Crakehill	12. 0	1. 16. 8	5 : 15½	20.00

Feoffees present at the meeting

William Walbran	Rev A. Hawkins (Chairman)	Rev. Christine
Thomas Stevenson	Peter Stevenson	Haddon-Reece (Chair)
John Hood	Thomas Morley	Carol Ford
John Rockliffe	John Lascelly	D. Wells
Chris Rainforth	Anthony Maynard	R. Wise
	John Clark	T. H. Naylor
	Ralph Dale	John M. Graham
	Joseph Dresser	Sandra McGrail
	Thomas Walbran	W. K. Jones
		N. Blackburn
		T. G. Harper
		Geoff Hall (Secretary)

yet more space and this is when the 3rd Lord Leconfield gave the piece of land in Winn Lane for a new cemetery. It was consecrated on 29th April 1907. The churchyard itself was then closed for burials in 1908. Among those who are buried in the churchyard are the Rev. Henry A. Hawkins, vicar when the church was rebuilt and Joseph Lister, miller, who died on his birthday, in 1907.

The **Ancient Ecclesiastical Parish of Topcliffe** was much larger than Topcliffe village. It included the townships of Asenby, Baldersby, Catton, Dalton, Dishforth, Elmire with Crakehall, Marton Le Moor, Rainton with Newby, Skipton on Swale and Topcliffe. All of these are now separate civil parishes and Baldersby (including Rainton with Newby) Dishforth, Marton Le Moor and Skipton (including Catton) were constituted distinct ecclesiastical parishes. However, this process has been reversing and the ecclesiastical parishes are slowly being put together again. In 1999,

Feoffees, for the management of the affairs of the grammar school and for the administration of the parochial charities. Their roll in the educational endowments is covered in relation to the old grammar school in the next section of this book. As regards their roll in managing the charitable endowments, in 1840 there was a vast list of donations to the charities. For example there were three acres of land, called Pullaine Lees given by the Rev. Ralph Kay in 1613 which was let for £9 a year. This with other charities went to the general fund, distributed every year to the poor of the parish in certain proportions to each township. There were six acres of land at Firby let out for £20 per year. There were Cloth Charities for providing clothing for the poor and Topcliffe township had a house and three acres of poor land purchased in 1708 with £100 benefaction money. The land was let for £6 6s and the house was occupied, rent free, by a poor family. In 1899, the Charity Commissioners wanted to put in a new system of

representation, which would be more representative of the parish, with the Feoffees being elected by the newly constituted Parish Councils or Meetings. The existing Feoffees resisted this for some time but the scheme was instituted, with the temporary arrangement that the existing Feoffees could also continue, until such time as they resigned (or died). This format for the Feoffees survives to the present day and the present body still administers the endowments, though most of them have been converted into capital investments. Each village receives, as it did at the beginning of the century, a proportion of the income based on the relative populations of the townships in the Ancient Parish of Topcliffe. In 1901 the several parochial charities were consolidated and since then further consolidation has taken place. In December 1901 Canon Rowsell, who had left to live in Brighton, returned to Topcliffe especially to chair the first meeting of the newly constituted Feoffees. The body of Feoffees then consisted of 13 persons, one ex officio trustee, the vicar of Topcliffe, and twelve representative trustees, two of whom are appointed by Topcliffe Parish Council. They administer the general fund which pays annual amounts for “the poor” of the parish and the education fund, which pays grants to students in the wider Topcliffe parish. The Feoffees payments are now paid in slightly different different ways in each parish, as the definition of poor in 1999, is not quite the same as when the charities were instituted. In Topcliffe, the system is being changed in 1999 to better reflect the wishes of those who donated the money originally i.e. the money should go to those most in need.

It is interesting to see what happened to some of the conversions from bequests to cash. In 1920 Thirsk Rural District Council started negotiations to buy Pulleyns Leas but it was abandoned. Thirsk RDC tried again in 1945 and this time Pulleyns Leas (Is this the reason for the name East Lea?) was sold to them for £100/acre for them to build houses. It was done under the threat of compulsory purchase.

In 1942, the cottage and land owned by the Feoffees, in Dalton was requisitioned by the Air Ministry for the aerodrome in Dalton, to improve the visibility of aircraft landing. Skipton Farm, which was part of the educational foundation, also had eleven acres requisitioned for Skipton aerodrome. Compensation negotiations for these transactions went on for years. The rest of Skipton farm was sold in 1950 for £550.

Throughout most of this century the cloth funds made provision for the poor of the Ancient Parish of Topcliffe. They faltered during the Second World War in 1942, due to the difficulty of getting cloth and coupons. It was 1950 before they started again but they made their last distribution in 1956 and started transferring the funds into the general fund.

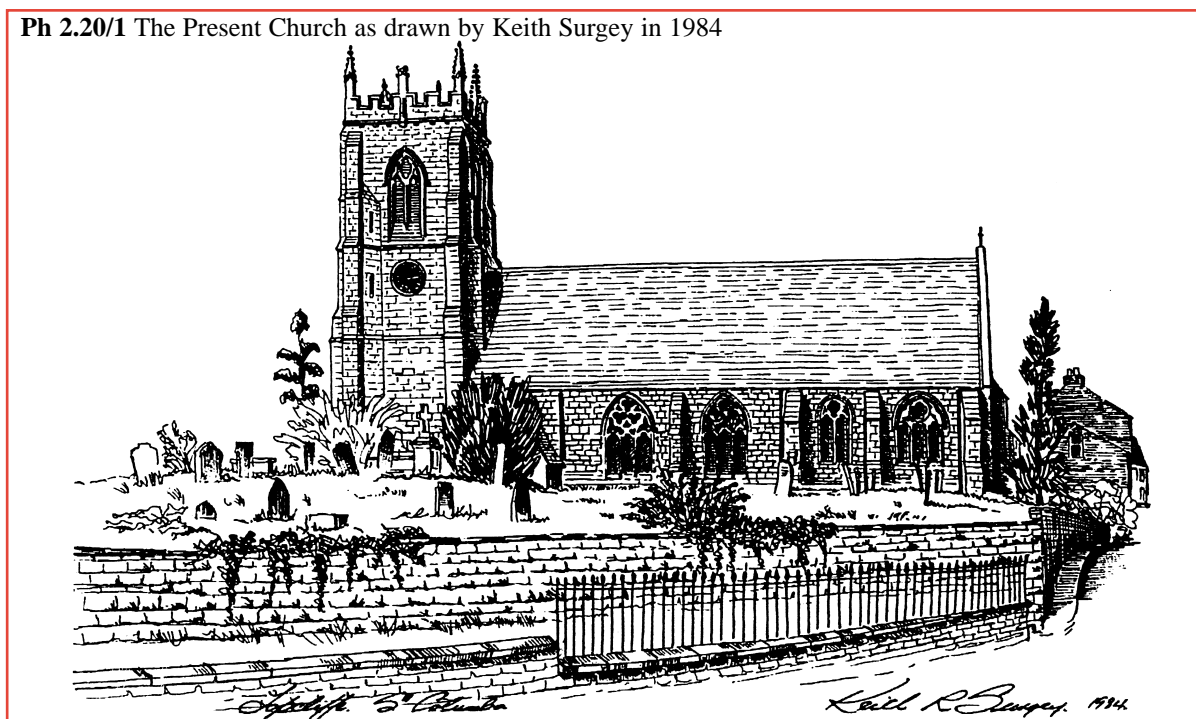
At the end of the Millennium, the charity still owns two pieces of land, one in Topcliffe and one in Firby from which rent income is derived. The rest of the income comes from investments. The table in Fig 2.18 shows how the payments have changed over the years.

The new vicarage was built in the mid 1960s in the grounds of the old vicarage, which was sold, together with some of the ground, to Dr Dias.

Ph 2.19 The Old Vicarage



Ph 2.20/1 The Present Church as drawn by Keith Surgey in 1984



In 1957, Glynn Burton, who was the son of Wilfrid Burton, the school headmaster from 1922 to 1945, was taking an interest in Topcliffe church history and recorded that in the old Grammar School in the churchyard there were a number of things of interest. There were still one or two old large desks, which each might have seated half a dozen pupils. There were forms and a large square table. The curtain rods were those which were used to support the curtains, which used to hang on either side of the east window (before 1922) in the church. A length of carved wood forming the top rail of the piece of screen between the choir and the Percy Chapel, which was taken out when the organ was installed; and most important, some old boards which must have hung in the church. It is not known when they were taken out, although it is quite likely that they were removed during the 1907/1908 refurbishment. Two of these boards would, from their nature, have hung on either side of the east window, perhaps under the curtains, or perhaps they were replaced by the curtains.

On the back of one of the boards there was painted:-

R.D.Waddilove, Vicar

Wm. Walbran)	
James Rawling)	CHURCH
John Fawdington)	WARDENS
Thos. Prince)	1794

Wm. Redgrove Maker, Skipton

Thos. Cundale Painter, Ripon 1794

which clearly dates them. The question is, were they ever installed in the new church in 1855? The first

board was divided into two and ornamented at the top with simple, carved tracery, painted green and picked out in gilt, quite similar in design to a two light 14th century window. Painted on the left hand half was the Creed and on the right the Lord's Prayer, and beneath it was the blessing from the Epistle to the Corinthians. The wording of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer was identical with that in the prayer book in use in 1957.

On the second board were the ten commandments. The other boards were plainer and carried lists of charitable gifts and bequests. These were a comprehensive list of the funds which were being managed by the Feoffees. The information on two of these boards is reproduced on the two following pages.

The other key item which was kept in the churchyard was the hearse. It was stabled in the building behind the old school which is now the kitchen for the hall. It was an old black, horse drawn carriage complete with black plumes. At a meeting of the Feoffees and church wardens on 1st May 1778.

... "it was resolved and ordered that the Church Wardens do pay unto John Gibson Ten shillings a year to commence from this day the said John Gibson in consideration thereof hath agreed to deliver out and take in the Parish Herse, and to wash after every journey and keep the same neat and in decent clean order. . .". He also had to oil it once a year, let it out on the terms set by the vicar and account at every parish meeting for earnings and profits. The hearse was still there around 1958 but was subsequently moved out to RAF Topcliffe. It did come back when the RAF left Topcliffe but was in poor condition and was broken up.

BOARD 4 had inscribed on the L.H.S.

Pro. 3.9

while we have time, let us do
good unto all men. Gal:6:10.
Benefactors to the Parish of
Topcliffe

King Edward the sixth, by his
Letters Patents in the 2nd. year
of his reign granted to an as-
sistant curate to the Church
of Topcliffe, and his Successors
for ever, the sum of Five
pounds per ann which was con-
firmed by Queen Elizabeth
1559

John Hartforth of Topcliffe in
1588 gave 10L to the school of Top-
cliffe with which together
with another Sum of money
given by the parishioners was
purchased one cottage in Top-
cliffe and five rood of land
in Peterfield and A : R ; P in ye outwood
4: 3 :25

William Robinson Citizen
of London gave to the school
of Topcliffe Sixteen pounds
per ann for ever paid by the
Grocers Company in Lon-
don

Henry Raper Citizen of Lon-
don in 1674 gave out of his
Lands at Skipton after his
Wife's decease ten pounds per
ann. to the Hospital of Firby for
ever and the residue of the pro-
fits of the said lands he gave to
the Schoolmaster of Topcliffe
and his successors for ever

William Hulton of Skipton in
1611 gave to the poor of this pa-
rish ten pounds

Edmund Clough of Skipton in
1612 gave to the poor of the parish
6L..6s..8d

Katherine Clough, Widow of the
said Edmund in 1613 gave the poor
of the parish 6L..13s..4d

William Gilling of London Drapers
in 1612 gave the Poor of the parish
twenty pounds

Ralph Kay Vicar of Topcliffe in
1613 gave to the parish for ever one
Close in Topcliffe called Pullen
Leaze out of the rent of which close
Dalton is to have five shillings yearly

and on the Right Hand side

and the
Lord shall de-
liver him in time of trouble.
Psalm : 41,1 :

John Kettlewell of Topcliffe in
1615 gave to the poor of ye parish

6L : 13s : 4d

William Robinson Mercht. Alder-
-man of the City of York in 1616
gave in Benefactions to the town of
Rainton 6L and 6L more to the Poor
of the Parish

William Percivell of Topcliffe in
1618 gave for the poor of Topcliffe 10L.

William Wade of Topcliffe in 1618

gave to the poor of Topcliffe 2L.:

Thomas Robinson of Allathorpe Esq
in 1626 gave to the poor of the parish
50L :

Mr. Clayton Mr of Arta of Manchester
in 1629 gave to the poor of the pa-
rish 3L : 6s : 8d.

Jasper Potter servant to Mrs. Kettle-
-well in 1651 gave to the poor of
Topcliffe 10L :

Mr. Jasper Kettlewell of Topcliffe
in 1652 gave to the poor of Top-
cliffe 10L :

John Kettlewell of Asenby in 1654
gave to the poor of the parish 10L.

Mr Edmund Clough of Skipton in
1660 gave to the poor of the parish 10L :

Mrs. Jane Kettlewell Widow in 1670
gave to the poor of Topcliffe ten
shillings per annum for ever to be
paid out of her lands in Topcliffe
every Whitsun Eve

Mr. William Dinmore of Elmirein
1678 gave out of his estate at Farr
-dington the sum of Five Pounds pr
annum for ever to be laid out in
cloth to be given yearly to the poor
of the parish:

Mr. John Bell of Graisthwait in 1679
gave out of his estate at Elmire 2L.,
ten shillings pr annum for ever to
be laid out in cloth to be distributed
yearly to the poor on the East side
of Swale:

George Norton of Dishforth Esq.
in 1699 gave to the poor of the Pa-
rish 10L:

Ralph Rainforth of Dalton in 1699
gave to the poor 10L viz 5 shillings
yearly part of the interest of ye same for
the poor of Dalton only and the re-
-maining part to the rest of ye parish
Major John Kettlewell of Topcliffe in
1713 gave to the poor of the parish 10L.
Mrs Priscilla Dawson of Azenby in.....
gave to the poor of Skipton 5L:

BOARD 5 had inscribed on the L.H.S.

Broken off

?????????

pick up his bed

make them all his

???in his sickness Psalm :41:3

Robert Raper of Topcliffe in 1711
gave to the poor of the parish 10L. :
Marmaduke Waine of Baldersby in
1713 gave to the poor of Baldersby 10L. :
Mrs. Anne Turner of Craike in 1720
gave to the poor of Dalton 40L. to the
poor of Baldersby 40L and to ye poor
of Rainton 20L.

John Geldert of York Cook in 1723
gave to the poor of the towns of
Rainton Topcliffe and Dalton the
Sum of 1L. pr annum for ever to
be paid half yearly out of a close call-
-ed Vicar - crook:

George Lumley of Elmire in 1724
gave to the poor on the East side
of Swale 10L. :

Lancelot Theakston of Baldersby
in 1724 gave to the poor of Balders-
-by 20L. and to the poor of the pa-
-rish. 10L. :

Henry Kay of Asenby in 1720
gave to the poor of the towns of
Topcliffe and Asenby the sum of 20L. :

George Rokcliffe of Asenby in 1735
gave after his wife's decease one close
called Cawson close to the poor of
Asenby for ever :

Jane Raper of Topcliffe Widow
in 1735 gave to the poor of Topcliffe
the sum of 5L. :

Mr. Thomas Stubbs of Top-
-cliffe in 1736 gave to the poor 20L.
viz: 10s of the interest of the same to
the poor of Topcliffe only and the
remainder to the rest of ye Parish:

Mrs. Elizabeth Walker Niece to the
said Thomas Stubbs in 1737 left
5L. to be given to the poor of Top-
-cliffe when sick :

Elizabeth Rokcliffe of Asenby
Widow in 1740 gave to the poor of
Topcliffe 5L. :

Francis Gill of Rainton in 1739
gave all the stone that builded the
School - house there, Also 5s. to be paid yearly at Christmass to the
School - Master by his Executors :
Arthur Porter of Rainton in the
fore said year gave 20L. to the School
Master there

John Gregg, Christopher:
Watson, Wm. Daggit, and
Wm. Heddon Church Wardens
Robert 1741 Pearson
Made the wood work

R.H.S of Board 5

unto the Lord

Prov : 19 : 17

Blessed are ye merciful, for they shall
obtain mercy. Mat. 5 : 7

John Easterby of Topcliffe gave by
Deed bearing date, April 29th.1749 duly
executed in his lifetime, a Close call'd
Crake Hills, containing 7 Acres,
lying in the Township of Asenby, let
then at four pounds a Year the Rent of
which to be laid out in blue Woolsey
Cloth, by the Trustees, and that the
same be distributed at the Feast of
St. Luke in the manner following,
to Topcliffe, Baldersby, Dishforth, &
Rainton each ten yards of the said
Cloth yearly and the remainder to
the rest of the Parish.

Thomas Willson July, 4th, 1752 left
a Legacy of 5L, to the poor of the
Parish of Topcliffe.

William Barker of Topcliffe left Dec
21st, 1757 the sum of 5L to ye said Parish
Mr. John Jackson of Topcliffe left Decbr,
21st. 1759 the sum of 10L, to the Poor
of the said Township only.

Mr, William Coopland gave April
18th, 1760 by his last will the sum of 10L
the interest thereof to be applied to ye
buying of Woolen Cloth to be di-
-tributed by the Trustees to the Poor,
of the Parish at the feast of St, Luke,
The Rev'd, Mr, Francis Day, late
Vicar of Topcliffe gave 26 March
1764, by his last Will, the sum of
100L, to the Towns of Marton,
Rainton, Baldersby, Dalton,
Skipton & Catton, the Interest thereof
to be divided into five equal parts;
Skipton & Catton to have only one fifth
part; The Yearly Interest of which to
be applied towards ye, said Town-
-ships, for weh, each Master shall teach
gratis, two poor Children to read &
to say their Catechism; to be chosen by
the Vicar of Topcliffe and such Trustees
of the Parish as do inhabit the Town
where the Schools shall be erected.
Also to ye poor of ye Parish of Topcliffe
50L, the interest of which shall be di-
-tributed Yearly, by the Vicar and
Trustees of the Parish, to such poor
People only as do not receive [any]
monthly Alms or Allowance in
the Townships, where they [are]
settled.

Transcribed from Glynn Burton's work
by John Graham July 1999

Ph 2.20/2 The Old Church before it was demolished in 1855.



Ph 2.20/3 The Vicarage garden 1905



The First School in Topcliffe is listed as already existing in 1519 in a register of Old Yorkshire Grammar Schools. The school had its origin in a chantry in the church. John Fox, who was probably himself the chantry priest/schoolmaster left a will dated 15th July 1519 in which he left 1d to every scholar in the Parish of Topcliffe. In 1549 the Chantry Commissioners of Edward VI (1547 - 1553) directed that the net income of the chantry, £5 a year, should be paid to an assistant curate who was probably a curate and schoolteacher. Later, in the

accounts, and that he should be paid £60 per annum. This was to be financed by using the £4. 10s. 1d royal annuity and use of 2 acres 3 rods in Peterfield. The rest of the income to accumulate, to build a new master's house, on a site where a stable then stood. In 1818 this fund stood at £248.

The Feoffees resolved to build a new school to replace the existing one which was erected in 1695 in the churchyard. The new one was built in 1812 by public subscription and that building still exists in the churchyard, to the north of the church. It is a double fronted building of Tudor design with three bay

Ph 2.21 The Old Grammar School in the churchyard – Built in 1812



reign of Elizabeth (1558 - 1603), the payment of £5 was made to a schoolmaster, probably under a decree of the Court of Exchequer. In 1588 John Hartforth gave £10 to the school, and this, together with a sum subscribed by parishioners, was invested in a cottage and 6 acres of land. Nearly two hundred years later, in 1760, the Feoffees exchanged these for 2 acres and 3 rods of land in Peterfield worth £10 a year.

The principle endowment was derived, however, under the will of Henry Raper of London in 1674. He left 61 acres 36 perches of land in Skipton Town fields. £12 per year to go to Firby Hospital, the rest to go to Topcliffe School. The Feoffees let this land for £70 per annum. There was also a yearly rent charge of £16 left by William Robinson to be paid by the Grocers' Company. The school, with other parish charities, was managed by Feoffees (or Trustees) appointed by a decree of the Commissioners of Charitable Uses on 16th June 1674.

In 1809 the Feoffees decided that the master should teach Latin and Greek as well as English, writing and

mullion windows. The words "Erected by public subscription" are carved over the door. This building is now the church hall. Before 1812 the school was taking pupils from the various settlements in the parish as follows:

Topcliffe	6	Eldmire & Crakehall	1
Dalton	4	Asenby	3
Dishforth	4	Marton le Moor	1
Baldersby	4	Skipton	1½
Catton	1½	Rainton	4

When the school was rebuilt the number of pupils was raised to between 70 & 80. The schoolmaster's house was eventually built in Church Street and it is now known as "The Haven". Shortly after this, in 1842, a new school for girls was built in Long Street and subsequently extended in 1848 to take girls and infants. In 1855 the then schoolteacher of the Grammar School, Longbottom Barraclough, died and the Feoffees considered a replacement. Before making a new appointment they agreed to alter some of the rules. First of all they banned boarders and then they

made a very interesting statement -"...That, it appearing to the Feoffees that free education is not appreciated by the poor, a scale of charges for admission shall be fixed at a future meeting..."

Mr Anthony Halliday was appointed in October of 1855 but it was three years, December 1888, before he agreed his conditions which included the promised scale of charges.

Scale of Charges for Scholars at Topcliffe Grammar School

For the Sons of the Labouring Classes

Reading , Writing, Simple Addition Multiplication Subtraction and Division **1s. 0d** per quarter

Arithmetic, English Language and Geography **2s. 0d** per quarter

Book Keeping, Mensuration, Land Surveying, Algebra, Latin and Greek **3s. 0d** per quarter

For the Sons of Farmers and Tradesmen

Reading , Writing, Simple Addition Multiplication Subtraction and Division **5s. 0d** per quarter

Arithmetic, English Language and Geography **7s. 6d** per quarter

Book Keeping, Mensuration, Land Surveying, Algebra, Latin and Greek **10s. 0d** per quarter

It was 1878 before Mr Halliday resigned and was replaced by the Schoolmaster who would be the last master at the Grammar School, Mr Samuel Arnott.

In 1892 the National School in Long Street was enlarged as a result of the Free Education Act, to accommodate 150 children by Lord Leconfield , Lord of the Manor.

This obviously had a big impact on the fee paying Grammar School, which saw its numbers drop dramatically until, by 1895, there were only four pupils left and the Feoffees finally considered that the school was no longer fulfilling the purpose for which it was intended by its founders in the 14th Century. They recommended to the Charity Commissioners that the Grammar School be closed, the masters house sold and that, after arrangements had been made with the master, the annual endowments be given in pro rata payments to the various schools, either voluntary

In 1957 a Mr George Ellis of Topcliffe said that he had gone to the old grammar school for a year, before the other school opened. The lads used to go to this school and the girls and infants to the school in the village. Miss Foster was the school mistress in the village.

or board schools in existence in the various townships comprising the Ancient Parish of Topcliffe.

In the meantime, the Feoffees spent a lot of time investigating the possibility of building a new secondary school in Topcliffe. They tackled the Grocers' Company, who had been paying the legacy left by William Robinson in 1633 at the rate of £16 per year, on the basis that they had a moral obligation to pay more. This statement was based on the fact that although inflation had increased a lot since 1633 the Grocers' Company had not increased the legacy, but had appropriated the difference to the company. Eventually, the Grocers' proposed £1,000 towards the capital cost of the school and £100 per annum, but only on the condition that the rest of the money for the school could be found.

The total cost they estimated at £5,000. Initially the Feoffees disagreed, suggesting that it would only cost £2,500, but after much arguing they obtained an architects quote which turned out to be £5,500.

On August 30th 1896 the old grammar school closed and Mr. Arnott agreed to leave with a gratuity of £25. He was allowed to stay in his house until the end of the year but in fact left on November the 19th to live in Alne.

In March 1896 the Charity Commissioners wanted the Feoffees to resuscitate the old school but the Feoffees could see no future in this, so the Commissioners promised to produce an alternative scheme which would establish an endowment to give local scholarships, to be competed for in an Annual Exam to be held in Topcliffe each year for boys and girls in the Ancient Parish.

The quest for a new school in Topcliffe, which would be a Secondary, Technical and Agricultural School, continued over a period of eight years. Negotiations were held with North Riding County Council and were continued with the Charity Commissioners. The Commissioners required that the new school be built, not in a small place like Topcliffe, but near a large population centre. This led to proposals in 1900 to build it at Thorpefield, on the edge of the Parish, as near to Thirsk as the Feoffees could get. (Not too far away from the present comprehensive school)

This is a transcription of the appointment of a new Schoolmaster in 1766 for the Topcliffe Grammar School.

(The articles referred to are given in the associated photocopy, on the next page, written in 1651 – rather more difficult to transcribe.)

May 20th 1766

WE whose names are hereunder written Trustees of the village of Topcliffe do hereby elect The Revd. Joseph Fisher of Drax in the County of York to teach the Grammar School of Topcliffe in the place and stead of the Revd. Mr. James Scroggs removed to further preferment by being made Vicar of Alne in this County and to receive the salary rents and profits belonging to the said school upon such certain articles Covenants and Conditions as are and have been consented to and agreed upon and subscribed by the said Joseph Fisher and us the Trustees - save only the third article before expressed we do annul and make void and do hereby allow enlarge and give leave to the said schoolmaster for his better encouragement in teaching and diligent attendance upon the said school to take two shillings and sixpence a quarter for scholars learning English under the accident. And three shillings and sixpence a quarter for Scholars being Grammarians or upwards or learning the accident and being also of this Parish of Topcliffe. Also the same for Writing and Arithmetick excepting some poor children whose parents being unable to pay so much, shall only give and pay 2S. and half a crown for all works of learning and this number not to exceed above five – and to be recommended as objects of Charity to the said master by the Vicar or Trustees of the said Parish. And, be it remembered that it is agreed and determined that the said schoolmaster now elected shall receive the salary paid by the Grocer Company in London due at Christmas next and shall receive the rent and profits appurtenant to the said school from May Day and Lady Day last.

Chas Cowper Vicar

John Stevenson

Peter Wright

John Jackson

Thos Stubbs Walker

Thos Coopland

Joseph Barugh

Note that among the School Trustees signatures is that of John Jackson who was the resident engineer for the lock. His story is told under the Swale Navigation section of this book. When he gave his resignation to the Navigation Commissioners after the lock had been built and they wanted him to move elsewhere, he wrote that the work interfered too much with his other activities. Here we find one of them - Trustee to the school. Elsewhere we find that he is referred to as a Road Surveyor.

Another signatory is Thomas Stubbs Walker the second largest landowner in Topcliffe.

It is interesting to see that the salary provided by the Grocers' Company of London is mentioned. This ties up with the church Charity Boards where on board 4 it is recorded that "William Robinson citizen of London (and Newby on Swale) gave to the school of Topcliffe sixteen pounds per annum for ever paid by the Grocers Company in London"

After all this effort the Rev. Fisher failed to take up this appointment and the Rev. Marm Johnson was appointed instead. He was master for only a year and was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Ramshaw in 1767 who seems to have been master for 42 years !

Articles and covenants made and agreed upon by a certain select
number, intrusted and approved of by a honorable countess of York of
the honor of York
1541
Joseph of Eborac and Thomas a Schoolmaster for the
School of Eborac and the said covenants to be assented unto and signed by
the Schoolmaster before his admission thereto

- 1 That the Schoolmaster elected be a person approved in for his good demeanour and
civil deportment and be a Scholar able to teach the Greek as well as Latin
tongues. And yet it shall alwayes be in the power of the persons intrusted from
time to time for the parish of Eborac upon the Schoolmasters misbehaviour
and upon other just complaints made against him, that he
shall by the power aforesaid be ejected and discharged of the Schoole, and
a new election made
- 2 That the said Schoolmaster be not to exceede his price
by year for every Scholar under the Grammar, nor to demand above
righteone pence by year for every Scholar learning the Grammar or beyond,
the said Scholars being of the parish of Eborac
- 3 That the Schoolmaster at any instance and motion of those persons intrusted for the
parish shall receive no more than 10 pence by year of such poor children, as
the said Trustees shall think to be appointed who may or doe receive
the Grammar, their parents possibly beinge unable to pay the above said
charges due for a Grammarian
- 4 That the said Schoolmaster shall teach gratis or without pay six or eight poor
children of the parish at any instance and appointment of the said Trustees
in case they find it necessitated poor to be so determined
- 5 That the Schoolmaster shall receive no greater number of strangers for Scholars
into his Schoole then may consist with a good and benefit of the
children within the parish, and if at any time the children within the said
parish bee otherwise provided or neglected, the power to be in the Trustees for
the parish to rectifie the complaint thereof either by exhorting the Schoolmaster
to a more due regard to the children of the parish, or otherwise if then Trustees
or one of the Trustees refuse and contempt thereof to eject him and to proceed
to the election of a more vigilant and carefull Schoolmaster
- 6 That the Schoolmaster when the Trustees think fitt shall make choyce of an
osher to assist him in the said Schoole and if same be allowed
on by the consent and approbation of the said Trustees for the parish,
and if stipend and wages for the said osher to arise and issue forth
of the stipend belonging to and settled upon the Schoole, and forth of the
pay due for the Scholars that learne there at such manner and forme
as the Schoolmaster and osher shall agree upon betwixt themselves, alwayes
provided that the said Trustees be judges as well for a competent
allowance for the osher to be deducted forth of the profits of the Schoole
as to have ready power upon just cause and complaint to eject the
said osher and elect another

In 1901, Canon Rowsell left the Parish to go to Brighton, and much of the activity about a new school gradually subsided. It was not until 1912, when there were discussions about a school in Thirsk, that it was raised again and a school in Topcliffe finally ruled out. In the end it was the Board of Education that drafted the new scheme for the Grammar School Endowments, which was finally approved in April 1915. This followed a slight hiccup when the North Riding Education Committee tried to hijack half of the funds for a school in Thirsk, but the Feoffees said no. The scheme established "The Topcliffe Exhibition Foundation" which created scholarships for boys and girls from Topcliffe to go to Thirsk Grammar, Northallerton Grammar, Ripon Grammar etc.

This Foundation is still in existence and now awards small grants to scholars from the Ancient Parish of Topcliffe to assist with their education.

Returning to the new National School in Topcliffe, in 1892, its first headmaster was Mr Hildyard and Gertrude Clark of Dishforth was the first person to be enrolled. One important thing that the Feoffees of the old grammar school, did for the new school was to hand over a legacy from Thomas Durham for £100 "for the education of the poor of Topcliffe" to the new school.

Originally the schoolchildren at the National School in Mr Hildyard's time used to garden in the school house garden which was next to the school. However, at some point they dug up something particularly precious and were banned henceforth. They then

Ph 2.22 National School in Long Street –
Photograph 1964



moved to Miss Wood's garden at Glebe House on Front Street. Miss Lucy Wood had been a pupil at the school and then became an uncertified teacher there. She actually stayed there until she was 60 years old,

Ph 2.23 The Gardening Club!



not leaving until about 1951. Lucy and her sister Fanny lived at Glebe House, which in those days had a big garden and, basically because they could not cope with it, it became a school garden. It was very productive and the pupils had their own customers in the village. Their fruit garden was where the Bungalow called Littlewood now stands.

Mr W.G.Burton came in 1922 and he was head for 33 years. The school log book starts on 6th January 1931 and Mr Burton was very preoccupied with the temperatures in the school. The temperature of his classroom was 38 degrees (F) and the infants' classroom was even lower at 36 degrees (F). By the 10th March the snow was one foot deep and the coal was burning badly in the stove. The temperature was slightly warmer at 42 Degrees (F).

The 24th May 1932 was Empire Day and the entry for that day was perhaps indicative of the times. "Gave an

address to the older children and demanding composition on it. Whole school assembled in yard, gave - The King - and saluted the Union Jack as they marched past"

During the year, the school closed for the Wesleyan Sunday School Treats in June, Topcliffe Fair in July and potato picking in October.

In 1933 Mr Burton became involved in trying to get a sports field for the children. He negotiated the use of a field with Mr Holdroyd from Topcliffe Common



This School group photograph was taken at Highfield House, Asenby, before the 1914 War

Back Row Four Ladies: - May Ashton, M. Almack, Miss Willis (Teacher), G. Wilkinson

Back Row Twelve Boys with Mr Barley: - R. Ayton, P. Ayton, G. Barker, W. Jaques, B. Ward, F. Wilkinson, W. Lamb, J. Claxton, F. Gavagan, Reg Auton, V. Barley and father Mr Barley

Second Row from the back - 16 girls and boy standing: - D. Halliday, Hutchinson, Parker, Bumby, R. Allenby, M. Robinson, Wilkinson, C. Halliday, C. Humphries, Atkinson, A. Hudson, Calvert Yeats, Hutchinson, Barningham, Ward, Boy -Allenby

Third Row from back - one boy with dog, 18 girls kneeling and lady standing: - G. Jaques, N. Ellis, xxx, D. Ellis, M. Horner, B. Auton, Reynard, Parker, xxx, Reynard, A. Yeats, L. Auton, L. Bowman, E. Ward, xxx, F. Bowman, Dolphin, Dolphin, R. Dunning, Mrs. Barley.

Fourth Row from back - 16 kneeling : - Hutchinson, H. Halliday, Allenby, Calvert, Dawney, W. Ward, C. Walton, D. Jennings, R. Barley, J. Hudson, C. Lamb, M. Lynch, E. Suffield, xxx, M. Halliday, L. Bentall

Front Row, nine Sitting at the front: - Dawnay, G. Hewinson, R. Renard, Dawney, M. Jennings, N. Kilvington, Lynch, xxx, Dawney

(Note : xxx means name not known)

Ph 2.24

Ph 2.25 Topcliffe School, Long Street in about 1924



Left to Right:

Back Row: Glynn Burton, Albert Wintersgill, Oliver Edmonson, Fred Walker, Arthur Kinghorn, Basil Pullen, Archie Hudson, Tom Lynch

Middle Row: Violet Appleton, Lena Dodsworth, John Townsend, Mary Thompson, Fred Kay, Gladys Wood, Jessie Sanderson, Gladys Bird

Front Row: Mary Almack, Alice Edmonson, K.E. XXX, Ralph Allenby, Grace Bowman, George Allanby, Phyllis Appleton, Fred Bowman, Billy Brown, Jessie Allinson

who owned some land behind East Lea. After school at night they marked out a circle and built up turf to make a sandpit. Mr Ward Hudson also made some swings and a seesaw.

In June 1934 there were only 20 children present out of a roll of 88. There was a measles epidemic. On the 25th January 1936 the school closed again, this time for the funeral of His Late Majesty King George V.

Electric lighting made its appearance in September 1936. Then the Second World War began to make an impact, even before it started. In September 1938 every child was issued with a gas mask and was shown how to use it. In September 1939 the school took 34 evacuees from Gateshead with their teacher, Miss Mary Randall and then another ten from Sunderland along with their teacher Miss Mary Bell. This boosted the numbers at the school up to 138

Ph 2.26 Children who took part in the Coronation Sports on May 24th 1937. They were postponed from May 12th because of the rain.



With the compliments of the Rev. ~~CANON~~ ROWSELL, Treasurer.

TOPCLIFFE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS towards its maintenance for the year from July 1st, 1899, to June 30th, 1900.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
*Lord Leconfield	25	0	0	Brought forwd.	£38	1	0	Brought forwd.	£55	18	6
Dean and Chapter of York	6	0	0	Dresser, Mr. I.	0	2	0	Mennell, Mr. F.	0	2	6
Atkinson, Mr. J. J.	0	5	0	Durham, Mr. J.	2	0	0	Milburn, Mr. T.	0	2	6
Barker, Mr. F.	0	2	6	Durham Legacy—				Mitchell, Mr. T.			
Barker, Mr. T. J.	1	0	0	Feoffees	3	17	0	Carter	1	0	0
Barker, Mr. J.				Edmondson, Mr. T.	0	1	0	Parker, Mr. Joseph	0	15	0
(Asenby)	0	2	6	Ellis, Mr. W.	0	1	6	Paxton, Mrs. F.	0	2	6
Barker, Mr. J.				Ferns, Mrs. Percy	2	0	0	Rayner, Mr.	1	10	0
(Asenby Inn)	0	5	0	Fox, Mr.	0	1	0	Rooke, Mr. J.	1	0	0
Barker, Mr. J.	0	2	6	Garbutt, Mr.	0	5	0	Rowell, Rev Canon†	4	0	0
Benthall, Mr. H.	0	2	0	Gill, Mr. J., senr.	0	5	0	Scaife, Mr. J.	0	2	6
Bowman, Mr. R.	0	2	6	Gill, Mr. J., junr.	0	2	6	Sigsworth, Mr. M.	0	10	0
Brown, Mr. C.	0	2	6	Gill, Miss	0	2	6	Sturdy, Mrs. S.	0	2	6
Buck, Mr. T.	0	2	0	Grainger, Mr.	0	1	0	Sturdy, Mr. F.	0	5	0
Buck, Mr. G.	0	2	0	Halliday, Mr. J.	0	2	6	Stringer, Mr. J.	0	1	0
Buckle, Mr. R.	0	2	0	Hawking, Mr. W. H.	1	0	0	Sumner, Mr.	0	10	0
Bumby, Mr. T.	0	5	0	Hawksby, Mr. J.	0	2	0	Thompson, Mr. R.	0	1	0
Calvert, Mr. Moses	0	2	6	Hayton, Mr. P.	0	1	6	Wain, Mr. J.	0	2	6
Calvert, Mr. Matt.	0	2	6	Holgate, Mr. A.	1	0	0	Walker, Mr. T. G.	3	0	0
Clarke, Mr. G.	0	10	0	Hopley, Mr. W.	0	2	0	Weatherill, Miss.	0	5	0
Claxton, Mr. H.	0	2	6	Hudson, Mr. J.	0	10	0	Weatherill, Mr. C.	0	2	6
Coates, Mr. J.	0	10	0	Hudson, Mr. R.	0	2	6	Weatherill, Mr. J.	0	3	0
Coates, Mr. G.	0	5	0	Jackson—Mrs.	1	5	0	Wilkinson, Mr. E.	0	10	0
Cooper, Mr. F.	0	5	0	Jackson, Mr. J. M.	2	0	0	Wood, Mr. T.	0	5	0
Collinson, Mr.	0	2	0	Jackson, Mr. E. H.	1	0	0	Wood, Mr. J.	0	2	0
Creyke, Mr. T.	1	0	0	Jaques, Mr. W.	0	2	6	Wright, Mr. Z.	0	5	0
Creyke, Mr. J.	0	10	0	Jennings, Mr. D.	0	5	0	Yates, Mrs.	0	2	6
Dickenson, Mr. B.	0	10	0	Jennings, Mr. W.	0	2	6	Yates, Mr.	0	1	0
Dresser, Mr. E.	0	6	0	Kirk, Mr. D.	0	2	6				
				Lambert, Mr. G.	0	1	0				
				Lister, Mr. J.	1	0	0				
Carried forwd.	£38	1	0	Carried forwd.	£55	18	6				

N.B. *Lord Leconfield also gives an annual subscription of £3 towards the Sunday School.

† This includes £1 to the Day School Prize Fund.

Account of the Income and Expenditure of the Topcliffe National School for the year ending June 30th, 1900. Treasurer—Rev. Canon Rowsell.

To	£	s.	d.	By	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, July 1, 1899	11	8	4	Salaries of Teachers	219	14	3
Annual Grant from Board of Education	104	2	0	Books and Stationery	5	1	8
Fee Grant	57	15	0	Apparatus, Furniture, and Cleaning	27	10	7
Aid Grant	25	0	0	Fuel and Light	10	5	4
Voluntary subscriptions	71	1	6	Rent, Rates, &c.	9	4	0
Payments for use of School.	1	2	0	Collecting subscriptions	0	10	0
Balance due to Treasurer, July 1st, 1900	3	7	10	Advertizing for Teacher, and expenses	1	0	10
				Diocesan Inspection Fee	0	10	0
Total..	£273	16	8.	Total..	£273	16	8

Examined and found correct.

June 27th, 1900.

R. T. TENNANT, Bank Manager.



Ph 2.26.1 Topcliffe School 1940 (Left to right)

Back row:- 1. Mr W Burton, 2.Christine Lax ?, 3.Evelyn Storey, 4.Kathleen Rayner, 5.Marjorie Hullah, 6. Rita Yeadon, 7. Xxxxx

Standing behind middle:-1. Tom Smirthwaite, 2. Marjorie Martin, 3. Joe North, 4. Alice North, 5. Dorothy Watson, 6. Thelma Robinson, 7. Xxxx, 8. Xxxx, 9. Laura Rayner,, 10. Dorothy Fall, 11. Annie Rayner, 12. Peggy Smirthwaite, 13. Noel 'Snowball' Jackson, 14. Cecil Fletcher

Seated in the middle:-1. Xxxxx. 2. Nora Allenby, 3. Clifton, 4. Sylvia Hoyle ?, 5. Carrie Gavigan, 6. Miriam Burns, 7. Alice Burns, 8. Xxxxx, 9.Xxxxx, 10. Ruth Pollington, 11. Xxxxx, 12. Ellis.

Kneeling behind front row:-1. Mary Jaques, 2. Bernard Yeadon, 3.Ernest Chapman, 4. Lawrence Allenby, 5. Xxxx, 6. Laura Gavigan, 7. Greta Gavigan, 8. Jim Burns, 9. Joe Hayton, 10. Horace Webster, 11.Ben Chapman, 12. Alan Scholes, 13. Jean Brown

Front seated:1. Xxxxx, 2. Wilfred Allenby, 3. Mary Myatt, 4. Marjorie Brown, 5. Joseph Burns, 6. Mary Burns, 7. Barbara Jaques, 8. .Marjorie Jaques, 9. Xxxxxx.

It may be interesting to compare the accounts on the opposite page, which are for **1899** with those for the year **1998/1999** which were published in the school's Annual Report to parents.

		£
Funds available:	From LEA	208,685
	Sales/receipts	<u>1,347</u>
	Total Income	<u>210,032</u>
Spent on:	Teaching staff	127,026
	Support staff	36,789
	Premises	17,525
	Supplies/services	15,728
	Other	<u>899</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>197,967</u>

The functions of the present Governing Body include:-

- Planning and management of the budget
- Appointment and appraisal of staff
- Curriculum and development planning
- Admissions, enrolment and transfers
- Buildings and grounds maintenance
- Implementation of statutes (e.g. Health and Safety at Work Act)
- School Uniform
- Numerous other responsibilities from safety to drains and from salaries to sex education

Ph 2.27 Topcliffe School in Long Street in about 1930.

Mr Wilfrid Burton is far right.



children. Over the next year the numbers of evacuees drifted down but were boosted again in July 1940 by another influx of 32 pupils from Gateshead. The numbers slowly drifted down again, but it wasn't until

April 1943 that the last two evacuees left Topcliffe.

One morning during the war in 1942 Mr Burton noticed a car in the playground which should not have

Ph 2.28 Topcliffe School in Long Street in about 1930.

The effect of the depression years are evident





Ph 2.29 Gas mask drill at Topcliffe, 1940. Mr Wilfrid Burton shows his pupils how to put on and use their gas masks. The cardboard cases slung around their necks were a standard issue.

been there. Enquiries revealed that it belonged to a special constable who had been at a lecture in the school the previous evening. The lecture had been on Tommy Guns and a gun had gone off shooting the

constable in the leg. It was not to be the only accidental shooting. Later that same year, in December, whilst having instructions on service rifles Mr Burton himself was accidentally shot and taken to

Ph 2.30 Wartime classes at Topcliffe School. The classes were swollen by evacuee children.



LIST OF SCHOOL HEADTEACHERS

Old Grammar School

Pre 1519	Probably John Fox	
1674	Mr Bovill B.A.	15 years
1689	John Raper B.A.	6 years
1695	Edmond Withers B.A.	2 years
1697	William Morley B.A.	9 years
1706	Jacob Tyreman B.A.	14 years
1720	William Peacock	36 years
1756	Rev. James Scroggs	10 years
1766	Rev. Joseph Fisher	Failed to start
1766	Rev. Marm Johnson	1 year
1767	Rev. Richard Ramshaw	42 years?
April 1809	William Bell	13 years
Nov 1822	Chancellor Gibson	26 years
June 1848	Longbottom Barraclough	7 years
Oct. 1855	Anthony Halliday	23 years
Nov. 1878	Samuel Arnott	18 years
August 31st 1896	School Closed	

School on Long Street

1892	Mr Hildyard	30 Years
1922	Mr W. G. Burton	23 Years
1945	Mr E. Burke	8 Years
1953	Mrs G. Bird deputised for 4 months	
1953	Mr L. J. Moore Peripetetic Head	3 m
1953	Mrs Hepburn (Teacher in Charge)	2 m
1954	Mr R. C. Snow	3 Years
1957	Miss Endersby	3½ Years
1960	Mr W.C. Armstrong	6 months
1961	Mrs G. Holmes	8 years

6 July 1966 Transfer to New School on Station Rd

(Mrs Holmes transferred with the school)

1969	Mr W. H. Ramsey	6 years
1975	Mrs B. Barton deputised for 2 years	
1977	Mr A. Woodhouse	4 years
1981	Mrs V. Robson	9 months
1982	Mr Ralph Hindmarch	18 years
2000		

Catterick Military Hospital for two weeks.

Virtually everything that happened in the village had to go on in the school as there was then no village hall. Indeed these events, like dances, which happened every week during the war, interfered with the running of the school and rather frustrated Mr Burton as all the desks had to be piled outside in the schoolyard.

One Whitsun whilst staying in Saltburn he came across a hut, an artists studio, which was for sale. He

decided it would make a good hall, came back to Topcliffe and had a chat with some farmers to raise the money for it, bought it, and moved it to Topcliffe. It was sited in Dean's Square behind Sunnyside. This is where the village whist drives took place and eventually also the British Legion had their meetings there.

In February 1945 Mr Burton was having a struggle to stay on his feet and shortly afterwards Mrs Kathleen Howe took charge for a short period. When the war

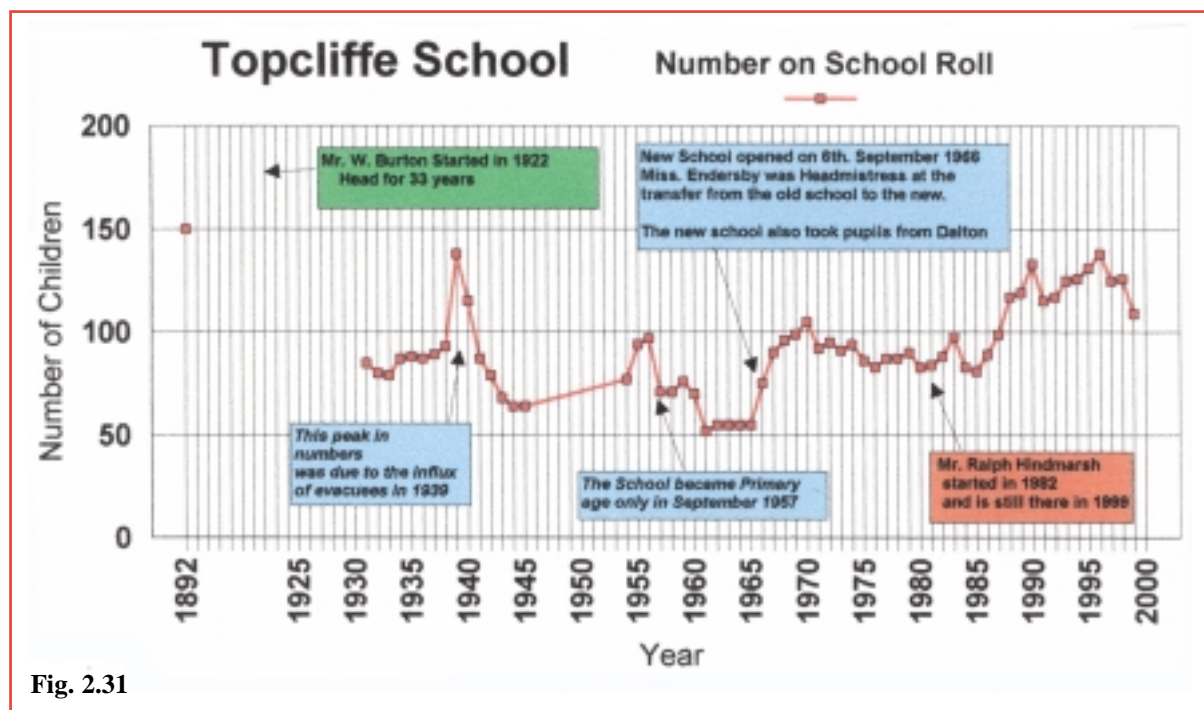


Fig. 2.31



Topcliffe Primary School - 1998 Names from left to right

Back Row : Greg Watson, Steven Metcalf, Gabriella Ault, Ben Hook, Matthew Sanderson, Hayley Ogden, Mrs M. Whitaker, Mrs S. Bird, Mrs J. King, Mr T. R. Hindmarch, Mrs S. Jackson, Mrs C. Turner, Mrs L. Fairburn, Helen Carter, Christopher Brough, Andrew Trueman, Lisa Daniel, Vincent Hooker, Ross Mackenzie.

5th Row : Samantha Finn, Alice Turner, Terri Heath, Katie Agnew, Andrew Carre, Adam Gill, Jonathan Mozley, David Smith, Aimee Waite, Jacqueline Parvin, Stephanie Monaghan, Rachel Walker, Lucy Cleaver, Kelly Wilcox, Matthew Kane, Joseph Stevens, Fiona Greenwood, Kelly Roberts, Emma Walburn, Emma Martin, Rosannah Waite, Rebecca Brown.

4th Row : Holly MacKenzie, Simon Lawley, Carina Mayne, Jonathan Bennett, Michael Cobb, Ruth Graham, Joanna Waite, Faye Green, Andee Williams, Michael Watson, Dean Watson, Blake Halliday, Terry Hovvels, Michael Martin, Michael Walker, Lauren Searl, William Paterson, Graeme Smith, Andrew Brough, Rebecca Ogden, Thomas Monaghan, Thomas Waite, Luke Barrett.

3rd Row : Liam Tinkler, Ben Clarke, Daniel Lawson, Simon Dean, Samuel Sanderson, Marcus Hooker, James Trenholme, Matthew Lawley, Max Clarke, Michelle Stockhill, Hannah Lonie, Samantha Thomas, Claudia Andresco, Tanya Hobson, Matthew Sanderson, Tony Hovvels, Michael Carre, Christopher Agnew, Jamie Laws, Thomas Daniel, Andrew Clayton, Tommy Mayville, Jamie Lawley, Edward Kellett, William Lee.

2nd Row: Catherine Trueman, Hollie Maw, Eleanor Hawkesworth, Amy Bennett, Amy Charles, Imogen Shaw, Lucy Waite, Heather Green, Charlotte Wiggins, Sorrel Dean, Chloe Richardson, Kelly Brown, Samantha Mayes, Olivia Driffield, Jessica Laws, Sarah Smith, Emily Poulter, Vicki Denton, Hannah Ogden, Ashleigh Smith, Heather Mozley, Jessica Swiers, Connie Searl.

Seated on the Ground : Adam Hobson, Daniel Butterworth, Sebastian Addison, Vincent Mayville, David Clayton, Jonathon Barton, Adam Carling, Joshua Ovington, Michael Brown, Daniel Mayes, Jordan Lee, Rhys Kirby, Christopher Simpson, Nicholas Kane, James Denton, Samuel Kirby, Jordan Ault, Nicholas Agnew.

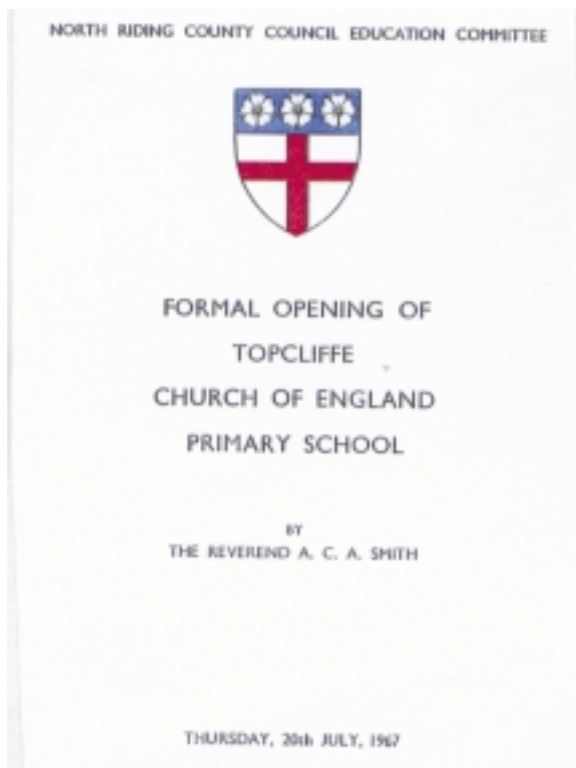
Ph 2.32

ended the school log notes

"School closed for two days Victory Celebrations - End of War in Europe"

In September 1945 Mr Burke took up duties as head, staying for 8 years. During his stay the school came into the modern world when flush toilets were fitted in 1950. During 1951, as part of the Festival of Britain celebrations, two trees were planted outside the school. In 1953 Mr Burke was taken ill and died while he was on sick leave.

When Mr Snow came in January 1954, the school was still an all age school. He left in April 1957 to go to a school in South Bank, Middlesbrough and Miss Endersby took over, first as acting head and then she was appointed head in May. From the start of the next school year in September 1957 all children over 11 started attending the Thirsk School. Prior to this all those children who did not pass the 11 Plus (the Scholarship) stayed at the village school.



From September 1957, the village school became a primary school only. Miss Endersby continued as head until 1960. A temporary head, Mr Armstrong, filled in for six months until Mrs G Holmes arrived in 1961. She was to be head until this school finally closed in July 1966. She transferred, with the school, to the new primary school on Station Road. It opened on the 6th September, but the first few days were obviously pretty fraught, as the desks, for the infants, did not arrive until the 8th.

The new school also took pupils from Dalton. When the new primary school opened it was nearly another year before the school was formally opened.

Mrs Burke stayed until 1969, completing eight years before the headship was taken over in 1969 by Mr Ramsay. There is a rather intriguing entry in the school log for July of 1969:

- "Informed by workman that new classroom is being built the wrong way round and will have to be re-built. Apparently it started with the drains being put down in the wrong place"

Mr Ramsey was to stay for 6 years before he became



The Class of 1999 ; Class No. 1 , Topcliffe School

Left to right

Back Row : Mrs S. Bird, Edward Kay, Richard Butcher, Mrs S. Jackson, Daniel Swiers, Peter Wiggins, Charlotte Till (Student)

Middle Row : Daniel Butterworth, Jason Hope, Jack Sherwood, Sophie Heath, Phillipa Barr, Jonathan Barton
Jordan Ault, Sebastian Addison

Front Row : Olivia Driffield, Samantha Mayes, Laura Clayton, Stephanie Waby, Polly Ovington, Nichola Lawson,
Emma Radford

Seated on the Ground : Daniel Pogue.

Ph 2.33

Governors of Topcliffe Primary School in 1999

Mrs J. Graham York Diocesan Board of Education
Mrs C. Sturdy York Diocesan Board of Education
Mrs J. B. Hook Local Education Authority
(Chairman)

Mr A. E. Bruce Local Education Authority
Mrs F. Dean Local Education Authority
Mrs S. E. Jackson Teacher Governor
Mr F. Tye Minor Authority
(Vice Chairman)

Mrs P. Sanderson Parent Governor
Mrs J. Waby Parent Governor
Mrs L. Addison Parent Governor
Mrs G. Bell Parent Governor
Mr T. R. Hindmarch Headteacher Governor

Clerk to the Governors, Mrs P Mozley

1982. Mr Hindmarch is still at the school nearly eighteen years later.

In sports the school teams have scored some notable successes. In 1985 the swimming team were the Yorkshire Bank North Region Champions and in 1996

Topcliffe School Staff in 1999

Ralph Hindmarch	Headteacher
Mrs Sue Jackson	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Joyce King	Teacher
Mrs Linda Fairburn	Teacher
Mrs M. Whitaker	Secretary
Mrs Angela Houston	Cook
Mrs Gill	Assistant Cook
Mrs Sheila Bird	Pupil Support Assistant & Mid-day Supervisor
Mrs Helen Trueman	PSA & MSA
Ms Roberts	Mid day Supervisor
George Rose	Caretaker
Number of Children	110

ill. He was off school for a long time, eventually resigning the post shortly before he died. Mr Woodhouse came next. It was during his term at the school that the by-pass finally came to Topcliffe and they celebrated by taking a group of children to its opening on 29th September 1977. After being head for 4 years he left and Mr Ralph Hindmarch came in

the football team were County Champions and represented the County at Chester (but unfortunately lost to the eventual Northern Area winners, Merseyside). In 1998 the school had its first all girls football team which played Sowerby school.



Topcliffe School's first all girls football team 1998.

Left to right at the Back: R Walker, G Ault, L Simpson, S. Monaghan, E Walburn
At the front R Graham, L Daniel, K Roberts

Ph 2.34



The 1996 County Football Champion's from Topcliffe School

Left to right at the back: David Young, Jamie Briggs, Mr T. R. Hindmarch, Stuart Davies, Andrew Watson

Seated on the chairs: Mark Cobb, Greg Watson, Matthew Thomas, Chris Moores, Tom Barnett,

Jason Brown, Andrew Graham

Seated on the ground: Matthew Brown

Ph 2.35

Ph 2.36 Topcliffe Primary School 1999



The Poor Law Act of

1601 created the Offices of Overseer of the Poor and Churchwarden. Both were to be elected annually from the better off householders of the Parish. Their election, together with that of the constable, took place each year at the Easter Vestry meeting. Every parish was a self-governing body and was responsible for its own poor people and all the money needed to care for the poor had to be raised locally. It was collected by means of the Poor Rate. This system lasted until 1834 when the Poor Law Unions were created.

From Disbursements of Overseer of the Poor

May 15th 1779 To going to Thirsk to enquire about a nurse for Ann Carpenter's child...1/-
Weaning the same child.....1/6

During the period of 230 years, when the system was in operation, it developed a very comprehensive system of looking after and regulating the poor. A whole range of documents was also developed to support the system. Some of these can be seen in Topcliffe's old parish documents, many of which have been deposited in the County Archive. This section of the book tries to give some examples of the work that went on in the parish, both to look after our own poor and to ensure that the parish rate did not pay for the poor of other parishes.

In 1662 the first Settlement Law allowed any stranger to be removed from a parish, if he did not pay at least

From Disbursements of Overseer of the Poor

Dec. 13th 1788 1 pair of shoes for Carters
Child....1/3
Jan. 24th 1789 Expenses at Thos Hambleton's
funeral & coffin....7/-

£10 in rent. Temporary visitors had to provide a certificate from their own parish, which confirmed that they would be received back again. A later act, of 1691, laid down the various ways in which settlement could be gained and from 1697, poor people could move to a new parish provided they took a Settlement Certificate with them. An example of a settlement Certificate is given on the following page.

The Settlement Certificate was therefore a very important document. It was issued by the overseers and the churchwardens, but the parishioners also had a say in who was granted a certificate. As it was the parishioners who actually paid the poor rate, it is not

surprising that they should have a say in deciding who might be eligible to make a future claim for relief against the parish.

From the Accounts of the Overseer of the Poor

Total Receipts for the Year 1788/89 including rates and cash carried forward were £85. 13. 73/4

Total Disbursements were £ 72. 09. 101/2

The parish named on the certificate is not necessarily the place of birth because people could legitimately move and obtain a new Settlement Certificate in a different place. One of the ways in which this often happened was through apprenticeship. A large number of poor children were found apprenticeships by the parish officers. Many were orphans and very young. Provided that they served for forty days, apprentices gained legal settlement in the parish in which their master was registered. An example of an apprentice

From Disbursements of Overseer of the Poor

Feb. 15th 1789 Going to Knaresboro for a copy of the Marriage Lines of Chris Banks with his first wife, Horse hire and expences ... 5/-

Indenture is given. The apprentice lived with his master throughout his apprenticeship and the apprenticeship could only be cancelled by agreement of all parties. Masters were chosen by the parish officers or by ballot but in some parishes the inhabitants simply took turns to take an apprentice. Two Indentures were made out on one piece of paper and signed by the overseer, churchwarden, the master and two Justices of the Peace. The paper was then cut in half in such a way that they matched perfectly.

In 1722 an Act of Parliament gave workhouses a formal place in poor law, though in some places they existed before that. It permitted parishes to buy, rent or build a workhouse so that they could receive the benefit of the work, labour and services of the inmates. Sometimes the responsibility was "farmed" out and a contract was made with a "farmer" to manage the house. This was the case in Topcliffe. It was farmed from its inception until the establishment of the Thirsk Union.

In 1782 a meeting of owners and occupiers agreed that ... *"the poor is become expensive and burthensome,*

The following pages are copies as follows:

Page 68 Settlement Certificate
Page 69 Indenture of Apprenticeship
Page 70 Bastardy Certificate

Pages 71 to 73...John Wayne's Agreement with the churchwardens including Joseph Dresser, John Fall Junior, William Kidson and Francis Moyser

To all whom these may concern.

North Riding
Yorkshire

To wit. WE the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Topcliffe in the said County

do hereby own and acknowledge, That William Allan Taylor
is an Inhabitant, legally settled, in our said Parish
Witness our Hands and Seals, this 23 Day of June
in the Year of our Lord, 1734

Churchwardens { Fran^{ts} Maywet
Will Cropland

Signed and Sealed in the Presence of us
who have hereunder Subscribed our
Names as Witnesses.

Joseph Deeper

John Jackson

George Walbran

Luke Plummer

North Riding

Yorkshire

To wit. WE two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the said

do allow, of the above-written Certificate. And we do also Certify,
That Joseph Deeper one of the
Witnesses to the said Certificate, hath made Oath before us, that
he did see the said Churchwardens and
Overseers whose Names and Seals are to the said
Certificate subscribed and set, severally Sign and Seal the said
Certificate; And that the Names of him the said Joseph
Deeper Subscribed as one of the Witnesses, and of John
Jackson the other Witness, attesting the said Certificate,
are of their own proper Hand-writing, respectively. Given un-
der our Hands, this 26th Day of June in the Year of
our Lord, 1734

W. Graham

P. Gaultier

Day of *July* - in the Year of our Lord 1827 BETWEEN *Thomas Durham*

and Joseph Green Thomas Wallman and George Swales Overseers
of the Poor of the Township of Popeliff
in the said Riding and John Long
a poor Child of the said Township of Popeliff on the one
Part and John Sawcitt of Shire in the
said Riding Brichlenger on the other
other part WITNESSETH That the said Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor
HAVE, in pursuance of an Order under the Hands of William Deane Clerk

Justice of the peace for the bearing Date the thirtieth Day of July 1827 and also by and with the consent, Allowance, and Approbation of two of the said Justices of the Peace, put, placed, and bound the said John Long as an Apprentice to and with the said John Farnett with him to dwell and remain from the Day of the Date hereof, until the said Apprentice shall attain the age of Twenty one Years according to the Form of the Statute in that Case made and provided. During all which said Term the said Apprentice his said Master - well and truly shall serve his Secrets shall keep, his Commands (being lawful and honest) at all times willingly shall perform; and in all Things, as a good and faithful servant, shall demean him self towards his said Master and all his family. And the said John Farnett for himself, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, doth Covenant, Promise and agree to and with the said Church-Wardens, Overseers, and his said Apprentice, that he will educate and bring him up in some honest and lawfull calling and in the fear of God.

And the said John Sawcett — for him self, his Executors and Administrators doth further Covenant, Promise, and Agree, to and with the said Church-Wardens, Overseers, and his said Apprentice, that he the said John Sawcett —

will find, provide for and allow unto *z*: said Apprentice sufficient wholesome and competent Meat, Drink, Washing, Lodging, Apparel and all other Necessaries, meet for such an Apprentice during all the said Term.

Provided always that the said last mentioned Covenant on the part of the said John Sawcitt — his Executors and Administrators to be done and performed shall continue and be in force for no longer time than for three Calendar Months next after the Death of the said John Sawcitt — in case he the said John Sawcitt — shall happen to die during the continuance of such Apprenticeship, according to the Provisions of an Act passed in the thirty-second Year of the Reign of King George the Third, intituled, "An Act for the further regulation of Parish Apprentices."

In WITNESS whereof the said Parties to these Presents have hitherto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals the Day and Year first above written.

Approved and allowed by us, two of H. Majors's
Justices of the Peace for the said ~~County~~
as witness our Hands and Seals.

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }

Chas. F. W. 1882

Edw. A. Ripley

PR/TOR = 15/6

John D. Ham

Di. Duff

James Sullivan

Sp. Swales.

The mark of
 a ~~+~~

Long
Law

PR



e

Know all Men by these presents that we Richard Sanfield
of Spelcliffe in the County of York Labourer and William
Sanfield of Sandhutton in the said County Cartwright are held
and firmly Bound unto William Maltman Church warden and John
Hall and Joseph Pryor overseers of the poor of the Township
of Spelcliffe in the said County in the Sum of One Hundred
Pounds of Lawful Money of Great Britain in Full for the
inhabitants of the said Township. To be paid to the said William
Maltman John Hall and Joseph Pryor their Executors administrators
or assigns To which payment well and truly to be made we bind
ourselves and each of us jointly and severally for the whole, our
and each of our Heirs Executors and administrators firmly by
these presents sealed with our Seals Dated this Twelfth day
of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred
and Ninety three.

Whereas Mary Wilson of Spelcliffe aforesaid Single Woman hath
Declared that she is with Child that the same is likely to be born a
Bastard and to be chargeable to the said Township of Spelcliffe and that
the said Richard Sanfield is the Father of the said Child And Whereas
the said Richard Sanfield and William Sanfield have agreed with the
above Named Church warden and overseers of the poor to pay unto them
the Sum of One Guinea for the Month she the said Mary Wilson shall
be delivered and the further Sum of One shilling a week for and during
the Term of Ten years to be computed from the End of the Month she the
said Mary Wilson shall be delivered in as aforesaid The Condition
thereof of this Obligation is such that if the above bounden Richard Sanfield
and William Sanfield or either of them their or either of their Heirs Executors
or administrators do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid
unto the said William Maltman John Hall and Joseph Pryor or their
successors for the time being the Sum of One Guinea of Lawful Money
of Great Britain for the Month she the said Mary Wilson shall be delivered
in as aforesaid And also the weekly Sum of One shilling upon Monday
in every week for and during the Term of Ten years the first of which
weekly payments to be computed from and take place at the End of
the Month she the said Mary Wilson shall be delivered in as aforesaid

PR/TOP 3/4/16

Then this obligation to be void and of no effect otherwise to remain in full force and virtue And it is hereby agreed by the said William Walbran John Fall and Joseph Dwyer that the said sum of One Guinea and such weekly sum as aforesaid shall be in full discharge of the Maintenance and bringing up of the said Child and all Costs Charges and expenses relating therewith or wherewith the said Richard Sanfield and William Sanfield or either of them can shall or may be charged - - -

and Sealed and delivered
first only stamped
in presence of —
W. Walker

Richard Sanfield

Wm Sanfield

William Walbran

John Fall

Joseph Dwyer

Memorandum of an agreement between the Church
warden and Overseers of the Poor of the Township of
Tophcliffe of the one party & John Wayne who is now
Master of the Poorhouse of the said Township of the
Other Party which Agreement is for the future Care
and Management of such Poor as may from time to
time be sent to the said Poorhouse by the Churchwarden
or Overseers for the time being. And upon the terms as
Follows. Viz. He the said John Wayne and his Family is
to have the Liberty to Live in the Poorhouse Rent free
and to have ~~£10 per Year Allowed for Coal & as~~
~~more than three Persons but if Four or more than~~
~~£10 Allowed~~ And to be Paid by the Overseers of the
Township To have all Beds Bedding Bedsteads
and wearing Apparel that is or may be wanted
for the use of the Poor with all Repairs of the House
and Outhousing windows &c. and also Turnice Tables
(and Chairs in the Poor apartments all provided &
kept up at the Expence of the Township but as to
all other small Utensils as may be wanted with
Fire Kindling He the said John Wayne to Provide
them at his own Expence but for which he is to have a
Recompence of one Pound in the Year paid him at every
Years End And for every Poor Person that come under his
Care he is to Provide good and wholesome Victualling for
them such as Bread made from Maslin Corn about Half
wheat Milk Milk & Oatmeal or Broth for Breakfast
& Suppers and Flesh soups twice in the Week the one
on Sundays and the other as most convenient and the
other Days to have something warm to Dinner if
Possible Especially in Cold weather and to keep them

PR 100 7/11

Clean & Decent, by washing & mending for them that
cannot do for themselves their shirts, Shifts, Stockings &c.
and find Thread and Yarn for the same at 4. 8 p. Week
for each Person that shall come under his care But he
to have the Benefit of employing them in any business
that he finds them most Capable of Performing only
and Except that out of every Shilling that each of them
shall so earn he is to allow them two pence for their
Encouragement and for every woman that is sent
thither with Child and stays in there he is to be All
owed 10 for the first Month and if the Child and Mother
both live after the Month they are then to be at the same
Rate as any other two Persons are but Provide the
Mother should Die or Otherwise leave the Child
Before it is one Year Old then He the said
~~John Wayne~~ ^{John Wayne} is not meant to be Oblig'd to keep such
Child without a further Consideration for that Purpose and
when any Poor Person happens to be so ill that they cannot
take such like food as is Provided for the Rest of the
Family then in such case a little Tea or other light Victuals
is to be Provided for them And when any of the said
Poor shall Die the Overseers is to be acquainted and they
are to Order and Provide all necessities needful and pay all
Reasonable expences attending such Funeral and as soon as
Convenient to all Parties after the Funeral is over the
Keeper is to give a just account to the Overseers of all
Cloathes or any other Article that belonged to such Person
in order that they may Dispose of them as they shall
think proper He the said John Wayne is to have the sole use
and Benefit of the Close call'd Poor Close and also of the
Coshouse therein at the yearly Rent of 3 to be Paid to the

To the Overseers at two Equal Payments as the same has
 become Due Viz. At Michaelmas and Ladyday Old Style. The
 whole of this Agreement to Commence at Old Ladyday Next
 and to Continue for one Year & so on from Year to Year
 Except either of the Parties Viz. Either the Township
 or the Poor shall think themselves aggrieved and
 in such Case the aggrieved Party is to give three Months
 Notice in writing before the End of any of the said Years
 to the other Party whenever it may happen to be of such
 their Intention to exchange or have a further Agree-
 ment and such Notice as also other things and Matters
 herein before Mentioned is looked upon as binding to
 all Parties In witness thereof we have hereunto Subscribed
 our Names this 24th Day of February - - -
 One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Nine.

It is Agreed That the Duty produced upon the
 Premises viz. the House and Field,
 to be laid upon the Poor Close, and
 the said John Wayne to give up the
 Poor House he now possesses into
 the Hands of the Overseers of the Poor
 of Topcliff, when he enters upon
 the said Workhouse.

John Fall Secy. The Master of John Wayne
 William Holman Richd. Chumshurst
 Richard Hudson Joseph Dupuy Churchwarden
 John Fall Junr. Overseers
 John Hey
 Int. Weaver
 William Hudson
 Isaac Moyer

Therefore at a meeting held this 14th day of May 1782 according to due notice given, We the inhabitants as are undermentioned being a majority within the said Township of Topcliffe do Unanimously resolve and agree that Establishing a workhouse will be of general utility for the Employment and Maintenance of the said poor within the Township aforesaid. And we do hereby adjudge invest and give full Liberty and Authority to John Fall the younger, Churchwarden, Mr Thomas Eeles and Joseph Dresser Overseers of the poor in the said Township of Topcliffe to Act and pursue such steps as they shall think most expedient and necessary for that purpose build and we do hereby further agree and impose the said. John Fall the younger as aforesaid Churchwarden, Mr Thomas Eeles and Joseph Dresser Overseers of the Poor or their successors to collect such sum or sums of money by assessmen or as shall be required for the uses aforesaid."

The terms workhouse and poorhouse tended to be used to mean the same thing. The poorhouse in Topcliffe was in Dean's Square, just behind where Sunnyview now stands. It can be seen on the 1838 Tithe map. (See Chapter 3)

The capacity of the Topcliffe poorhouse was about 30 persons and the first agreement to manage the house was dated August 3rd 1782. The agreement was with Thomas Smith of Bagby. He was followed by John

An item from Topcliffe Church Vestry minutes of 28th June 1837

"... resolved that the Parish Hearse be allowed free of charge to bring the bodies of the deceased paupers from the respective work houses belonging to the poor law unions."

Wayne of Topcliffe in 1789 and James Meynell in 1819, for a further 12 years. It is interesting to note that John Wayne's signature is just a cross. In 1831 an agreement was signed with Robert Wright to do the job and the last manager was appointed in 1835 for the short time until the Thirsk Union was established in 1837.

The poorhouse diet was planned to be basically the same as that which an independant labourer could afford. John Waine agreed in 1789 to provide for every pauper ... "Good wholesome victualling such as bread made from maslin corn about half wheat, milk, milk and oatmeal or broth for breakfast and

suppers, and flesh twice in the week, once on Sundays and the other as most convenient and the other days to have something warm to dinner especially in cold weather . . ."

From the Receipts of Overseer of the Poor

April 4th 1789 By Goods sold belonging to the late Thos Hamilton14/-

Received from the Governor of the Asylum at York concerning J. Benson....10/4

The overseer of the poor had to deal with all these rules and regulations and administer the payments to the poor. In Topcliffe, there were also the Feoffees of the Poor, who looked after the charitable payments and donations made for the poor. These have been dealt with more fully earlier in this chapter.

The Act of 1834 established Poor Law Unions and subsequently the Thirsk Poor Law Union was created in February 1837. In time the Thirsk workhouse took over the responsibility for the whole area around, including Topcliffe.

The overseers often found that it was cheaper to pay the fare for a poor family to go to the "new world" of Canada or the Americas, rather than to keep paying for them in the poorhouse. In the middle of the 1800s North Yorkshire, as a whole, was a net exporter of people to the new world. So great were the numbers of people emigrating, that laws were brought in to stop the poor being exploited and in order to shift the burden of their keep elsewhere. Although the laws were designed to protect the poor, they were often applied in a bureaucratic way by the Commissioners . In 1843 two pauper families were to emigrate from Topcliffe. The funds were being provided jointly by a township subscription and an equal portion subscribed by the Lord of the Manor, Col. Wyndham. They ran foul of the stringency of these laws, which caused some difficulties with the Thirsk Union. This sort of difficulty often annoyed the local guardians and overseers as they were restricted in their actions by requiring agreement from the Commissioners before doing anything. Often one of the sticking points was that the sum of money subscribed was too small to support them in the new world. Nevertheless, the Topcliffe families had a happier ending, as they did eventually get away.

The Methodist Chapel

in Topcliffe was built in 1840 though, like the church, it had an earlier predecessor which was built in 1802.

It is possible that John Wesley passed through Topcliffe in the early years of his itinerancy. Sandhutton was one of his staging posts and he certainly made several visits to Thirsk. On one of these visits, he did not stay to preach but rode on to Boroughbridge, most probably via Topcliffe.

Another fairly safe assumption is that Methodism came to Topcliffe from Thirsk, which was the centre of an extensive Methodist circuit by about 1760.

It is certain that Topcliffe proved to be a fruitful ground for the first Methodist preachers sometime in the second half of the 18th century as the first chapel in Topcliffe was built in 1802 on the same site as the present chapel, in Church Street. Before this chapel was built, Methodist preaching would be done in the open air, in barns and the homes of the first Methodists.

The ground for the first chapel was bought for the sum of £140 from Henry Eeles of Northallerton by a deed dated 23rd July 1802 by William Stevens, Methodist minister, of Ripon and John Plummer of Topcliffe.

Methodism grew rapidly in the village, as evidenced by the fact that by 1835 the 1802 chapel was too small and the lay leaders had to think about a new solution. The solution was to demolish the 1802 chapel and some of the adjoining cottages and build a bigger,

more commodious chapel. A glance at the Tithe map of 1838 shows that at that time there was a cottage and shop on the Long Street side of the chapel occupied by Christopher Yeats but owned by Lord Leconfield and on the other side a cottage owned by Joseph Dresser, the miller, who was actually a Church Warden. There must have been a great deal of co-operation for the Methodists to have obtained this extra land out of the Lord of the Manor and a churchman.

Methodist Ministers

1802

1840

1940 - 1949	George Graham (Lay Pastor)
1950	Danvers Swales (Lay Pastor)
1951 - 1953	Fred Earl (Lay Pastor)
1954 - 1956	Jack Evison (Lay Pastor)
1957 - 1958	Charlie Dench (Lay Pastor)
1959 - 1960	William Crump (Lay Pastor)
1961 - 1963	Gordon Webster (Prob'n Minister)
1964 - 1965	J. Malolm Peters (Prob'n Minister)
1966 - 1967	Brian Edmundson (Prob'n Minister)
1968 - 1969	John Beech (Prob'n Minister)
1970 - 1973	Raymond Ball (Minister)
1974 - 1977	Trevor Grewcock (Prob'n Minister)
1978 - 1979	Philip Darnborough (Prob'n Minister)
1980 - 1981	Philip Atkinson (Prob'n Minister)
1982 - 1988	David Jackson (Minister)
1989 - 1991	Robert Ormisher (Minister)
1992 - 1995	Ron Hicks (Minister)
1996 - present	J. Neil Graham (Minister)

However it was achieved, the foundation stone for the present galleried chapel was laid by Mrs Dresser from Topcliffe Mill, on July 28th 1840 and the opening service took place on October 16th 1840. Over the



Ph 2.35 The first Methodist Chapel 1802



Ph 2.36 The present Chapel – photographed 1999

next hundred years, the life of the chapel would be marked by growing congregations, afternoon and evening services on Sundays, class meetings, prayer meetings and a Sunday School. To serve this, an extension was built to the north in 1882. It would seem that Methodism in Topcliffe remained largely undisturbed by the internal divisions in Wesleyan Methodism which occurred in many parts of England from 1797 to 1850.



The records of the National School, in Long Street, show that the Methodist Sunday School outings were enjoyed not only by those children who were Methodists, but also many of the others.

The life of the chapel in 1940 may be seen as typical of its activities from 1900 to 1950. On Sundays there was Sunday School at 10.00 am and 1.30 pm, with services at 2.00 pm and 6.30 pm. The evening service was preceded by a prayer meeting. The children at the

Ph 2.38 Methodist Chapel pulpit 1999



afternoon Sunday School stayed for all of the afternoon service. Congregations averaged between thirty and sixty five. It was said that the chapel was heated by “one of the biggest stoves in Methodism”.

On Monday evenings there was a prayer meeting and a young peoples' bible class. On Wednesdays a meeting of the Wesley Guild, or a preaching service and on Thursday evenings the class meeting. There were also evangelistic missions, from time to time. The last of these, in the early 1950s, brought the chapel to the brink of a revival. The choir attracted large congregations on Good Friday, as did the Sunday School Anniversary and the Harvest Festival.

In 1947 a group of young people were received into membership, one of whom is a member of the present congregation and another is the present Minister of the chapel, J. Neil Graham. Since the 1950s, deaths, removals, apathy and indifference have all contributed to declining Methodist strength in Topcliffe, as in the church elsewhere.

The most imposing feature, in what Mr Wesley would have referred to as "a preaching house", is the pulpit.

There are two memorials in the chapel. One is for the Second World War and it is almost identical to the one in the church, both obviously made by Thompson, the Mouseman of Kilburn. The one slight difference is that the mouse is in a different position. That for the First World War is different, not only in design but, of the twenty names on it, one is different. The chapel tablet lists Thomas Downey, which is not on the church list and in its place is another name, George William Brown, which is not on the chapel list. Curious!

Ph 2.39 First World War Memorial in the Chapel



Ph 2.40 The extension of 1882 - photograph 1999

Chapter 3

Topcliffe Village would seem to have been originally built around a market square, on the west and river side of which is the church of St Columba. The main road

central part of the square. This was probably started in the 16th century and has continued since. Some trace of the original arrangement continued while the fair existed because it was held all over the village. Most of the stalls were, however, pitched on the cobbles on the south side of the square where the remains of the market cross are located.

Ph 3.1 An early photograph of Long Street, Topcliffe, circa 1860s



from the bridge enters the south west corner of this square and leaves it on its way to Northallerton by the north east corner. This original plan has now been obscured by the erection of blocks of houses on the

The fair took its origins from a grant which Edward III made in 1327 to Henry de Percy for the vigil, day, and morrow of the Translation of St Thomas and for a weekly market on Wednesdays. The market days were on Thursdays and Fridays in 1792 but are now abandoned. Fairs were held on 17th, 18th and 19th July. On the first day sheep were sold. The second day was a good horse fair and the third day was the “Lady Fair”, when the lads took their girls around the sweet and trinket stalls. During the fair two men were appointed by the Lord of the Manor to parade the streets and keep order. One of them carried an ancient halberd and the other a pike.

Ph 3.2 The deal is done – Topcliffe Fair



The Topley fair was in the 19th century one of the most important in the north of England, for horses, sheep and nearly all manner of other merchandise. On the days of the fair anyone could procure a licence to sell beer by displaying a branch or bush at his door. These were called bough houses. Drinking booths were erected at every lane end leading to Topcliffe for three miles around, so that folks travelling to the fair could quench their thirst, not only at the fair but also in coming and going. The fields on the edge of the town towards Thirsk were filled with encampments and with the tents, wagons, vans and carts of potters, tinkers and gypsies. On another site, between the

1327 Charter for Market & Fair

For Henry de Percy – The King to Archbishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Reeves, Ministers, and all his bailiffs and faithful men, Greeting. Know ye that We of our special Grace, have granted, and by this our Charter have confirmed to our beloved and faithful cousin, Henry de Percy, that he and his heirs for ever have one market on Wednesday in every week at their manor of Toppecliff – upon – Swale, in the county of York and one fair their every year to continue during three days: that is to say on the eve and on the day and on the morrow of the Translation of St Thomas the Martyr unless the same market and the same fair be to the nuisance of neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs. Wherefore we will etc. These being witnesses, The Venerable Fathers Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England; John, Bishop of Ely, Chancellor; Adam, Bishop of Hereford, our Treasurer; Henry, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester; John De Warren, Earl of Surrey; Roger de Mortimer of Wygemore; Thomas Wake; Gilbert Talebot; and John de Roos, Steward of our Household, and others. Given by our hand at Westminster, the fifteenth day of February. By writ of Privy Seal

village and the mill, the roughs, riff-raff and horse lifters congregated. These characters were a terror to the law abiding folk and special constables had to be sworn to keep the peace. During the fair free fights were in continual process and it was generally understood that every quarrel which occurred during the year, no matter how trivial, had to be settled with a stand up fight at Topley fair. Even the women had an

THE FAIRS ACT 1871

TOPCLIFFE FAIR

Whereas a representation was made to me as Secretary of State for the Home Department by the Thirsk Rural District Council on 9th January 1969 that it would be for the convenience and advantage of the public that the fair held annually in the village of Topcliffe in the County of Yorkshire should be abolished:

And whereas notice of the said representation and of the time when the same would be taken into consideration has been duly published in pursuance of the Fairs Act 1871 (a):

And whereas it appears to me after considering the said representation that it would be for the convenience and advantage of the public that the said fair should be abolished:

And whereas the owner for the time being has consented in writing to the abolition:

Now, therefore, I, the Right Honourable James Callaghan M.P., one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section three of the Fairs Act 1871 do hereby order that the fair which has been held annually in the village of Topcliffe in the County of Yorkshire shall be abolished.

JAMES CALLAGHAN,

One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Home Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.
16th March, 1970.

Fig 3.3

Ph 3.4 A view of the fair in the 1920s



Over the years there were several attempts to get rid of the fair. In 1929 even Asenby township meeting voted and agreed not to let any land to fair people. They agreed that if anyone defaulted on the agreement they would be held responsible for any damage done to other people's land, fences or crops. In 1949 there was a motion at the Topcliffe Annual Parish Meeting that the fair should be abolished. However, this created quite a lot of public feeling both for and against and there was a poll taken which resulted in the continuation of the fair at that time. On a 50% poll the result was 132 against abolition; 94

Ph 3.5 A view of Topcliffe fair creating chaos on Front Street – painted from “Sunnyside” upstairs side window



for abolition. In 1956, in the North Riding, there were still horse fairs taking place at Stokesley, Yarm and Topcliffe. They were meeting places for the gypsy clans who moved leisurely from one fair to the next. The fighting custom died hard and it was the fighting and general nuisance which eventually led to pressure

to end the event. The last fair was held in 1969. The notice for the abolition was signed by James Callaghan in 1970, when he was Secretary of State at the Home Office.

On the Frith postcard of the fair, the village school can

Ph 3.6



be seen quite clearly. The house to the left was the schoolmasters house and then there is a shop to the left of that. This particular shop was a small grocery shop which sold speciality bacon for frying and it sold many different kinds of speciality teas and coffees which were kept in old metal painted



Topcliffe Fair, 1904. Gallopers, a showman's engine, booths and caravans all go to make up a fine picture of the traditional fairground.

in the middle ages. Later they were used by the nonconformist preachers. There is an interesting account in the churchwardens accounts in 1707 ... "Spent with Mr. Kettlewell and Mr. Tyremans, churchwardens, when Quakers met at the cross 1s. 4d. ..."

Apparently it was felt that the presence of Quakers needed to be reported to higher authority and

cannisters with china designs on. It had a stone flagged floor and was used by the visiting school dentist and also as a polling station.

The focal point on Long Street is in fact the

Old Market Cross which dates back to medieval times. It is built of ashlar stone and has a square base, with three steps up to a square plinth which has a socket for a shaft. Whether it ever did contain the shaft and cross is not known. Historically, market crosses were the preaching stations of the friars and other wandering ecclesiastics

so the cost was for the two churchwardens to go to Thirsk and back to report the matter.

In 1951, as part of the celebrations for the Festival of Britain, the festival committee led by its chairman Mr S. F. McCann, renovated the cross. When it was dismantled they found a one shilling piece, dated 1889, and a mutilated document which they took to be a Topcliffe Show programme of that year. In renovating the cross the committee took care not to alter its shape or replace any of the existing stones. The stones are well worn with age and countless villagers sitting on them.



Topcliffe, Long Street, 1958

TCF13

The jar was replaced with a new time capsule which was an air tight glass tube. It contained a manuscript exposed to view which had the message “ This Market Cross was restored in the year 1951 to commemorate the Festival of Britain.” Also put in it was a copy of the Thirsk, Bedale and Northallerton Times, a ration book, a threepenny piece, a penny, a razor blade, a set of festival postage stamps, a Womens’ Institute programme, a Topcliffe Show schedule, a parish magazine, a Wesleyan Guild syllabus, a daily paper, the programme of the United Festival Service, a mail order catalogue and a poster advertising the village’s festival , designed by 15 year old Barbara Jaques. Mr Robert Barningham had the honour of lowering the container into the cross.

In times past, somewhere near the cross, there would also have been the village stocks. The village also had



Gypsies at Topcliffe in the early part of the century. ‘Topley’ Fair was held in mid-July; a traditional rendezvous for gypsies, tinkers and horse-copers from far and near, it had a bad reputation for rowdiness. By the 1960s pressure was growing to bring in to an end and the fair was held for the last time in 1969.

From the Churchwarden’s accounts of 1680

“...paid to Carver for a bolt for the gibbet, 6d...”

“...paid to Jasper Yates for an old sparre to make the scaffold on, 6d...”

a gallows at Gallows Green, where the road to Dalton branches off the Thirsk to Topcliffe road. On the gallows, criminals suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

Ph 3.10 The Swan public house in 1999



Public Houses are an important part of any village. There are still two in Topcliffe, the Angel Inn and the Swan. But there used to be several more, the Golden

eliminating the famous Samson brew, to Pubmaster.

All of these establishments owe their existence to the

Ph 3.11

The Angel as it was in 1936 complete with petrol pump



Lion, the Black Bull, the Black Horse and the George and Dragon. All except the George and Dragon are shown on the manorial map of 1767.

The Swan has an ancient game in which a copper bull ring is hung from one of the rafters. The aim of the game is to swing the ring and hang it up on a hook embedded in the wall. The current Licensee, in 1999, is Mrs Sandra McGrail. The pub is being transferred from the Vaux Brewery, which has just closed down,

fact that Topcliffe was on the main route to the north in the early coaching days and served as a vital link in the transportation of goods people and mail, providing somewhere to eat and rest on the long tedious journey. They also provided the facilities to rest and change the horses.

One can imagine the hustle and bustle of those days as the coaches clattered into the yard. The Angel existed even before the coaching era. In the Manorial survey

Ph 3.12

The Angel as it is in 1999.

The owners are Tony and Trish Ardron



of 1867 the tenant was Catherine Leadley. Before her it was John Jackson Senior. Another manorial survey of 1797 lists the Angel as having Abraham Peacock as tenant. He paid £59. 8s. 0d. per annum which was

been as it has expanded to provide all sorts of facilities, not only for Topcliffe and for travellers, but for the general area and for business people. It is this sort of building that usually has a ghost story or two

Ph 3.13

The
Black
Bull

Pub
&
Cafe

Circa
1950s



being raised to £76. The buildings at that time consisted of a Brick and Thatch Public House, a detached brew house, a thatched stable/barn and two tiled stables. Another two stables, cart house, pig sties and hovels. At that time they also rented a large Stone and Tiled building called the Toll Booth. And also a brick and thatched cottage in bad repair.

The Angel Inn is probably busier now than it has ever

associated with it and the Angel Inn is no exception. The ghost is that of an old Raskelf farmer called Thomas Fletcher. Thomas had married his servant Meg but soon she went back to her former lover, Ralph Renard, who kept the White House Inn besides the Easingwold to Thirsk road. Ralph and Mary decided to murder Fletcher with the assistance of his stableman. On New Year's Day, as Fletcher returned from Topcliffe, they grabbed him and drowned him in

the beck, burying his body in the garden of the White House. The ostler explained that his master had left the district but people gossiped when Meg was seen to visit the White House Inn so frequently.

Renard and Meg planned to marry. Renard went to Topcliffe fair to buy her a present and he stayed the night at the Angel Inn, where Fletcher had passed his last night. During the night he was woken by the noise

Ph 3.14 The fair on the Black Bull field



of horses neighing. He looked out of the window and saw a bright light at the stable door and by it was visible the figure of Thomas Fletcher. Renard was very upset by this and he returned home but things did not get better. His sister had prepared his tea ,

were subsequently hung on gibbets between Raskelf and Helperby. So Fletcher's ghost brought his murderers to justice, but he obviously wasn't entirely satisfied because he frequented the Angel Inn for years afterwards causing the coach horses to rear and

Ph 3.15

This house used to be The Golden Lion public house



including mustard from the seeds that had been planted on Fletcher's grave. When Renard sat down to tea he was startled to see Fletcher's head appear in a bright light glowing in the chair opposite. Renard confessed to his sister what he and Meg had done and she reported it to the Magistrate. The three murderers

buck at night as they sensed the supernatural presence.

The third public house was the Black Bull which stands immediately on the right as you come in to Topcliffe over the bridge, just opposite the Toll Bar. It must have been an ideal position for trade. In the 1797

Ph 3.16

The Fair at Topcliffe
July 18th 1906



Ph 3.17 Mr Ward Hudson, in 1934 with the **PIKE** which he used to carry at the fair by order of the Lord of the manor. He was the last Pikeman.



manorial survey it was called The Half Moon Public House. Thomas Kidson was the tenant and he paid a rent of £13. 15s. 0d. It was described as an old brick, timber and thatched house with stable, cow house and pigsty with a detached stone and tiled barn, hovels etc. In more recent times the Black Bull catered for fishermen fishing the Swale and the attached Cafe served the many cyclists who used to come through Topcliffe. It eventually closed to the public in about 1982. It does still operate, however, as a private club, mainly for the people from the caravan site, which has been developed between it and the river.

Another pub which used to be on Front Street was The Golden Lion. There is a painting in Ph 3.5 and a photograph in Ph 4.14 on which can be seen the pub sign. The photograph P 3.15 shows the building as it is today renovated to make two houses. The roof is of an unusually steep pitch, suggesting that the building may originally have been thatched. The Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group carried out a survey of this building in 1978 and concluded that, although superficially it looked as though the building was built around 1700, because of the big trusses in the roof and the fact that the brick built central walls are not carried up into the roof, it is most likely an earlier building, maybe erected around 1650. It may have started life as a farmhouse and been converted into an Inn around 1700. It closed as an Inn in the early part of the twentieth century. Part of it was used as a cycle and radio spares shop for some years but it gradually fell into disrepair. It came to the brink of

being demolished before it was totally refurbished in the 1980s.

The Black Horse public house was sited where the present post office is on Long Street. Before opening as the post office this was the village school. At the 1797 survey Thomas Seward was the tenant paying a rent of £44. The buildings at that time consisted of a

Ph 3.18 This is the Ancient **Halberd** held by John Carter Mitchell of Anchordikes in about 1939. But the last Halberdier was Mr George Ellis



brick and thatched cottage which was used as an ale house, a lean to tiled detached store, a tiled granary, stable and brewhouse. It also had a barn, cowhouses and hovel, in tolerable good repair.

In 1590 an "ancient residence" was held by four persons, Jasper Kettlewell, John Pearson, and Margaret and Helen Nicholson. Twenty years earlier in 1570 it was one building and was probably the home of the de Topcliffes. It is likely that this building was later converted into the fourth public house, the George and Dragon. It was described as the largest Inn between York and Edinburgh. Its exact whereabouts is not known but it was probably somewhere near the Toll Booth. It is also not known when it was demolished.

The de Topcliffes were at one time a large family in

A selection of de Topcliffes from the list of Freemen of the City of York

1365	John de Topcliffe	Harpmaker
1407	Johannes Topcliffe	Skinner
1527	Thomas Topclyff	Potter

Topcliffe and were related to the Percys by marriage.

In 1273 Alan de Topcliffe was agent to Henry de Percy in some matters concerning the Wapentake of Wraghorn in Lincolnshire. John de Topcliffe was one of the bailiffs of the City of York in 1390 and another John de Topcliffe was rector of St Mary's, Castlegate in York in 1302. A third John de Topcliffe was rector of All Saints, Pavement in York in 1466. John would seem to have been the main Topcliffe name as there was yet another of that name who was Canon of Hexham Priory and Abbot of Whitby at its dissolution in 1538. In addition four of the vicars of Topcliffe church came from the family and, of course, the brass in the church commemorates Thomas de Topcliffe in 1391 and his wife Mabel.

Besides the Toll Booth there is another "ancient" building in the village preserved more in its name than in structure. It is the Moote Hall in the centre of the village. The present building probably dates from the early 17th century but it is the location of the place where matters of public concern were discussed or "Mooted".

During the research for the book there has been an on-

going correspondence with the West Sussex County Record Office and the Petworth Estate. Amongst the information gleaned was an old **Manorial Map** of Topcliffe dated about 1767. (See Figs. 3.21a, b, and c) The reproduction is not good quality but nevertheless some parts of it are reproduced in this section of the book, as it is interesting to see that the basic layout of Topcliffe and its fields has not altered very much from that time. Close examination of this map reveals another road, which no longer exists. It runs from the road junction at the Swan, on Front Street, across to Back Lane passing in front of the vicarage. It does also make more sense of the vicarage lay out as the vicarage would have faced directly onto this road. Could this be the road referred to in some of the Stubbs Walker deeds as Petergaite? All of the fields on the other side of Back Lane were Peterfields.

This map was also used to identify the position of the Mill before its present site. The story of this is told more fully under the Mill section.

It is also possible to see the old route of the road going north out of the village before the Turnpike built the straight road.

The next key map is the old **Tithe Map** which was drawn in 1838 for the Commutation of the Tithes of the Township of Topcliffe. (See Figs. 3.20 & 3.21) It was based on a survey carried out in 1819. With the map is a hand written listing of landowners, and all the plot/field reference numbers, their size and their commuted value. The original map, which is in St

Ph 3.19 Topcliffe Fair 1906



Columba's church, is in quite a delicate condition. It was originally drawn at a scale of 3 chains to an inch. In 1853 it was redrawn at a scale of six chains to an inch and after checking with the original map in the church, to ensure that the details were the same, it is this version which has been used in the village research. These documents were painstakingly copied by hand, from the original documents, by Linda Nuttall in 1984. Her document was used and entered into a computer database by Malcolm Morley. The documents are extensive as there are some 840 houses, buildings and plots of land listed, covering in excess of 4,066 acres. It is obviously impossible to include all of them in a book such as this, but some sample pages mainly covering the central area of Topcliffe, are included after the Tithe Map. The original version of the listing was written out generally in order of landowners. The listing included in this book is printed out in plot/field order to facilitate cross-reference with the map plot/field numbers. (There are several copies of the full documents in the village if any one wants to follow them up in more detail).

The quantity of land in the Township which was cultivated as Arable, Meadow, Pastureland and Moorland was estimated to be

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Roods</u>	<u>Perches</u>
Arable	2383	0	39
Meadow & Pasture	1561	2	39
Woodland	30	3	24
Glebe belonging to the impropriate Rectory	42	2	26
Glebe belonging to the Vicarage	7	0	0

The agreement for the Commutation of the Tithes of the Township of Topcliffe, pursuant to the Act of Parliament, was made at a parochial meeting of the Land Owners and the Tithe Owners on the 8th June 1837. The Improprate Rectors of the Parish of Topcliffe were the Dean and Chapter of York and they were the owners of the tithes for corn and hay, wool and lamb. The vicar at that time, the Rev Charles Hawkins, was entitled to the other tithes. At the time there had already been some commuting of tithes, due to the vicar. He was due £2 in lieu of the multure of the Mill from the Earl of Egremont and also two pence for every calvern cow and one penny for every stupper or barren cow in lieu of the tithe of milk throughout the township.

There were only 17 landowners in the village. The largest by far was the Lord of the Manor, Col. George Wyndham, who owned 94% of the land in and around the village. The next biggest was the trustees of

Thomas Stubbs Walker (deceased) with 3.6%. Thomas Stubbs Walker owned and lived at property 30, now called Holmleigh. He also owned and let Moot Hall.

Summary of Landowners

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Roods</u>	<u>Perches</u>
Brigham Tomas	-	-	4
Clarkson James	-	3	3
Coupland George	2	1	12
Dresser Joseph	16	2	36
Feoffees of the poor	10	2	32
Johnson Robert	-	-	18
Masterman Robert	-	-	7
Moiser Francis	1	1	10
GNER	6	3	15
Squires William	-	-	12
Trustees Methodist Chapel-	-	-	5
Walker Thomas	-	-	8
Walker Thomas Stubbs			
deceased Trustees of	148	2	8
Wyndham Col George	3825	-	9
Yeates Christopher	-	-	14
Rectorial Glebe	45	1	33
Vicarial Glebe	8	-	4

Total	4066	0	30
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Note	Quantities in Statute Measure		
1 Square Perch	=	30 ¹ / ₄ sq.Yds	
40 Square Perch	=	1 Rood	
4 Rood	=	1 Acre	

Value in Imperial Bushels and decimal parts

	<u>Price per Bushel</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
Wheat	7s. 0 ¹ / ₄ d	623.38279
Barley	3s. 11 ¹ / ₂ d	1105.68422
Oats	2s. 9d	1591.51515

There are some other interesting facts to tease out of the map. Property number 4 was the bar house owned by the Boroughbridge and Durham Turnpike, thus confirming the information on the Turnpike. The property marked as number 63 was the Black Horse public house. This has since disappeared, the site becoming first of all the Long Street national school, and is now the village Post Office. The land described on the listing as Peterfields has been cross hatched for ease of identification.

The Deans Square area of the village was quite a hive of activity. Property 123 was the poorhouse owned by the Feoffees. Behind the Golden Lion there was a blacksmith's shop occupied, appropriately, by a man called Henry Smith. There were various shops and also a bake house. All of that area, except the poor house, was owned by the Rectorial Glebe i.e. the Dean and Chapter of York.

Joseph Dresser, the Miller, owned and occupied The Mount on Church Street. He also owned and let various other properties on Church Street through to Poppleton House on Front Street.

The apportionment of tithes was carried out by a Thomas Robinson . . .

Now I Thomas Robinson, the younger of Ripon in the County of York Land Surveyor having been duly appointed Valuer to apportion the Total sum agreed to be paid by way of rent charge in lieu of Tithes amongst the several lands of the said Township of Topcliffe Do hereby apportion the Rent charges as follows.

Gross Rent Charge payable to the Tithe owners in lieu of Tithes for the Township of Topcliffe in the Parish of Topcliffe in the County of York six hundred and fifty six pounds and ten shillings.

*To the Vicar (including tithe of glebe)
£100. 10s. 0d*

*To the Dean & Chapter of York as Improprate Rectors (including Tithe of Glebe)
£556. 0s. 0d.*

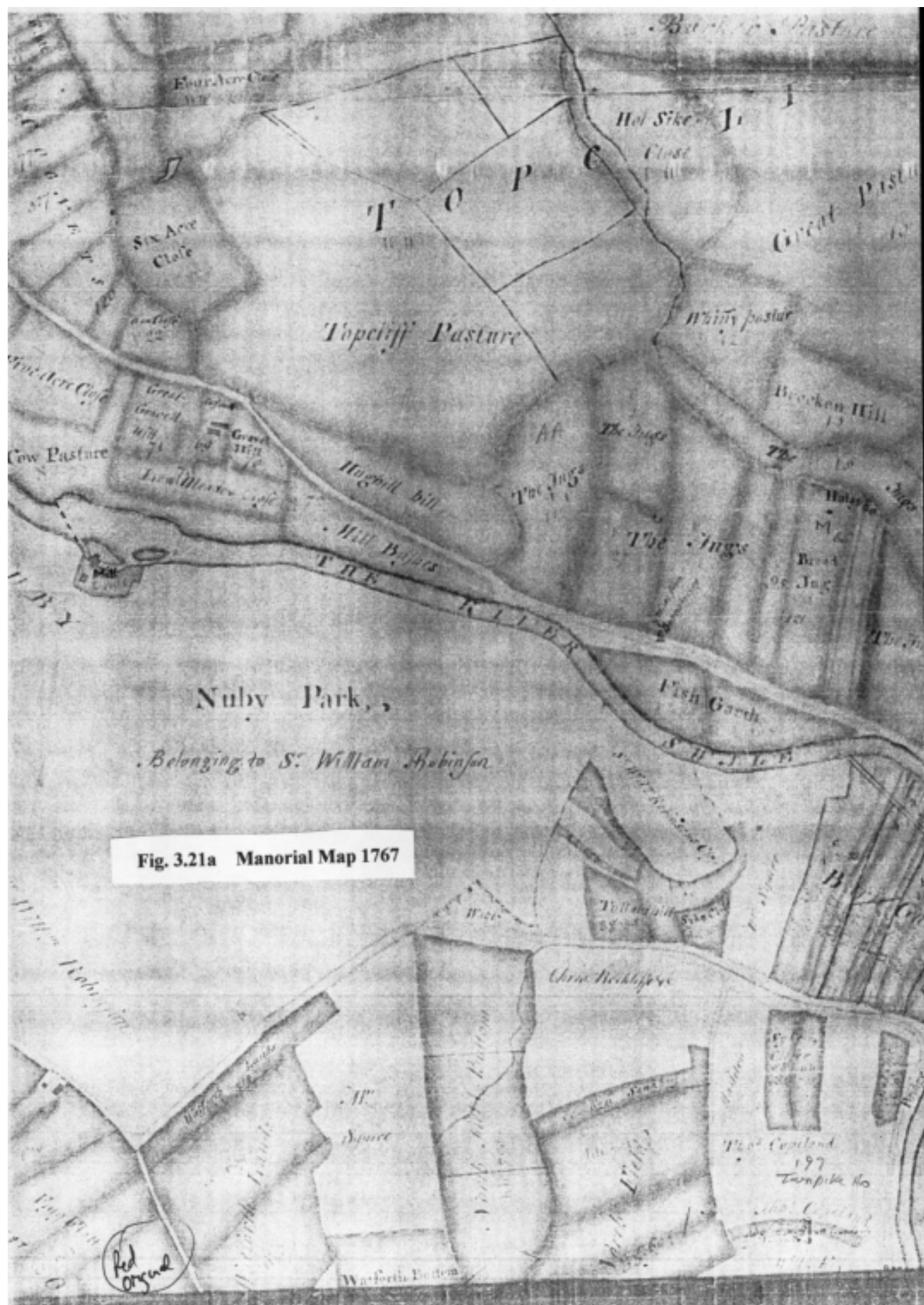
Signed on 15th December 1838
by Wm. Blamire
R. Jones
(Tithe Commissioners for England & Wales)

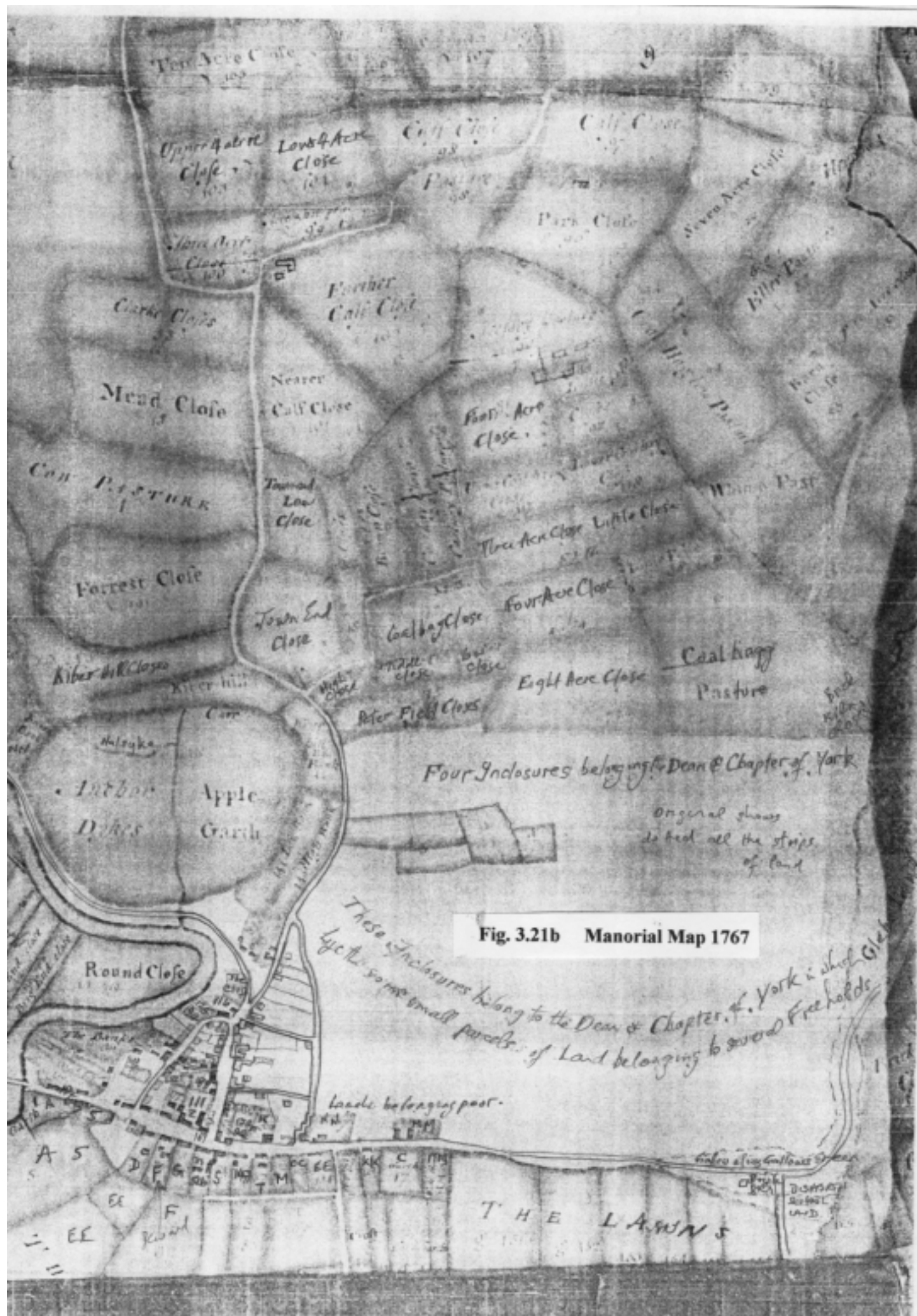
Ordnance Survey maps are interesting in tracing the development of Topcliffe village. Several have been included in this book. The first Ordnance Survey was carried out in the early 1800s but the first one which is available for the village is the 1853 Ordnance Survey map (See Fig. 3.28). Interestingly it shows Winn Lane but at that time it was called Manor Wood Lane. By the time of the next updated map in 1911 (See Fig 3.27) it was called Winn Lane.

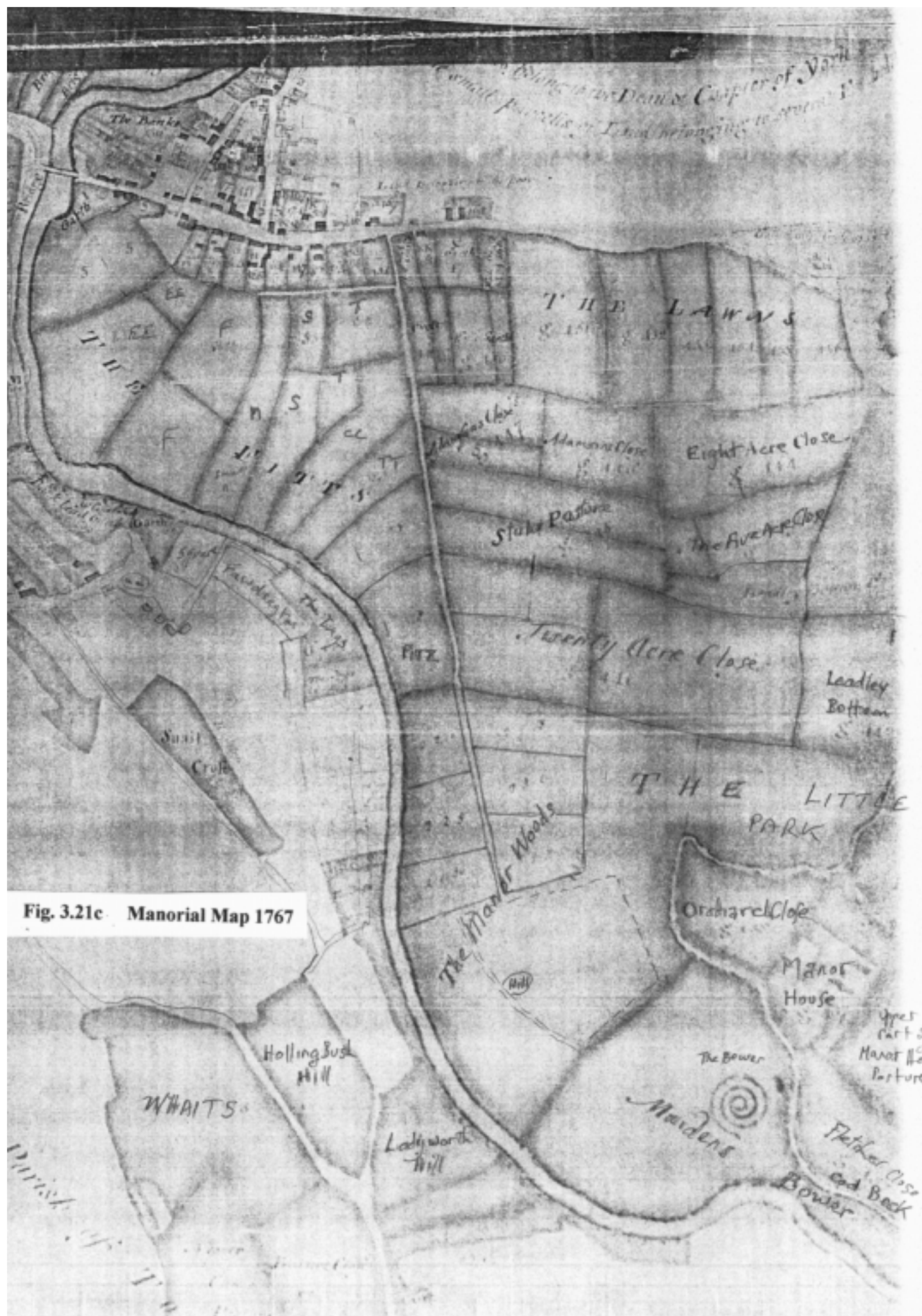
The last group of maps which are at the front of this book are the modern Ordnance Survey map, showing the details of, and extent of the Parish, and a large scale map of the village itself .

Ph 3.20 The Mount, Church Street, home of Joseph Dresser, the miller









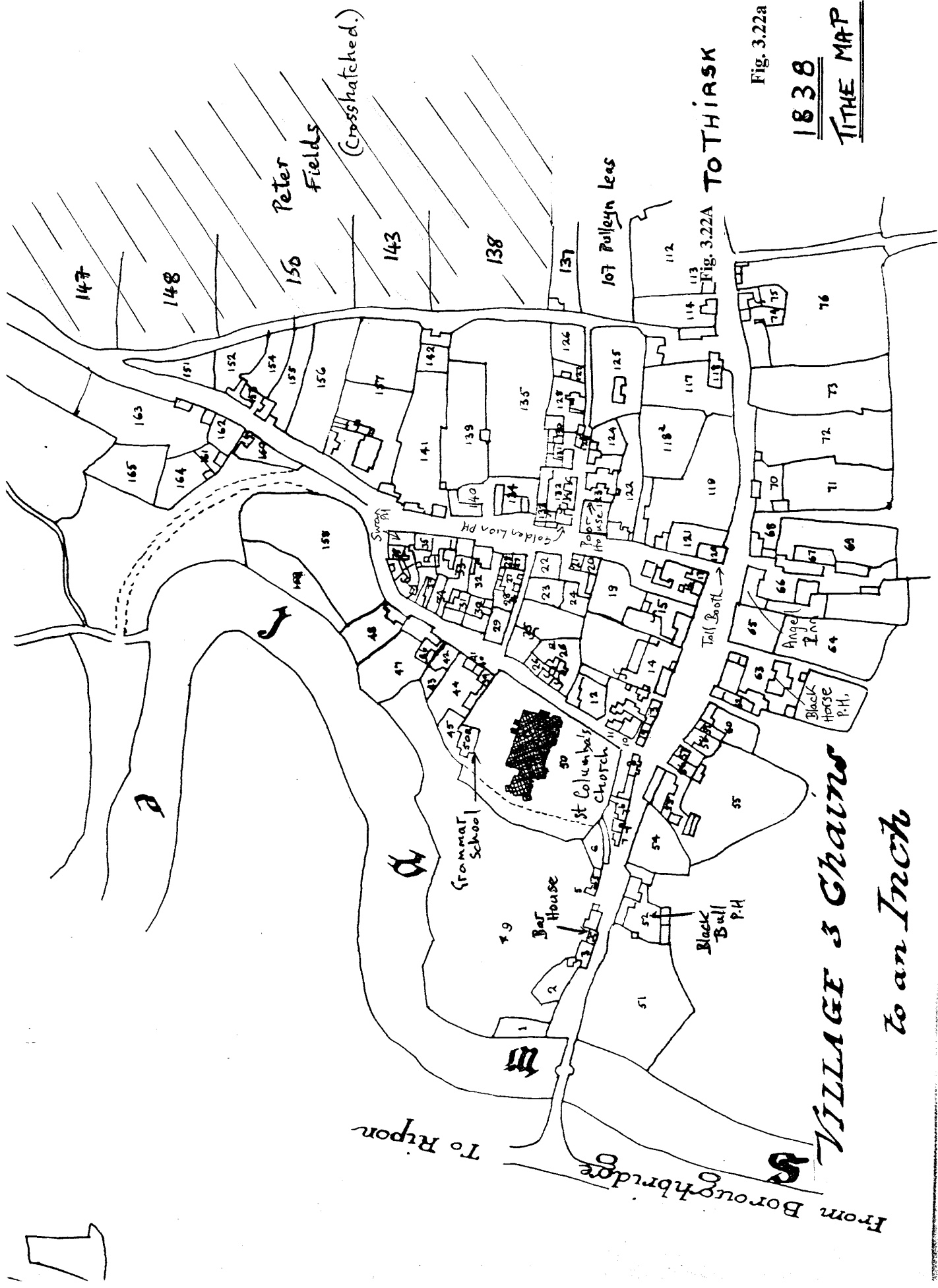


Fig. 3.22a

1838
TITHE MAP

To Ripon

From Boroughbridge

VILLAGE 3 Chains
to an Inch

Landowner		Superior		No. Referring to Map	Name & Description of Land & Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measures			Amount of Rent Charge Act, 1893, as amended upon the several Lands & to whom payable.				
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s
651	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Sadler	Thomas	001	Garden	Garden ground						3	
453	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Mecalf	John	002	Garden	Garden Ground						6	
454	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Mecalf	John	003	House Stable & Cow House								
688	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Trustees of the Borobridge & Durham Turnpike Road		004	Bar House, Stable & Cow House								
652	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Sadler	Thomas	005	House & Stable								
653	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Sadler	Thomas	006	Garden	Garden Ground						3	
334	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jennings	Joseph	007	Cottage							1	
342	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jennings	William	007a	House & Shop							2	
278	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Exelby	George	008	Four tenaments, stable & yard							5	
827	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Yeates	Christopher	009	House & Shop							4	
55	Trustees of Methodist Chapel at Topcliffe		Themselves		010	Chapel and School							5	
19	Dresser	Joseph	Middleton	Samuel	011	Cottage, Coal House & Dairy							2	
20	Dresser	Joseph	Priest	Joseph	011	Cottage & Coal House								
41	Johnson	Robert	Hall	Thomas	012	Cottage Coal House & Dairy								
42	Johnson	Robert	Duffield	Jane	012	House & Coal House								
43	Johnson	Robert	Payler	Vincent	012	Cottage Stable & Shop							18	
44	Johnson	Robert	Russell	George	012	Cottage								
861	Yeates	Christopher	Mennell	James	013	House & Cow House								
862	Yeates	Christopher	Yeates	Christopher	013	House, Shop & Pigcote								
863	Yeates	Christopher	Thwaites	George	013	House, Cow House & Pigcote							14	
864	Yeates	Christopher	Himself		013	Stables, Shed & Pigcote								
302	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Grainger	Thomas	014	House, barn, Cow House, stable & Garden			1					
335	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jennings	Thomas	015	House, Shop, Stable, Cow House & Garden							29	
757	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Wetherill	Mary	016	House, Cow House & Pig Sty							8	
308	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Grainger	Thomas	017	House, Shop, Cow House & Pig Sty							8	
461	Wyndham, Colonel	George	On Hand		018	Pinfold							2	
336	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jennings	Thomas	019	Orchard	Pasture			1			28	
678	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Steadman	Mary	020	Cottage & Cow House							7	
114	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Barker	John	021	Cottage & Cow House							6	
115	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Barker	John	022	Garden	Garden Ground						8	
116	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Barker	John	023	Garden	Garden Ground						12	
679	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Steadman	Mary	024	Garden	Garden Ground						7	
728	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Wass	Christopher	025	Garden	Garden Ground			1			30	
729	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Wass	Christopher	026	Cottage & Cow House							10	
331	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	William	026a	Cottage, Cow House & Garden							17	
761	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Whitaker	James	027	House & Cow House							4	
290	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Gaines	Ellen	027a	House & Cow House							5	
291	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Gaines	Ellen	028	Garden	Garden Ground						4	
762	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Whitaker	James	029	Garden	Garden Ground						6	
56	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Himself		030	House, Shop & Yard							8	
45	Masterman	Robert	Hirst	Edwin	031	House, Stable & Yard							7	
84	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Plummer	George	032	House, Shop, Warehouse & Garden							16	
53	Squires	William	Plummer	Mary	033	House & Yard							12	
54	Squires	William	Pickersgill	Jane	033	House & Yard								



Fig. 3.22b

Landowner		Occupier		No. Referring to Map	Name & Description of Land & Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measures			Amount of Rent Charge Apportioned upon the several Lands & to whom payable.							
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s	d		
21	Dresser	Joseph	Dresser	Thomas	034	House & Yard											
22	Dresser	Joseph	Fall	Thomas	034	House & Carpenters Shop			16								
23	Dresser	Joseph	Himself		034	Cottage & Granary											
24	Dresser	Joseph	Marwood	William	034	House & Yard											
1	Bringham	Thomas	Himself		035	Cottage, Shop & Yard			4								
25	Dresser	Joseph	Garbut	John	036	House & Coal House			2								
32	Feoffees of the Parish		Swales	George	037	Stable & Yard			7								
46	Moiser	Francis	Gibson	William	038	House & Yard	}										
47	Moiser	Francis	Thompson	Elizabeth	038	Cottage & Yard											
48	Moiser	Francis	Wain	Thomas	038	House & Yard				17							
49	Moiser	Francis	Swales	George	038	Public House Stables & Yard	}										
281	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Exelby	George	039	House and Stable				3							
293	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Gibson	John	040	House				3							
314	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Houseman	Ann	041	House			3								
315	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Houseman	Ann	042	Garden			7								
294	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Gibson	John	043	Garden	Garden Ground						3				
316	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Houseman	Ann	044	Yard	Garden Ground			5							
282	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Exelby	George	045	Garden			23								
26	Dresser	Joseph	Thornton	Thomas	046	House, Stable & Coal House	Garden Ground			10			3				
27	Dresser	Joseph	Himself		047	House & Garden			7								
15	Coupland	George	Fall	William	048	House & Coal House			36				9				
16	Coupland	George	Slater	Joseph	048	House, Coal House & Garden	}		21								
654	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Sadler	Thomas	049	The Banks		Pasture									
912	Vicarial Glebe		Robinson	Ann	050	The Church School & Burial Ground		2	1	37		8					
447	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Leadley	William	051	Garth		1		35							
448	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Leadley	William	052	Public House, Yard & Buildings	Pasture		2	28		2					
449	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Leadley	William	053	Bank Close	Meadow			23							
450	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Leadley	William	054	Garden & Orchard		1	3	25		11					
2	Clarkson	James	Allen	John	055	Cottage	Garden Ground			31		1					
3	Clarkson	James	Douglas	Rachel	055	Cottage & Garden											
4	Clarkson	James	Ellis	Robert	055	Cottage	}										
5	Clarkson	James	Freeman	Charles	055	Cottage											
6	Clarkson	James	Horne	Joseph	055	Cottage											
7	Clarkson	James	Marshall	Elizabeth	055	Cottage											
8	Clarkson	James	Nelson	Thomas	055	Cottage											
9	Clarkson	James	Raper	Elizabeth	055	Cottage											
10	Clarkson	James	Robinson	Mary	055	Cottage			3	3			9				
11	Clarkson	James	Wain	Thomas	055	Cottage											
12	Clarkson	James	Wilson	John	055	Cottage											
13	Clarkson	James	Clarkson	James	055	Cottage											
292	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Gibson	Ann	056	House & garden	}										
110	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Blakey	Peter	057	House & Yard				3							
343	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jennings	William (Junnr)	058	House, Shop, Stable & Yard				4							
286	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Fall	Elizabeth	059	House & Garden				6							
458	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Meiser	Elizabeth	060	House & Garden				4							
459	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Meiser	Elizabeth	061	Garth	Pasture			14							
441	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Langdale	Rachel	062	Cottage & Garden		1	1	35		4					

Landowner		Cupier		No. Referring to Map	Name & Description of Land & Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measures			Amount of Rent Charge Appportioned upon the several Lands & to whom payable.					
							A	R	P	Payable to Vicar			Payable to Impropriate Rectors.		
							£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
657	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Seward	Thomas	063	Public House, Barn, Stable, Fold Yard & Garden				1	35				
95	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Adamson	George	064	Orchard	Pasture			1	19				
96	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Adamson	George	065	Garden	Garden Ground								
97	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Adamson	George	066	Public House, Barn. Outbuildings & Garden				2	7				
98	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Adamson	George	067	Fold Yard									
327	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	Mary	068	House, Stable, Shop & Garth									
328	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	Mary	069	Garden	Garden Ground			1	2				
682	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Tinsley	Richard	070	House, Stables & Yard									
683	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Tinsley	Richard	071	Garden	Garden Ground			1	15				
337	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jennings	Thomas	072	Garth	Pasture			1	37				
303	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Grainger	Thomas	073	Garth	Pasture			1	36				
674	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Shotten	Richard	074	Cottage, Cow House & Garden									
687	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Tinsley	Jane	075	Cottage & Garden									
826	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Yeates	Christopher	075	Stable									
675	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Shotten	Richard	076	Garth	Meadow			3	25				
470	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Pickersgill	Jane	077	Garth	Meadow			2	16				
471	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Pickersgill	Jane	078	Garth	Meadow			2					
472	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Pickersgill	Jane	079	House, Cow House, Pigcote & Garth									
473	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Pickersgill	Jane	080	Garth	Pasture								
319	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	James	081	Garth	Meadow			3	5				
35	Feoffees of the Parish		Jaques	William	082	Pulleyne Leas	Meadow			1	11				
57	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	083	Peter Field	Meadow			4	2				
58	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	084	Peter Field	Pasture			10	1				
59	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	085	Plantation	Wood Land								
60	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	086	Gallows Green	Meadow			3	24				
892	Rectorial Glebe		Seward	Thomas	087	Peter Field	Meadow			2	3				
893	Rectorial Glebe		Seward	Thomas	088	Garden & Stable									
894	Rectorial Glebe		Seward	Thomas	089	Peter Field	Arable			1	3				
871	Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	090	Peter Field	Arable			4	2				
872	Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	091	Plantation	Wood Land								
884	Rectorial Glebe		Jaques	Edward	092	Peter Field	Meadow			2	1				
17	Coupland	George	Slater	Joseph	093	Peter Field	Meadow &			2					
62	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	094	Peter Fields	Arable			6	23				
61	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	095	Peter Field	Arable			7	1				
304	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Grainger	Thomas	095a	Lower Peter Field	Meadow			1	2				
33	Feoffees of the Parish		Slater	Joseph	096	Peter Field	Meadow			2	2				
34	Feoffees of the Parish		Wright	Robert	097	Peter Field	Meadow			1	3				
37	Feoffees of the Parish		Wright	Robert	098	Peter Field	Pasture			1					
50	Moiser	Francis	Swales	George	099	Peter Field	Meadow			1					
888	Rectorial Glebe		Swales	George	100	Peter Field	Arable			2	1				
889	Rectorial Glebe		Swales	George	101	Peter Field	Meadow			1	2				
873	Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	102	Peter Field	Meadow			3	3				
87	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Plummer	Mary	103	Peter Field	Pasture			2	1				
63	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	104	Plantation & Cow House	Wood Land								
882	Rectorial Glebe		Plummer	Mary	105	Part of Peter Field	Pasture								
64	Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Barker	Mark	106	Plantation	Wood Land								
36	Feoffees of the Parish		Jaques	William	107	Pulleyne Leas	Meadow			2	2				
320	Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	James	108	Orchard and Garden	Garden ground			1	8				



Landowner		Super		No. Referring to Map	Name & Description of Land & Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measures			Amount of Rent Charge A tioned upon the several Lands & to whom payable					
							A	R	P	£	s	d	£	s	d
321 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	James	109	Garden	Garden ground			29			6			
324 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Jackson	James	110	House, Cow House & Pig Sty				17						
885 Rectorial Glebe		Dale	John	111	Garden	Garden Ground			36		1		6		
586 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Rape	John	112	Orchard			1	5		1		6		
587 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Rape	John	113	House & Garden				4						
588 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Rape	John	114	Garden, Orchard & Cow House				25				9		
866 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	115	Stables				4						
895 Rectorial Glebe		On Hand		116	Barn				4						
868 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	117	Orchard & Garden	Garden Ground		1			1		6		
867 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	118	House				4						
178 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Dickenson	Bernard	118a	Garden	Garden Ground		1	2		1		6		
179 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Dickenson	Bernard	119	House, Stables, Outbuildings &			2	5		1		6		
99 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Adamson	George	120	Toll Booth				11						
180 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Dickenson	Bernard	121	Garden	Garden Ground			15				6		
287 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Gaines	Ann	122	House & Garden				30				9		
38 Feoffees of the Parish		Overseers of the Poor		123	Poor House & Garden				27						
39 Feoffees of the Parish		Edmondson	Solomon	124	Cottage & Garden				11						
83 Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Hewison	William	125	Cottage, Shop & Garden			1	10				9		
896 Rectorial Glebe		Smith	Henry	126	Garden	Garden Ground			15				6		
898 Rectorial Glebe		Exelby	Richard	127	Bake House & Garden				6						
899 Rectorial Glebe		Coates	Richard	128	House, Shop & Garden										
900 Rectorial Glebe		Smithson	Nickolas	128	Cottage				16						
905 Rectorial Glebe		Hornby	Ann	129	Cottage & Pig Sty				2						
906 Rectorial Glebe		Hustwaite	Thomas	130	Home & Shop				5						
897 Rectorial Glebe		Smith	Henry	131	House, Blacksmiths Shop & Pigcote				9						
907 Rectorial Glebe		Moss	Wilfred	132	Public House, Brew House, &										
908 Rectorial Glebe		Render & Others	William	132	Seven Cottages				21						
909 Rectorial Glebe		Dickenson	Thomas & Others	133	House Occupied as Three Cottages				3						
910 Rectorial Glebe		Robinson	Ann	134	The Chantry House & Garden etc				15						
874 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	135	Garth	Pasture		3	4		2		3		
886 Rectorial Glebe		Dale	John	136	House				3						
887 Rectorial Glebe		Dale	John	137	Nursery Ground, Orchard & Garden	Garden Ground		3	36		7				
875 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	138	Peter Field	Pasture	3	3	9		14		6		
876 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	139	Cow House & Garden	Garden Ground		1	14		1		3		
877 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	140	House & Yard				16						
883 Rectorial Glebe		Jaques	Edward	141	House, Shops, Stable Yard &			1	29		1		4		
869 Rectorial Glebe		Barker	Mark	142	Barn & Fold Yard				12						
913 Vicarial Glebe		Dickenson	Thomas	143	Peter Field	Meadow	1	3	10					10	
914 Vicarial Glebe		Dickenson	Thomas	144	Pond & Plantation	Wood & Water		1	2						
890 Rectorial Glebe		Swales	George	145	Peter Field	Arable		2	36				10		3
28 Dresser	Joseph	Himself		146	Peter Field	Meadow	4		30		1		3		
29 Dresser	Joseph	Himself		147	Peter Field	Arable	2	2	36		1		4		6
305 Wyndham, Colonel	George	Grainger	Thomas	147A	Peter Field	Meadow	2	2	2		12		6		
878 Rectorial Glebe		Homes	William	148	Peter Field	Meadow	1	1	26					7	5
88 Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Plummer	Mary	149	Garden	Garden Ground			7				3		
89 Walker	Thomas Stubbs	Plummer	Mary	150	Peter Field	Meadow	1	3	20		9				
879 Rectorial Glebe		Homes	William	151	Garden	Garden Ground			20				8		
880 Rectorial Glebe		Homes	William	152	House, Cow House & Garden	Garden Ground			25				8		

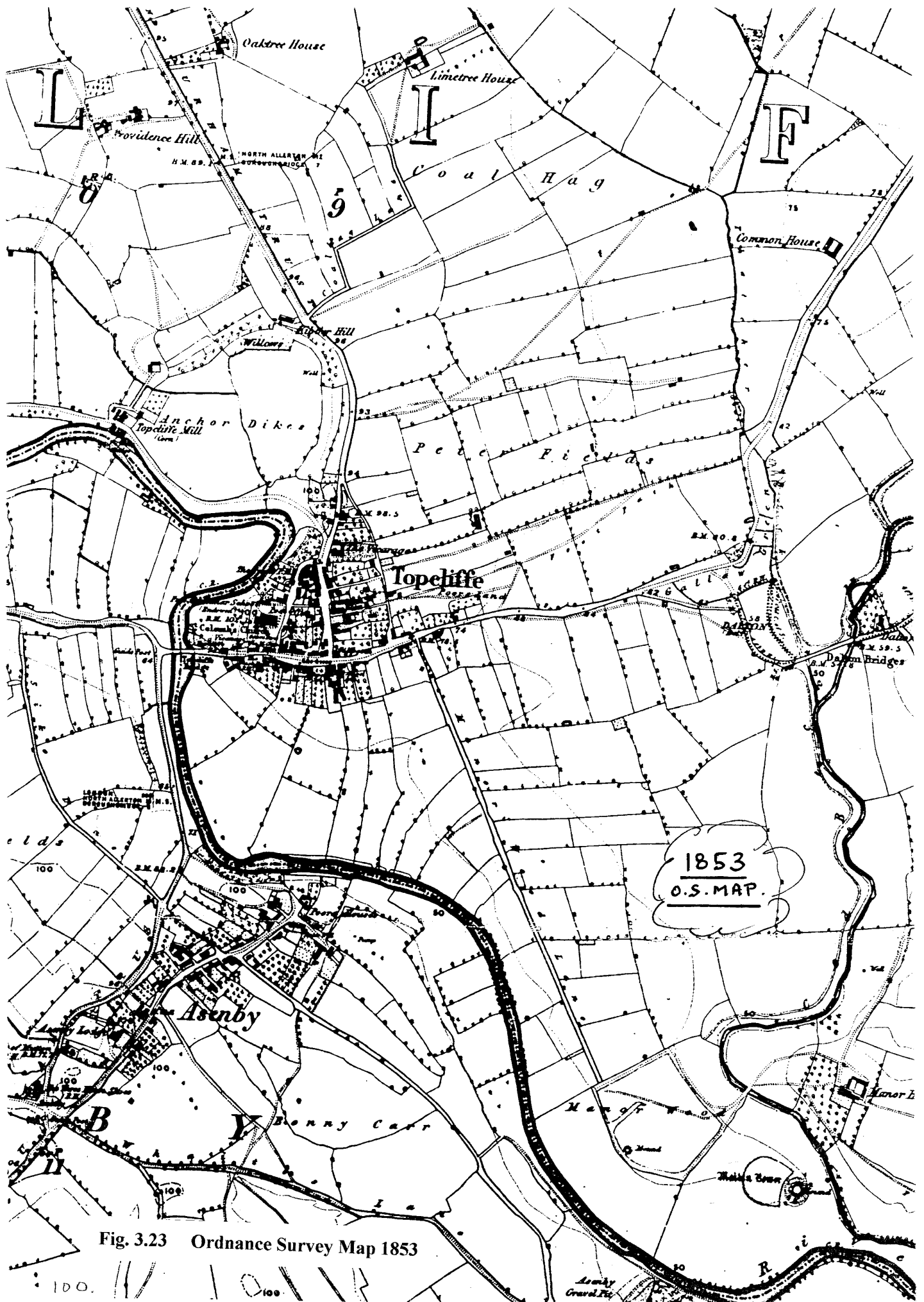


Fig. 3.23 Ordnance Survey Map 1853

Church St.
Topcliffe
From the
North

From the
South



ANGEL HOTEL,
THE OLD COACHING HOUSE,
TOPCLIFFE ON SWALE.
Miss SARAH GILL, Proprietress.
2 SITTING ROOMS AND LARGE DINING ROOM. 5 BEDROOMS.
TOURISTS SPECIALLY CATERED FOR.
FREE FISHING for Visitors staying at this Hotel in Club Waters
MOTOR GARAGE



Ph 3.23

The Angel Advert & Photograph

Ph 3.28 Topcliffe Bridge during the floods of 1939



Ph 3.29 The right hand photograph is of the floods of January 1939
The left hand one is the same view in the summer

Going back to Thomas Stubbs Walker, David and Pauline Hindmarch in researching the ownership of Moot Hall unearthed the transcription of a compilation of papers called the Hill Walker papers. The catalogued parchments illustrate the union of estates affected by the marriage, in 1762, of Priscilla elder daughter of George Hutchinson of Maunby with Thomas Stubbs Walker of Topcliffe, to whom considerable properties in and around Topcliffe had descended from Thomas Stubbs who had died in 1736. Priscilla brought her husband a marriage portion in cash, but after the death of her two brothers, George and Francis, her father's property largely devolved upon her son, Thomas Stubbs Walker II.

Some extracts from the papers have been included where they are of particular interest, such as those referring to the Topcliffe Inclosures.

There are two modern housing developments whose names commemorate Topcliffe's past. The first is

1575 August 20 17 Elizabeth Feoffment

Thomas Stubbs of Topclif carpenter
To
Ralph Esterbie of same place, glover:

For a certain sum.....

Of one tenement or cottage and one "le backeyard" with appurtenances in Topcliffe lying in Petergaite between the lands of the Lady Queen on south and lands of Ralph Lecke on north;

And also one half acre of land in "le Hye Feild[s]" of Topcliffe in the flatt called Sandriggs between lands of said Thomas Stubbs on south and of Jesper Kettlewell on north.....in the tenure of Gabriel Ruddocke.

Warranty against the grantor and his heirs.

Manor Close, just off Winn Lane, which leads to the old Manor area. The other is Dovecote Mews, off Front Street. It still has the old Dovecote, now converted into a house. Dovecotes were built so that the Lord of the Manor could rely on doves as a change from the salt meat which formed the staple diet during the winter. The right of keeping doves belonged to the lord alone.

1734, April 25 Original Will of Thomas Stubbs of Topcliffe, Yorkshire. Yeoman

To brother Robert Stubbs 40s. & the bed on which he lies, as it is furnished, with bedding and bedclothes, all testator's wearing apparell and £10 life annuity payable quarterly charged on the freehold estate which testator bought from William Foord and John Groves.

To sister Alice Walker 20 guineas; nephew Richard Clapham £200; niece Elizabeth Ramsden 10 guineas "if she pleases to accept it"; niece Elizabeth Walker £500 and one half of his linen, bras and peder; to nieces and nephews Isabella Walker, John, Robert and Mary Walker, £150 each: all to be paid from personalty within a year of his death. The legatees to bear proportional shares of any losses sustained in the realisation of the debts &c. mentioned in a schedule "herin enclosed".

To the daughters of nephew Richard Clapham £100 each at 21, with 4% interest: payable to their father from testator's death: benefit of survivorship if either die under age. If both die under 21, then to Richard Clapham their father.....these later £200 & interest being charged on three meadow closes which Thos Ripley lately farmed of Thos Stubbs & Gallow Green close adjacent; which were lands of John Kettlewell deceased.

To the poor of Topcliffe £20, payable to the Feoffees in trust at end of a year. 10s. per annum from the interest to be given annually to the poor of Topcliffe forever: rest of the interest to be given to the poor at 2 of the feoffees meetings annually.

To nephew Thos Walker (sole executor) and his heirs, all freehold housing, lands & closes in Topcliffe. – subject, however, to the will of John Kettlewell and above charges. Also all leases for lives from the Dean & Chapter of York and leases for years from the Duke of Somerset & the Dean & Chapter of York; together with net residual personalty

Signed by Thos Stubbs and sealed with a dove and olive twig.
(probate 1736)

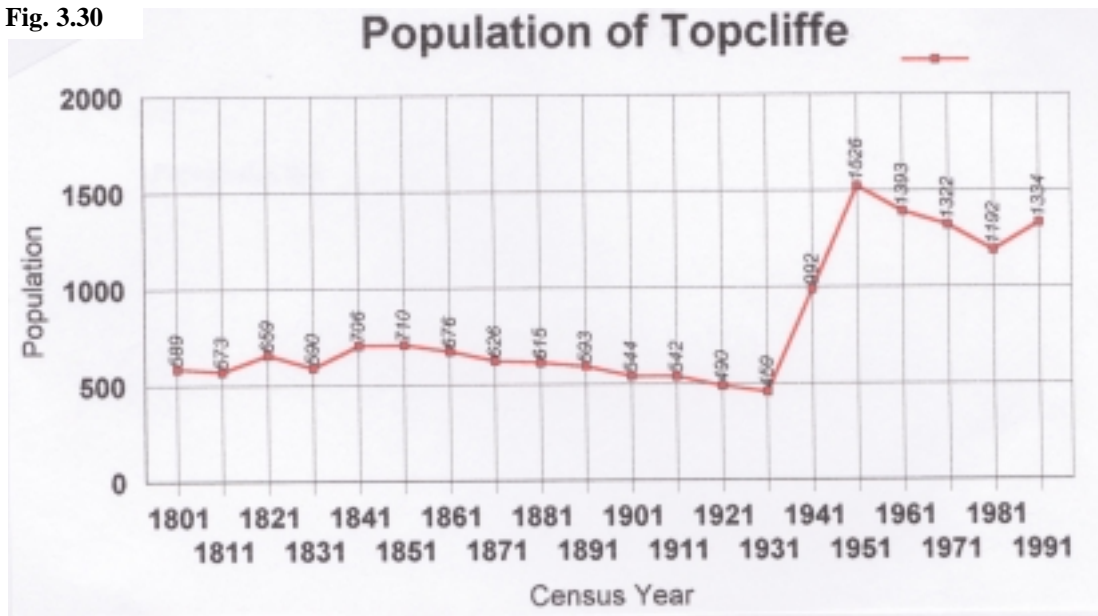
The Population of Topcliffe.

It is often written that Topcliffe used to be a much more important place than it is now and by implication was also a bigger place with more people. However, it is unlikely that it was much

as they did on the knowledge of the overseer. This method was used up to 1831. From 1841 the returns were completed by individual households as now. This change in method resulted in an apparent jump in population in 1841, from 590 to 706.

Since 1801 there has been a census every ten years,

Fig. 3.30



bigger than now, though there were times when the population was bigger than now. (Ignoring the population of Alanbrooke Barracks which is currently counted in with Topcliffe's). That the village was much more important than it is now was certainly true, but the importance v the population has to be looked at in relation to the overall population of North Yorkshire and the country. Today the population of England is over 47 million. In that context the village is now small and unimportant. When the Domesday Survey was taken, the population of the whole country, as surveyed, was probably around 11/2 million, and that of all Yorkshire 40,000, so a village with a population of around 250 people was quite an important place. By the time Topcliffe lock was built in 1769 the population of England was still less than 7 million people.

The Domesday Survey for Topcliffe lists the number of people at 49. These would be heads of families and the usual multiplication factor is times 4 or 5, which gives 245 plus 2 priests and there would be knights etc. So the population would have been around 250.

The first census was not taken in England until 1801 but at that time the returns were not made by individuals but by the overseers of the poor. As a result they were not particularly accurate, depending

except in 1941 because of the war. The chart shows how the population of Topcliffe has varied since 1801.

The architect of census returns in Britain was John Rickman. He wrote a paper in 1796 to show that it would be easy and useful to take a census. His argument was, that the basis of the power and resources of a nation was an industrious population, but no one knew what it was. The first census of 1801 was authorised by Parliament in 1800.

It peaked at 710 in 1851 and since then has gradually drifted down until after the 1931 census. The big kick up in 1951 was brought about by the building of the RAF station for the war and includes service personnel. The present figures still include the Alanbrooke Barracks personnel. Excluding the barracks, the population of the village is probably just over the 500 level.

Though the population of Topcliffe was higher than it is now, the actual size of the village has not changed much, at least since the 1700s. The houses used to house much bigger families than they do now and quite a few houses have also disappeared, whilst others have been converted into single houses.

The reduction in numbers had much to do with the

Ph 3.31

An unknown farming group



industrial revolution, which was going on in the cities. Better roads were breaking down the isolation of the villages and they no longer had to be self-sufficient. The new towns needed more food for their workers and the old methods of farming, based on the open field system and three crop rotation, couldn't meet the demands and so it needed to change. Under the old system a third of the land was always fallow and there were large areas of land which were common pasture for the grazing of animals. Hence, in parallel with the industrial revolution a farming revolution was born. The ancient three crop rotation of rye or wheat, barley, fallow and the long narrow strips in the common fields, over which many villagers had the right to graze their animals after the corn had been harvested, had to go.

Although enclosures had been taking place gradually over the centuries, the rate of enclosures now accelerated. Prior to 1700 enclosures were not well recorded. They sometimes took place, by agreement between the local people but, in the 18th century, the

landowners often had Acts of Parliament passed giving them the right to enclose lands. Between 1750 and 1760 there were many parliamentary enclosures. The strips were replaced by large enclosed farms, managed by one landowner. The commons and wastes were also enclosed and much of the worn out arable land became pasture. The result of these enclosures was that the ownership or tenancy of the land passed from the many to those few that had the means to work the larger improved farms. In the Hill Walker papers there is the details of a Topcliffe enclosure in 1761 which is reproduced on the following page. One of the results of these enclosures was to make it virtually impossible for some of the poorer folk to earn a living in the countryside. As a result, there was a slow drift of people to the towns and there they became industrial workers.

At the same time as the enclosures, farming methods were being continually improved and as a result, the demand for farm workers was gradually reducing.

Ph 3.32

Front Street
Topcliffe.

Milliners
Shop on
The left.



February 5th 1761

Agreement to exchange and inclose.

For mutual convenience, the following exchanges of lands at Topcliffe, Yorkshire have been agreed on and by and between William Hill, agent to the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Egremont on the Earl's behalf, and the several subscribing Proprietors of lands:

(i) Thomas Stubbs Walker & Ann Barker, both of Topcliffe, agree to give the Earl a 9 acre piece of ground called the Outwood, formerly parcel of Topcliffe Common, now in the occupation of Wm Kidson of Gristhwaite (abutting the Topcliffe – Thirsk road at SE end; a close of the Outwoods in the occupation of Wm Kidson on NE side; another such, formerly allotted to the Master of the Free School of Topcliffe & now also to be exchanged, on NW; and two parcels of Outwoods (a) belonging to Thos Eeles of Gristhwaite and (b) lately purchased by the Earl of Ann Collins widow, on SW: in exchange for 2 acres 2 roods of land lying dispersed in an open or common field called Petersfield in Topcliffe.

(ii) The Rev. James Scroggs clerk present schoolmaster of the free school, with consent of the trustees or Feoffees, agrees to give.... to the Earl the 5 acres close above mentioned as belonging to the schoolmasterin exchange for 1 acre 1 rood in Peterfield.

(iii) Thomas Stubbs Walker agrees to give...another small parcel, 1 rood, adjacent and undivided from that last mentioned, in exchange for 13 perches in Peterfield.

(iv) John & Thomas Jackson, brothers, of Topcliffe, agree to give 2 closes formerly part of the common, together 5½ acres; abutting, at NW end on part of the Topcliffe Great Park, at SW side & SE end on the Earl's grounds formerly part of the common, at NE side on lands of said Thomas Stubbs Walker & Thos Eeles, formerly common: in exchange for 1 acre 2 roods dispersed in Peterfield:

All the proprietors in Peterfield agree to take their respective share (now lying dispersed and intermixed) in the several Flatts and places as they have been lately measured, flattened, allotted and staked out for inclosure, viz:: T. S. Walker to take his six acres on the North side of the Low Flatt or stinting and to fence off from the school allotment and from Ann Barker'' so far as proportional to his quantity as compared with hers. He to make a road to said inclosure through his own ground.

Ann Barker to take her 2 acres 1 rood on North side of the same Flatt and to fence across the top end and her share against T. S. Walker.

James Scroggs as schoolmaster.... to take 2 acres 2 roods 33 perches on the North side of the middle Stinting.

The Rev. Francis Day clerk Vicar of Topcliffe, John Jackson, Thos Coopland, and T. S. Walker as Feoffees on behalf of the Poor of Topcliffe, entitled to 3 acres 5 perches, to take the same on the South side of the Middle Stinting so that Poor Land and School Land may be contiguous.

Mary Hutchinson & John Watson to take their 1 acre 27 perches across the lands on the West end of the land allocated to the Poor.

John and Thomas Jackson to take their 1½ acres to lie with 2 acres 1 rood 23 perches (John's sole property) altogether betwixt the last allotment & John Jackson's own close, and to fence against last allotment so far as that joins them.

The Earl agrees to take the remainder of the field, being 4 acres 29 perches, as his allotment and to make all fences against 2 adjoining allotments, except gates and stiles.

The several owners of Peterfield and Common Land agree to preserve the Peterfield allocations.

Signed by

W. Hill
Thos Stubbs Walker
James Scroggs
John Jackson
Mark of Ann Barker

Witnessed by

Thos L	y	Ann Underwood
Thos Hill		John Walker
Catharine Fox		Thomas Akens
Sarah Barker		
John Underwood		

Endorsed Memorandum, 23rd February 1763 by Chris Britton of Topcliffe (as purchaser from Mry Hutchinson and John Watson between the drawing and execution hereof),

Agreeing to take his share as now set off, quicksetted and hedged in and to uphold the fence against the Poor's Allotment now called Poor Close. Witnessed by : Ann Underwood & John Underwood

1st. Directory 1823 From Balnes Vol 2	17 years later 1840 White's	17 years later 1857 Post Office Directory	22 years later 1879 Office Directory
Rev R D Waddilove Rev Thomas Allanson William Bell	Rev H A Hawkins Longbottom Barraclough	Rev H A Hawkins Anthony Halliday	Rev H A Hawkins Anthony Halliday Miss Henrietta Foster Miss Rebecca Harker Thomas Carter Mitchell
	John Milnthorpe	John Milnthorpe	
John Duperoy	Jas Clarkson	Joseph Dresser John Milnthorpe Mrs. Bittleson	Private Resident
Ann Fall Sarah Moyser Mary Peate	Elizabeth Moyser		
George Pickersgill Christopher Gregg Ralph Robb (& cattle dealer) Henry Smith Thomas Walbran	Christopher Gregg	Christopher Gregg	Blacksmiths James Appleton William Reynard George Trotter
Henry Pickersgill Thomas Fall Richard Kirby	Thomas Brigham John Cook (& machine maker) Thomas Fall William Hewson	George Fall George Wrigglesworth	Carpenter James Hudson John Dickinson
John Ward John Burnett Christopher Whitaker Ann Fall Christopher Hawksley	Mark Barker John Coates William Dale Thos Durham (Grisethwaite) James Pickard Simon Johnson Harry & William Pickersgill Andrew Rob (Grisethwiate) George Swales Thomas Walbran Christopher Yeates James Kidson William Kidson John Webster James, John and Mary Whitaker George Yeates	James Bamlet John Coates William Dale John Dale John Durham Thomas Durham John Durham (Grisethwaite) James Pickard Thomas Dickinson Joseph Dresser Robert Graham Henry & Mary Pickersgill (Salmon Hall) John Rob & John Jnr Thorpefield Hannah Carmichael (Grisethwaite) William Turner Thomas Walbran (Manor House) Chris & George Yates James Kidson William Kidson Thomas Kidson James Whitaker John Whitaker John Barnaby Thomas Charles Kay George Johnson Thomas Seward	Farmers Peter Bamlet John Coates William Dale (Lord Leconfield's Bailiff) John Dale (Salmon Hall) Edwin Smith (Thorpefields) John Durham (Grisethwaite) John Pickard Thos Dickinson John & Abraham Holgate William Norton William Rob (Thorpefield) Thomas Shipley (Dalton Bridge) William Turner William Parker(Manor Farm) Mary Yates John Walls George Tindall
Christopher Yeates			
	Cattle Dealer		

1823 Continued	1840 Continued	1857 Continued	1879 Continued
	Postmistress Ann Gibson	John Douglas	Postmaster & Grocer Staveley Sturdy
James Kidson G. & Jane Plumber Francis Moyser John Slater William Parler Thomas Jennings	Bakers Richard Eshelby John Garbutt George Plummer Edward Jaques	Bakers	
	Grocers & Drapers	George Plummer Rachael Gibson James Jefferson Joseph Thwaites	Grocer & Saddler Grocer & Draper Grocer David Jennings William Sparling George Thwaites
	Butcher	Thomas Jennings	Butcher Barnard Dickinson Thomas Dresser Charles Weatherill
Henry Shiers	Fishmonger		Fishmonger
James Clarkson Thomas Harksley	Shoemaker Richard Coates Thomas Hawkesby Thomas Hushwaite George Yeates Thomas Dresser George Robinson	Richard Coates John Metcalf George Yeates	Shoemaker Charles Brown Christopher Gibson John Jackson
	Tailor	Thomas Dresser Joseph Dresser William Robinson	Tailor Thomas Dresser William Jennings William Robinson Emma Jennings
Edward Adamson Thomas Johnson Thomas Seward George Swales (& flax dresse Robert Surr William Jaques Christopher Braithwaite	Basket Maker Angel Inn Black Bull Black Horse The Swan Golden Lion Cooper Bricklayer	Jacob Gill Mary Cooper Henry Waddington Mark Cooper Christopher Middleton George Fall George Wrigglesworth Thomas Walker William Coopland Frederick Barker	Basket Maker Angel Inn Black Bull The Swan Golden Lion Cooper Bricklayer Christopher Culvert John Dickinson James Hudson Thomas Walker Joseph Moon & Sons
Joseph Dresser	Painter & Tinner Corn Miller Corn Factor Road Surveyor & registrar	Thomas Walker Joseph Dresser Christopher Yeates Edwin Hirst	Commission Agent Music & Musical Instrument Dealer Frederick Barker
	Woodman	William Brown	Music Seller Parish Clerk James Nelson
	Thomas Grainger	William Kay	Windmill Builder Nathaniel Milburn
North Highflyer from Leeds to Newcastle at half past ten mornings return half past six evenings	Coach		

30 years later 1909 Kelly's Directory	12 years later 1921 Kelly's Directory	16 years later 1937 Directory	62 years later 1999 Actual
Rev Canon John Julian	Rev Chas Beecroft Pauling	Rev Charles Beecroft Pauling	Rev Christine Haddon Reece J Neil Graham
Closed in 1896	William Hilyard	Wilfrid Burton	Ralph Hindmarch (Headmaster) Sue Jackson (Deputy)
Talbot Carter Mitchell	Talbot Carter Mitchell	Talbot Carter Mitchell	Dr Christine J Shaw
Guy Annesley Carter Mitchell	Surgeon Medical Officer	General Practitioner	Dr Charles M Parker
George Coates	Physician & Surgeon	General Practitioner	
Robert Horner	Private Resident		
Miss Coates	Private Resident	John Carter Mitchell (Anchordikes)	
John William Raynard	John William Raynard	John William Raynard	Blacksmiths
James Ward Hudson	James Ward Hudson	James Ward Hudson	Capenter & Wheelwright
Alfred Barnett	Farmers	Farmers	James & Joyce Barningham
Matthew Raper Calvert	Robert Barningham Jnr & Joseph	Robert Barningham Jnr	Christopher Bumby
Edwin Clark	Charles Bosomworth	Charles Bosomworth	John Farrer (East Lodge)
John Clark	Thomas Caygill	Miss Lily Gertrude Bumby (Cowkeeper)	Stanley Collinson (North Lodge)
James Creyke	John William Clark	Joseph Burns	Trevor Fothergill (Park Lodge)
Edward Barker Jackson (Thorpefield)	John Kay	William Clark (Junior)	Michael Collinson (Providence Hill)
Thomas Bray (Farm Bailiff to E B Jackson)	Charles Wood (Farm Bailiff to H Jackson, E S Claydon (Farm Bailiff to J M Jackson)	Wilfred Stirk Jnr (Park House)	
Henry R Jackson	John Kettlewell (Richmond Farm)	John Kay	
John Kettlewell (Richmond Farm)	John Kettlewell (Richmond Farm)	Jackson Bros (Thorpefield)	
Joseph Parker	Thomas Rayner (Salmon Hall)	Mary Ann & Son (Richmond Farm)	Jason Peacock (Broken Banks Farm)
Thomas Rayner (Salmon Hall)	James Rooke (Thorpefields)	Richard Lowe	Stephen Rayner (Salmon Hall)
James Rooke (Thorpefields)	James William Rooke	Thomas Rooke (Thorpefields)	Christopher Carling (Cod Beck Farm)
Wilfred Cross (Dalton Bridge)	Hy Holdroyd (Topcliffe Grange)	James William Rooke (Grisethwaite)	Richard Lister (Grisethwaite)
William Turner (Topcliffe Grange)	Mary Jackson (Manor Farm)	Hy Holdroyd (Topcliffe Grange)	Richard Sanderson (Topcliffe Comm
Margaret Hannah Jackson (Manor Farm)	Elizabeth Sigsworth	Robert William Jackson (Manor Farm)	Jeffrey W Shepherd (Manor Farm)
Elizabeth Sigsworth	John Carter	John Rayner (West Lodge)	
John Carter	Garbutt Bros	Jas Graham (Hall Farm)	Farming Consultany
Mark Garbutt	James Kildin (Smallholder)	Arthur Gill	Farm Sewage Disposal
	Thomas Henry Simpson	Frank Smirthwaite	Electrical Maintenance
Thomas Bumby	Thomas Bumby	James Kildin (Smallholder)	Electrical Contractor
Moses Calvert	Market Gardener & Refreshment Rooms	Samual Francis McCann	Electrical Installation
		Harry Masterman	Publicity & Marketing
			NHS Executive
			Solicitor
			Exhibition Design
			Note: oov means business based out of village

<u>1909</u> Continued	<u>1921</u> Continued		<u>1937</u> Continued	<u>1999</u> Continued
Francis Sturdy	Postmaster & Grocer	Sydney Nixon	Sydney Nixon	Postmaster & Grocer John Mulley
Mary Jane Sturdy	Bakers			
David Jennings Robert Barningham	Grocer & Saddler Grocer & Draper	Robert Barningham	William Ewart Barningham	Grocer
Barnard Dickinson Ernest Edward Hewison	Butcher	Thomas Bernard Dickinson Ernest Edward Hewison	Thomas Bernard Dickinson	Tesco Thirsk Store Manager Butcher
	Fishmonger			oov
Francis Brown	Shoe Repairer	Francis Brown	Thomas Bentall	Fried Fish & Chips Cliff & Margaret Gospel (Mobile Unit)
William Jennings	Tailor & Draper	William Jennings		
Sarah Gill Henry Penty	Angel Inn Black Bull	Sarah Gill Henry Penty	Marmaduke Sigsworth Lilian Wright	Angel Inn Black Bull Tony & Trish Ardron Allan Reeder
Robert Hudson Joseph Brown	The Swan Cooper Bricklayer	Robert Hudson	William Henderson Sydney Ernald Thomas	The Swan Cycle Repair & Wireless Accessories Sandra McGrail
Edwin Dresser Joseph Lister (Executors of)	House Painter Corn Miller	Arthur Dresser Joseph Lister (Executors of)	Florence Thomas	Accomodation & Refreshments
Frederick Barker Fred Barker	Commission Agent Tax Collector, Clerk to Parish Council (The Grove) Music Teacher, music instrument dealer, music seller, printer & insurance agent		Frank Dresser Joseph Lister	House Painter House Painter Corn Miller J Brennan Les Parker (& Joiner and Decorator) Mill now Apartments oov
Frank Jennings	Rate Collector Saddler	Lucy Wood Frank Jennings	Lucy Wood	Clerk to Parish Council Rate Collector & Clerk to PC Woodcarver with David Bowman Thompsons of Kilburn oov
Richard Robinson Milburn Thomas Milburn Henry Claxton	Builder Appartments	Richard Robinson Milburn	Algernon Milburn (Prospect House) Builder	Stephen Halliday (Dean's Sq)
Thomas Wood	Carrier	Thomas Wood		Carrier Taxi John Mayes (Front St)
	Station Master Motor Engineer	George Spence John Forrester	???	Station Master Motor Engineer Malcolm Morley (Back Lane)

This of course has continued, and accelerated, during the 20th century as the rate of mechanisation of farming has increased until, as the millennium approaches, farming output and efficiency is very high and farms are managed and run by a minimum of people. Today's huge combine harvesters, capable of work rates up to 50 tonnes an hour, are a far cry from the fields full of manual workers cutting, stooking and threshing by hand.

doctor was Thomas Carter Mitchell and Dr Talbot Carter Mitchell took over in 1900, working from The Mount on Church Street. He stayed for 53 years. The surgery was held in the cottage next door, now called Fairview. When he retired in 1953 he was given an illuminated book signed by all of his patients. Dr Margaret Slater followed him and she was followed in 1961 by Dr Yves Dias. He initially lived at Aigburghth (now Church Garth) but soon moved to the Old

Ph 3.34 The Surgery at Topcliffe



This change has had its impact on the make up of the village population and the jobs done by people in the village. In the following four pages it is possible to trace that change. These occupation lists have been extracted from various directories and recompiled in such a way that the occupations can be compared. Look at the huge number of listed farmers in 1857 compared with 1999. The blacksmith lasted until 1937 before dropping out of the list, as did the carpenter and wheelwright. They overlapped with the motor engineer which started up with John Forrester in 1921 and of course continues today with Malcolm Morley. The loss of the village's self sufficiency is reflected in the loss of the shops of all kinds until we are presently left with only a post office. The last grocery shop went when Mr Hardy closed down. The Corn Mill is converted into apartments and instead of a carrier and trains we have John Mayes Taxis. In all the early lists, nearly all the people listed carried out their occupations in the village itself. In the sample of occupations listed for 1999 many of them are carried out outside of the village.

The directories show that there has been a resident doctor in the village at least since the 1840s when John Milnthorpe was the resident surgeon. In 1879 the

Vicarage where the surgeries were held. Dr Dias was joined, in 1975, by Dr Peter Robinson who was instrumental in building the new surgery which was

Ph 3.33 Stamps franked in Topcliffe



completed in 1983. For a brief period, the surgery was held in Glebe House just prior to moving in to the new surgery. Dr Christine Shaw joined the practice in 1985 as Dr Dias retired and when Dr Robinson retired in 1983, Dr Charles Parker took his place. Both Dr Shaw and Dr Parker are the present doctors in the practice.

In 1823 the "North Highflier" from Leeds to Newcastle went through the village every morning and evening. In 1999 the local bus service manages to give a service between the village and Thirsk or Ripon.

CHAPTER 4

Transport One of the main reasons that Topcliffe is here is probably due to the need for communications. While the most recent communications system maybe

wagons pulled by teams of horses. By the time of the Post Office Act in 1660, which of itself created the need for regular routes, there were also regular stage coach services operating. From the mid-17th century the land transport system developed rapidly and services proliferated. This was further helped by the

development of provincial newspapers, which carried trade information.

Carriers normally operated from inns, which were convenient collection and meeting centres. Similarly, the organisation of the coaching business was often based on innkeepers who joined partnerships with other innkeepers to operate a carrying or coaching route,

Ph 4.1 Entry to Topcliffe from the bridge over the Swale



based on the internet, one of the first communications systems was by pathways. These were then followed by bridleways for packhorses, which provided the first means of transporting goods. In the early 1600s there were organised carrier services operating throughout the country, but they used mainly packhorses.

with each innkeeper providing horses for their own section of the route.

Before the eighteenth century the highway was a 'right of passage' for every subject of the crown over

Topcliffe's position at a river crossing point was important for its development as a market town.

As the population of the country began to rise and trade increased the need for roads began to be felt. The carrying trade moved from packhorses to wagons and then bigger



Ph 4.2 Long Street, Topcliffe circa. 1907

another's land. It did not confer ownership and usually the owner was the owner of the land on either side. Most major highways came into existence by presumption and continued public use. The roads of the 1600s and 1700s, however, suffered from the same problem as common grazing. There was no cost for their use attributable to the users and many of the highways were badly abused by heavily overloaded wagons with spiked wheels and teams of horses. Prior to 1555 the roads were maintained under common law by the parish. In 1555 a Parliamentary Bill formalised this process by putting the responsibility for the maintenance of roads onto the parish. Each parish was required to meet annually and elect at a Vestry meeting, (organised by the constable and two churchwardens), two unpaid Surveyors of the Highways, who would direct statutory labour. Depending on your wealth, you had to provide maybe a cart and horses and two men, or maybe just yourself, to labour for a given number of days each year.

In Topcliffe in 1760 the road Surveyors were William Walbran Senior and John Jackson

The following are some of their disbursements

Paid John Gulliver for himself and Wheelbarrow for 1 day	1s. 0d
Paid Thomas Wood for ale which the carter drunk	1s. 1d
For a chalders of lime, leading it and for Turnpike	10s 3d
Paid for paving 23½ Rood @ 12d	£1. 3s. 6d
To Thos Allan Bricklayer for 3050 bricks	£1.10s. 6d

This system, however, could only work properly if the roads were totally for the benefit of those who worked on them and this is where the problem lay. As trade increased the amount of through traffic increased and the system became unpopular. Not only were people reluctant to put in work for the benefit of others, they also lost their own income during those working days.

There are many instances of the village of Topcliffe being fined at the North Riding Quarter Sessions for not carrying out its duty of road repair. In 1618, at the Quarter Sessions held in Helmsley, the parish was fined for not repairing the road at Broken Banks. (This is on Catton Lane near the present mill)

The growth of the economy during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries meant that by the mid-eighteenth century the traffic was becoming quite

heavy with wheeled traffic, both wagons and coaches, droves of animals, and packhorse trains. The packhorse trains were being overtaken by wagons and regular coaching services and were displacing the horse as means of passenger traffic. The result of all this increased traffic was that the roads became more and more badly eroded. Even in 1621 James 1st started to regulate traffic by limiting the weight which could be carried by wagons. Then Cromwell, in 1654, limited to five the number of horses which could be used.

The Parish Duty did not extend to improving the old roads or creating new ones and so another system was needed. The problem was recognised by Parliament and finally they came up with a system to charge all road users through the levy of a toll. This at last was an essentially fair system, putting the main charge onto the road user. To operate this system an administrative structure was needed. In fact in 1657 the Commonwealth Parliament debated such a system but it was not until 1663 that the first Turnpike Trust actually came into existence. However, the next didn't materialise until 33 years later in 1696 and even then these first ones were run by the Justice of the Peace and were little more than extensions of the parish system. The first fully independent Turnpike Trust did not appear until 1707. The new bodies were run by trustees or commissioners. The take up was initially slow but by the 1740s they were being set up in large numbers.



Fig 4.3 The Highroad Map of 1720

The tolls charged at the gates were used to repair the roads and later to build new ones. Once people could

existed when the railway was built. It is shown on the survey produced to build the railway, as belonging to the Borough-bridge to Durham Turnpike. The road did not exist in 1720 when that map was produced, nor was it on the 1767 Manorial map. It was, however, marked on the Manorial survey of 1792 and later on the 1819 map and on a Turnpike Trust map of 1831 produced when proposals were made for straightening



Ph 4.4 Front Street, Topcliffe

see their benefit, and almost no disadvantage, they spread rapidly throughout the country. In 1745 a Parliamentary Bill brought the Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike Trust into existence. Its route was from Boroughbridge, through Dishforth, Asenby, TOPCLIFFE, Northallerton, Croft, Darlington and on to Durham. This road came through Topcliffe along Long Street from the bridge and turned up Front Street and followed what is now the A167. The Turnpike had toll gates at various places including Topcliffe. The Topcliffe toll gate was on the Topcliffe side of the river bridge. The house is now called Bridge Cottage.

and widening other parts of the road. It seems that it was built by the Turnpike Trust between 1767 and 1792 to speed up the traffic and cut out the time wasting loop through Catton.

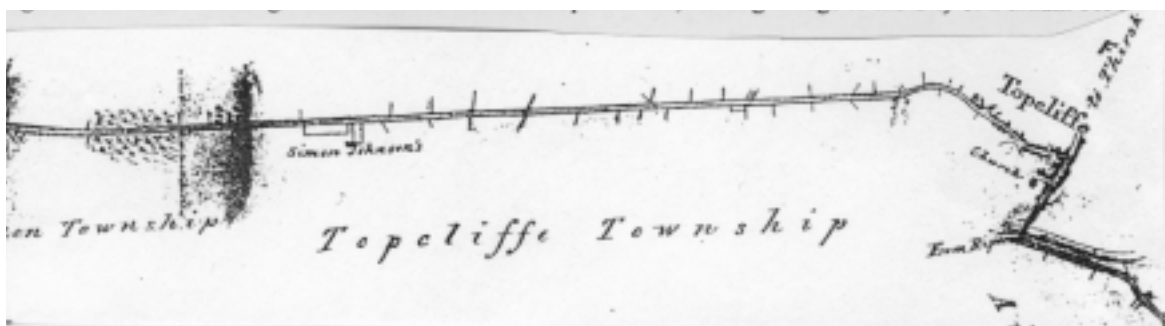
In 1784 the list of trustees included:-

Laton Frewen	Topcliffe
Sir Tancred Robinson	Newby Park
Thomas Walker	Topcliffe
Rev. R. Darley Wadelove	Topcliffe
Thomas York	Topcliffe

There are some books, which state that the straight stretch of the A167 from Topcliffe towards Busby Stoop was built when the railway station was built. However, this is not the case as the road already

Turnpike Trusts still did not own the land the highway was on. Ownership generally stayed with the previous owner even though he couldn't use it. Any new land

Fig 4.5 Widenings and New Lines in the Turnpike Road, Boroughbridge to the City of Durham 1831



money was vested in the trustees as were the toll houses and gates.

The surveyors for the Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike were John Trotter and Jervis Robinson.

The Turnpike Acts did not relieve the parish of its duty to maintain the roads, but made provision for it to continue on the turnpike roads. It was, however, permitted for the Parish to commute its share of the statutory work by making a payment in lieu of providing labour.

This can be seen in the accounts of the Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike where in 1829 Northallerton parish paid £10 in lieu of their statutory duty.

The Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike was one of the alternative routes of the Great North Road. The Act describes it as part of “the great and common post road from London to Edinburgh”. It is indicative of the amount of traffic on the route to the north that the Great North Road had another alternative route. This was turnpiked, from Boroughbridge to Piercebridge, in 1743. It followed the direct route north along Leeming Lane rather than through the towns of Dishforth, Topcliffe, Northallerton etc. It became used more and more as traffic speeded up and the villages were not needed for stopping points.

The Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike had 7 toll gates one of which was at Topcliffe, located just as the road comes off the bridge into the village. The tolls charged at the Topcliffe gate ranged from 21/2 d for one horse to 2s-3d for a four wheeled

TOLLS CHARGED AT TOPCLIFFE GATE

Appointed to be taken by Order of the Trustees

October 5th 1767

Tolls for 6 inch and Narrow Wheel Waggons or carts, laden with merchandise.

	L.	s.	d
<i>Four Wheel Waggons, Wains, Etc. drawn by</i>			
8 oxen in pairs and 1 horse	0	2	3
6 oxen in pairs and 2 horses	0	2	0 ³ / ₄
4 horses	0	1	1 ¹ / ₂
3 horses	0	0	4 ¹ / ₄

<i>Two Wheel Carts drawn by</i>			
6 Oxen in pairs and 1 horse	0	1	10 ¹ / ₂
4 Oxen in pairs and 2 horses	0	1	8 ¹ / ₄
4 Oxen in Pairs	0	1	1 ¹ / ₂
3 Horses in length	0	0	1 ¹ / ₄
2 Horses	0	0	8 ¹ / ₄
1 Oxen	0	0	5 ¹ / ₂
1 Horse	0	0	2 ¹ / ₂

<i>Four Wheel Waggons, on 6 Inch Wheels, pay as narrow wheels, drawn by</i>			
8 Oxen in pairs and 1 horse	0	2	3
6 Oxen in pairs and 2 horses	0	2	0 ³ / ₄
4 Horses in length	0	1	1 ¹ / ₂

<i>Two Wheel Carts, on 6 Inch Wheels, drawn by</i>			
6 Oxen and 1 horse in pairs	0	1	10 ¹ / ₂
4 Oxen and 2 horses in pairs	0	1	8 ¹ / ₄
4 Oxen	0	0	9
3 Horses	0	0	8 ¹ / ₄
2 Horses or Oxen	0	0	5 ¹ / ₂
1 Horse	0	0	2 ¹ / ₂

Carriages exempted from Toll on 9 inch wheels, laden with Stones, Bricks, Lime, Timber, Wood Gravel, or other materials for repairing the Road, or for mending any Highways in the Parishes or Townships in which the Roads by this act directed to be repaired do lie; or, for Carriage carrying Hay, or Corn in the Straw; or, for ploughs, Harrows, or other Implements of Husbandry only.

wagons drawn by eight oxen and a horse.

The box gives a sample of the tolls. They were generally quite complex, though they did give exemptions to locals who lived within 2 miles of the gate, to Post Horses carrying the mail, and to soldiers horses etc.

Provision was made in the Act of Parliament that there were to be no toll gates within two miles of Boroughbridge and Darlington, Nor not within one mile of the market cross in Northallerton.

Comparing the amounts paid by the Gatekeepers taken from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the house of Mr Francis Hirst, the Golden Lion, Northallerton. The Topcliffe gate contributed

1829 £560 by George Simpson
1831 £660 by John Pickersgill
1832 £630 by George Simpson



Ph 4.6 Milestone on Station Road (1999)

There was a second turnpike act which affected Topcliffe, that of 1752 for widening and repairing the high road “from Northallerton to the south wall of the churchyard at Thirsk and from the southeast end of

Finkell Street in Thirsk, through the town of Easingwold to Burton Stone near the City of York and also from Thirsk to Topcliffe.” No toll gates were to be nearer to York than the north end of Skelton, non between Thirsk and Topcliffe nor within three miles of Northallerton. So the link to the future A19 was established.

**From the Topcliffe Parish Council Minutes
March 29th 1912**

In view of the increased motor traffic round the dangerous corner at the Toll Booth more police supervision is needed

The toll was the primary means of support for the turnpike trusts. This income was supplemented by long and short-term borrowing raised by mortgaging the tolls. It also received income from the commutation of statutory duty to cash payments.

In the 16th century the journey time for a coach from Edinburgh to London was between twelve and twenty days and in the 17th century 13 days. By 1776 it was only taking four days, in the early 19th century three days and two nights and in 1833 42 hours 33 minutes. This occurred, not only by cutting the time spent overnight at inns, but also by the improvement in roads brought about by Turnpiking, and then by further improvements in road surfaces brought about by McAdam. The services could also be carried out all the year round instead of being suspended during the winters. In 1786 Mail Coaches were introduced onto



Ph 4.7 The modern day A167 (1998) – (The cottage on left was a Toll Bar on the Turnpike.)

A large black and white photograph capturing a protest scene. A large crowd of people, mostly women, is gathered in front of a two-story building with a prominent thatched roof. Many individuals are holding up signs, though the text on them is not clearly legible. In the background, a wooden signpost provides directions: 'Tremode A.166 (A19)' with an upward arrow, 'Tlarnia (B1646)' with a rightward arrow, and 'Northampton A.167' with a leftward arrow. An inset photograph in the upper right corner shows two men standing together; the man on the left is wearing a dark suit and a fedora-style hat, while the man on the right is in a dark suit. The overall atmosphere suggests a significant public demonstration.

ROBIN TURTON, MP for Thirsk and Malton, is to lead a deputation of villagers from Topcliffe, near Knaresborough, to the Department of the Environment in London, to press for an early start to a by-pass at Topcliffe which is the main link road between the A1 and Teesside.

The action committee met in the village to try speed up the by-pass work, met last night to discuss future action.

It passed a motion of censure against the Department of the Environment, officials from Newcastle, who were stated to have refused to attend a public meeting in the village on Monday to discuss the by-pass.

The committee is to meet on the 10th of the month to the by-pass of the Assembly, to discuss it.

The committee was formed by the Newcastle Parish Council, but was unsuccessful in several years to get the village by-passed.

It has organized demonstrations, and chairman, J. Vic Hawkins, said these might continue until the try-
ing was over.

TopCity
bypass need
is urgent

ing official about the starting date, but we have heard nothing official that it will be March 1971. If that is right, it might be 1971 before it is finished, and we want the conditions on the ground read at a reduced rate to describe at a reduced rate the work—supplies said excessive number on the road had caused heavy traffic on a road off their land — one in front of a bus stop, where about a dozen people had been standing in traffic.

"He knew someone we have
wounded having a fatal accident
so far although we have had
several near misses, and I
think we will have to have a
trial before the by-pass will
be opened up," he said.

Mr. Rawlings estimated that 13,000 vehicles a day passed through Tepic, many of them heavy lorries, and this volume would increase considerably in the next four years.

It is the Department's opinion that the government who will not make the answer might be to have demonstrations every few days until the road is open. We would like to be able to pack in our own trucks, but these demonstrations seem to work."

The Farm Council chairman, Alan Reader, said the road from Tappin would soon be through Tappin and would be the only part of the link between the A1 and Teasdale which was

THE NEED for a Topcliffe and Asenby by-pass was extremely urgent because lorry traffic through the two villages had doubled since 1965, it was claimed at a five-hour public inquiry conducted by an inspector for the Department of the Environment at Topcliffe on Tuesday. The meeting was unanimous in its support of the proposed by-pass, the only objectors being four people who disagreed with details concerning the time and location of the by-pass.

The Environment Minister, Mr. Geoffrey Rippon, will now decide on the proposals for the by-pass after his inspection. Mr. D. A. M. has submitted his report

after his inspection. The
action was submitted his report.

pile, both built in the last war.

Insiders
"The main road to the A1 is insider source of much



Ph 4.9 Front Street, 1910 (*The Smithy's premises, with all the wagons outside, are on the right*)

mails. The post horn was blown by the guard to warn tollkeepers to be ready. All mail coaches were exempt from tolls and tollkeepers were in fact fined if they held the coaches up by inefficiency.

At the same time as the turnpikes were being built another form of

the route replacing the Post Boys. These coaches introduced new standards of postal and passenger transport. They worked to a strict timetable and carried armed guards to deter highwaymen. They carried watches with them carefully regulated to London time. Until these coaches made their appearance time was a fairly relative thing with every town having its own version of Greenwich time. However, the new coaches were so reliable that villagers could set their clocks by the arrival of the

transport was being promoted - the canal system.

On the roads, a packhorse could carry between 2 and 3 hundredweight. A wagon, needing several horses, was limited after 1741 to 3 tons, and in 1765 to 6 tons. On water, however, a horse could tow up to 30 tons along a river and as much as 50 tons on a well constructed towpath. It was clearly much cheaper than land carriage. Nevertheless, to a large extent roads and canals were complementary. Road traffic continued to

grow and toll takings continued to rise until the 1830s when yet another mode of transport appeared on the scene - the railways. Thereafter the tolls declined and from the 1850s the turnpikes began to be disturnpiked. And, in 1888, responsibility for the highways passed to the newly created County Councils.

However, the turnpike network of the eighteenth century provided the basis of the



Ph 4.10 The Smithy as it was in 1998

modern highway system which serves the next great transport innovation - the motor car.

When Britain introduced the road classification system in 1922, the old turnpike route from Boroughbridge through Topcliffe was designated as the A1. That lasted for about a year after which the A1 was designated as the Leeming Lane route and Topcliffe found itself on the A167, which is still with us.

In modern times it was the Northallerton/Thirsk/(Topcliffe)/York turnpike from the A1 through Topcliffe to Thirsk and on to Teesside which has carried most of the motorised traffic to and from the chemical industries of Teesside. In the 1970s this traffic reached such a level that around 15,000 vehicles a day were passing through the village in a continuous stream, making life extremely difficult for the villagers. After the Thirsk by-pass was built there was a much increased pressure to build the Topcliffe by-pass. An action committee, which was led by Vic Rawlings, was formed. While the Parish Council with its chairman, Alan Reeder, used official channels to put pressure on Government Departments, the action committee took direct action by bringing traffic to a halt with several major demonstrations in which the protestors carrying placards crossed the road in single file. This action was so successful that it attracted the attention of television reporters. Yorkshire

Television's helicopter took film of the road chaos and gave Mr Rawlings and the village's oldest demonstrator, William Sigsworth, aged 92, a bird's eye view of the problem. Eventually there was an enquiry instituted and the by-pass was finally begun in April 1976 and completed during 1977. The road was formally opened by J. W. Jamieson a North Yorkshire county councillor, and the traffic disappeared from Topcliffe.

The Topcliffe one-way system was also introduced during this period as a means of alleviating the traffic problems.

As we approach the end of the millennium, the volume of traffic is once again creeping up with the growth of the Dalton trading estate and as lorries take short cuts through the village. A traffic survey carried out in 1998 confirmed this and as a result there is a scheme being put forward to apply a 7.5 ton weight restriction on vehicles entering the village, which should exclude the big articulated vehicles and make the roads safer again.

As evidenced by the Parish Council minutes, the internal combustion engine has been a problem from the early years of this century until the very end. We are still worried about the Toll Booth corner but today's huge articulated lorries are a far cry from the motor cars of 1912.

Church Street



Ph 4.11

Ph 4.12

A drawing of Church Street



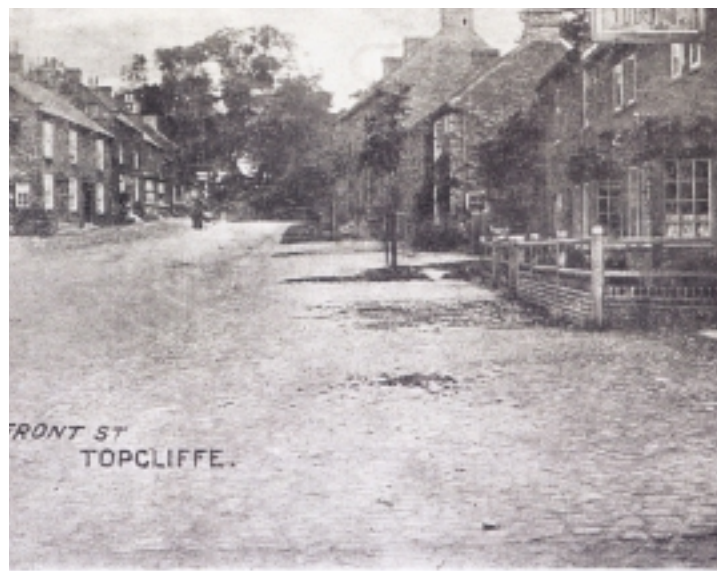
Fig 4.13

Mr. John Morley (Malcolm Morley's Grandfather) with a Pony and Trap on Topcliffe Bridge in 1942. The markings in the road under the horse are the foundations for Tank Traps in the event of invasion. There is a similar structure under the road on Front Street outside of the Toll Booth



The next part of this book deals with the Topcliffe Bridge, but there is at least one other bridge that is of interest, the one on the road to Dalton. It appears that this bridge was built in 1760 by the road surveyors of the time. The surveyors were William Walbran Snr and John Jackson. They agreed with the Dalton Parish

how to build the bridge. Each parish would be responsible for the end foundations on its own side and *"the gantree was agreed to be done at the joint expense of Topcliffe and Dalton and the arch was to be built at their joint expense"*.



Ph.4.14/1 above is Front Street. Probably around the turn of the century (1900). The interesting thing to note on this photograph is the board for the Golden Lion Inn which can just be seen with the word INN. On Ph 4.14/2 to the right can be seen the huge Beech Trees on Front St which gave Beech House its name. **Ph 4.14/2**



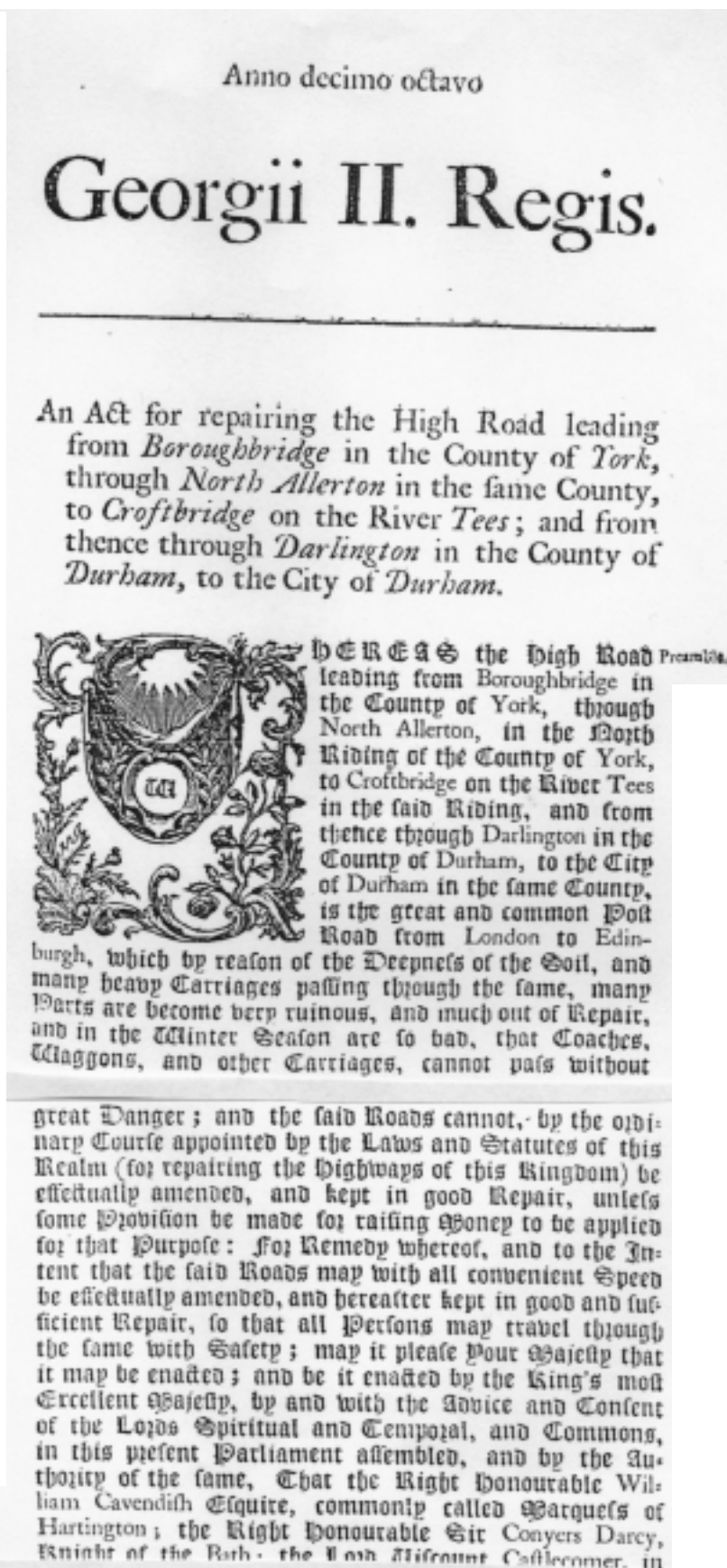
Ph 4.14/3

Topcliffe Bridge

Circa 1907



Fig. 4.15



Ph 4.16/1 There were still accidents on the bridge
In the 1920s



Ph 4.16/2 Looking from Front Street to
Station Road Circa 1890's



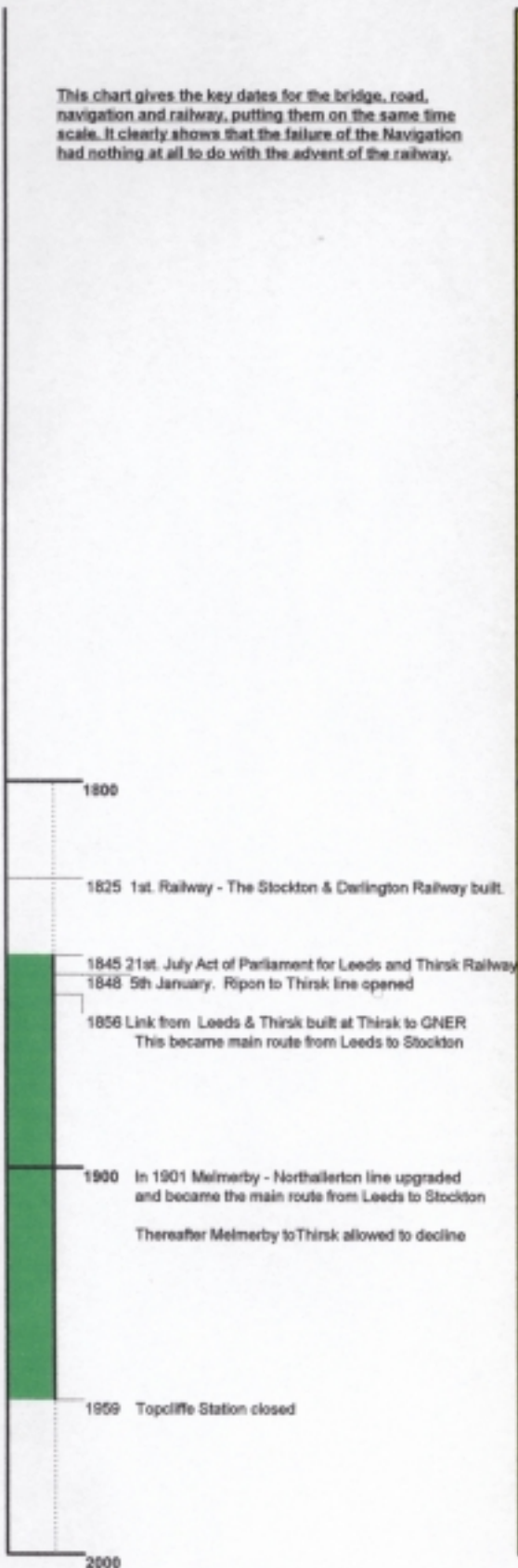
Ph 4.16/3 The Angel Inn circa 1920s



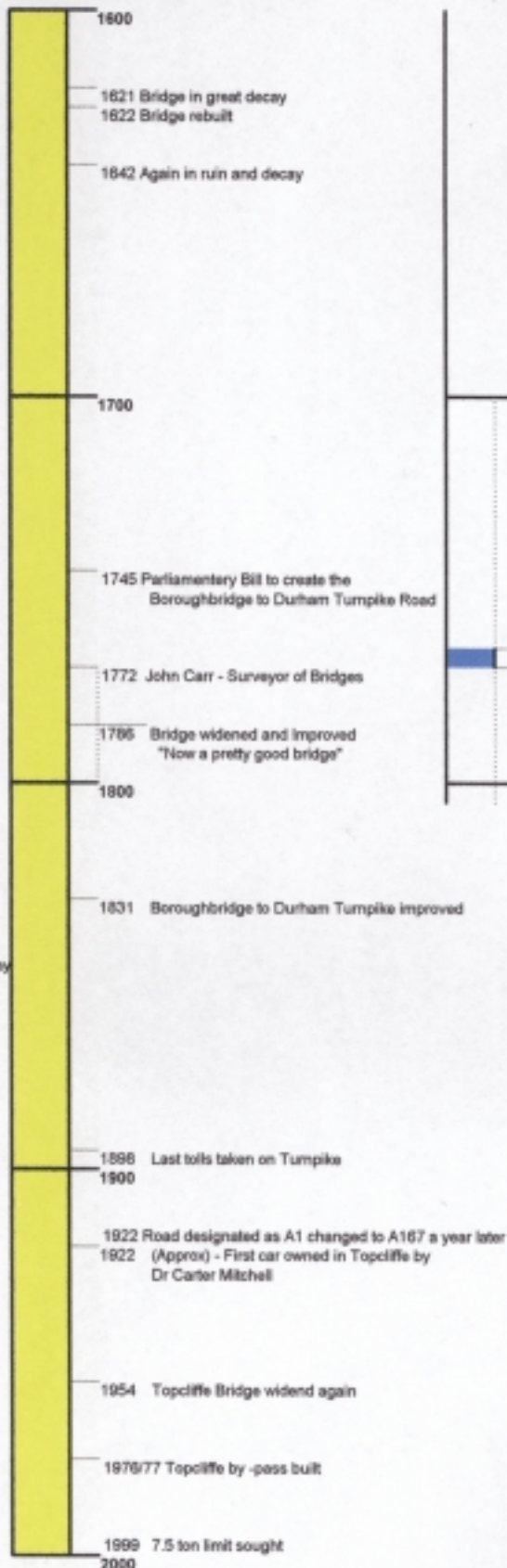
Comparison of timescales for Road, Rail, and Navigation.

RAILWAY

This chart gives the key dates for the bridge, road, navigation and railway, putting them on the same time scale. It clearly shows that the failure of the Navigation had nothing at all to do with the advent of the railway.



TURNPIKE



NAVIGATION

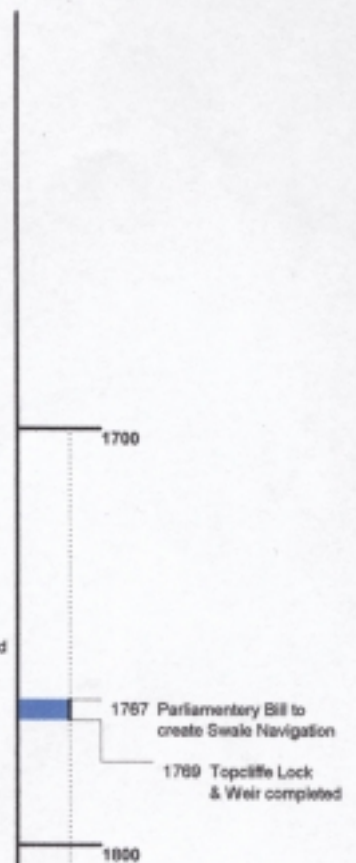


Fig. 4.18

Topcliffe Bridge

has a plaque on it, which says that it was built in 1622. However, this refers in particular to the present stone bridge. In fact, a wooden bridge existed here for many years and there are many references to it down through the ages. One of the earliest mentions is in the Close Roll of King Henry III in 1227, which records a royal mandate for the supply of four oak trees from the Forest of Galtres for the repair of the bridge which was then broken down. It had obviously existed for some time before that.

Over three hundred years later, in 1538, it was mentioned by John Leland, Antiquary to Henry VIII. He wrote *"And thens to Topclif, an uplandisch towe, where I cam over Swale by bridge of tymbra"*

Searching through Quarter Session records Topcliffe Bridge appears many times.

In 1585, for example, there was a charge of £13.6.8 estreated for Topcliffe Bridge and then £70 in 1587. In 1608, £40 was allowed for repair and in 1613 money was being collected for repairs.

In 1619 the occupiers of Kilbrough Hill Close were indicted for allowing Topcliffe Bridge to fall into decay. The decay obviously continued for another couple of years until at the April 11th 1621 Quarter Sessions in Thirsk the bridge was presented as being in great decay and it was not known who should repair it. The Justices, including Sir Henry Bellasis, Sir Thomas Dawney, Sir William Sheffield, Will

Ph 4.19 Commemorative plate on the present bridge.



Aldburgh, Will Robinson and John Dodsworth Esquires, agreed to meet on site at the Topcliffe Bridge to see the problem for themselves. They clearly found a major problem because at the following Quarter Sessions on July 10th 1621 they decided on a figure of £256.13.4 to be estreated to completely replace the wooden structure with a stone built bridge.

In the same year, at the October 1st Sessions in Malton, the Hospital Treasurer agreed to advance £40 to the bridge surveyors which they were to repay as soon as they were able to sell the timber from the old bridge and the oxen which the workmen used to lead the stone for the bridge. The money was paid to Will

Nelson, gentleman of Thorpefield and John Kettlewell, who together with Marm Bell, John Borrowbie and Nich Cosen, were appointed surveyors for the bridge.

At the April 1623 Quarter Sessions held in Thirsk, the surveyors were instructed to finish off the bridge

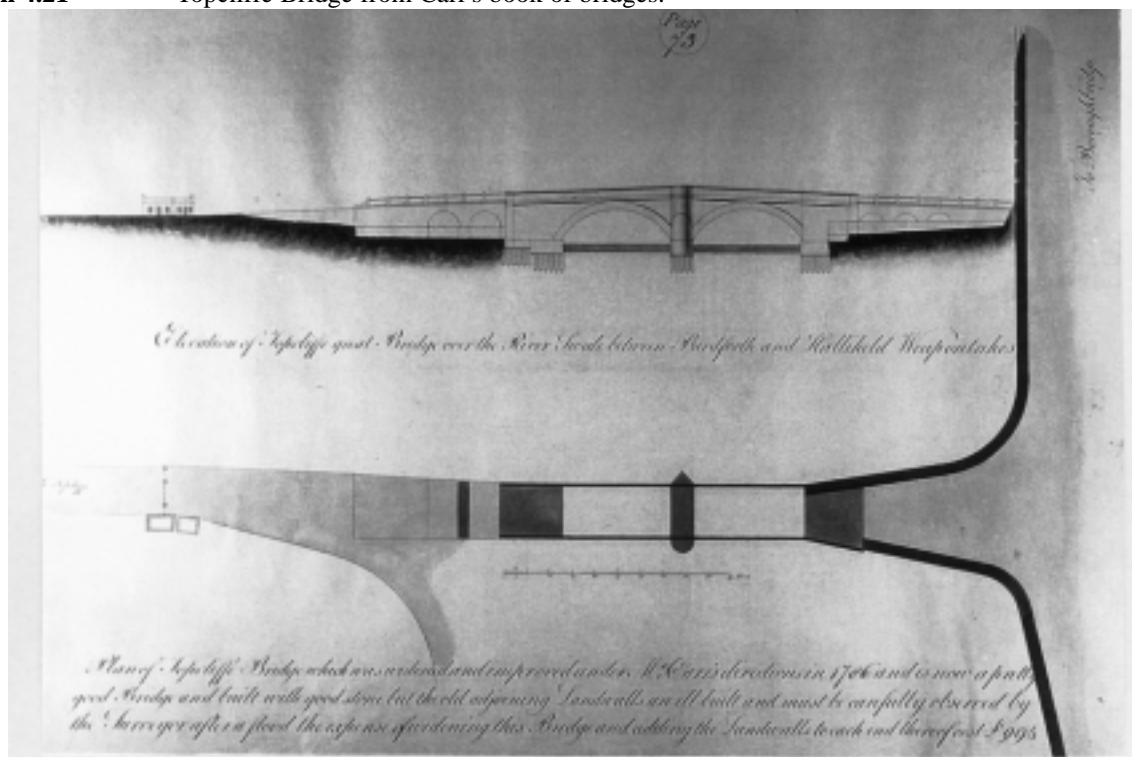


Ph 4.20 Topcliffe Bridge

properly, making up the ends and paving it well. A year later the Justices issued similar instructions for the carriage of the stone to finish the bridge which was

appointment of surveyors who were to be supervised by two Justices.

Ph 4.21 Topcliffe Bridge from Carr's book of bridges.



lying ready. The inhabitants of Topcliffe were charged in the same orders because they neglected and refused to obey earlier orders. This would indicate that the surveyors were not doing too well. By 1631 the works were certainly complete as the surveyors were asked to make up their accounts concerning their works and loans for the period 1622 - 1623.

This constant repair work appears every few years and then in 1730 Sir William Robinson of Newby Park, (now Baldersby Park) and other Justices, were empowered to bargain for the repair of the bridge. Over fifty years later, in 1786, under the direction of John Carr, the famous County Surveyor, Topcliffe Bridge was widened and improved. John Carr's plan is reproduced on this page.

By 1642 the bridge was again described as in ruin and decay and by 1645 it was mentioned as being a work for which the High Constables were to pay money to the overseers of bridges.

In October 1652 the surveyors of the bridge were instructed to report to Lt. Col. Watters from time to time and a little later, in 1658, £40 was ordered for the bridge and for the

Ph 4.22

Topcliffe Bridge 1998



His comment on the bottom says -

“.....and is now a pretty good bridge and built with good stone but the old adjacent landwalls are ill built and must be carefully observed by the surveyor after a flood, the expense of widening this bridge and adding the landwalls to each end thereof cost £994.”

carry the road over the Swale and was probably widened in 1786 as part of the general improvement work being carried out on the Turnpikes. In the John Carr plan it is possible to see the location of the Turnpike gate and toll house. In 1922 the bridge briefly carried the A1 until it was redesignated as the A167.

Ph 4.23

The most modern "Topcliffe Bridge" on the A168 by-pass



It was widened again in 1954 to take the ever increasing amount of traffic heading for Teesside from the A1. From a traffic point of view, the bridge was superseded in 1977 when a new bridge was built to carry the dual carriageway across the Swale for the new Topcliffe by-pass.

However, few

Topcliffe Bridge is in fact scheduled under the Ancient Monument Acts of 1913 and 1953 and its owner is The Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. When it was built in the 1620s it was constructed using ribbed arches, which can still be clearly seen. It was originally 12 feet wide with a total span in two arches of 36 yards. It has now been widened to 22 feet by additional work on the upstream side, but the ribbing was not continued in the widening.

The bridge was used by the Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike to

people ever see this new bridge as it is in the fields, well away from the village and those that use it probably never even notice that they are going across a bridge. Hence the centuries old stone bridge is still **the** Topcliffe Bridge.



Ph 4.24

The ribbed construction can be seen on this photograph - 1999

The Swale Navigation

was put forward in the middle years of the eighteenth century and it aimed to make the rivers Ouse and Swale navigable from Widdington Ings, near York, to Morton Bridge, and also Bedale Brook to Bedale. Much work was put into this scheme including the building of a Lock at TOPCLIFFE, but it ultimately failed due to lack of money. Little remains of the lock, which was completed in 1769 in Topcliffe. A few bits of walls project from the river bank, unrecognisable to the casual passer-by and indeed to many who have lived in Topcliffe for years. However, in carrying out the research to confirm that a Lock had been constructed, a fascinating story emerged which touches not only on the navigation but also on the mill and various other aspects of Topcliffe.

The canal age began with the building of the first canal by Ptolemy II (285 - 246 BC) in Egypt. The first Pound Lock was built, with vertical lifting gates, on the Grand Canal in China in AD 983. It then took nearly four hundred years before one appeared in Europe in Holland in 1373. The first locks in the UK appeared in 1564/66 on the Exeter Canal. These still had vertical gates but the first mitred gate appeared within a few years.

The story emerged from a solicitor's cellar in Malton. Among the dusty archives, there were two old tin boxes containing lots of information from over the years about the Linton Lock Commissioners. At the bottom of the second box were even older papers about the Swale Navigation and its beginnings. Among them were the actual hand written reports from the Resident Engineer, John Jackson, to the Swale Commissioners about the building of Topcliffe lock and dam. He lived in Topcliffe and his reports, written on double foolscap paper during 1768 and 1769 tell the story in graphic detail.

The canal age in Britain really took off in the mid-1700s. It was fuelled by the rising demand to move bulk products such as coal to the towns and lime to the farms etc. This increased demand came from the rising population and the consequential need to expand farming. Transport by canal barge was seen to

be much cheaper, far easier and could be more regular than by land wagons hauled by teams of horses on poorly maintained roads. Hence, in this period of 50 to 80 years, before the railways came into being in the 1830s, the canals provided the infrastructure to enable the start of Britain's Industrial Revolution.

Initially, a survey of the Swale and Ouse was carried out in 1735 but this came to nothing. After another thirty years the canal scene was booming countrywide and these developments caused a group of people to come together in the 1760s to examine the scheme again. Meetings were held alternately in Topcliffe and Bedale and the survey was updated in readiness for the preparation of an Act of Parliament. It was submitted in parallel with two other acts, one for the Ure to Boroughbridge and Ripon and the other for the Cod Beck to Thirsk.

*Anno Septimo
Georgii III Regis*

An Act for making navigable the River Ouze, from below Widdington Ings, at or near Linton, to the Junction of the Rivers Swale and Ure; and for making navigable the said River Swale, from the said Junction, to Morton Bridge, and also the Brook running from Bedale, into the River Swale, in the County of York;

Linton Lock was key to all these navigations and the act goes into very great detail about its provision. It says little about Topcliffe Lock but it does go into lots of detail about Topcliffe Mill, which then belonged to the Earl of Egremont. Amongst John Jackson's reports was the first clue that the present mill was built at the same time as the lock i.e. in 1769, in a different place to the then existing mill.

A comparison of the 1767 survey with the present ordnance survey reveals that the proposed lock and cutting at Topcliffe was to be in a different place to the present location. From the reading of the Act of Parliament it appeared as though the Earl went to great pains to preserve his income from the mill. Obviously the needs of millers and navigations were different, but they utilised the same method of using

Ph 4.25 The River Swale Survey 1767





Ph 4.26 Aerial photograph of the Swale

the river - the building of a dam. The Act specified that if the Swale Navigation wanted to put in another dam anywhere else other than where the then existing dam was, within the Manor of Topcliffe, then provision was to be made for a new mill to be erected adjacent to the new dam. The old dam and mill were then to be removed completely. The new mill then had to be handed over to the Earl. He was apparently

safeguarding his monopoly. However later research, in the West Riding Archive turned up the Newby papers, which revealed that the Robinsons of the time (Sir William Robinson and Thomas Robinson) decided to take advantage of the proposed navigation scheme to try to remove the existing mill, which belonged to Lord Egremont,

The then existing mill, was located slightly upstream from the Newby Park House (now Queen Mary's School), and on that side of the river and the mill and the clearing belonged to Lord Egremont. The clearing still exists but there is no sign of the mill or its weir, though a track does still go down the bank into the clearing. No doubt the comings and goings to the mill disturbed the otherwise peaceful and tranquil Newby Park. The Robinsons did their homework and showed that the cost of building a new lock, weir and cutting somewhere else on the river, downstream from the park, would be the same as building a new lock and cutting at the proposed site and repairing the existing weir. The difference in cost would be the demolition of the existing mill and its reconstruction on a new site. Lord Egremont, was a minor at the time and negotiations were carried out, on his behalf, by Lord Thomand, his guardian. The Robinsons proposed that they would pay for this additional cost and also offered four acres of land to Egremont in exchange for the existing half acre on which the mill was built so that they could consolidate that piece of land into their park. They also proposed to pay for loss of business whilst the mill was out of action.

They eventually agreed this deal and that is the reason that it was written into the Act of Parliament.

The list of Commissioners for the scheme was enormous and included Earl Percy, Lord Viscount Downe and other prominent local landowners. The actual number of working Commissioners was probably about six or seven. This is reflected in the number required to attend the first meeting:

"...And that the Commissioners for the said Navigation of the River Swale and Bedale brook, or any five of them, shall meet, on the Twenty eighth Day after the Day of the passing of this Act, at the Angel Inn, or some other Public house, in Topcliffe, and shall then proceed to the Execution of this Act:...."

It can be presumed that the first meeting did take place in the Angel as the preparatory meetings had alternated between Topcliffe and Bedale and they presumably took place at the Angel, which is why it would be specified in the act.

Because Linton Lock was key to several other navigations, the act specified that Linton Lock should

T H E
R E P O R T
O F
JOHN GRUNDY, Esq; Engineer,

F O R
Making the River *Swale* to *Moreton Bridge* and *Bedale Brook* navigable; with an Estimate of the Expences thereof.

UPON Surveys and Plans made by Mr. *Hill* and Mr. *Dawson*, and upon Levels taken by Mr. *Gargrave*, and communicated to me, with other sufficient Instructions, to enable me to form a Scheme for that Purpose from the Junction of the *Swale* with the *Ure*, it being unnecessary to extend the Scheme before the Confluence, as I have been informed by them, that the Works proposed to be done on the *Ouze* will, according to Mr. *Smeaton's* Scheme, make Four Feet Water in the *Swale*, Three Furlongs above its Junction, therefore the Navigation is so far provided for.

It is therefore proposed to extend this Navigation up the *Swale* to *Moreton Bridge*, the Length of which is 28 Miles; and also up *Bedale Brook* to *Bedale*, which is Four Miles.

		F.	In.
Levels.	The rise from the <i>Swale's</i> Mouth to <i>Moreton Bridge</i> , is	53	3
	And of <i>Bedale Beck</i> , from its Mouth to <i>Bedale</i> , is	19	11

From the foregoing Surveys, Plans, Levels, and other Instructions, I am of Opinion, that these Rivers are capable of being made navigable by the following Scheme, viz.

To

		Length be- twixt Lock and Lock.		Rise.	
		M.	F.	F.	Is.
First Lock and Dam.	To erect a Lock and Dam at A, which is about Three Furlongs above the <i>Swale's Mouth</i> , at or near a Place called <i>Myton Ground</i> , which will carry the Navigation to the next proposed Lock by the present Course of the River, - - - - -	5	1	10	0
Second Lock.	A Second Lock and Dam, above <i>Tornton Bridge</i> , at B, will carry the Navigation to the Third pro- posed Lock at <i>Topcliff Mill</i> , - - - - -	6	0	10	3
Third Lock.	A Third Lock and Dam, by the Side of <i>Topcliff Mill</i> , at C, will carry the Navigation in the present Course of the River to the Fourth proposed Lock, a little above <i>Wisk Mouth</i> , - - - - -	6	4	10	0
Fourth Lock.	A Fourth Lock and Dam, a little above <i>Wisk Mouth</i> , at D, will carry the Navigation in the present Course of the River to the Fifth proposed Lock, a little above the <i>Great Clow</i> , - - - - -	6	0	10	3
Fifth Lock.	A Fifth Lock and Dam, a little above the said <i>Great Clow</i> , at E, will carry the Navigation in the pre- sent Course of the River to its proposed Head at <i>Moreton Bridge</i> , - - - - -	4	0	10	0
	Distance below the First Lock to <i>Swale's Mouth</i> , - - - - -	0	3	2	9
	Deepening at <i>Moreton Bridge</i> , - - - - -			0	3
	The <i>Swale</i> , - - - - -	28	0	53	3

S C H E M E for *Bedale Brook*.

		Length of the Canals.		Rise.	
		M.	F.	F.	Is.
Sixth Lock.	By means of the Fifth or last Lock on the <i>Swale</i> , there will be Six Feet Water thrown into the Mouth of <i>Bedale Brook</i> ; therefore, by erecting a Lock and Dam, about a Furlong above it at F, and making a new Cut or Canal from thence to <i>Leeming Mill</i> , the Navigation will be carried so far on the Course of the said Canal, - - - - -	2	2	8	0
Seventh Lock.	A Seventh Lock and Dam by the Side of <i>Leeming Mill</i> , at G, and a new Cut or Canal from thence to <i>Brickiln Garth Bottom</i> , near the Town of <i>Bedale</i> , will carry the Navigation to the proposed Head, - - - - -	1	4	6	0
	The Part below the Sixth Lock to the Mouth of the <i>Brook</i> , and from the Head of the Navigation to the Town of <i>Bedale</i> , - - - - -	0	2		
	Rise obtained by the Fifth Lock in the Mouth of <i>Be- dale Brook</i> , - - - - -			6	0
	Total, - - - - -	4	0	20	0

N. B. The Lands on each Side the River *Swale*, except as below, are
from Eight to Ten Feet above the Crown of the proposed Dams; and
as their Drainage may be made below the same, they can receive no
injury in that respect.

Drainage of
the Land.

Lands on the
East Side, and
their Drain-
age.

There is, at the upper End of this River, on the East Side thereof, a
Tract of Land which is sometimes flooded; but as its Outfall is below the
Fifth Lock, by a Clow called the *Great Clow*, its Drainage will be no way
hurt by this Work.

Drainage of the Lands on each Side Bedale Brook. The Lands on each Side *Bedale Brook* are flat and low, and subject to be drowned in wet Seasons. They are proposed to be drained by subterraneous Tunnels under the Canal into the old Brook, where they have heretofore drained, and to which they have a Fall of Four or Five Feet.

Keels. The Keels proposed to navigate upon this River are 60 Feet long, 15 Feet broad, and draw near Four Feet Water when loaded. The Locks are calculated only to pen One Vessel at a Time.

ESTIMATE of the Expence of the Navigation on the *Swale*.

				<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The Estimate of the <i>Swale</i> .	Five Locks and Dams,	- - - - -		8120	0	0
	To making Side Cuts and Lock Pits,	- - - - -		528	0	0
	<i>A. R. P.</i>					
	8 2 28 of Land, to be cut, at 40 <i>l.</i> per Acre,	- - - - -		347	4	0
	17 1 16 to be covered, at 20 <i>l.</i> per Acre,	- - - - -		347	4	0
	Twenty-seven Miles of haling Paths, at 10 <i>l.</i> per Mile,	- - - - -		270	0	0
	Five Waggon Bridges across the Locks, to draw or slide out of the Way,	- - - - -		500	0	0
	Leaps, Fencing and Horse Bridges on the haling Path,	- - - - -		600	0	0
	Pumping out the Water in the Lock Pits, and new Cuts and Engines for that Purpose,	- - - - -		1000	0	0
	Piling and Wharfing at the Ends of the several Locks, &c.	- - - - -		450	0	0
	Barrows, Planks, and other Utensils,	- - - - -		430	0	0
	Surveying, Plans, and Expences in obtaining the Act of Parliament,	- - - - -		600	0	0
	Unforeseen and unexpected Expences, at 10 per Cent.	- - - - -		1320	0	0
	Total on the <i>Swale</i> ,			14512	8	0

EXPENCE of *Bedale Brook*.

B Estimate of Eedale Brook.	Two Locks and Dams,	- - - - -	1560	0	0
	To making the Canals and Lock-pits,	- - - - -	1980	0	0
	Fourteen Acres and an half of Land to be cut, at 10 <i>l.</i> an Acre,	- - - - -	145	0	0
	Twenty-eight Acres to be covered, at 5 <i>l.</i>	- - - - -	140	0	0
	Two Bridges over the Locks,	- - - - -	200	0	0
	Other Bridges and Tunnels, Fencing and Horse Bridges on the haling Way,	- - - - -	290	0	0
	Pumping out the Water, and Engines,	- - - - -	200	0	0
	Piling and Wharfing,	- - - - -	150	0	0
	Barrows and Planks, &c.	- - - - -	200	0	0
	Contingences, at 10 per Cent.	- - - - -	466	10	0
					5331 10 0
* Total					19843 18 0

London, Feb. 21, 1767.

JOHN GRUNDY, Engineer.

should be built first and it went into great detail about its construction, but it did not specify when or in what order any of the others should be built. In fact Topcliffe Lock was the first to be built, primarily because the stone was available in the nearby Rainton Quarry. Later, another source was later opened up on Holm Bank on the riverside about a mile and a half upstream from Topcliffe Lock.

Egremont, Mr Hill, who was Lord Egremont's steward, met with John Smith the engineer for the canal scheme and agreed that the new site would be at Broken Banks, the present site.

John Jackson's papers show a constant pre-occupation with saving money. He is always doing calculations for sending stone via the river or by land carriage.

Ph 4.27 Remaining upstream wall of Topcliffe Lock, 1998



Evidence for the Swale Navigation Act was given by John Grundy, the Engineer who produced a feasibility report and estimate. The works, including Bedale Beck, were estimated at £19,844.

The act proposed two sets of Commissioners, one for Linton and the Ouse and the other set for the Swale and Bedale Beck, but they both had the same engineer, John Smith. This engineer was the inexperienced son of Smith the elder, another canal engineer. Reading John Jackson's reports, he regularly put proposals direct to the Commissioners over John Smith's head, which is probably a reflection of this inexperience. The consultant for the scheme was John Smeaton.

John Smeaton travelled, during 1754, through the Low Countries to study the canal and harbour systems, and he obtained much information which he subsequently put to good use. He is particularly well known for designing, in 1756, the first stone Eddystone Lighthouse. It was completed in 1759

On the Swale, the scheme proposed locks at Myton (a little upstream from Helperby), Thornton Bridge, Topcliffe Mill, Wiske Mouth and Gatenby, with two on Bedale Beck, one at Leeming and downstream from Bedale.

John Jackson, who lived in Topcliffe, was appointed resident engineer to look after the building of the Topcliffe lock, cutting and dam. Following the agreement between William Robinson and Lord

There is also a feeling that he often disagrees with John Smith, the engineer, and is constantly making proposals to the Commissioners.

The first of John Jackson's reports describes the establishment and drainage of a section of Rainton Quarry with a detailed proposal for moving stone out. His papers tell of the completion of the masonry of the lock on April 19th 1768 and the beginning of driving the piles for the temporary dam on the 19th May. The temporary dam was built to keep the water out to enable the main dam to be built. It was done in two stages with the southern half, complete with sluices, being built first and the northern half afterwards. The reports tell of a continuous fight with the river to keep it out to enable the masons to work. The river was always coming up in "freshes", over topping the temporary dams and flooding the works, which then had to be pumped out again after the river had gone down.

There was always competition with the other navigations for workers. When work started on the

The same day began to drive piles for the temporary Dam and by the manner of their going down indicative of a good bottom and foundation for the dam. ...As the important business of the dam being begun on and that a good number of labourers would be wanted - set out a report that the wages would be advanced from 15d to 18d a day

Even in 1768 the men ganged up (or “confederated”) against the owners. On May 23rd seeing that the navigation really needed to take advantage of a low river, the men said that unless their wages were increased to 20d a day they wouldn’t come to work. John Jackson was not to be blackmailed though:

I Told them that before we did that the works would stand still -

And so the men went off and the works were idle. John Jackson was also worried then that the carpenters would also want an increase. By June 6th, however, he had got round the problem by using the men employed by John May and John Mumford, who were taking the earth out of the cut on the south side of the river and using that for the foundations of the dam. At this stage they were employing 35 labourers and carpenters. Within a day or so another 12 men were set on to do pumping work and very shortly John Jackson was taking a leaf out of his labourers’ book, though in a much more subtle way:

*I am therefore under the disagreeable necessity of making use of the labourers plea, that of moving for an advance of my wages - as I don't desire to be a gainer by this service, so I don't choose, neither I know very well, will any gentleman at this meeting desire that I should be a loser, therefore humbly propose, that my wages may be advanced in some proportion to my attendance extraordinary.
Topcliffe 9th June 1768
John Jackson.*

Later in June his pumpers tried for two shillings a night instead of the ten pence that they had been getting. He saw them off too, stopped pumping and went for some different men from the town, presumably Topcliffe.

He got new men, but also his other men gave in and they pumped the water out, scoured the mud and silt out of the workings and got the first length of sill laid, together with the first stones for the foundation of the dam. In celebration, he gave them two barrels of ale to drink ...”which they finished off in less than an hour and went home sober and in good humour”.

This flooding and then cleaning out happened repeatedly during the dam building and John Jackson often describes the river as “the enemy”. He took to going to look at the works at night and periodically he

Ph 4.28 This aerial photograph (1971) clearly shows the line of the cutting made cross the bend of the river but subsequently filled in.



would raise large gangs of men to fight the rising tide, sometimes all night long. The amount of rainfall was so high that the road from the quarry was very bad and almost impossible to lead stone on, causing them to fall back on their reserves that they had stockpiled on Asenby Bank and near Topcliffe Bridge for later works. They also had to open up a new road down Barngarth field.

John Jackson for a long time recommended the buying of a boat for use above the Topcliffe dam and eventually the engineer (John Smith) was forced to order their sand boat moved above the dam, together with another small boat and these were used to ferry stone from Holm Bank. John May contracted to do this at 14d a ton (compared with Rainton Quarry Stone at 3s 6d a ton)

July 18th was Topcliffe’s Annual Fair day and there was no one at work. John Jackson noted

Yesterday a girl going over the wyres fell into the river and narrowly escaped drowning. This day a man fell in, also a boy and young woman. The two first escaped, the last drowned Ordered (by) Mr. Smith to make a gate and keep it locked.

On July 23rd there is a report which provided the first snippet of information about the mill suggesting that it was actually built at the same time as the new dam. This led to the further research which confirmed that it was.

Mr. Hill hath been over this week and is preparing to carry on the building of the Mill, in conjunction with that of the Dam.
As Mr. Smith says, he has desired Mr. Hill in writing and otherwise several times within this 12 months to take down the Old Mill Dam.....

In August they agreed where the next lock and dam should be, not at Myton, but at Leckby about 200 yards upstream from the Cod Beck mouth.

Also in August, Mr Hill finally moved the old dam and took all the good stone leaving John Jackson to clear out all the rubble, which didn't please him very much as he needed thirty men to do it. John Smith was also reporting to the Commissioners, but not so often and only very briefly. He also produced different figures and in this case he had a slightly different assessment of the number of men - 50.

Ph 4.29 Topcliffe weir in 1999 with top (third) step removed



In September John Jackson finally got his boat, arranged for by J. Smith, but he wasn't very happy because it wasn't what he actually wanted. It drew so much draught it was pretty useless, except when the river was high. On 14th September they managed to stop the river, diverting it through the new cutting and lock. But by the 17th the river was rising so high again that they decided to open the sluices and let the river into the works again because it was finding its way round the southern side, next to the Turnpike Road and flooding the place which was being dug out for the new mill.

The battle with the river was continuous and they

Tolls on the Swale - from the Act

For every ton of Coals, Cinders, Lime and Limestone, or other Stone, Slate, Gravel, or Manure carried or conveyed upon the said Swale, Brook, Cuts, or Canals, from the junction of the Swale and Ure, to Bedale, or from Bedale to the junction of the Swale and Ure, the sum of one shilling and ten pence halfpenny; and so in proportion for a greater or less Quantity than a Ton.

And for every Ton of Butter, and all other goods, Wares, Merchandises, and Commodities whatsoever not before specified, carried or conveyed upon the said River, Brook, Cuts, or Canals aforesaid, for the whole Space or Distance aforesaid, the sum of Three Shillings and Ninepence; and so on in proportion for a greater or less Quantity than a Ton.

went through the same patterns of problems for months. It must have been a heartbreaking, dirty, cold and ultimately expensive task.

As the year wore towards its end, the roads became impassable and stone ashlar and backing stone was being sent by river both from Topcliffe Bridge and direct from Holm Banks, via Topcliffe Lock, when the river was high enough.

In December they began the final tasks on Topcliffe Lock of hanging gates and putting on all the metal work etc. And, after their usual fight with the river, they finished the thresholds on Saturday 21st of January 1769.

Then on the 23rd John Jackson reported to the Commissioners:

The Dam at the tail of the lock began to be taken away and in the afternoon the pumps moved and a great part of the bank removed and as much as might be, it was then broke through by one of our Reels which ran up to the lower lock gates.

The Upper Dam began to be taken away

And at last on Wednesday 25th January 1769 the lock was opened and from John Jackson's report, which he sent to the Commissioners, he was very proud of his lock.

The earth and shuttering removed and taken away and water let into the Cut, the lower gates being opened, the keel run into the Cut, the lower gates being opened, the keel run into the LOCK which being filled with water by opening one of the upper sluices was soon done. The upper gates then being opened, the keel with our navigation colours flying (and amidst the loud Huzzas of the people there met) sailed through the first Swale Lock which without vanity it may be said if not the very best, yet one of the best and compleatest Locks in England.

Two days after the opening celebrations the lock was used properly for the first time. One of two keels which had been coming up the river loaded with timber from Malton had arrived at Topcliffe Bridge on the 16th and on the 27th John Jackson went down to Leckby shoal to get the other one up to the bridge. The two keels then went on together, up the river and passed through Topcliffe Lock, mooring at the upper end of the cut where they were unloaded.

During the early part of February, John Jackson got everything around Topcliffe lock tidied up. He moored a vessel in the lock cutting and loaded her up with all the necessities for making bridges, laying tunnels and completing the hauling road from Myton to Topcliffe. He then resigned:

Gentlemen,
I now give you thanks for the favour of my employment hitherto and as a constant attendance upon the navigation I have found by experience to be detrimental to my own affairs, I beg leave to resign and if at any time I can be of any service here, or elsewhere, so as not to be confined to a constant attendance I shall esteem it an honour to be employed by you, and willing to the utmost of my power and ability to serve you in any capacity I am capable of:

John Jackson

It was August 24th 1769 before Linton Lock opened but it was able to take tolls from the outset. Shortly afterwards the Ure and Ripon Canal was completed.

Work on the Swale Navigation continued for some time with contracts being let for the Leckby Lock in March. This is another river bend where the marks of the cutting can be seen in the land, particularly from aerial photographs. (See Ph 1.3 in Chapter 1)

Tenders were also let for another site at the mouth of the Wiske. By December 1769, however, work had stopped for lack of money. In 1770 there is even a letter from John Smith, the engineer, putting in his account for work to the Commissioners and asking for an advance of ten pounds, because he is out of cash.

The Commissioners then put forward another Act of Parliament in order to raise the interest that could be paid on loans for the project. This was done in the

Ph 4.30 The remains of Topcliffe Lock 1999



Ph 4.31 this is Linton Lock being repaired in 1999



having control of both enabled them to do this.. The North Eastern Railway took the Leeds & Thirsk over in 1854 and deliberately and systematically allowed the Navigation to become filled up and starved of traffic and that canal fell into disrepair and disuse.

Linton Lock has survived as an independent organisation through to the present, under the Linton Lock Commissioners. As it was built at the same time as Topcliffe's lock, it is likely that its design was very similar. The lock itself has just been refurbished and was taken over by British Waterways at the beginning of 1999. Neither the Commissioners nor British Waterways have any drawings of the locks. However, the photograph of Linton Lock, during further repairs in 1999, Ph 4.31, gives some indication of what Topcliffe Lock would have looked like before the water was let in. Also the photograph in Ph 4.32 shows what Topcliffe would have been like on the upstream entry to the lock from the cutting.

The Ripon Canal is now in the process of being revitalised and modern transport problems may well bring some of the existing canals back into economic use. However, the fate of Topcliffe Lock was sealed

hope that more money could then be raised to finish the scheme.

Despite this, confidence was not restored and work never restarted. During the next ten years the project fell apart as various people sold timber and stone throughout the length of the scheme to recompense themselves for their outstanding accounts. Today little remains of this adventurous scheme in Topcliffe, except a few hardly recognisable stones and the outline of the cutting. The mill and weir do remain of course and that becomes another story that is taken up in the next section of this book.

Linton Lock and the Ure Navigation did, however, continue and was for a time profitable until the railways came along competing for the same business which the canals were carrying. In 1845 as part of The Leeds & Thirsk railway Act, they were enabled to acquire the Ure Navigation. Their aim was to undercut the canal tolls with cheaper railway charges and

nearly two hundred years ago and it will continue to fall into further ruin until it eventually disappears from view.

Ph 4.32 Linton Lock - Upstream Gates 1999



Topcliffe Mill is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is listed as rendering 5s in annual tax. There is no indication where this mill was, other than in the Manor of Topcliffe. To assume that it was built somewhere near the Manor House, near the junction of the Swale and Cod Beck may be wrong as, when the Domesday Survey was carried out, there would only be the motte and bailey castle and as yet no manor house. It is more likely to have been sited nearer the village in the old saxon manor.

Although it doesn't say so, it is very probable that it was a water mill, as the earliest mention of any windmill in Britain was in 1191, whereas the Domesday Survey was carried out in 1086.

When I first started investigating the mill, it was generally believed in Topcliffe that there was another

Park, to avoid confusion with Newby Hall, Ripon and now the present Queen Mary's School).

The perpetual cascade is obviously a weir of some kind and according to the 1767 map, one did exist there and it is shown at an angle across the river, which would give it an increased length.

As the Swale Navigation Act was developed, this mill, but more particularly the weir, was seen to be a problem and following agreement between Sir William Robinson and Lord Egremont as described in the section on the Swale Navigation, the Act of Parliament allowed for it to be moved under certain conditions:

...Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend

Fig 4. 33 Extract from the 1767 Topcliffe Manor map



mill before the present one, but most people were of the opinion that it was probably located downstream in the Manor area. The first clue that it wasn't came in one of John Jackson's reports during the building of Topcliffe lock and subsequently the original location was confirmed when a section of the manorial map of 1767, covering the Swale to the west of the present mill, was obtained from the manorial records in the Record Office in East Sussex. It clearly shows the previous mill on the south bank of the Swale, several bends upstream from the present location, almost opposite Salmon Hall Farm and a little up stream from Queen Mary's School. The location was also confirmed in a description of the site of the new house built in Newby Park in 1720 (later renamed Baldersby

to empower the said Commissioners for putting in Execution this Act, so far as the same relates to the Navigation of the River Swale and Bedale Brook, to remove a certain Mill or Dam belonging to the Right Honourable the Earl of Egremont, situate within the Manor of Topcliffe, without the consent of the said Earl of Egremont, his Guardian or Guardians, heirs or Assigns, first had in writing; but in case the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall (first having had such consent as aforesaid) think it more advisable at any Time to erect and build a Lock and Dam in any other place within the Manor of Topcliffe than where the said Dam now stands, then and in that Case it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners, or any seven or more of them, and they are hereby authorised and empowered, if they think fit . . . to purchase such Quantity of Land and Ground as will be

From Vitruvius Britannicus Vol III
by Colen Campbell 1725

“ Newby - in the North Riding of Yorkshire, the seat of Sir William Robinson, Baronet, in a cheerful and healthy situation. At the distance of 100 yards the Swale from it's perpetual cascade 150ft broad, abounding in excellent salmon and all sorts of river fish...”

sufficient for the said Lock or Dam; and also for the purpose of erecting a convenient and commodious Mill in the room of such Mills so to be removed, and to sell and convey such land and Ground as shall be necessary for the purpose of creating such new Mill to the said Earl of Egremont...and the said Earl . . . shall have the same Powers and Authority, Privileges and Advantages, . . . and in the case of any such removal, no other Mill shall at any Time after be built upon or within the piece of ground where the said Topcliffe Mills now stand, on any Account or Pretence whatever.

Ph 4.34 Topcliffe mill around 1912



mill building as this was not within his expertise. He suggested that Mr Smeaton might like to build it. John Smeaton did come from London to give an opinion but he also managed to lose the papers and survey he was given. He was also expensive and eventually the mill was built by a local builder and millwright.

The final exchange of land between William Robinson and Lord Egremont was carried out as a complicated land swap in a deed dated 4th January 1769. Lord Egremont got about three acres in a field called Asenby Field, in exchange for his half an acre at Mill Garth. So finally the new mill was built, in its present location, in the spot called Broken Banks, next to the Turnpike road. It was built during



Ph 4.35 Topcliffe weir

After Mr Hill, Lord Egremont's steward, met with John Smith, the engineer for the navigation and they had agreed that the mill would be built at the spot called "Broken Banks" that was as far as John Smith wanted to go with the mill. He wasn't interested in

1768/69 and probably finished shortly after the new lock and weir. The mill then remained in the hands of the Lord of the Manor until it was conveyed from the Leconfield Estate in 1907 to the North Eastern Railway.



Ph 4.36 Topcliffe mill around 1932

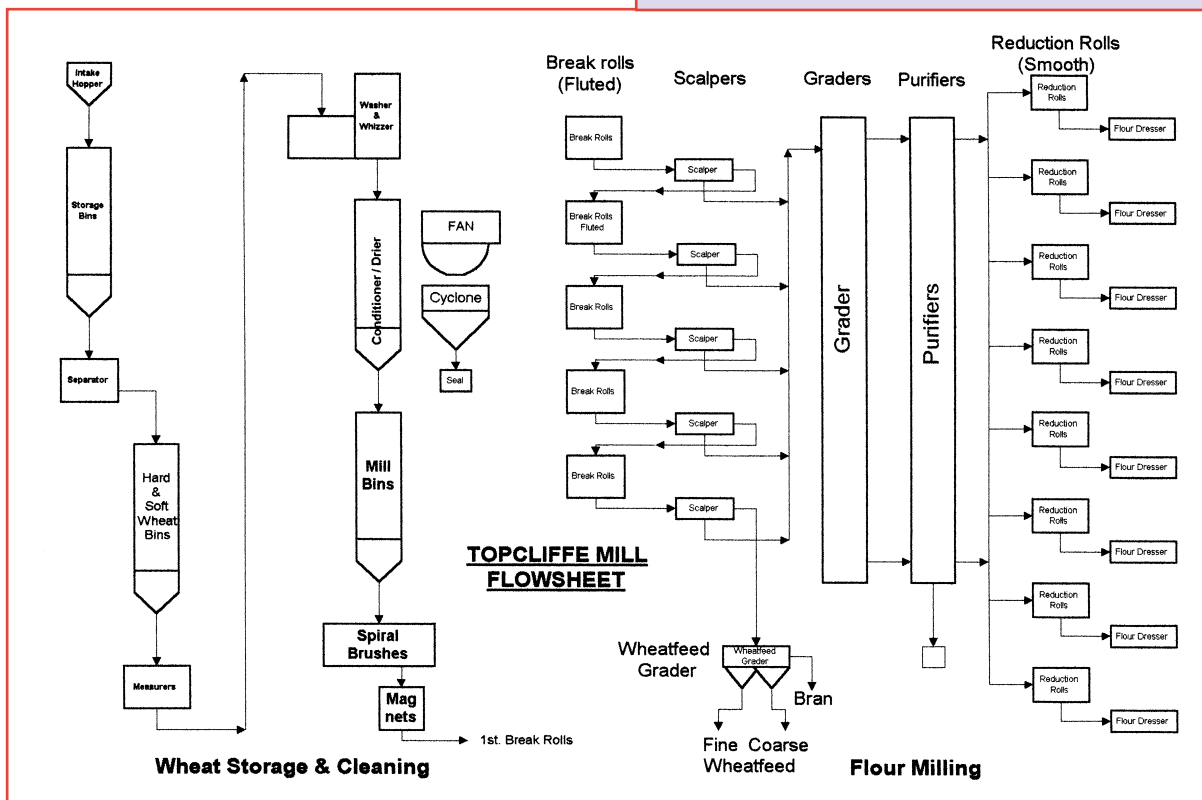
high formerly used for two dwelling houses, and a large range of buildings. The tenant carried on, a very large grist trade and also broke down a considerable quantity of wheat for the bakers.

In 1821 the tenant of the mill was Joseph Dresser. He was also a banker in Thirsk, but the bank failed during the Napoleonic wars. He was reputed to rule the corn market in Thirsk. He died in 1846. Joseph's grandson was a Christopher Dresser famed for the production

of Linthorpe Pottery. He was also the maker of what is now valuable antique furniture. He had two brothers, one of whom was called William. From William came the line of the family which went to Darlington and produced Dressers the Printers. Joseph's grandson, called Henry

In the manorial survey of 1797 the whole of the mill area had a rental of £200. 4s 0d and the survey proposed a rise to £250. The buildings consisted of a very capital stack of undershot water corn mills 60 feet in front by 30 feet deep and five storeys in height, brick front with stone. Within were two water wheels of 18 feet diameter and 6 feet wide and five pairs of mill stones. A kiln for drying wheat, another for drying oats, dressing mill etc. The separate value of the mill itself was £180. The fishery extended throughout the manor of Topcliffe. The tenancy also included a cottage near the cross in Topcliffe, newly erected, also a capital brick and tile messuage 3 storeys

The purpose of the fluted horizontal Break Rolls was to split open the wheat Kernel and separate the semolina, middlings and bran. It is a complex process which is done in five or six steps of grinding, scalping and sifting. **Fig 4.37**



Eeles Dresser, became a famous Ornithologist, a friend of Charles Darwin and Lord Rothschild.

Twenty years after Dresser came Joseph Moon, who owned mills in several other places in the north. Before he took over the mill in Topcliffe he had one in Fewston which disappeared into the water when a reservoir was built there, in about 1870, to serve Leeds. The

census of 1851 records William Coopland at the mill and a John Parnaby at the farm. It is possible that he was running the mill for Joseph Moon. Joseph died in 1887 and was buried in Bolton Priory. By this time the business had been taken over by his son George. It was this person who was instrumental in changing the milling process in 1886. He changed the millstones for Rollermills.

Joseph Moon's daughter, Mary, married a David Lister, who was from a Fewston farming family. By 1871 the Listers were living at Topcliffe mill but it seems that the Moons themselves remained at Fewston. In 1887, the Lister's son, Joseph, joined George Moon as a partner in the business and when George died in 1889, Joseph Lister carried on the business alone until 1907 when he too died.

At this point in time, his sons, Maurice Lister and Joe Lister took over the running of the mill. Maurice was only 17 at the time. Two elder sons had been drowned in a pond behind the mill whilst playing on the ice. Also in 1907, North Eastern Railway (NER) bought the mill from the Lord of the Manor, Lord Leconfield. While it initially seems strange that the NER should buy a mill, the railway's interest was in abstracting water from the river Wiske near Northallerton. The river Wiske flows into the

Ph 4.38

Topcliffe mill – early 1960s



Swale just above Topcliffe mill and the abstraction could well have affected the mill operations. Obviously the railway preferred to buy the mill and eliminate possible continuous arguments with the miller. One of the abstraction projects involved

installing water troughs on the main line North of Northallerton at Wiske Moor, so that the express steam trains could scoop up water into their tenders whilst travelling at speed. These troughs were fed from a pumping station built on the banks of the river Wiske. There was even a short branch line built to supply the steam driven pumps with coal and other supplies before they were converted to diesel. There was a second very large project, which was mooted in 1898/99, to build a large marshalling yard to concentrate south bound traffic from the Tyne, Wear and Tees. The land was in fact bought for the

sidings but the project never came to fruition. If it had, this too would have required large quantities of water. Later deeds for the mill still preserve the railway's right to abstract water.

The mill was made into a prosperous business during this period and, particularly, during the First World War, it worked flat out. After the war, in 1922, it was modernised by the Railway company. They took out

Mill Staff at about 1935/45

John Egan	Head Miller
Jack Forrester	Millwright
Sydney Appleton	
Bill Henderson	
Charlie Lamb	
George & Walter Jaques	
Sgt Major Cook	
Jack Kirk	
Walter Myatt	
Norman Kilvington	

Alan Egan	Office
Edith Dresser	Office
(No relation to Joseph Dresser)	

the water wheels and replaced them with two water turbines, which also had associated dynamos producing Direct Current Electricity for use by the mill and the house. At the same time the Listers had the mill machinery remodelled by Henry Simon Ltd of Stockport using E.R. & F Turner Mill machinery from Ipswich. During the 1930s Joe Lister started another branch of the family business in Thirsk making animal feedstuffs, leaving the management of Topcliffe mill to Maurice.

Over the years the job of being a miller changed a lot and by the 1950s the country miller had to be a shrewd buyer as well as a miller. He had to keep his eye on the markets to ensure a good supply of imported and home grown wheat and, as such, he was very familiar with transactions on the Leeds Corn Exchange, carrying out regular deals to ship in wheat via Hull and Liverpool. He was also familiar with the concept of forward buying, often arranging for supplies a year in advance. As politics and international events affected the price of wheat there was probably just as much stress associated with these decisions as there is in the modern business world.

During the Second World War the Topcliffe mill, in common with many small mills throughout the UK, worked flat out making the staple bread diet of the British people during those years. After the war the demand for basic bread began to fall away. When rationing was ended in the early fifties people wanted different kinds of breads and cakes and the mill had to try to keep up with these demands. The small miller



Fig 4.39 The mill as a night club.

also faced severe competition from the big millers as they commenced the vertical integration of the business by buying up bakeries.

Prior to 1952 the mill ran a two-shift system. But in 1952 Henry Simon Ltd carried out another remodelling of the mill machinery for Listers and increased the mill capacity. The LNER also renewed the turbines and the Listers installed mains electricity, together with motors to supplement the waterpower. After this the mill could operate a three-shift system

Ph 4.40 The mill building as it is in 1999 - converted into flats.



for twenty-four hours per day and sometimes worked seven days a week. The products made after this were white and wheatmeal flour, the famous "White Horse" self raising flour and wheat offal which went to the associated Lister's Feed Mill in Thirsk

The Flowsheet shown earlier in this section, shows the milling process in outline.

It was, however, really quite a complex process requiring various kinds of wheat. Breadmaking required soft wheat from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, filler from Argentina and Australia and strong wheat from Canada or the USA. Biscuits on the other hand used 100% soft local wheat.

The wheat was generally brought by rail to Topcliffe Station and moved by lorry to the mill. Bert Brown was the main contractor employed for this work. He also assisted with the flour deliveries. From his house on Station Road he could see the mill and knew he was needed when the mill hoisted a white flag.

Maurice Lister retired at the age of 71 in 1961 when the mill, faced with increasing competition from the larger concerns, closed down under a rationalisation within the industry. A voluntary contraction programme was set up under the umbrella of the Millers' Mutual Association, which paid out compensation to those millers going out of business. Flour production ceased and the machinery was removed as part of the agreement. The mill was then used for storage, wheat drying and mixing animal feed products. It was sold by British Railways in about 1966 to the Listers, who subsequently sold it again to the Smart family. Initially they opened the house as a fisherman's lodgings but it was gradually developed by the Smarts and a second, unrelated, Smart family into a restaurant and bar and then a public house and Hotel. The mill itself, became a night club for a time and eventually in the early 1990s the mill building was turned into residential flats and the mill house is presently a private house once again.



Ph 4.41

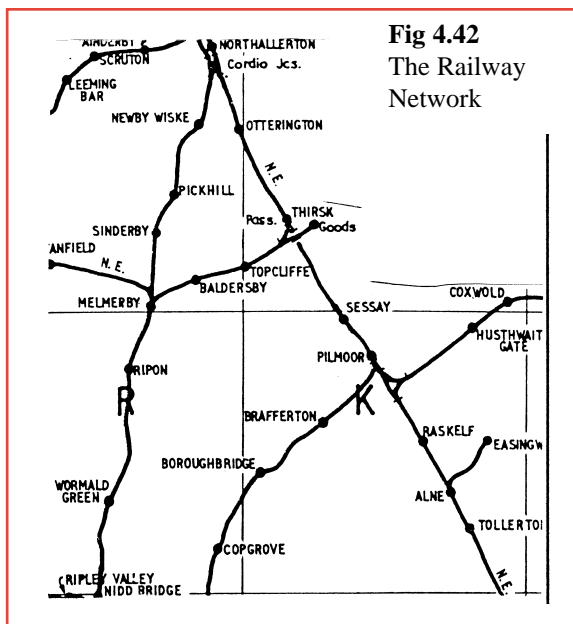
Topcliffe mill 1999

Right from the beginning, in 1768, when John Jackson was building the dam, one of the mill's biggest problems was flooding.

"This morning the river waxed so high above the dam, as in some time of the night to have run over it, but now having got a passage at the north end of the temporary dam against the Turnpike road where the mill is to be built, that place having been digged pretty low for that purpose."

The flooding was usually caused by a quick thaw in Swaledale after the winter snowstorms. When the floods were bad they not only destroyed the power from the turbines but also prior to 1952 took out the electricity from the dynamos. The water would also seep into the sunken elevator boots and make loading impossible. The problem of flooding was largely removed in 1973 when the Environment Agency reduced the height of the weir by removing the top step.

The Railways Modern Topcliffe sees little of the railways but does in fact have the north-south main line, presently operated by Railtrack, within its eastern boundary. However, there was a time when there was also a Topcliffe Station, not on the main line, but on the Leeds and Thirsk Railway. Strictly speaking, the station itself, though called Topcliffe Station, was just outside the northern boundary of Topcliffe on the A167 or, as it was when the Railway was built, the Boroughbridge to Durham Turnpike.



When it was built the main line was called the Great North of England Railway (GNER) and it was based on ideas from Joseph Pease, a leading figure in the development of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. He envisaged a line from Tyneside to connect with the York & North Midland Railway, which was being built from York to the south. The GNER obtained an Act of Parliament in 1837 for the line between Croft and York, and work commenced in the November of that year. There were many delays, which culminated in the engineer, Thomas Storey, resigning. George Stephenson was asked to take over the project and the line was opened for mineral traffic on 4th January 1841, and for passenger traffic on 30th March in the same year.

When the survey for the GNER was done by Thomas Storey, it included a line, which branched off the main line and went via Ripon to Leeds. This line was to pass to the west of Carlton Minniot and Topcliffe and to the east of Newby Park. Had this been built there would have been a railway bridge somewhere between Topcliffe village and the mill. As it was, supporters of the line in York foresaw that if built, the

Extract from NER timetable of 1912 **HARROGATE to SUNDERLAND**

Harrogate	05.55		
Nidd Bridge	r		
Wormald Green	06.05		
Ripon	06.16	12.33	2.56
Melmerby	06.22	12.40	3.03
Baldersby	06.26	12.44	3.07
Topcliffe	r	12.48	3.11
Thirsk	06.37	12.54	3.17
	06.49	1.00	3.23
Otterington	06.57	1.08	3.31
Northallerton	07.05	1.16	3.38
	07.07		
Brompton	07.13		
Welbury	07.22		
Picton	07.31		
Yarm	07.38		
Eaglescliffe	07.42		
	07.47		
Stockton	07.53		
	07.58		
West Hartlepool	08.30		
	08.57		
Sunderland	09.26		

r = stops when required

line to the north via Leeds would probably become more important. They therefore prevailed on the GNER Committee to seek powers only for the line to the north via York.

The second important line to the north was the Leeds and Thirsk Railway. The prospectus for this railway was issued in May 1844 and Thomas Grainger, an experienced Scottish engineer carried out a further survey. He reported on 29th April 1844 and by August estimates were produced. In January 1845 the

Extract from NER timetable of 1912 **THIRSK to HARROGATE**

Thirsk	07.10	10.30	1.15	6.15	
	07.45	10.39	1.20		8.05
Topcliffe	07.52	10.46	1.27	6.23	8.11
Harrogate	08.40	11.32	2.14	7.10	8.55

shareholders were told that agreement had been reached to purchase the Ure Navigation for £34,577. 13s. 0d. to prevent it opposing the Leeds and Thirsk in Parliament. Grainger now estimated the cost of building the main line at £830,000 and the branch lines at £60,000. The company deposited a Bill in 1845, at the same time that the GNER deposited a Bill for a competing railway from Pilmoor to Leeds.

LEEDS & THIRSK RAILWAY. BOOK OF REFERENCE.

Ward of Tydgate
Township of Catton } continued

Ward	Description of Property	Owner, or reputed Owner	Leases or Exposed Leases	Occupiers
27 ^a	Stable	John Rob		In house
28	Arable Field	Ditto		Ditto
29	Turpike Road from Borobridge to Burham	Trustees of the Borobridge and Burham Turpike Roads		

FFE

TOWNSHIP OF C

SWALE

Township Boundary

Parish Boundary

PARISH OF CARLTON

CARLTON

from Tregent

from Bergham Bridge

to North Allerton

16 Miles

100

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Line of Bergham

While the alternatives were being discussed George Hudson, “the Railway King”, took a lease on the GNER and withdrew the Pilmoor scheme. As a result the Leeds and Thirsk Railway obtained its Act of Parliament in July 1845 and started work on the route on the 16th October. The terminus was in Thirsk town and to reach that the railway passed over the GNER by a girder bridge of three openings, supported on twelve massive pillars.

It was also in 1845 that George Hudson bought Newby Park, now called Baldersby Park and the house which is now Queen Mary’s School. This became his favourite home and he spent a lot of time there bringing many of his railway colleagues there for entertainment.

The first section of the line to be completed was that from Ripon to Thirsk through Topcliffe and Baldersby. Mineral traffic commenced on 5th January 1848 with the formal opening to passenger traffic taking place on 31st May 1848. A free train left Thirsk Town station at 9.00 am with inhabitants of Thirsk and returned at 10.30 am with more than 500 inhabitants of the Ripon area together with two bands playing music. It was not until July of the following year that the completed line was opened and three trains took two thousand shareholders from Leeds to Thirsk and back.

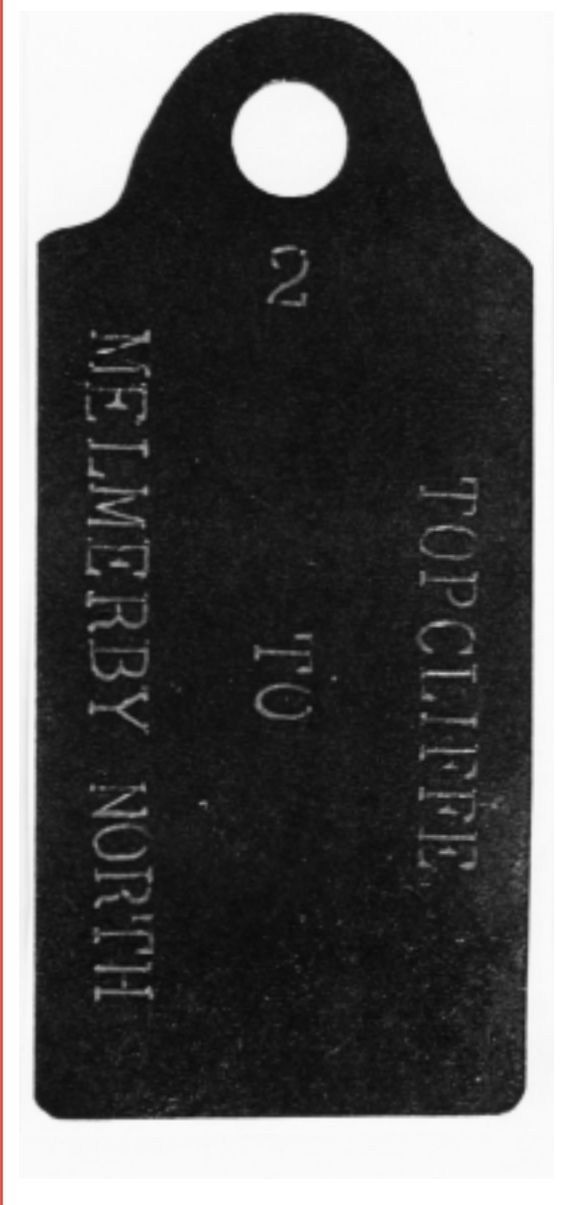
Consideration was given to building the Leeds and Thirsk Railway as an “atmospheric” railway, on which trains would be pulled by a vacuum created in a pipe running between the rails.

While working on the first scheme, in 1846, the Leeds and Thirsk put forward further proposals to run trains from Leeds to Stockton, including a link to the Stockton & Darlington Railway and a connection from Melmerby to Northallerton. George Hudson again intervened and modified the application exchanging the Melmerby to Northallerton link with the ability for Leeds and Thirsk trains to use the GNER line from Thirsk to Northallerton.

This Bill was passed in 1846 but in 1848 once again the company applied for the Melmerby to Northallerton link and this time it was approved.

When the first trains ran from Leeds to Stockton in June 1852 they had to use the Melmerby to Northallerton link because the Thirsk link to the main line had not yet been installed. However, once it was finished in January 1856, the Leeds to Stockton trains did use the route through Topcliffe until 1901. At that time, the Melmerby to Northallerton route was made into two tracks and once again became the more important route. The Melmerby to Thirsk route was then allowed to decline until it was closed in 1959.

Fig 4.45 Towards the end of its life, the Melmerby to Topcliffe section was run as a single line using the staff and ticket system. The other line was used for storage.



At the turn of the century the NER initiated plans for a large marshalling yard to be built south of Northallerton in the V between the main line and the Leeds line. Although they obtained Acts of Parliament in 1901 and 1903, eventually the scheme came to nothing. This scheme, together with the water troughs north of Northallerton, for filling expresses without them stopping, is probably the reason why NER bought the mill, so that they had full control of the water in the river Wiske.

Over the years, one of the principle reasons for keeping the Topcliffe station open was to bring corn to the Topcliffe mill. Once the mill closed in 1959 the last reason for keeping the station open disappeared.

Extract from TOPCLIFFE traffic book

	1885	1900	1914
No. of Passengers booked	3866	3161	2751
Passenger Receipts	£195	£163	£152
Coal/Coke/Lime/Limestone	1391 tons	819 tons	784 tons
Parcels/Horse/Carriages/Dogs	£22	£20	£28
Live Stock :- No. of Heads	81	2515	168
Expenses of Station	£174	£231	£333
Total Receipts		£865	£736
Goods Forwarded	710 tons	981 tons	1,150 ton
Goods Received	1821 tons	3341 tons	3666 tons

The Leeds and Thirsk Railway or, as it was by then, the Leeds Northern, amalgamated with the York & North Midland Railway and the York, Newcastle and Berwick Railway in 1854 to become the North Eastern Railway. As part of the rationalisation Thirsk

Town station was closed in 1855 with all passenger business being concentrated at the Thirsk Junction station. The Thirsk Town station was then only used for goods traffic. It was one of the very early station closures long before Dr. Beeching came on the scene.

Ph 4.46 In the late 1950s "The Atherstone", a D49 class steam engine, passes Topcliffe Station and Signal Box with an Express on a Sunday diversion.



CHAPTER 5

Round and About Topcliffe

Baldersby Park lies in Rainton Parish. It was the intent in this book only to include locations within the Topcliffe Parish boundary. However, there has to be some exceptions to the general rule. The justification for this inclusion is that while Percy's Castle and Manor have long gone to dust and disappeared, the house in Baldersby Park - formerly known as Newby Park - still exists and was the home of some famous people who had much to do with Topcliffe and its church. In fact, one of the few memorials in the church is to the Robinson family, which owned the estate. A later owner was George Hudson, the Railway King.

his father's lifestyle, but died young in 1626.

25 February 1635

Letters Patent granting authority to Sir William Robinson to inclose 150 acres of ground to make a Park

A third William then inherited the Newby estate. He was knighted by Charles 1st in 1633. Following in his grandfather's footsteps, he was made High Sheriff of York in 1638. Although he supported Charles 1st against the Parliamentarians he managed to retain most of his estates at the end of the Civil War although he was fined a sixth of his estates by the Parliamentary Estates Committee. He represented York in Parliament and died in 1658. This was the William Robinson who left an annuity with The Grocers' Company of London to pay to Topcliffe school £16 per annum for eternity.

He was succeeded by his eldest son Metcalfe who had

Ph 5.1 Queen Mary's School (Autumn 1998), alias Baldersby Park, alias Newby Park



In 1284 Newby Park belonged to John de Newby. It then passed to the Grene family when John Grene married the daughter and heir of John Newby. A later John Green sold Newby to John Dawnay in about 1576. Ten years later, in 1586, it was sold by John Dawnay to a William Robinson.

William Robinson, who was born in York, had become a merchant and made his fortune in the Baltic trade. Eventually, he became Governor of the Merchant Adventurers and he represented York in Parliament. He was twice made Lord Mayor of York. In later life he acquired much land around York, including the Manor of Clifton. He died in 1616 and left his estate to his son William, who also followed

been baptised in Topcliffe Church in March 1628. Metcalfe was created a Baronet by Charles II and he followed in his father's footsteps and represented York three times in Parliament. When he died in 1688 it was the citizens of York who paid for his tomb and memorial in Topcliffe Church.

Newby Park then passed to his nephew, yet another William Robinson. This William, who was born in 1655 and died in 1736, was the man who demolished the old Jacobean Mansion and built the present house as a country retreat and a place where he could enjoy his retirement. It was always expected that he would follow his uncle as Member of Parliament for York, but he had to make do with Northallerton for a while.

He did however go on to represent York from 1697 to 1722 and he too became High Sheriff of York and in 1700, Lord Mayor. He married Mary Aislabie of Studley Royal. Her brother, who was Treasurer of the Navy, furthered the careers of two of Williams's sons, Tancred in the Navy and William in the Army.

The house is a two-storey villa built of ashlar (dressed stone) with a Westmoreland slate roof in the Palladian style. It has a five bay, square principal block, set forward with three bay flanking pavilions joined by arcades. The three central bays have four attached $\frac{3}{4}$ giant fluted Ionic columns 3 feet in diameter. It is now a listed building. The listing includes the pavilion and balustrades to the west of the building. It also includes a cobblestone and ashlar canal, which is about 250 yards long, to the south of the house. The canal is still there but badly overgrown. There are the remains of two D shaped islands in the centre. These structures may be the foundations of the bridge built in 1709 by Sir William Robinson when he was developing the park. At the southern most end of the canal there is an ashlar-built Obelisk about 20 feet high and there is a larger Obelisk about 40 feet high, also built in ashlar, about half a mile to the west of the house high on the river bank partially hidden amongst the trees. The extract from the 1831 ordnance survey map shows the layout of the estate as it was then.

The original design of the house was such that before the addition of some of the buildings at the rear of the house, it had a back courtyard flanked by two single-storey out-buildings connected to the house by vaulted underground passages. The north side of the courtyard would then be a terrace along the banks of the River Swale with a view of the original mill weir, which angled across the river upstream from the house

One of the present chief features of the interior is a magnificent double staircase and there are fine chimney pieces and much carved ornamentation.

After the peace of Utrecht (1713 - 15), many men of affairs had the concept of a villa and its garden as a rural haven, to which they could retire for refreshment in mind and body. But for William III's wars, the new house at Newby Park would probably have been built earlier. William Robinson was among those frustrated in his house building plans by the war and the high level of taxes. However he consoled himself during these years by creating a new garden. He began by levelling the park in 1704 and in 1705 he constructed a canal. Pillars and steps were added in 1708, a bridge in 1709 and a fountain and urn in 1710 and 1711.

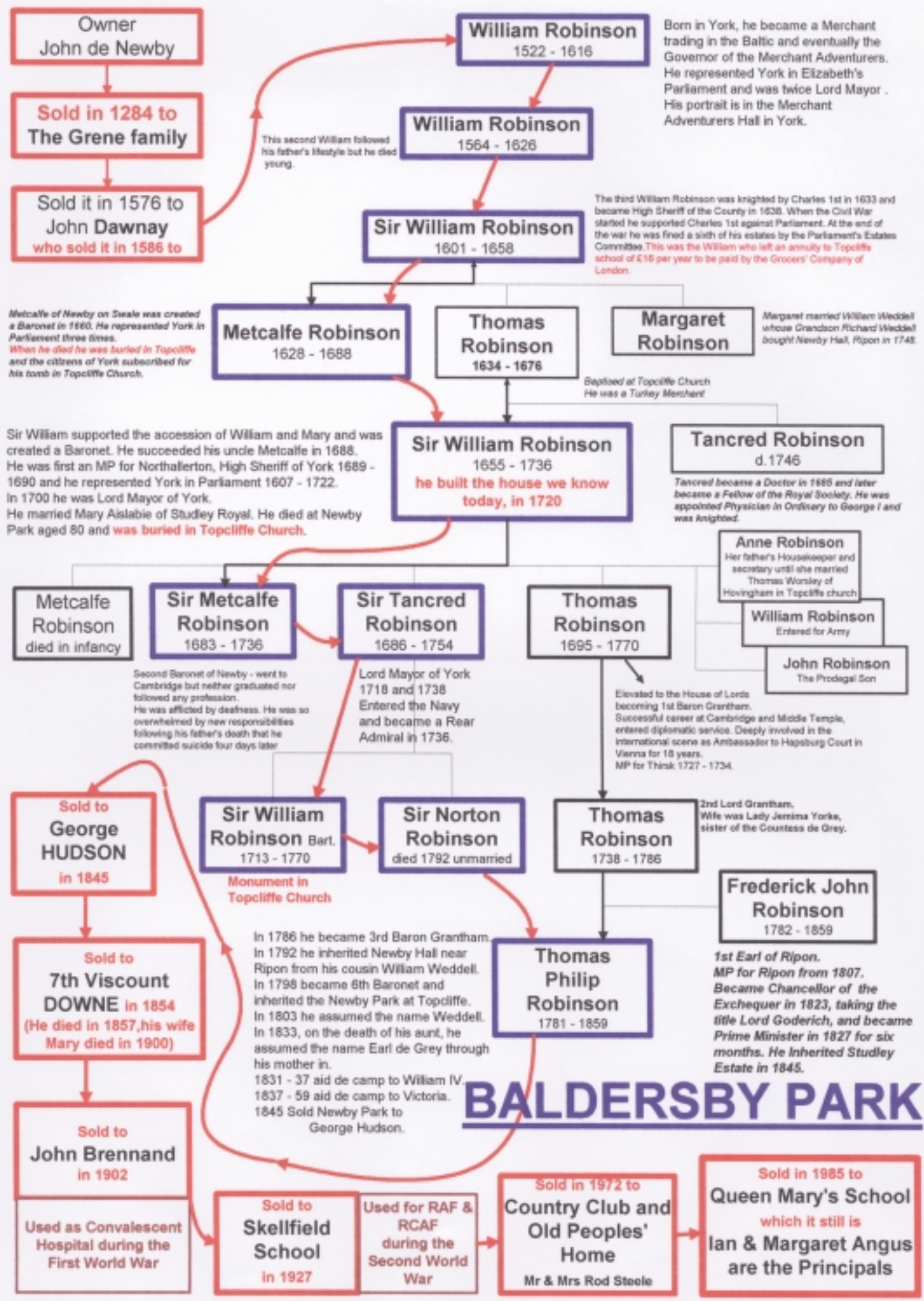
Ph 5.2

The large Obelisk



At last, around 1718, he began to prepare for the house and he gave the job of architect for the house to an up and coming young Scottish architect called Colen Campbell. Newby Park was to be the earliest full realisation of the English neo -Palladian Villa.

At the time, Campbell was also producing a publication called "Vitruvius Britannicus", which was intended to show the outstanding achievements of British architecture. Sir William took great care that Newby was included in that book. Colen Campbell produced the drawings in London for the new house in Newby Park and passed them to Metcalfe Robinson, who was living in London at that time. Metcalfe then looked over them on behalf of his father and then sent them to Etty, the York builder, who was responsible for the building work. Etty was also working at the time for Vanbrugh at Castle Howard.



Newby Park was to cost about £2,000, whilst Castle Howard was to cost £80,000. Perhaps this cost comparison gives the scale of the difference between the grand country house and the gentleman's country villa.

The house began to be erected during 1720. The problems experienced between workmen, builder and owners, whilst building houses was obviously as fraught in those days as it is now. At one point in time William and Metcalfe had such serious disagreements that Metcalfe was on the point of being turned out. Nevertheless, by 1725 the house was finished and the park levelled.

From about 1720 William's daughter Anne was indispensable to him as housekeeper and secretary. In these years William and Metcalfe spent a lot of time together at Newby Park, William incapacitated by gout and Metcalfe with his deafness. Then in 1733, Anne married Thomas Worsley of Hovingham in Topcliffe Church and left home leaving William, almost alone, at Newby Park for the last three years of his life. In 1736, while his father was ill,

Ph 5.3 The Robinson Memorials in Topcliffe Church 1998



Metcalfe was completely overwhelmed by the prospect of having to assume new responsibilities. His despair was so great that within four days of his father's death he committed suicide. Both were buried

Fig 5.4 Layout of Baldersby Park



Ph 5.5

The double staircase



on the same day at Topcliffe Church. William has his memorial in the Church but there is no mention of Metcalfe.

There now ensued a complicated period. Although Tancred became head of the family and succeeded to the baronetcy, his father had left the estate to Metcalfe who in turn had left it to Thomas, the next brother, who was in the diplomatic service. Tancred maintained that Metcalfe was not in a fit state of mind when he made his will. Most of the relations supported Thomas but eventually there was a settlement in which Tancred got the majority of the estates, leaving some land and a cash settlement, to Thomas. Tancred then retired into virtual isolation from his relatives, devoting his time to the development of the estates.

Tancred was very careful about money. When he took over the Newby Park estate he found that William had made a practice of giving £5 each year for the Poor of Topcliffe, in order that he wasn't disturbed by troublesome begging at the door. Over the next few years he gradually reduced this payment, first to £4 then to £3 and then to £2.10s. He was worried how he

could make the payment without it becoming a payment claimed by right, particularly as he lived in York in the winter and St. Olave's were trying to get him to do the same.

Towards the end of his life his relations with his brother Thomas improved and Tancred's son, William, became friendly to such an extent that when his own health deteriorated he let Newby Park to his uncle Thomas. It was during this period (around 1767) that the Swale Navigation Scheme was being developed. William and Thomas thought that it would be a good idea to get rid of Lord Egremont's mill which was an industrial blot on their otherwise tranquil landscape. The details of this transaction are dealt with under the Swale Navigation and

mill sections of this book but there is another footnote to add here. In one of their letters negotiating the deal, it was written that, if the mill site could be cleared, then "Mr. Brown" would be very pleased. This note would tend to confirm that Capability Brown, himself, was at least being consulted about the new layout, not just his foreman who is known to have been involved.

Both Tancred's sons, William and Norton, died without family and so Newby was inherited by Thomas's branch of the family after all. It was inherited by Thomas's grandson, yet another Thomas, when Norton died in 1792. This Thomas had inherited the title of Lord Grantham from his father in 1786. He also became Earl de Grey in 1833 through his mother. He had already inherited the other Newby Hall, near Ripon, from his cousin William Weddell, who had bought it from the Blakett family (who originally built it in 1690). This Thomas Robinson changed his name to Weddell in 1803 and finally sold Newby Park in 1845 to George Hudson, the Railway King.

Before moving on to George Hudson, there is one other member of the Robinson family who is of interest. The brother of the last Thomas was Frederick

John Robinson who briefly became Prime Minister. In 1827. Frederick inherited Studley Royal Estate. He represented Ripon as Member of Parliament from 1807 being a strong advocate of free trade. In 1823 he became Chancellor of the Exchequer and was elevated to the Lords as Lord Goderich. When the then Prime Minister, Canning, died unexpectedly, George IV asked Lord Goderich to form a Government. He served only briefly, resigning after six months. Later he took charge of the Foreign Office, becoming particularly active in the emancipation of slaves. Later, in 1833, he was made the Lord Privy Seal.

Thomas Robinson was the last of the family to have an interest in the Newby Estate. After he went off to look after his bigger inheritance of Newby Hall he sold Newby Park to the famous George Hudson.

George Hudson was born in 1800, one of the children of John Hudson and his wife Susannah. His father was a tenant farmer in the village of Howsham, and he was baptised in the church at Scrayingham. George was the only one of his family to leave home and he went to work in his early teens as an apprentice draper in York. In 1827 he was left a large amount of money and property in his great uncle's Will and, at the age of 28, he became one of York's richest citizens.

He became interested in politics and in 1833 was involved in establishing the York Union Bank (later amalgamated with Barclays) becoming one of the directors. On the 30th December of the same year he attended a meeting at which several of the lawyers and business men discussed the possibility of bringing a railway line in to York, primarily to bring in cheap coal. George was made treasurer. Eight years earlier, in September 1825, the Stockton and Darlington Railway had become the first public railway with steam hauled trains. Now, the nation's railways were growing fast in a piecemeal fashion. After a shaky start and much hassle about the route and which railway they would connect with, a start was made in 1837 from Tanner Row inside the city walls.

At about the same time George Hudson became Lord Mayor of York. The grand opening ceremony of the railway was on 29th May 1839. This was the first of many involvements with railway companies, including pushing the railway north to Darlington and later to Newcastle. He wheeled and dealt in the railway business and in mines and ironworks. By 1844 he was the Railway King with over 1000 miles of railways under his control.

In 1845, 220 Bills were deposited in Parliament and 94 received the Royal Assent authorising 3,000 miles of new railway. Hudson was at the centre of many of

Ph 5.6 George Hudson



these deals and, in addition, became Member of Parliament for Sunderland. In October of 1845

George Hudson built some of the additional buildings around the rear courtyard to accommodate some of the many visitors he had to his country residence. He used a railway architect called G. T. Andrews. This architect also designed the two lodge houses which were built by Hudson at each of the entrances. Andrews also got the job of redesigning Topcliffe's new church when it was rebuilt in 1855

George Hudson, now a millionaire, bought Newby Park, adjoining the Baldersby estate which he already owned. In 1848 Topcliffe Station opened on the Leeds & Thirsk Railway, owned by one of Hudson's companies.

By 1849, however, dividends were falling and Hudson came under pressure. He was accused of selling shares

Hudson had befriended the artist William Etty who noted in his diary "...he took me by rail eighteen miles and then in his carriage and four. A fine old mansion house, fine old oaks, by the river Swale..."

at a higher price than they were worth to one of his companies. Suddenly, he became a scapegoat for all the companies' present ills. Once confidence in Hudson failed, many businessmen had their financial strength threatened. Hudson's system of management and equity was more intuitive than legal and everyone

Ph 5.7

The lake as it was during the First World War being used as a convalescent home by the Army



knew this. As long as share costs went up, no one minded, but once they tumbled the knives came out. Accusations of corruption and fraudulent transactions flew thick and fast and Hudson was forced to resign from most of the boards he sat on, including the York Union Bank.

As the various committees and enquiries reported their findings, Hudson's liabilities mounted to around $\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds. Demands were made that he repay them and threats made to take him to court. By the end of the year, Hudson's Office of Alderman was declared null and void and York's Hudson Street had been renamed Railway Street. During this period

Hudson was at Newby Park more and more, keeping his head down. His 50th birthday, in March 1850, was not the best of occasions as he had to sell his estate at Londesborough. He continued with his farming interests at Newby. He had a farm manager called Robert Thackwray whose wage was 3s. 4d per day. The total wages bill for Hudson's farmworkers was £75 a month.

Eventually, in 1854, George Hudson was forced to sell Newby Park, which was his favourite home. He sold it to Viscount Downe for £190,000. The solicitor for the deal was George Leeman who was on the point of being elected Lord Mayor of York.

Ph 5.8 The lake as it is now



One of the more pleasant occasions during this period was when his daughter Ann was married to Count Suminswki. The wedding took place at Topcliffe Parish Church on 19th April 1854.

By 1859 Hudson had lost his seat as MP for Sunderland and was forced to live abroad for six years. Once he lost his Parliamentary privilege he had to evade arrest for debt. He did come back to England in 1865 to stand in the general election for Whitby, but he was arrested and committed to York Castle in the old debtors' prison. He was released in October but re-arrested for another debt. When he was released again he escaped to the continent. He lost another case in 1869 with the North Eastern Railway and incurred a huge debt to them, but was able to come back home when in 1870 imprisonment for debt was abolished. In December 1871 he died of a heart attack and was buried in Scrayingham churchyard in the family vault which he had purchased when he was rich. He was put in an inner shell within a lead coffin and this was enclosed in an outer coffin of oak. It was transported by the Midland Railway Company to York (perhaps free ?). His will valued his estate at £200.

The railway system he left gave Britain a clear lead over other developing industrial nations. Hudson was a self-made man and he forgot, as he seemed to create money, that it was not his own. He dealt with the concerns that he had to manage as if they were his private property. He was a man of vision, courage and enterprise who got things done. His schemes brought work for thousands and huge benefits to the north and to Britain.

The estate was bought by the 7th Viscount Downe in 1854 for a sum of £190,000 and it was the Viscount who changed its name to Baldersby Park. This change finally ended the confusion which there had been over the centuries with two places called Newby so close to each other. Following the accession of the 7th Viscount Downe, in May 1846, he started 11 years of

vigorous building activity on the extensive Dawnay estates in Rutland and in Yorkshire. Downe was an Oxford graduate whose father was a parson and his father-in-law was a Bishop. He used an architect called William Butterfield to do the estate houses in Sessay and when he also built the estate village of Baldersby St. James and the church, he again used Butterfield. However, Downe died in 1857, before the new church was finished and so he was buried in the newly rebuilt Topcliffe Church, possibly in a vault, until St. James was finished. His body was then moved to the new church.

His widow, Mary, outlived him by nearly forty years. In that time she became a very formidable lady and completed her husband's estate improvements including the almshouses in Baldersby St. James. She commissioned Butterfield, again, to design a small church for Dalton.

Upon her death, in 1900, the Dawnay family sold all their property in Sessay and Baldersby and so Baldersby Park was once more on the market. The next purchaser, in 1902, was John Brennand, a man who had made a fortune in the cotton market. The Brennands had cotton mills in Burnley where there is



Ph 5.9 Baldersby Park Cricket Club – At the pavilion on the cricket field, Baldersby Park around 1912 – The Brennand family are seated. John Brennand, the owner of Baldersby Park, is seated second from right, his father is next to the left. (Maurice Lister, of Topcliffe Mill is standing at the back far left.)

Ph 5.10**The expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden**

a Brennand Street. They put a major redecoration in hand before they moved in and this was to cause the great fire of 1902. One of the workers candles was knocked over and started a fire which gutted the inside of the house. Traces of the fire can still be seen on the outside of the west wing where the stonework still has a pinkish tinge. After the fire the interior had to be rebuilt and at the same time changes to the original Colen Campbell design were introduced. The frieze around the top of the main entrance hall has looped cotton threads in the design, a reminder that the new owner was from the cotton trade.

There are those in Topcliffe village who remember the Canadians well. Village bikes used to disappear regularly and be found in the river – disposable transport. Then there's the story of the horse that was ridden into the house and up the main stairs as a joke. It proved rather more difficult to get it to come down again.

During the Second World War, the school was evacuated to Nidd Hall and Baldersby Park was used

During the First World War, the house became a convalescent home for the army and there are quite a few pictures of soldiers boating on the lake and being looked after by nurses

Unfortunately the Brennand family were ruined by the cotton market crash of 1927 and the park had to be sold again. This time the buyer was Skellfield school for girls, which had started in Ripon.

Ph 5.11**First World War convalescent home**

Fig 5.12 Baldersby Park Holiday Centre

Baldersby Park is an elegant Georgian mansion, but in 40 acres of beautiful parkland, it enjoys an enviable, sheltered location close to the A1, and has extensive grounds to the rear. Built by Anthony C. Webb in 1719 as Sir William Robinson's ancestral home, and originally known as Netherby Park, the house was subsequently owned by George Hudson, the railway king. The name was changed just before the turn of the century by Viscount and Lady Downe before passing to John Robinson. The estate includes, besides the grand mansion, two more important features: the park and the surrounding grounds, the beauty of which is enhanced by the presence of its extensive grounds and woodlands, and the pleasure of its varied and well-kept facilities. There are no more stables here, but the house is still a grand residence. Baldersby Park is ideally situated for visiting all the lakes, rivers, places of historic interest, and the National Park or Coast, whether you want a complete and active holiday or a peaceful, restful escape from it all. In fact, it is ideal for enjoying the delights of the surrounding countryside, the other things you can do here, and you will be glad you chose Baldersby Park.

Restaurant
Windy, you've chosen to take a well-earned holiday. Come and go to your pleasure. Get up, go to bed, eat and drink when and as you wish. But sometimes you may want an extra treat, particularly you believe, someone else to cook for you, wait on and serve you - just a little. At Baldersby Park the choice is yours. Here you will find excellent cuisine and friendly service. Whether you want the occasional treat, a family lunch or a dinner to celebrate a special occasion - it's all here for you. Extra refreshment can usually be served on the terrace or in your apartment, by arrangement.

The Baldersby Park Holiday Centre apartments

Accommodation
Four below ground cellars, through a hidden courtyard or down a long flight of stairs... to your (usually) furnished, fully equipped and spacious holiday home. There are 12 in all, each with a warm welcome. Modern comforts carefully blended with historic buildings to create your perfect holiday home. For those who come on one floor, all equipped with comfort and convenience in well laid out kitchens.

Licensed Bars
Three drinks, long drinks, hard drinks, soft drinks, specially or moderately, again we're ready and waiting to satisfy your every whim. The long, hard work on the terrace or by the pool. In the end of the after dinner evening, relax with a warming brandy or liqueur. For again, Baldersby Park brings you the best of all worlds - and total freedom of choice.

BALDERSBY PARK
Topcliffe - Thirsk - Yorkshire
Tel. Topcliffe 77589

by the RAF and the Royal Canadian Air Force for aircrew flying from Topcliffe and Dalton aerodromes.

Skellfield school moved back in after the war but closed in the early seventies, being sold for use as a country club and old peoples' home. There were plans to turn it into a holiday park but this venture finally failed. In 1985 Baldersby Park became Queen Mary's School for girls and that is what it remains today.

The most notable feature of the house is a vast central hall, more suited to a concert hall rather than a private house, but eminently suitable for a school. There are some original pieces from pre-fire days preserved throughout the building. There is a fine marble insert in the dining room above the fire place which portrays the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. It is, in fact, probably the greatest treasure in the house. It is made of Italian marble and dates from the 16th century. Because of the way it is cut, to catch the light, it was probably at some time mounted rather higher than its present position.

In one of the upstairs classrooms there is a fireplace lintel which survives from the days of the 7th Viscount Downe with the inscription "Vivas in Pace Dei" (Live in the peace of the Lord.)

Most of the park, except for the area immediately around the house and the playing fields, no longer belong to the house. It has been sold and now belongs to several farms in the area. The canal still exists but is badly overgrown and the smaller oberlisk too, remains albeit in the middle of a ploughed field. The large obelisk is largely hidden by trees but much of the park land remains with its many mature trees.

Ph 5.14 A fireplace lintel from the days of the 7th Viscount Downe



The Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force

both had a part to play in the Topcliffe story. During the Second World War there were, two airfields within the Topcliffe Civil Parish, RAF Topcliffe and RAF Dalton.

RAF Topcliffe was the first to be built. It was planned to be built in Topcliffe Parks, to the north of Topcliffe, as part of the RAF expansion in the late 1930s. The expansion was brought about by Hitler's seizure of power in January 1933, the withdrawal of Germany from the League of Nations and consequential collapse of the International Peace Conference in Geneva. The emergent Luftwaffe caused great concern in Britain and, in November 1933, a committee was set up to consider the worst deficiencies in national defence. From this emerged a scheme to expand the RAF. Priority was given to a bomber strike force capable of reaching Berlin in a straight line. This was the context in which Yorkshire and Lincolnshire emerged as bomber country. Topcliffe was among the last batch of stations planned before the war. The operations record book (RAF Form 540) has its first entry on the 4th September 1940, recording that Group Captain H. J. F. Hunter MC, together with the station headquarters personnel,

From the Operations Record Book on 15/12/40

Bomb Raid on BERLIN

17 aircraft were ordered to carry out this operation, with a bomb load of 2 (500lb) and 3 (250lb) N.D.T., 1 (250lb) MLD and 2 containers of incendiaries.

(Some actual flight details are shown below)

transferred from Drifffield to Topcliffe and that on 5th he assumed command of the RAF station. On 7th of September the new airfield was visited by Air Chief Marshal Lord Trenchard and on the same day Invasion Alert No.2 was put into operation with all personnel being recalled from leave. The station, which was in No. 4 Group, Bomber Command, opened as a grass airfield. The first squadron to move in was No. 77, which came from Linton on Ouse with their Whitley bombers. They had been originally formed in Edinburgh in 1916. They arrived at Topcliffe on 15th November 1940.

On 12/1/1941 ... " 10 operational aircraft were ordered to join the raid on the Hipper Class Cruiser in Brest ".

A month later they were joined by No. 102 squadron which had been originally formed at Hingham in 1917. This squadron actually flew operationally on the last night of the First World War. Disbanded in 1919, they were reformed in 1935 and came to Topcliffe, also from Linton, on 15th November 1940. Despite being declared operational the station lacked

From the operations record book on 1/3/1941

Bomb raid on COLOGNE

T. 4161 ...Made attack on primary target, and bombs were observed to burst near to a fire already alight. This aircraft developed engine trouble and was forced to land in the sea off Norfolk coast. The dingy was launched but this opened upside down, four members of the crew succeeded in getting on but owing to the dingy being blown away from the aircraft, the Captain was lost. Rest of the crew were picked up at 1045 by a trawler and landed at Great Yarmouth.

many facilities. Nevertheless both squadrons carried out bombing raids on Germany, including Berlin and the Ruhr. Details of the actual flights are written up in the operations record books. A typical example is

15/12/40. BOMB RAID ON BERLIN. 17 aircraft were ordered to carry out this operation, with a bomb load of 2(500lb), and 3(250lb) N.D.T., 1(250lb) M.L.D. and 2 containers incendiaries.				
T. 3004.	P/O. D.N. Bagriall.	Captain.	EX0279.	Made attack on factory which was seen before Primary target was located. Dropped one stick. Bursts being seen in factory buildings. Second stick dropped on Primary. Bursts were seen and fires started followed by five explosions.
T. 4138.	P/O. H.H.J. Miller. Sgt. D.H. Gilbert. Sgt. G. Thorpe. Sgt. C. Williams. Sgt. A.E. Hammond.	Pilot. Navigator. Observer. Wire/Op. W/Op. A.G.	EX0610.	No attack carried out bombs brought back. When returning to base this aircraft crashed on the Hills East of Camotherly. Sgt. C. Williams being killed and the remainder of the crew sustained injuries and were taken to Hospital.
T. 4227.	Sgt. N. Taylor.	Captain.	EX0422.	Unable to locate Primary target. Made an attack on B.M.W. Works Berlin. Bombs dropped in one stick. Resulting in one large explosion.
T. 4228.	P/O. H.A. Svenson. Sgt. E.F. Wilson. Sgt. J. Beattie. Sgt. J.E. Campbell. Sgt. A.R. Fox.	Pilot. Navigator. Observer. W/Op. W/Op. A.G.	EX0612.	Crashed in sea off St. Yarmouth. Fate of crew unknown.

Fig 5.15

Actual copy from operations record book 15/12/1940

Fig 5.16

Operations record book - Page from June 1942

R.A.F. Form 540		Page No. 1	
For instructions for use of this form see R.A.F. and A.C.F. forms 100 and 101, and R.A.F. and A.C.F. forms 102 and 103.		No. of pages used for day	
of (Unit or Formation)		References to Appendices	
Place	Date	Summary of Events	
TORONTO	1/6/42	RAID ON KLUEN: - On the night 1/2nd, 30 Halifax aircraft of No. 102 Squadron were detailed to attack the large shed at Krupp Works at Essen as part of a 2nd. thousand aircraft raid. The alternative was any built up area in the Ruhr. Five aircraft P, J, L, R and M were detailed as advance force to be on the target 35 minutes before the 15 of the main body. The Bomb Load for each aircraft was 3 x 1,000lb. 8 J.B.C's 90 x 4 lb. and 4 J.B.C's 8 x 30lb. Incendiary, with the exception of U and W which each carried 8 x 1,000lb. Each aircraft carried 1 pkt. of Nickels take dropped over Germany and cameras were carried by G, J, H, E, G, A, P, S and L. Two aircraft of the advanced force obtained visual pinpoint on the river. Three bombed on E.F.A. Aircraft A returned early as he was unable to climb. O had interference. trouble, the captain of V fell sick and all 3 aircraft jettisoned their bombs in the sea. Of the remaining 12 aircraft, 11 claim to have bombed in primary area, although the exact aiming point was not soon visually coming to base. Many scattered fires were reported and 8 photographs were taken but cloud and haze prevented results. Aircraft H did not return. Names of the crew are as follows:- Sgt. Newell R.G. (Capt.) 2/0. Carter J.A. (Obs.) 1/0. Grieve D.C. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Nelson G.M. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Forchile-Mith J.B. (A/G) Sgt. Hamilton G.H. (Eng.)	15 252
DALTON	1/6/42	RAID ON KLUEN: - On the night 1/2nd, 30 Halifax aircraft of No. 102 Squadron were detailed to attack the large shed at Krupp Works at Essen as part of a 2nd. thousand aircraft raid. The alternative was any built up area in the Ruhr. Five aircraft P, J, L, R and M were detailed as advance force to be on the target 35 minutes before the 15 of the main body. The Bomb Load for each aircraft was 3 x 1,000lb. 8 J.B.C's 90 x 4 lb. and 4 J.B.C's 8 x 30lb. Incendiary, with the exception of U and W which each carried 8 x 1,000lb. Each aircraft carried 1 pkt. of Nickels take dropped over Germany and cameras were carried by G, J, H, E, G, A, P, S and L. Two aircraft of the advanced force obtained visual pinpoint on the river. Three bombed on E.F.A. Aircraft A returned early as he was unable to climb. O had interference. trouble, the captain of V fell sick and all 3 aircraft jettisoned their bombs in the sea. Of the remaining 12 aircraft, 11 claim to have bombed in primary area, although the exact aiming point was not soon visually coming to base. Many scattered fires were reported and 8 photographs were taken but cloud and haze prevented results. Aircraft H did not return. Names of the crew are as follows:- Sgt. Newell R.G. (Capt.) 2/0. Carter J.A. (Obs.) 1/0. Grieve D.C. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Nelson G.M. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Forchile-Mith J.B. (A/G) Sgt. Hamilton G.H. (Eng.)	15 252
TORONTO	2/6/42	RAID ON KLUEN: - On the night 2/3rd, 30 Halifax aircraft of No. 102 Squadron were detailed to attack the large shed at Krupp Works at Essen as part of a 2nd. thousand aircraft raid. The alternative was any built up area in the Ruhr. Five aircraft P, J, L, R and M were detailed as advance force to be on the target 35 minutes before the 15 of the main body. The Bomb Load for each aircraft was 3 x 1,000lb. 8 J.B.C's 90 x 4 lb. and 4 J.B.C's 8 x 30lb. Incendiary, with the exception of U and W which each carried 8 x 1,000lb. Each aircraft carried 1 pkt. of Nickels take dropped over Germany and cameras were carried by G, J, H, E, G, A, P, S and L. Two aircraft of the advanced force obtained visual pinpoint on the river. Three bombed on E.F.A. Aircraft A returned early as he was unable to climb. O had interference. trouble, the captain of V fell sick and all 3 aircraft jettisoned their bombs in the sea. Of the remaining 12 aircraft, 11 claim to have bombed in primary area, although the exact aiming point was not soon visually coming to base. Many scattered fires were reported and 8 photographs were taken but cloud and haze prevented results. Aircraft H did not return. Names of the crew are as follows:- Sgt. Newell R.G. (Capt.) 2/0. Carter J.A. (Obs.) 1/0. Grieve D.C. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Nelson G.M. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Forchile-Mith J.B. (A/G) Sgt. Hamilton G.H. (Eng.)	15 252
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TORONTO	3/6/42	RAID ON KLUEN: - On the night 3/4th, 30 Halifax aircraft of No. 102 Squadron were detailed to attack the large shed at Krupp Works at Essen as part of a 2nd. thousand aircraft raid. The alternative was any built up area in the Ruhr. Five aircraft P, J, L, R and M were detailed as advance force to be on the target 35 minutes before the 15 of the main body. The Bomb Load for each aircraft was 3 x 1,000lb. 8 J.B.C's 90 x 4 lb. and 4 J.B.C's 8 x 30lb. Incendiary, with the exception of U and W which each carried 8 x 1,000lb. Each aircraft carried 1 pkt. of Nickels take dropped over Germany and cameras were carried by G, J, H, E, G, A, P, S and L. Two aircraft of the advanced force obtained visual pinpoint on the river. Three bombed on E.F.A. Aircraft A returned early as he was unable to climb. O had interference. trouble, the captain of V fell sick and all 3 aircraft jettisoned their bombs in the sea. Of the remaining 12 aircraft, 11 claim to have bombed in primary area, although the exact aiming point was not soon visually coming to base. Many scattered fires were reported and 8 photographs were taken but cloud and haze prevented results. Aircraft H did not return. Names of the crew are as follows:- Sgt. Newell R.G. (Capt.) 2/0. Carter J.A. (Obs.) 1/0. Grieve D.C. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Nelson G.M. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Forchile-Mith J.B. (A/G) Sgt. Hamilton G.H. (Eng.)	15 252
DALTON	3/6/42	RAID ON KLUEN: - On the night 3/4th, 30 Halifax aircraft of No. 102 Squadron were detailed to attack the large shed at Krupp Works at Essen as part of a 2nd. thousand aircraft raid. The alternative was any built up area in the Ruhr. Five aircraft P, J, L, R and M were detailed as advance force to be on the target 35 minutes before the 15 of the main body. The Bomb Load for each aircraft was 3 x 1,000lb. 8 J.B.C's 90 x 4 lb. and 4 J.B.C's 8 x 30lb. Incendiary, with the exception of U and W which each carried 8 x 1,000lb. Each aircraft carried 1 pkt. of Nickels take dropped over Germany and cameras were carried by G, J, H, E, G, A, P, S and L. Two aircraft of the advanced force obtained visual pinpoint on the river. Three bombed on E.F.A. Aircraft A returned early as he was unable to climb. O had interference. trouble, the captain of V fell sick and all 3 aircraft jettisoned their bombs in the sea. Of the remaining 12 aircraft, 11 claim to have bombed in primary area, although the exact aiming point was not soon visually coming to base. Many scattered fires were reported and 8 photographs were taken but cloud and haze prevented results. Aircraft H did not return. Names of the crew are as follows:- Sgt. Newell R.G. (Capt.) 2/0. Carter J.A. (Obs.) 1/0. Grieve D.C. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Nelson G.M. (Dep./A.G.) Sgt. Forchile-Mith J.B. (A/G) Sgt. Hamilton G.H. (Eng.)	15 252

Ph 5.17 The "War Graves" and "Peace Graves" in Topcliffe Cemetery 1998



shown. in Fig 5.15. In one of the records, aircraft number T.4138 crashed on the hills to the east of Osmotherly with Sergeant Williams being killed. He is buried in Topcliffe cemetery on Winn Lane amongst the war graves.

Another entry states, in a very matter of fact way, that T.4892 "crashed in the sea off Great Yarmouth with the fate of the crew being unknown". These records are a catalogue of bravery and tragedy told in a few official lines of type.

fire, filled with smoke, a badly holed front turret, no doors, and a holed and twisted fuselage he managed to get the plane home. For this he earned his first decoration, the DSO. It

was awarded when the squadron was at Topcliffe.

After the arrival of 102, both squadrons took part in a raid on Turin's Royal Arsenal on the night of 23rd/24th November. It proved to be a very costly raid, as five of the planes failed to return, all because of fuel shortages. Fuel shortage was a major problem faced by Whitley crews at Topcliffe and many of the aircraft lost by the two squadrons ended their days at the bottom of the North Sea, some with their crews trapped inside. One plane, with Flt. Lt. Hannah and

Fig 5.18 A 102 squadron Halifax starting up at its dispersal at Dalton

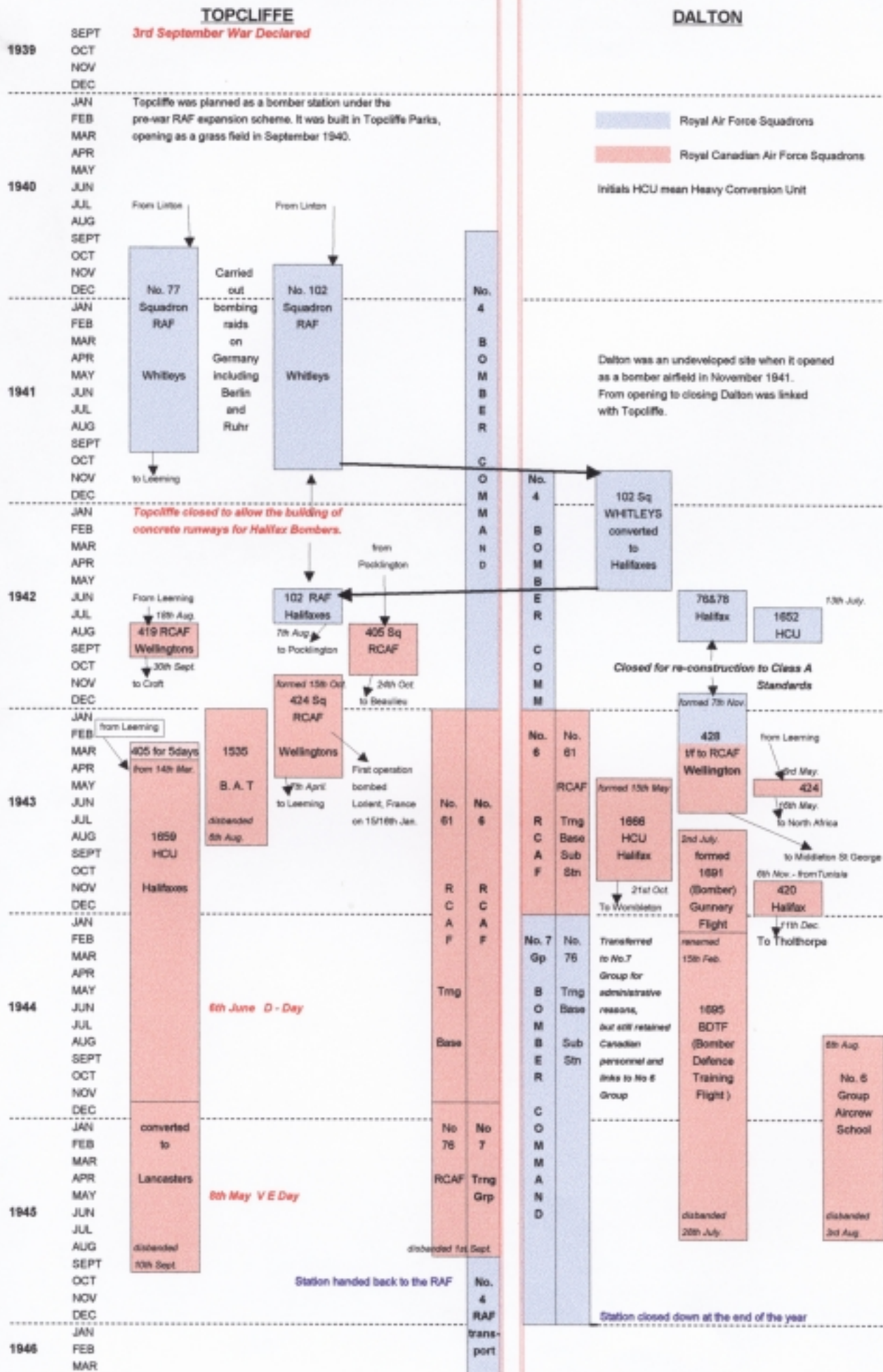


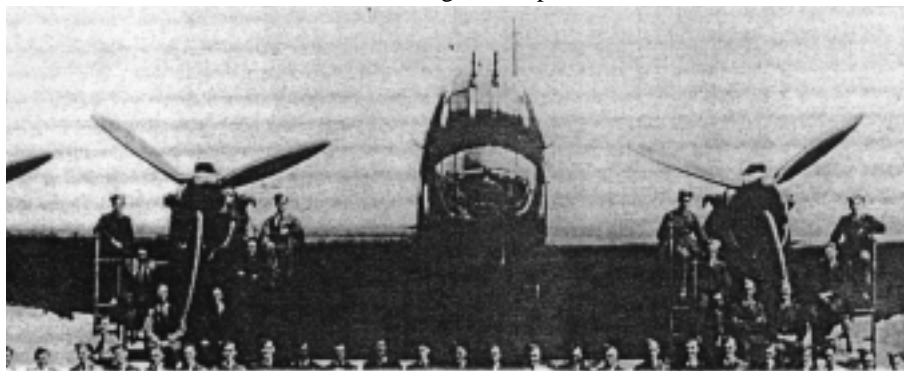
War was declared on the 3rd September 1939 and both of these squadrons flew their Whitleys on the 4th on a leaflet dropping mission over Germany. Just two nights before coming to Topcliffe 102 squadron carried out a raid over Cologne. One of the pilots was pilot officer Leonard Cheshire. His plane was hit by anti aircraft fire and despite the odds, with a plane on

his crew, ditched off Whitby, but all were picked up. Later, the plane itself floated into Whitby harbour.

Losses were very heavy. On the night of 27th/28th June 1941, 21 men lost their lives after a bombing raid over Bremen due to a combination of night fighter attacks, severe icing and violent storms.

Squadrons which were at RAF Topcliffe and RAF Dalton during the Second World War



Ph 5.19**No.102 Conversion Flight at Topcliffe 1942**

Once war had started, additional airfields were rapidly built and among them was Dalton airfield, to the south of Topcliffe village. RAF Dalton opened in November 1941 and throughout its existence was linked to Topcliffe airfield. As soon as Dalton was ready, 102 squadron from Topcliffe was transferred there, 77 squadron went to Leeming and Topcliffe was closed to have the grass runways replaced with concrete. The new stronger runways were capable of taking Halifax bombers and later the Wellingtons and Lancasters.

Towards the end of 102 squadron's stay at Dalton, it took part in the first 1,000 bomber raid on Cologne on 30th/31st May. The next 1,000 bomber raid was on 1st/2nd June against Essen and again 102 squadron was involved. The page from the operations record in Fig 5.16 includes a description of this attack .

Topcliffe re-opened in mid 1942 and resumed its role

as an operational bomber station with the return of 102 squadron from Dalton, now flying Halifaxes. Later that year, in August, 102 squadron exchanged places with 405 (Vancouver) squadron, the first Canadian Squadron to arrive in Topcliffe. They flew operationally for the first time on the

night of 9th/10th of August and lost a plane and the entire crew, to a nightfighter, as the Halifax was returning from Osnabruck. A second Canadian squadron, 419, arrived later in the month with Wellingtons. Even before the Canadian squadrons were set up, there were many Canadians serving with the RAF. This is clear from the war graves in Topcliffe cemetery. There are quite a few Canadians buried there from 1941 and 1942, before the station was taken over by the RCAF. Besides British and Canadian airmen, there is also an American and a New Zealander buried in the cemetery.

Topcliffe was now earmarked as a Canadian base and on January 1st 1943 the station was transferred to No. 6 (RCAF) Group. In March, the Topcliffe operational base was formed, with its headquarters there, controlling RCAF stations Topcliffe, Dalton and Dishforth.

Ph 5.20

The King
and Queen
visiting Dalton
on 25/3/1942.



No.6 (RCAF) Group was part of Bomber Command but it was composed mainly of Canadians. The Canadians provided pilots, navigators and other aircrew, but their flight engineers were mostly British. They also provided the majority of the ground and support crew. Almost the entire cost of the Group was borne by Canadian taxpayers.

In late 1942, it was Dalton's turn to close, for two months, to enable its runways to be upgraded to Class A Standards. It re-opened in November 1942 and 428 squadron was formed there under the RAF, but it was soon transferred with Topcliffe to the Canadians. On May 1st 1943 the strength of 428 squadron was 50 officers and 381 other ranks.

During 1943 and 1944 the main task of both stations was training, mainly on conversions for Halifaxes. It was a training programme which hustled pilots through their paces at great speed and pressure. This pressure was so great that there were numerous accidents in which some of the Canadians were killed. Some of these airmen never went home and are buried in cemeteries around North Yorkshire.

Dalton transferred to No. 7 Group Bomber Command for administrative reasons but still retained Canadian personnel and its links with No. 6 Group in Topcliffe.

The worst accident month was January 1944. On the first day of the month a Halifax was on circuits and landing practice when it had to land short to avoid a contractors working party. On January 15th another Halifax crashed at Catcliffe Wood near Felixkirk shortly after take off, killing all nine on board. Three days later, after losing power, a Halifax overshot the runway and crashed into the trees three quarters of a mile to the southeast of the airfield, killing two and injuring three of the eight man crew. On the same day and only a few minutes later, another Halifax crashed, in fog, into the hillside near Black Hambleton, and all six crew were killed.

In November 1944 Topcliffe transferred to No. 7 (Training) Group, converting to Lancasters and it remained a training station until the end

From operations record book 7/5/1945

Topcliffe:

A conference was called in the Station Commanders office at at 20.00 hours at which it was decided that the programme already drawn up (*for safeguarding equipment and property, maintaining essential services and providing suitable entertainment for "V-day" and its following celebration period*) should be put into operation immediately. Precautions were therefore taken and the immobilisation of aircraft and transport vehicles, removal of breach blocks from guns, posting of special Service Police, etc proceeded according to plan

of the war. The Germans surrendered and signed a peace agreement on the 7 May 1945 and VE day was the following day.

From operations record book 8/5/1945

Dalton:

This is it: VE day announced over the tannoy. Personnel scurrying around, and arranging to get away for a couple of days. Very little work being carried out. Mess staff stick to duty with skeleton staff, and doing a good job. The joy and thought of being home soon is apparent with everyone you speak to, but there is still plenty to do before that happy day rolls around. A get together celebration in No. 1 hangar followed two Church services for protestant and R.C. personnel.

At the end of the war a repatriation unit was set up at Topcliffe to expedite the return home of the Canadian squadrons and the run down was very rapid. On 28th July 1945, No. 1695 BDTF from Dalton was disbanded, to be followed on August 3rd by No 6 Group Aircrew School. Topcliffe was handed back to the RAF in September 1945, at which point it reverted to No. 4 (Transport) Group. It was selected

Ph 5.21 Topcliffe Control Tower
March 1981



for retention by the post-war RAF and used by air navigation schools for several years.

From operations record book 31/8/1945

This month marked the end of the Japanese War and as 1659 HCU were training crews for this theatre of operations it also marked the end of our training.

It is now understood that we will revert to a Holding Unit and as soon as the HCU is officially disbanded, the aircraft can be released and the ground and aircrews repatriated without delay.

Many of the crews were sorry that they could not complete their training, but the majority of personnel of all categories are quite content that the war is over and their thoughts are now concentrated on the "boat"

N. W. Timmerman
Group Captain Commanding
R. C. A. F.

The severe winter of 1947 grounded all aircraft and during this period the Mountain Rescue Team was based at Topcliffe and assisted in getting supplies through to villages that were snowed in.

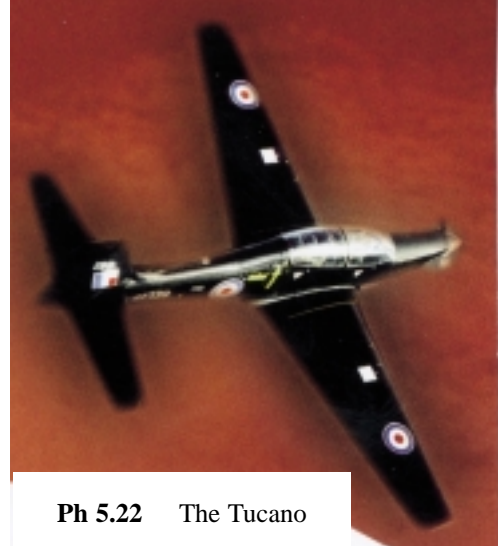
In 1952 the airfield was taken over by Coastal Command, with No. 210 squadron being re-equipped with Neptunes instead of Lancasters. During the period 1952 to 1956 four specially equipped Neptunes were used to provide airborne early warning for Fighter Command.

Air accidents continued to happen in peacetime and in 1956 RAF Neptune WX545, from Topcliffe crashed in Mull, killing all nine of the crew. Five of them are buried in Topcliffe cemetery in the "Peace Graves". On 10th October 1998 there was a special service in Topcliffe Church to commemorate those who died and to dedicate a memorial plaque carved with the nine names.

In 1957 Topcliffe Station again turned its hand to training aircrews. But in 1972 RAF Topcliffe was transferred to the Army and in November 1973, 24 Brigade took over, moving in from Barnard Castle.

RAF Topcliffe was renamed Alanbrooke Barracks, which it remains today. The runways are, however, still intact and Topcliffe is used as a Relief Landing Ground by RAF Linton. No.1 Flight Training School is based at RAF Linton. The school is responsible for training RAF pilots to wings standard, prior to selection for Fast Jet, Helicopter or Multi Engine specialisation. This task was the reason for taking

over Topcliffe airfield as a relief landing ground in 1974. In 1995 the Central Flying School Tucano Squadron from Scampton also came to Topcliffe. The Tucano planes flying out of Topcliffe are a very familiar sight (and sound) to the residents of Topcliffe village.



Ph 5.22 The Tucano

Dalton closed down at the end of 1945 and the site was dismantled. Since then the site has reverted to earlier uses leaving the runways mouldering away and a few ramshackle huts as reminders of the wartime days. In more recent years the site has been developed as Dalton Industrial Estate and out of the ashes of the airfield has come a modern facility that challenges the best and provides employment for the whole area. Fig 5.24 shows how the original airfield has been overlaid with industry.

Ph 5.23 Plaque in Topcliffe Church 1998



CHAPTER 6

The Village at the Millennium.

The origin of most parishes was the manor. The manor existed at a time when money was little used and trade, as we know it, was an unusual activity. The countryside itself had few inhabitants and apart from the manor area it was largely un-worked. There was no effective central control exerted and so the manor acted as a collective farm fulfilling the needs of local administration and police and was a defensive organisation. The lord of the manor, his family and all the retainers were reliant on each other and were bound to each other by a network of obligations and services, and the way in which these were regulated developed into a series of courts. The most common of these courts were the Court Baron for free tenants

pastured their animals.

The criminal jurisdiction was carried out by the Court Leet. Its officials weren't paid but the positions were a duty, which had to be performed. The Constable, the Hayward, the Pinder and other officials were elected annually.

When a manor was established, sometimes the priest came with the first people but more usually he arrived later as a representative of his bishop. To live on the manor he needed a holding and to build a church the manor needed to provide the labour and materials. This put the lord of the manor in a strong position, so the right to appoint a priest often passed into his hands. Nevertheless, the priest still retained a degree of independence because he had the distant support of the church and this church was to become more powerful than the greatest noble in the realm.

Ph 6.1

A group
outside the
Angel Inn

From the left
Mr Dodsworth
Duke Sigsworth
(Landlord)
Francis Clayton
(Butcher)
Mr Bentall
(Fish & Chips)

1950s



and Court Customary for the unfree tenants. The lord was under an obligation to hold courts regularly and the tenants were bound to attend. Their principal objective was the management of the land and the regulation of agricultural jobs. The Topcliffe Court Leet and Baron continued until 1869. The Court was last held in the Toll Booth and its work is dealt with under the Toll Booth section of this book.

The manorial courts were originally kept very busy because of the system of work employed. The manorial agricultural system consisted of a demesne, or home farm, for the lord of the manor and upon which some tenants had to do a certain amount of work each year, open fields in which the tenants had their holdings in strips in a scattered unorganised way, and a waste or common in which they all

As communications improved, trade increased and money circulated and labour services were commuted for cash. The manor courts were gradually left behind and ceased to be important, though many did survive into the twentieth century mainly for conveyancing purposes.

As the manor courts declined, the influence, wealth and responsibility of the church increased. Although the chancel of a church was a sacred place, the body of the church was regarded as the parish hall and it was often the only sheltered large building in the parish. The position of the vicar also developed to combine the positions of schoolteacher, registrar and religious adviser. He was paid by tithes, which were effectively a local income tax.

The inhabitants of the parish began to meet under the parson's direction for the social and administrative functions of their religious life and these meetings were often held in the vestry. The old civil obligations of the lord of the manor to feed his starving tenants was matched by the religious obligation of charity and the church, particularly the monasteries, administered the only generally recognised system of unemployment relief. At first this was entirely voluntary but with the dissolution of the monasteries it became unworkable and so in 1601 an Act of Parliament was passed by which the power was conferred on the vestries to levy a poor rate. What the act actually did was to strengthen the machinery, which already existed.

As the population expanded the vestry meetings became unwieldy and so authority tended to move into the hands of smaller committees called select vestries, which were often self-perpetuating. These bodies were administratively more efficient but because of the lack of an independent auditing system many of them became corrupt. By 1819 they were levying huge rates which across the country totalled £10 million. This was in real terms more than ten times the rates precepted for by parish councils in 1966-67. So a further reform was enacted which enabled an open vestry that had to elect a committee, on an annual basis to administer poor relief.

However, in Topcliffe the Vestry meetings in Topcliffe church did little more than ratify the churchwardens accounts and only occasionally did they raise some other subjects, such as rebuilding the church or buying a box to keep all the church documents in. The reason for this was that there were two other organisations in the village which were regulating village life. There was still a Court Leet operating in the Toll Booth and there were the Feoffees which were looking after the school and also administering the charities for the poor. This did not leave the Vestry too much to do.

The vestry, which was, in origin, basically a religious institution depended on religious unity for its authority and for it to be effective. The Methodist revival did much to destroy that because the representative of the established church often found himself presiding over a vestry assembly composed mainly of people who were actively hostile to the established church and as a result, over large areas, the church rate ceased to be levied and it was finally abolished in 1868 and administration by the parish was reduced to a minimum.

Already in 1834, the Poor Law Act withdrew much of the administration from the vestries and invested them in a civil authority. By the late 19th century life was becoming more complex and new laws were being

passed to regulate it and new bodies were being created to implement the laws. By 1870 the whole area of local government was in chaos. In 1888 the county councils were created for local administration and in 1894 the Local Government Act created Parish Meetings and Parish Councils which were institutions having a civil origin. The act transferred the civil functions of the older parish authorities to the new institutions and as a result, after hundreds of years, excluded the church from formal participation in local government.



Ph 6.2 Penny farthing on Church Street

In January 1891, just a few years prior to the advent of parish councils, a meeting was held in Topcliffe which had the object of forming a committee to light the village with paraffin light. Dr Mitchell took the chair and the secretaries were F. Sturdy and S. Arnott (the master at the grammar school). It was proposed to put one light on the steps leading to the Reading Room (Toll Booth) and they decided to ask permission to fix a light to Mr Gill's house. Another offer was received from Mr Walker. In September 1892 Mr T. Walker was appointed lamplighter and it was decided that the lights should be lit after the next full moon. The committee's last meeting was held in

September 1893, handing over responsibility to the new parish council in 1894.

The Parish Council. In 1894 the most important people in the community were the squire, the parson and the schoolteacher. Their influence depended upon their traditional prestige, their superior education and their relative wealth and social standing. The vestries had taken their advice or bowed to their power and unfortunately, but perhaps naturally, they regarded the new parish councils as an intrusion in to their lives. Hence, most of the parish councils began without the co-operation of the influential people and even had to face their active opposition. In Topcliffe eleven people stood for the very first parish council election in 1894. The poll was held in the National school and the village elected John Smith Dale (45 votes), Joseph Lister (42 votes), Edwin Smith (41 votes), John Parker (38 votes), and the Rev. Walter Rowsell. They elected Edwin Smith to be the first chairman of the council.

At the parish meeting in 1895 there were protests at how much public money was being spent on the new council offices in Northallerton for the county council. This protest has had many echoes throughout the 20th century.

In general the parish council, as it was then, worried



Ph 6.3 Fancy Dress Parade 1935

Chairmen of Topcliffe Parish Council

<u>Date</u> <u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u> <u>served</u>
1894	Edwin Smith	4
1898	Rev Canon Rowsell	1
1899	D. Jennings	1
1900	F. Sturdy	19
1919	James Ward Hudson	14
1933	Wilfred G. Burton	11
1944	Robert Barningham	4
1948	John Kilding	2
1950	S. F. McCann	2
1952	H. Taylor	3
1955	J. R. Bumby	7
1962	Alan Reeder	2
1964	J. R. Bumby	1
1965	Alan Reeder	13
1978	J. R. Bumby	12
1990	Vic Rawling	2
1992	Graeme Lowes	2
1994	Malcolm Morley	3
1997	Vic Rawling	1
1998	John M. Graham	2

about similar things to now, except that, for example, it was trains then instead of buses. In 1900 they wrote to the North Eastern Railway Company to ask them to stop a train at Topcliffe at 9.00am. In the same year the open parish meeting discussed the Feoffees proposal to build a new secondary school in Topcliffe and the alternative to build it at Thorpefield. The vote was a very convincing 68 for Topcliffe and 1 for Thorpefield. It was never built. (See the schools/Feoffees section of this book.)

In 1901 the cemetery was on the agenda, as it has been in 1999. What they were concerned about at that time, however, was actually to provide one. They approached Lord Leconfield for some land and in 1904 they set aside a maximum of £800 for the provision. In 1907 Lord Leconfield gave the land for the new cemetery in Winn Lane. By the time we reach 1999 the parish council has taken over the maintenance of the cemetery from the church.

In 1912 the Parish council was trying to find out what the cash distribution from the Feoffees was for Topcliffe village and was having some difficulty. In 1923 they got into discussions about providing a water supply for Topcliffe and considered the Topcliffe and Thirsk water scheme. Electricity was also considered in 1931 after a letter from Dr Mitchell, which urged them to “do all in their power to approach the local Electric Light Company at Boroughbridge.” However, in 1933 they agreed not to have electric lights. In 1950 they also agreed not to proceed with lights and it was not until 1961 that they finally agreed to go ahead with a lighting scheme.

The Millennium celebrations have been on the agenda during 1999. Sixty-four years ago in 1935 the school headmaster Wilfrid Burton, who was also the chairman of the council, was contemplating the George V Jubilee celebrations. The council wrote to Topcliffe and District Flower Show Committee to see if they could use their left over money and they opened a voluntary subscription list. They organised a tea in the schoolroom after the sports, which were held on the bottom field, behind the Angel Inn. There was also a procession and fancy dress competition, fireworks and a bonfire. The green iron seat, with the date 1935, was also obtained and that has been recently refurbished by the present council for the Millennium and will be repositioned near to the school. Two years later, celebrations were on the agenda again. This time it was the coronation of George VI. They probably pulled out the previous organisation, as it was the same chairman and the treasurer was again James Ward Hudson. This time there was also a church

Ph 6.4 Topcliffe from Station Road - 1910



service.

With the advent of the Second World War, the parish council moved into a war time mode. As early as march 1938 there was a talk at the parish meeting on air raid precautions. In 1941 it was “watching” and the Rev. C. H. Pauling and Pastor G. Graham volunteered for the first watch. There were various other precautions discussed, such as communal shelters. However, there was no one in the village interested in shelters, so there were no shelters built. At the parish

Ph 6.5 1937 King George VI Coronation Celebrations



Ph 6.6

The York and Ainsty Hounds Meet at Anchordikes, Topcliffe February 1939
(Sir Williams Nussey Bart. mounted).



meeting in October 1943 there were complaints about people colliding with poles in the blackout. This was a common occurrence not only in Topcliffe but in most towns too.

In February 1945 there was a joint meeting between Topcliffe and Asenby to discuss the possibility of building a village hall. At another parish meeting held in May 1945, which was held to discuss holding a victory celebration for V.E. day, it was decided not to hold celebrations at that time. However for V.J. day there were celebrations to mark the end of the war. There was a bonfire on the Sheepwash and a service in the church. Many of the Canadians from the airfields came to these. Also at the end of the war there were arrangements for the "Salute the Soldier"

week and there was a Topcliffe and Asenby Welcome Home Fund, the funds of which eventually went into a village hall fund.

In 1949 the parish council picked up the hot chestnut of the Topcliffe Fair and got agreement from Lord Leconfield to close it down. A motion was put down at the annual meeting to close the fair but there was strong opposition to the closure and this developed into a village poll. The result, on a 50% poll, was 132 against the closure and for 94 for the closure. So, the fair continued for a few years more until another poll was held in 1956 when the result went the other way with 51 for abolition and 8 against. It was 1970 before James Callaghan secretary of state at the home office, issued the formal abolition notice.

Ph 6.7

Long Street
1950s

Sid Hardy's
Shop on the
right



Ph 6.8 “Salute the Soldier” Parade - 1940s



Ph 6.9 The same “Salute the Soldier” Parade.



In 1950 and 1951 it was back to celebrations again for the Festival of Britain in 1951 and the arrangements included sports, a tea for all the old age pensioners, a church service, maintenance on the church clock and refurbishment of the stone market cross, including the placing of a time capsule in the stump.

On the 12th February 1952 the council postponed its

meeting because of the death of the King, and then it was back to coronation celebrations again.

In 1968, when Mr Alan Reeder was chairman, there were proposals from the county to pull down the Toll Booth, which at that time was empty and unused, to improve the traffic flow on the corner. This led to a fight back to retain the building and to the parish

Ph 6.10

Sunday School
Fancy Dress

Circa
1925



council taking it over as trustees. They became involved in repairs to the building and put in oil heating in 1972. In 1999 this is being replaced with gas, as part of the councils Millennium projects.

The one way system and the closure of Back Lane were part of the parish business in 1972. Also the by-pass proposals were generally approved but they did object to the proposed closure of Winn Lane. Eventually provision was made for a bridge, thus allowing the lane to stay open. It was a busy time, for they were also negotiating with Lord Leconfield to buy the Stone Cross area on Long Street, which was described as manorial waste. This was achieved in 1973. They continued to press for a start on the by-pass and they were finally notified that the start date was to be October 1975. In the same year Mrs Hilda Gavigan resigned after eighteen years as clerk to the parish council.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations were on the agenda during 1976 and 1977. The parish council agreed to clear up the church garden and call it Jubilee Gardens and the by-pass finally got under way in April 1977. In 1999 Jubilee Gardens are to get more attention for the Millennium.

A new venture the parish council got involved with in 1978 is still going in 1999. It is called the "Senior Citizens' Club".

The present discussions on the resurfacing of the Stone Cross area of Long Street are but an echo of similar discussions in 1978, when John Robert Bumby as chairman, considered a tarmac job and trees. The

cost for the tarmac job, without the trees in 1980 was £2,736. The same job in 1999 is estimated at £8,800.

In 1985, a village contract worker was employed. In

Ph 6.11 No 1 Jubilee Tce before it was demolished to make room for Swaleview. The Chip shop run by Mr Bentall was in the window to the right.





Ph 6.12 All the wedding guests outside the Angel Inn

Back Row: (Left to Right) Mrs Myatt, Dora Dodsworth, Jean Dickenson, xx. Lamb, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Egan, xxx Barningham, Gladys Barningham.

Front Row: (Left to Right) Mary Raynor, Rene Boing, Doris Bumby, Thelma Robinson, xxx Lamb, Phylis Egan, Betty Wright, Mrs Kilding (groom), Dora Horner (bride), Carrie Gavigan, Jean Binks, Daphne McCann, Rita Yeadon, Mrs McCann (parson).

Seated: Greta Gavigan, Marjery Jaques, xxx.



Ph 6.13 Cutting the cake

Mrs Kilding, Dora Horner, Marjery Jaques.

These two photographs and the two on the opposite page are about a wedding, but a wedding with a difference.

All those present are women.

The “wedding” took place during the Second World War on July 8th 1944. It was arranged by the W.I. but many of the women of Topcliffe village took part.



Ph 6.14 Wedding party outside the church



Ph 6.15 Wedding party outside the school

Ph 616 A snowy scene at the Sheepwash



in 1999.

The parish council has a range of projects in hand to commemorate the Millennium and it is gradually working through them. In addition to the work described above for the Toll Booth they have made a grant to the village hall to help with the refurbishment project, the 1935 Jubilee seat has been refurbished, help is promised to the church to get the clock going again and it is planned to do some tree planting during 2000. All the children up to the age of sixteen will also get a commemorative Millennium 2000 mug.

1987 and 1988 the playing field was the focus of effort and the field was opened in July 1988.

In the 1990s the state of the Toll Booth came into the spotlight again. Under Vic Rawlings, as chairman, the parish council began to set aside monies to do a major refurbishment to preserve the medieval building. In 1993 the steps and windows were reconstructed. In 1998 another work project commenced to carry out wood treatment, damp proofing, repairs to doors and frames, flagging the downstairs rooms which still had earth floors, install a new gas boiler and finally to replace the roof and chimney. This work is ongoing

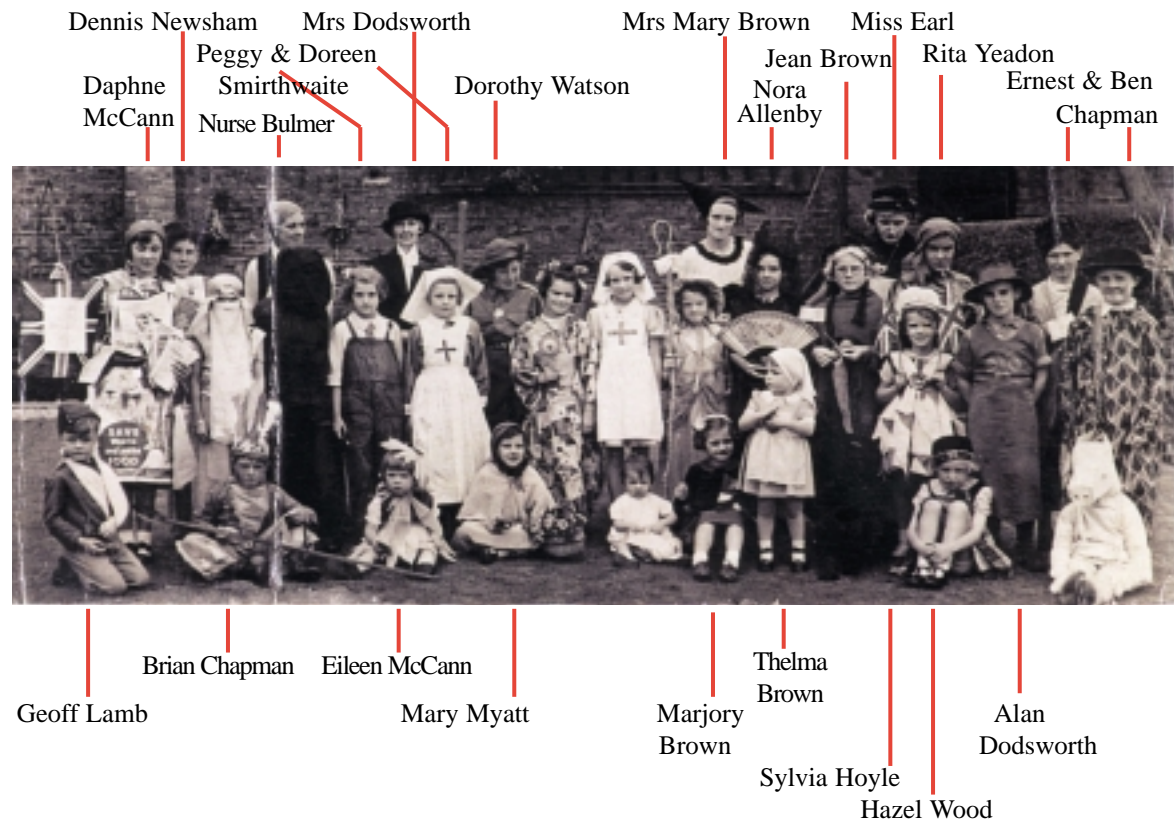
In 1999 John Graham, Gary Key, Sandra McGrail, Malcolm Morley and Celia Mullen were elected to the parish council. Brenda Loveridge is the Clerk.

Neville Huxtable was elected to Hambleton District Council as member for the area. Bill Barton is the area's member on the North Yorkshire County Council and Anne McIntosh is the Member of Parliament for the area.

Ph 6.17 Car and motor bike and sidecar circa 1932. The owner of the car was Marion Snelling's grandfather, Mr Bentall. He had the fish and chip shop at 1 Jubilee Terrace, where Swale View now stands. Fish and chips cost 3d. (fish 2d. and chips 1d.). Mrs Gertie Bentall is standing next to the car and her brother and his wife are on the motor bike and sidecar.



Ph. 6.18 Children's Fancy Dress Competition during the war in 1941.



Ph 6.19 Long Street shops in the 1960s (Dean's Stores on the right – before that it was Barningham's)



The Village Hall

was built following the efforts of a committee which was formed specially for the purpose. A joint meeting was first held in February 1945. The first £100 was achieved in March 1948 and the hall was finally built in 1961 by S. R. Fryer of Asenby. It was opened by Mrs. Rayson, wife of Wing Commander Rayson, of Topcliffe RAF.

heaters, together with painting throughout. It is now ready to meet the new Millennium as a valuable resource for the villages of Topcliffe and Asenby. The refurbished hall was officially opened in April 1999 by Mr Doug Garland the retiring Hambleton District Councillor for Topcliffe.

Many of the village organisations use the village hall, including Topcliffe parish council, Asenby parish council, mother and toddler group, and the playgroup



Ph 6.20 Topcliffe Village Hall 1999

By 1993 the hall was so well used that additional space was needed to allow separate functions to take place at the same time. During 1993/1994 the hall was extended to add a storeroom and two rooms at the

Village Hall Chairmen

<u>Date</u> <u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Duration</u> <u>in years</u>
1961	Alan Reeder	5
1966	J. R. Bumby	12
1978	Miss. W. Bumby	4
1982	Mrs. D. Hunton	5
1987	Alan M. Nuttall	12 to date

rear. The cost was about £32,000 and was funded largely by grants. In 1998/1999 the whole hall was totally refurbished, with grants totalling £40,000. The work included reroofing, replacement of windows with double glazing, new kitchen, toilets, entrance ramp, doors, side boarding in the hall, lights and

(until the end of 1998 when it moved to the school). The hall is also used by the village primary school for various events and is often used for a range of chapel and church functions, as well as for keep fit classes, line dancing and eastern dancing. The youth club (until its demise during 1999), the senior citizens, indoor bowls club, the playing field committee and the gala committee use it and the village hall committee itself puts on events of interest such as a Burns night dance, and cultural events organised by Rural Arts North Yorkshire. It is also used by the village in general for private parties.

The Gala Committee puts on an annual village gala in July each year. It is run to help the costs of the playing field committee, which runs the playing field on behalf of the village. In 1998 the gala was run by the then chairman Mr Alan Gatenby in liaison with the North Yorkshire Health Authority in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Health Service. In commemoration of the event, a specially

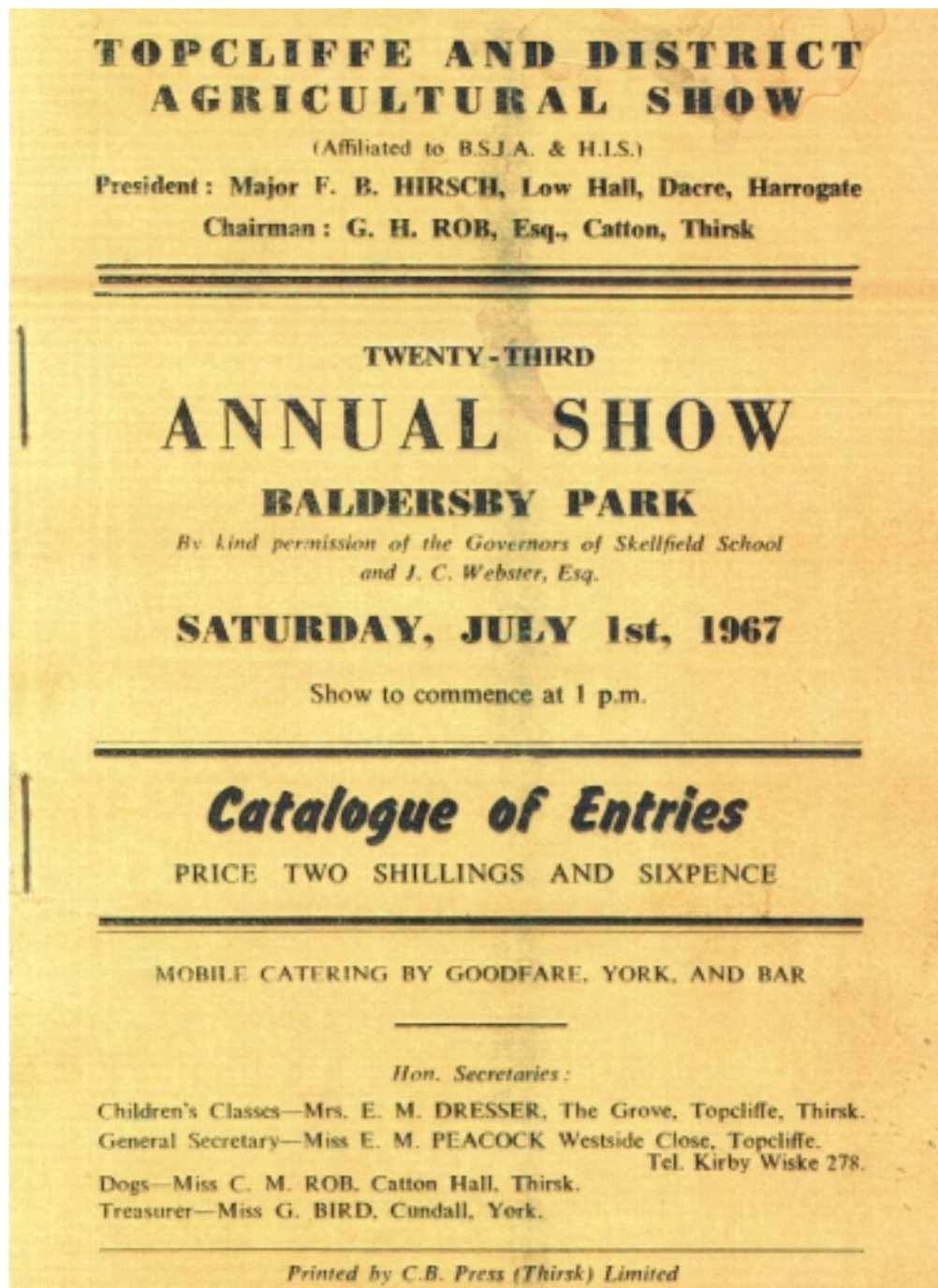


Fig 6.21 Gala Day 4th July 1998 - Opening by Anne McIntosh MP.
At the left is the Gala Queen Miss Julie Billet with her attendants Emma Martin and Hollie Law.
In the green jacket is Alan Gatenby, chairman of the Gala Committee.



Fig 6.22 Topcliffe W. I. in the Vicarage garden circa Early 1940s – From left to right
Standing at Back:- Mrs Burton, Frances Lister, Miss Raynor, Miss Pauling, Miss Earl, Mrs Egan, Mrs Sunderland, Mrs Harvey, Mrs Clark, Mrs Glaxton, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Gavigan, Miss Rose Dunning, Miss Craggs, Mrs Lynch, Mrs Arthur Gill, Mrs Sigsworth
Seated in the Middle:- Mrs Maggie Shepherd, Miss Aida Batty, Mrs Reynard, Visitor, Mrs Charlie Lamb, Mrs McCann, Mrs C H Pauling, Rose Lamb, Maggie Cook, Mrs Cordingley, Mrs Muriel Halliday
Seated on the Ground:- Jean Dickinson, Betty Forrester, Nurse Bulmer, Margaret Henderson, Miss Maggie Horner, Mrs Mary Brown, Mrs Thompson

Fig 6.23



Commissioned plate was presented to Mr. Tony Bruce, Chief Executive of the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton and it is hung in the hospital entrance. The day's proceedings were opened by Miss Anne McIntosh, the Member of Parliament for the area.

Commissioned plate was presented to Mr Tony Bruce, Chief Executive of the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton and it is now hung in the hospital entrance. The proceedings were opened by Miss Anne McIntosh, the Member of Parliament for the area.

In many ways the Gala is the successor of the

Topcliffe and District Agricultural Show which often took place in Baldersby Park but is no longer in existence. The show catalogue is in Fig 6.23

Another organisation which has disappeared from Topcliffe is the **Women's Institute**. It was formed on the 30th October 1930 by Mrs Hicks. The first President was Miss Pauling and she was president until 1940. The W. I. celebrated its twenty first birthday with a party to which all the founder members were invited. They were invited again when the fortieth party came round and this time they were presented with hand painted china cups and saucers.

Yet another organisation which has ceased to exist was the Topcliffe **British Legion** which used to meet in the hut in Dean's Square.

An organisation which survived down the years is the **Topcliffe Football Club**. In the 1920s the team was called "The Millers" because it was composed largely

of workmen from the mill. The football ground was on Station Road where Anchordikes now stands. The team was very successful in those days being winners of the Allertonshire League for four years running from 1923 and also the Thirsk and District League in 1922/23. In 1938 they won the Thirsk Village Cup and the league championship. After a break during the war

Ph 6.24 Topcliffe AFC The very successful team of 1923/1924.

Back Row – left to right:- "Stitcher" Humphries, name unknown, Ted Almack, Walter Almack, Harry Kilvington (?)

Middle Row

Not known



Front row left to right:- Dave Jennings, Walter Myatt, George Jaques, Walter Jaques, Bill Henderson



Ph 6.25 Topcliffe AFC circa 1939 *Left to right*

Standing at the back:- Ralph Allenby, Dick Almack, John Halliday, Frank Procter, Tiffeny,Myers
Geoff Dickenson, Jack Hawksby.

Kneeling:- Sid Hardy, name unknown, name unknown, Ron Sunderland, Tom Boyce.



Fig 6.26 Topcliffe and Asenby Football Club May 1998 Left to right
Back Row:- Chris Bumby, John Ault, Ollie Turner, Jim Binks Jnr, Phil Bottomley, Peter Wright, Jim Binks Snr, Roy Fishwick, (*Representing Cleveland Steel, the team sponsors*).
Front Row:- Dave Thomas, Mark Bowen, Giles Crecy, Darren Binks, Nigel Binks, Phil Hodgen, Simon Bird.

years the club reformed in 1948 and won the Thirsk Village Cup again in 1953. During this period they were using a ground behind the Angel Inn.

After another period of inactivity they were reformed in about 1988 playing in Division 4 of the Hambleton Combination League. They are now in Division 1 being promoted in 1998. In 1999 they use the ground on the playing field. The chairman is Dave Bowman and Jim Binks is the Player Manager.

The playing fields were bought by Hambleton District Council and leased to Topcliffe Parish Council in 1986, who in turn sub-leased them to the **Playing Field Committee** who run the field. The chairman of the committee in 1999 is Louise Bumby. The playing field, in turn, sub-let part of the ground to the **Bowling Club** and the football team has a licence to play there. There is

also a young childrens' play area which is organised by the Playing Field Committee.

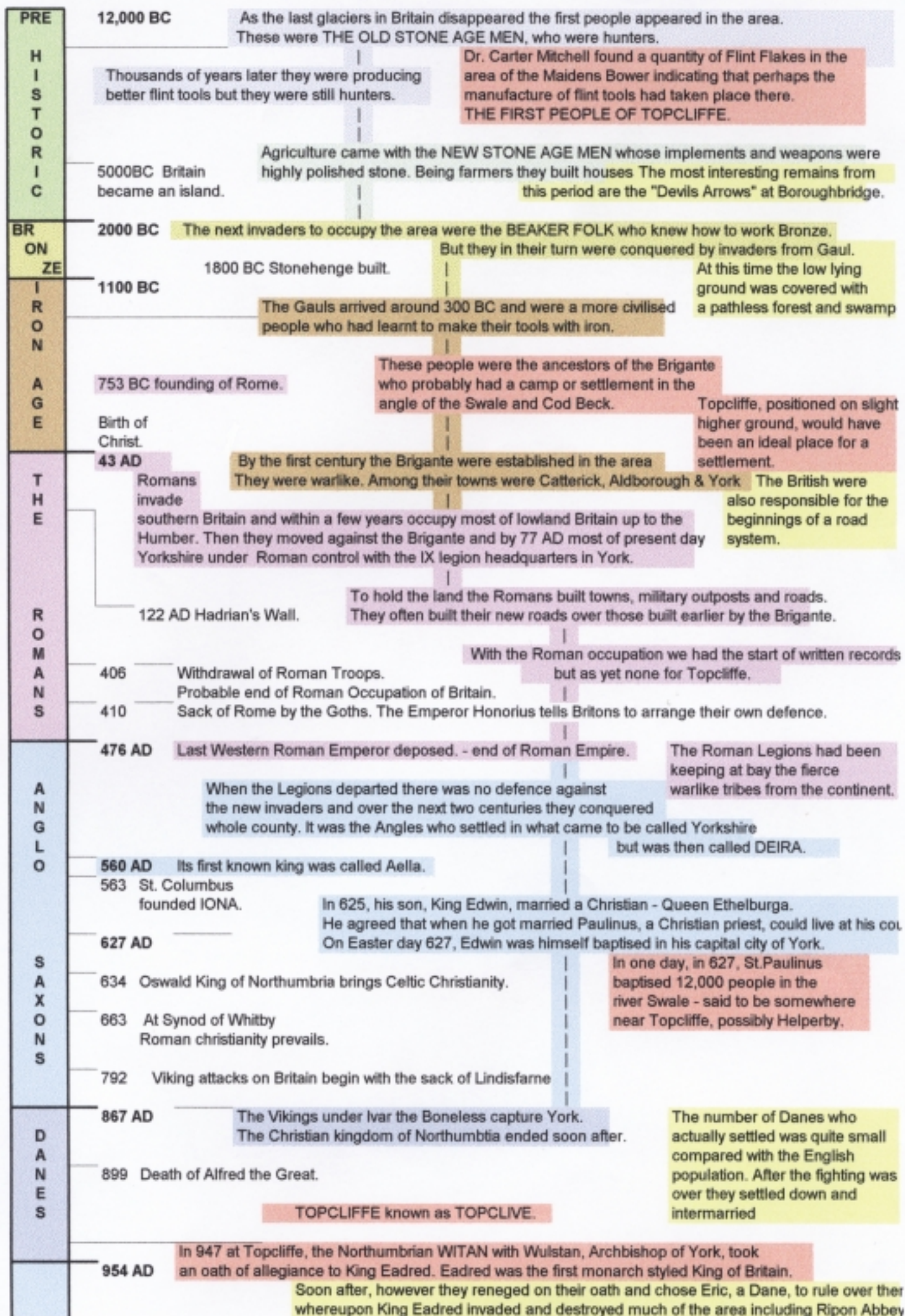
Probably the oldest group in the village is the Mens' Institute. This is still its official title but it is now better known as the Snooker Club which uses the upper floor of the Toll Booth. A blackened piece of card from 1914 shows that Lord Leconfield was the President and John Brennand from Baldersby Park was the vice chairman. The present chairman is John Trollope and Dave Bowman has been treasurer since 1975.

Ph 6.27 Topcliffe Guides in the 1940s



CHAPTER 7.

TOPCLIFFE'S COUNTDOWN TO THE 21ST CENTURY



E N G L I S H	954 AD	In 954 Eric Bloodaxe was slain by King Eadred and Yorkshire was re-absorbed into England.	
	1007	Ethelred attempts to exterminate the Danes.	
	1042	Edward The Confessor.	
			Pre-1066, Topcliffe Manor was held by Bernulf, a Saxon Lord.
N O R M A N S	1066	King Harold (ruled from January to October).	King Harold defeated the Danes at Stamford bridge on 25th September.
	1066 AD	NORMAN CONQUEST by William the Conqueror.	
	1067	William the Conqueror allocated lands to all his supporters who followed him to England and fought in the Battle of Hastings.	
	1069 the Harrying of the North.	Among many other Manors, he gave the Manor of Topcliffe to William de Percy. In 1067 William de Percy came to Topcliffe and built his first castle.	The Domesday Book was subsequently compiled mainly as a register of land for tax purposes.
	1086	The Domesday Survey	
		Topcliffe Church mentioned in the Domesday Book.	
	1135	King Stephen.	
	1138	The Battle of the Standard at Northallerton. William de Percy (3rd Baron) fought on English side. Alan de Percy, illegitimate son of Alan, 2nd Baron, fought for the Scots who were defeated.	Topcliffe is recorded as having 3 Ploughs and 5 Villeins, and 14 borders with 13 ploughs. There is a church there and two priests having 1 plough and 1 mill of 5 shillings, wood pasture 4 quarentens long and 4 broad. The whole manor is 3 miles long and 2 broad. Value in King Edwards time £4 Now 100 shillings
	1162	William de Percy gives Topcliffe church to York Minster.	
	1174	Geoffrey Plantagenet reinforced the fortifications of Topcliffe Castle against the Mowbray rebellion. He spent £7. 10s. 2d.	
M I D D L E		When William died in 1175 his inheritance was split between his two daughters Maude and Agnes. Maude was married to Jocelin de Louvain who took the name of Percy and hence started the second house of Percy.	
	1204 AD	Barony seized by Richard de Percy.	
		In 1215 Richard was one of the Barons present at Runnymede for the Magna Carta.	
		He built a chapel in Topcliffe Churchyard.	
	1226	Richard confirmed the gift of Topcliffe church to York Minster.	
	1258	Archbishop Gray ordered that there should be a perpetual vicar in Topcliffe.	
	1284	In 1284 Newby Park which had belonged to John de Newby was sold to the Grene family.	
	1309	Henry de Percy bought Alnwick Castle and became 1st Lord Percy.	
		In 1310 the vicar of Topcliffe was Thomas de Topcliffe.	Henry's wife Eleanor was buried in Beverley Minster. The Percy tomb and canopy is in her memory.
		Topcliffe Manor was built in the 14th century.	In 1316 Robert Dammory was surveyor and keeper of the King's Venison in the park at Topcliffe.
A G E S	1327	period of Scots incursions started during reign of Edward II.	
		Topcliffe's fair and market was established in 1327 by Charter of Edward III.	
	1337	Beginning of 100 Years War with France.	
	1349	Black Death in England.	In 1346 Henry, 3rd Lord Percy fought at Crecy for Edward III.
	1362	English becomes official language of Parliament.	
		Thomas de Topcliffe died in 1362.	The hurch was crebuilt around 1362 after being destroyed by the Scots.
		In 1376 Henry, 4th Lord Percy was made Marshall of England. He was made 1st Earl of Northumberland by Richard II in 1377.	
	1391	Mabel de Topcliffe died. The brass in Topcliffe church commemorates Thomas and Mabel de Topcliffe.	

M I D D L E A G E S	1403	Battle of Shrewsbury.	Hotspur was killed in this battle.
	1431	Burning of Joan of Arc.	
	1453	English defeated in battle at Castillon.	This ended the Hundred Years War.
	1455	Begining of the Wars of the Roses. Henry de Percy, 2nd Earl, was killed in 1455 at St Albans.	In Yorkshire it was a quarrel between the Percys (Lancastrian) and the Nevilles (Yorkist) including the Mowbrays of Thirsk.
	1461		Henry de Percy, 3rd Earl, was slain at the Battle of Towton in 1461.
T U D O R	1485	The Battle of Bosworth marks the begining of the Tudor period with Henry VII.	The 4th Earl, another Henry, took the field on Richard's side but did little to help and Richard was killed.
	1515	License issued for a marriage in the chapel in the Manor.	Henry became Henry VII's representative in the north. In 1489 he was killed at Topcliffe while trying to impose a tax for the King.
	1517	Start of the Reformation.	
	1519		First reference to a Grammar School in Topcliffe.
	1534	Henry VIII asserts control over the English Church.	
	1537	Thomas de Percy was executed at Tyburn for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace.	Dissolution of small monastries by Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell in 1536. This led to the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536
	1538	Description of Topcliffe by John Leyland - Henry VIII's Antiquary "Pretty Manor Place etc."	Dissolution of the larger monastries 1539.
	1547	Chuntries suppressed.	
	1562	Peter Kryke - Clerk of Works for New Lodge (in Manor Farm area).	
	1570 AD	The Rising of the North	The Percys, in alliance with the Nevilles, following a meeting at Topcliffe came out in open revolt against Elizabeth and in support of Mary, Queen of Scots.
	1572	Thomas Percy, the 7th Earl was beheaded in York for his part in the rising.	
	1576	Thomas had fled to the Scots but was given up for £2,000.	In 1577 Elizabeth sent her Commissioners north to take a survey of lands held by those involved in the rising called Humberstone's Survey.
		Newby Park sold to John Downey.	
	1585	Henry Percy 8th Earl found dead in the Tower.	In 1577 the rent paid for the Toll Booth was 6s. 8d. per annum.
	1588	Newby Park sold to William Robinson.	Charge made at the Quarter Sessions for maintenance of Topcliffe Bridge in 1585 was £13. 6s. 8d.
	1588	Spanish Armada set sail against England.	
	1600 AD		
	1601	Poor Law Act created Overseers of the Poor and Churchwardens.	
	1605	Thomas Percy one of the conspiritors hired the house next to Parliament and installed Guy Fawkes in it. He was shut up in the Tower after the Gunpowder Plot until 1621.	James 1st stayed at Topcliffe on his way to take up the crown in 1603.
			Henry the 9th Earl was also suspected of being involved and was also imprisoned in the tower for 15 years. He was known as the Wizard Earl. He died at Petworth in 1632.
S T U A R T S	1610	North Riding Quarter Sessions held in the Toll Booth, Topcliffe.	The rent of the Toll Booth in 1613 was still 6s. 8d.
			There is a description of Cock Lodge in Topcliffe made by the 10th Earl in 1630 which, describes it as "...so many piles of ruined masonry..."
	1622	Topcliffe Bridge built in stone.	
	1633	William Robinson leaves £16 per year to the Topcliffe Grammar School, to be paid by the Grocer's Company of London.	

S T U A R T S	1642	Outbreak of the English Civil War.	Algernon de Percy, the 10th Earl, was a Parliamentarian during the Civil War.
		In 1644 at the Battle of Marston Moor, the north lost to Charles 1 and Montrose began his victorious Royalist campaign in Scotland.	
		However in 1645 the Montrose army was destroyed and after the Battle of Naseby when Charles was defeated by Cromwell he realised that his cause was lost.	
		In May 1646 he gave himself up to the Scots and was taken to Newcastle.	
C O M M O N W E A L T H	1646	Charles stayed at Topcliffe as a prisoner for one night on his way to Newcastle.	
	1647	After prolonged negotiations, the Scots handed Charles over to Parliament on 30th January 1647 and agreed to retire north of Newcastle.	
	1649	The total sum to be given to the Scots was £400,000. Charles was to be handed over after the payment of £200,000. The first payment of £100,000 was to be made in Northallerton but first of all the Scots had to deliver hostages and the exchange was to be made at Topcliffe. It took place at the Toll Booth.	Charles was subsequently executed in 1649.
		The Commonwealth period, when England was ruled by a Lord Protector. In 1658 Oliver Cromwell died.	
S T U A R T S	1660	Charles II restored to the throne.	
		Algernon supported the restoration and was High Constable at the Coronation.	
	1670	Joceline de Percy, the 11th Earl, died. He was the last male of the line.	He was succeeded by 3 year old Elizabeth Percy
	1674	The Feoffees were established by decree of the Commissioners of Charitable uses.	Between 1770 and 1780 the "New Road" was built (The straight road now called Station Rd.)
H A N O V E R I A N	1682		Elizabeth's 3rd marriage was to Charles Seymour, the 6th Duke of Somerset in 1682.
	1695	Grammar School rebuilt in churchyard.	
	1700	1707 Union of England and Scotland.	
	1714	George I	
	1722	When Elizabeth Percy died she was succeeded by her second son Algernon.	In 1748 he became the Duke of Somerset and in 1749 he was created Lord Warkworth, Earl of Northumberland, Lord Cockermouth and Earl of Egremont
	1745	The Boroughbridge-Topcliffe-Northallerton-Darlington-Durham Turnpike established by Act of Parliament.	
	1750	Algernon died with only one daughter. A great dispersion of titles took place. Earl of Egremont and Barony of Cockermouth went to his nephew Sir Charles Wyndham who also acquired the Manor of Topcliffe and he also succeeded to the Earl of Egremont title.	He died in 1763 and was succeeded by George O'Brien Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont.
	1760	Methodism established in Topcliffe	Dalton Bridge built.
	1767	Topcliffe Manor map drawn.	Inclosures made in 1761 Hill Walker Papers
	1768	The Topcliffe lock, cutting, weir and mill were built during 1768 and finished early in 1769. John Smith was the engineer for the overall Swale Navigation scheme and John Smeaton was a consultant. The resident engineer for Topcliffe lock was John Jackson of Topcliffe.	
	1775		Inspection of St. Columbas church led to a major repairs being carried out under the Rev Waddilove.
	1776	America declares Independence from Britain.	
	1782	A village meeting agreed to provide a Poorhouse.	
	1786	Topcliffe Bridge widened under the direction of John Carr.	In 1797 George Peacock was tenant of the Angel Inn and the Toll Booth.
	1802	1st Methodist Chapel built in Church Street	
	1805	The Battle of Trafalgar.	In 1806 Topcliffe gave £59.16s.0d. for the wounded sailors and marines of the Glorious Victories of Lord Nelson and Richard Strachan.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

- 1815 Battle of Waterloo.
- 1812 The Grammar School in the churchyard was rebuilt by public subscription.
- In 1821 Joseph Dresser was the Miller.
- 1823 Land given by Lord Egremont for extension to the churchyard.
- 1825 Stockton and Darlington Railway inaugurated.
- 1837 Queen Victoria comes to the Throne
- 1838 The Tithe Map for Topcliffe signed.
- The 3rd Lord Egremont died in 1837 at Petworth.
- His first son George inherited the estates.
- Also in 1837 the Thirsk poor law union was created.
- 1840 2nd larger Methodist Chapel built.
- In 1841 the GNER main north - south railway line was opened.
- In 1845 Thomas Robinson sold Newby Park to George Hudson.
- In 1848 the Leeds Thirsk Railway opened , including Topcliffe Station.
- 1852 The population of Topcliffe was 710.
- The Lord of the Manor held an Annual Court Leet & Baron in the Toll Booth.
- In 1854 George Hudon sold Newby Park to the 7th Viscount Downe - he changed the name to Baldersby Park.
- 1855 St Columbas largely demolished and rebuilt
- Architect G. T. Andrews
- In 1858 the present Church clock was installed.
- He was made Lord Leconfield in 1859.
- 1869 Last Court Leet held in Toll Booth.
- He died in 1869 and was succeeded by Henry, 2nd Lord Leconfield.
- 1887 Queen Victoria's Jubilee Celebrations , June 21st.
- 1892 The National School on Long St was enlarged to accomodate 150 children
- In 1891 the Toll Booth was an institute and reading room and a Village Committee agreed to install parafin lamps in the village.
- 1894 Topcliffe's first Parish Council elected.
- First Chairman Edwin Smith.
- In 1896 the Grammar school in the Churchyard was closed on August 31st.
- 1899 Start of the Boer War.
- 1900
- 1901 Edward VII succeeded to the throne
- Feoffees parochial charities consolidated.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

- Marconi transmitted wireless messages from Cornwall to Newfoundland
- 2nd Lord Leconfield died in 1901 succeeded by Charles 3rd Lord Leconfield.
- 1907 Another major church refurbishment.
- by Rev. Canon Julian
- Architect, W. H. Brierley
- Vaults sealed up.
- Gas Lighting.
- In 1902 Baldersby Park was sold to John Brennand.
- In 1907 the NER bought Topcliffe mill
- Run by Maurice and Joseph Lister.
- 1910 George V succeeds to the throne.
- 1914 First World War starts.
- In 1915 Topcliffe Exhibition Foundation established run generally by the Feoffees.
- 1920 Russian Civil War ends.
- 1921 Toll Booth conveyed from Lord Leconfield to the village of Topcliffe.
- 1922 The mill wheels changed to turbines and dynamos installed.
- In 1922 the Topcliffe to Northallerton road designated as the A1.
- In 1923 redesignated as A167.
- 1926 John Logie Baird demonstrated Television
- Baldersby Park sold to Skellfield School in 1927.
- 1929 The Wall Street crash.
- 1933 Hitler appointed German Chancellor.
- Electricity installed in the church 1933.
- Mr Burton was head at the National School.
- 1934 The Topcliffe brass in the church was examined by the Monumental Brass Society.
- 1935 Silver Jubilee of George V.
- 1936 Edward VIII Succeeded to the throne.
- Followed by George VI.
- Electricity installed in the school
- Also in 1936 the BBC started TV transmissions.

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- 1939 Second World War starts. In 1938 Gas masks were issued. In 1939 evacuees came from Gateshead and Sunderland. The Toll Booth was used by the Canadian Air Force as a mess room run by the YMCA. RAF Topcliffe and RAF Dalton airfields were built. The Feoffees cottage in Dalton and land at Skipton were taken over by the Air Ministry. Last evacuees left in April 1943.
- 1945 VE Day 13th May. VJ Day 15th August. Feoffees sold Pulleyns Leas. In September 1945 Topcliffe Airfield was handed back to the RAF and Dalton closed down later in the year.
- 1948 The National Health Service was formed. The Berlin Air Lift 1st July. Feoffees sold rest of their land at Skipton.
- 1951 Festival of Britain.
- 1952 Queen Elizabeth II Succeeds to the throne. Mill remodelled and mains electricity installed - 1952. In 1952 Charles Wyndham died and John Wyndham inherited estates. He was created Lord Egremont (and only later inherited the title of Lord Leconfield).
- 1954 Roger Bannister - Four minute mile. In 1954 Topcliffe bridge was widened for a second time.
- 1956 1st Nuclear Power Station at Calder Hall opened. 1957 village school becomes Primary school only. In 1957 the EEC was established by the Treaty of Rome.
- 1959 1st Russian Sputnik Satellite.
- 1961 Mill closed. Village Hall Built. 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963 John F Kennedy assassinated. John Wyndham died and Max Wyndham inherited. He is the present Second Lord Egremont. The new vicarage was built in the mid 1960s. England wins the World Cup.
- 1966 The school with its head Mrs G. Holmes transferred to the new school on Station Road.
- 1968 The County Council proposed to demolish the Toll Booth - New Trustees Dr Y. Dias & Mr E. R. Jackson. The last Topcliffe Agricultural Show was held in about 1969.
- 1969 Neil Armstrong first man on the moon.
- 1970 Parish Council took over the Toll Booth. Topcliffe fair abolished by order of James Callaghan, Home Office.
- 1971 15th February-Decimalisation Day. RAF Topcliffe becomes Alanbrooke Barracks - 1972.
- 1973 January 1st - UK Joins EEC. Environmental Agency removed top step off the weir reduces flooding problem.
- 1974 Local Government Boundary Commission changes North Yorkshire boundaries.
- 1977 29th September Topcliffe By-pass opened. Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations.
- 1982 Argentina invaded the Falklands on 2nd April. Ralph Hindmarch came to Topcliffe village school as headmaster.
- 1985 The house at Baldersby Park was sold to Queen Mary's School.
- 1989 December 3rd Presidents Bush and Gorbachev declared the end of the Cold War.
- 1990 August 2nd Iraq invaded Kuwait.
- 1991 USSR Collapses.
- 1993 November 1st - the "European Union" (E.U.) established as the Maastricht Treaty came into force. Village Hall extended 1993.
- 1998 RAF Association erect memorial in the church. Village Hall refurbished 1998/99.
- 1999 Toll Booth Preservation Project initiated by the Parish Council.
- 2000 TOPCLIFFE AT THE MILLENNIUM. Publication of The Millennium Book of Topcliffe.

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Ph 7.1 A rare piece of Topcliffe china



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