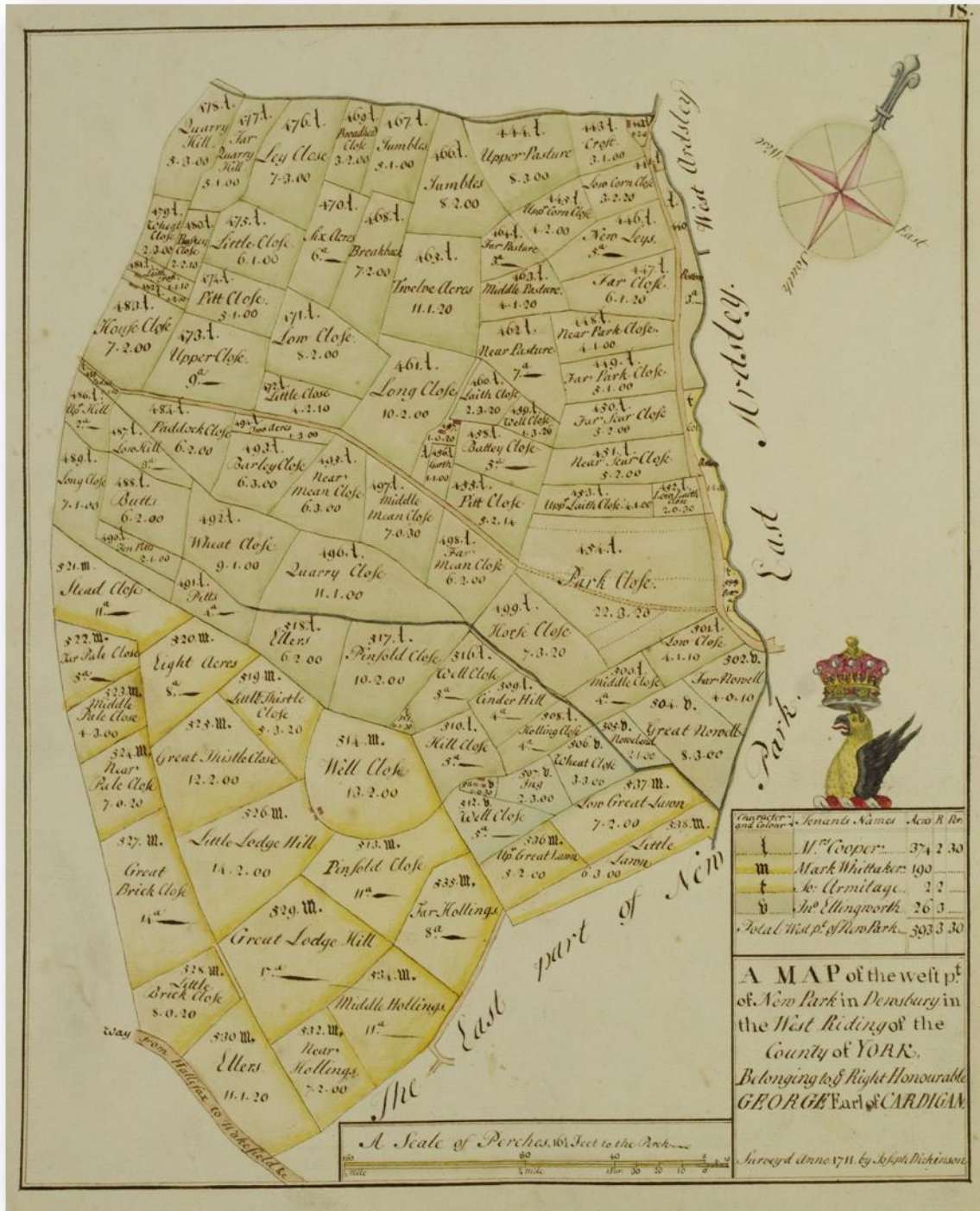


# A HISTORY OF OWLERS FARM 1711-2011



By Alan Howe

November 2010

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## **Acknowledgements**

My thanks are due to my fellow local historian Richard Glover for his time and knowledge and usual support and enthusiasm in researching this local history of Owlars Farm.

Alan Howe

The Cottages

9 Hags Hill Road

Ossett

West Yorkshire

## Introduction

Owlers Farm is situated in the Flushdyke district of Ossett to the north of the Wakefield to Dewsbury Road. Today the district is dominated by industrial and commercial businesses but less than 100 years ago it was a thriving residential area.

Before the industrialisation of the district in the 1960's the area was dominated by the main Wakefield to Dewsbury thoroughfare which ran through it. This road had long been a major highway variously known as Streetside, Ossett Street and the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road. As a consequence of its importance communities grew up alongside the road most of which were swept away in the 1960's. More of Flushdyke as it was can be seen in this Ossett Heritage website in the form of sketchings by former resident Douglas Brammer.

The origins of the area are much older and some believe that Streetside was once a Roman road though others believe it more likely that the Roman route ran to the north along a natural ridge which can still be seen. Either way there is little dissent concerning the existence of a route here or hereabouts. Not far to the east a bronze age axe was found in 2000 by local historian Nevile Ashby.

That there was early occupation here is not doubted and the importance of the area was reinforced by the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield when he established a 1300 acre hunting park in the locality. This was known as the New Park, there being a smaller Old Park to the south of Wakefield town. The New Park is situated to the north of present day Flushdyke and the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road once formed the southern boundary of the Park. In its early form the boundary was reinforced with palings to prevent the deer escaping from the Lord's Hunting Park and it is from this that local names such as Paleside originate.

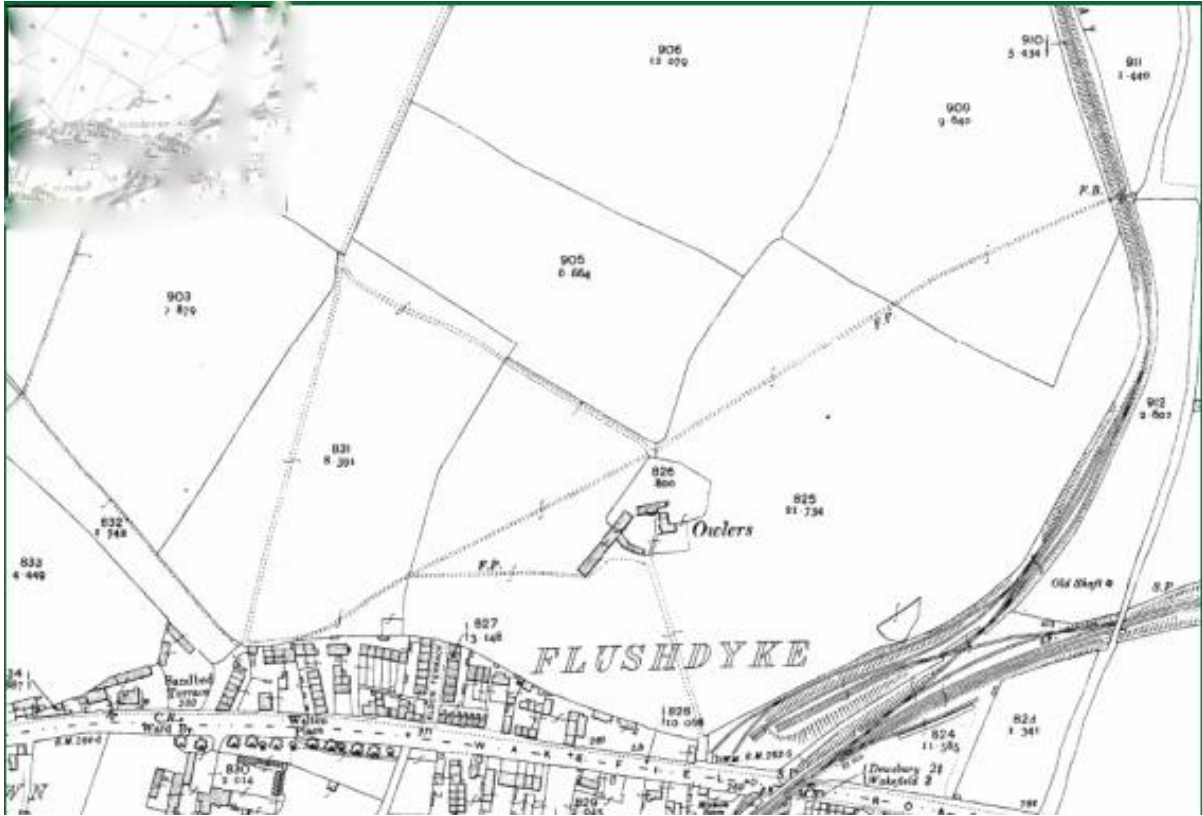
The land which currently comprises Owlers Farm was part of the New Park. A 1711 plan of the Park recording field names, size and tenancy is shown later in this study. The plan shows that the land which is now Owlers Farm was then part of a larger farmstead totalling 190 acres..

The study which follows seeks to discover the ownership and occupancy of Owlers Farm over the years . The history of the Farm is inextricably linked to the history of the larger New Park of which it was a part. There is no single history of the Park but mention is made of it in many books and histories of Wakefield and in the Wakefield Court Rolls as early as 1253. This research reproduces some references and descriptions of the New Park as it was some 700 to 800 years ago.

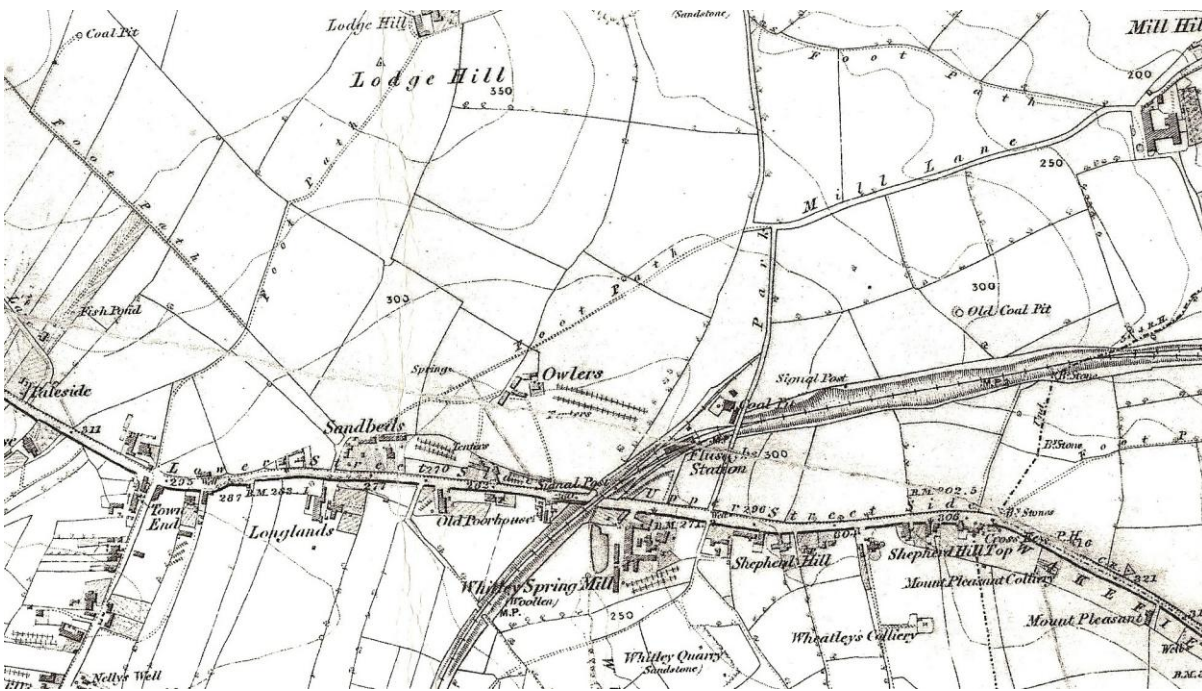
Whilst it cannot be known whether the existing Owlers farmstead stood here earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it is certain that the land that was worked here was part of the Hunting Park established and owned by the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield. The Manor of Wakefield was granted first to the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl de Warrene in 1088 by William 1<sup>st</sup>, also known as William The Conqueror, following his victory over King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, some 22 years earlier in 1066. Consequently this research also includes some history of the Lords of the Manor of Wakefield.

Alan Howe

November 2010.



Owlers Farm and Flushdyke in 1907



Owlers Farm and Flushdyke in 1850

## Owlers Farm – History in a nutshell.

Owlers Farm, once known as *Ellers*, was a part of the Wakefield New Park; one of the Hunting Parks established by, and for the pleasure of, The Lord of The Manor of Wakefield. The history of the New Park and of the Manor is therefore the history of Owlers Farm, the land which was a part of the farmstead and the families who owned it. But until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the owners were the nobility, most of whom would never have set foot on the Farm and would certainly never have worked it. This history traces the story of the owners and occupiers of Owlers Farm and this is set out in detail in the following pages but this section provides a potted history of those findings.

But first how was it that Owlers Farm came by its name and were any other activities carried out here? Local historian, Richard Glover, believes Owlers is derived from the name “Ellers” and indeed the field in which the farmstead now stands was known in 1711 as Ellers. This in turn derives from “*Alder tree croft, coppice and stream*” Nearby is Brick Close and Sandale Close (Sandbeds) suggesting the possibility of raw materials for early brick making processes. Such manufactories would require heat and this would be provided by cutting and burning wood ( including alder) from nearby Haggs (felling of trees,copse) to provide charcoal and heat in kilns for the manufacturing process. If this is the case then the Farm frontage to Ossett Street could also have been the site for brick making kilns.

In 1066 William of Normandy, William The Conquerer, invaded England, killed King Harold at Hastings and assumed the Crown. In **1088** he rewarded one of his supporters, Earl De Warrene, with the grant of the Manor of Wakefield. The De Warrenes were to hold the Manor and all its lands until **1362** when the Manor reverted to the Crown. In **1629** Charles I granted the Manor to Henry Rich to whom he owed money but around this time the ownership of the New Park was separated from the ownership of the Manor and the Savile family became owners of the New Park.

In 1668 Frances Savile married Francis, Lord Brudenell and in **1671**, following the death of her brother, she and her new husband inherited the 1300 acre New Park including the 200 acre Ellers holding. The Brudenells, who were also the Earls of Cardigan, held most of the New Park lands until **1889** when some were sold; Owlers Farm was held by the Brudenell family until **1923** when, for the first time, it was sold to commoners, Ernest Albert Brown and his wife Rosey. When Ernest died, ownership was inherited by his nephew, Harry Leach in **1954** and by **1958** he had sold the 90 acre farm to Norman Stead. The Farm remains in the ownership of the Stead family in 2010.

But until 1923 the *owners* of the Farm were not responsible for making a success of it; they did not have to eke out a living from its working for this was left to those families who tenanted the farmholding. Without exception those tenant families at the Farm, varying in acreage from about 190 acres in 1711 to less half of that in 1958, were local people. Before assuming the tenancy most came from a farming background and many combined their trade as farmers with milling or cloth manufacturing.

Those times will have been hard and yet the families who were here stayed for long periods. It is worth noting that in **1672** Marke Whitacre paid Hearth Tax on four chimneys. It is not known if Mark was at Owlars at this time but it is possible. The earliest firm evidence of occupancy of the Farm is almost 40 years later in **1711** when the same Mark Whitaker was recorded as the tenant of 190 acres. The Whitaker family were also recorded as tenants in **1771** (Isaac or Joseph), **1775** (Joseph) and in **1822** (George). Even after this, George's daughter, Ann, remained at the Farm for she had married Mark Stephenson in 1820 and by about 1830 Mark was tenant.

Ann died in 1867, the year after her husband Mark, thus bringing to an end at least 150, and maybe 200, years of the Whitaker family's occupancy of Owlars. In the later years, and maybe earlier, Mark Stephenson combined his work at the farm with fulling and woollen manufacturing and he was a founder member of the group of Ossett manufacturers who established Healey New Mill.

By 1861 Mark Stephenson was farming 150 acres but not all went well and following his death in **1867** his son, Charles, took action in 1874 against Mark's executors including Ephraim Hall whose family, controversially, worked the farm for a few years in the late 1860's/early 1870's. He was followed as tenant farmer by Francis Edwin Pape, the son of a farmer from Stanley with Wrenthorpe. Francis remained a bachelor and lived and worked Owlars for about 40 years until about **1909**. During the whole of his life at Owlars he lived here with his widowed sister.

In **1889** there were the first signs that the Brudenell/Cardigan family wanted to cash in their land holdings when a Notice advertised an Auction for the sale of the 1300 acre New Park and other Brudenell estates in Wakefield which were to be sold in 45 lots. Owlars Farm was one of those lots but it remained unsold until much later.

Around **1909** Francis Pape retired to Stanley and was succeeded as tenant of Owlars Farm by Ossett born Manufacturer and Farmer, James Herbert Brook. He was followed by Ernest Albert Brown and his wife Rosey in 1923. Ernest Brown was born at Howley Hall Farm Morley, the son of George and Rachel Brown who had long occupied the Farm at Howley Hall. The owner of Howley was Lord Brudenell, Earl of Cardigan who also owned Owlars Farm. Howley Hall itself was built in 1590 by the Saviles (the subsequent owners of the New Park) and played an important part in the Civil War in the 1640's when it was first captured by the Parliamentary forces then re-occupied by the Royalists. In present values the Hall cost £16m to build and its maintenance was such that it was razed by a subsequent Earl of Cardigan in 1730. But the farm remained as a working entity.

In **1923** Ernest Brown and his wife were able to purchase Owlars Farm from the Brudenells. By then the farm comprised 91 acres 2 roods and 9 perches. By **1935** the management of the farm had become too much for him and he rented the holding to George Nettleton, the son of a Publican from Bottom Boat Stanley. Ernest and Rosey Brown died childless and their estate was inherited in 1954 by their nephew, Harry Leach, a butcher of Bank Street Ossett. George Nettleton continued as tenant but he was to retire in **1958** aged 65.

In the same year Harry Leach sold the 89.995 acre Owlars Farm to Norman Stead, previously the farmer of Brooklands Farm, Holywell Green, Halifax. In 2010 Owlars Farm is worked by Norman's son, Raymond Stead and his family.

## Owners and Occupiers

### 1958- to date

In 2010 Owlery Farm is owned, occupied and worked by Mr *Raymond Stead* and his family, the farm having been purchased in May 1958 by Raymond's father, *Norman Stead*.

At that time Norman Stead was working Brooklands Farm, Holywell Green at Halifax and he paid approximately £4975 when he purchased the 90 acre farm from *Harry Leach*, butcher of Bank Street Ossett. At the time of the purchase the farm was tenanted by 65 year old *George Nettleton* who had worked the farm for the previous 21 years. The Ossett Observer carried the following piece regarding the sale of the farm.



*Owler's Farm, Flushdyke, owned by Mr H Leach, Bank Street, Ossett and tenanted by Mr George Nettleton for the past 21 years was sold by auction at the Woolpack Hotel, Wakefield, on Tuesday, for £4975.*

*The purchaser was Mr N Stead of Brookland Farm, Holywell Green, Halifax, who, we understand, intends to operate the farm himself. Bidding for the property, which extends over 90 acres with a stone farmhouse and good range of buildings began at £2000 and rose by sums of £100, £50 and £25 to the final figure. There was an attendance of between 20 and 30 and the auctioneers were Bartle and Son of Merrion Street Leeds*

*Mr Nettleton, who is aged 65, is retiring. He came to Owlery Farm from Park Mill Farm, Low Laithes, which he tenanted from 1912 to 1927. He had previously*

*assisted his father in conducting the Ferryboat Inn at Bottomboat, which was pulled down many years ago. It will be recalled that the Ossett Agricultural Shows held between 1949 and 1953 were all staged at Owlery Farm, and Mr Nettleton was an active member of the Agricultural Society Committee and one of the show founders. He has been a member of the National Farmers' Union for 40 years and is a past chairman of the Wakefield branch. He has carried out dairy and mixed farming at Flushdyke, and now has just over 30 head of cattle which he will dispose of.*

The Memorial of the Deed dated 19 May 1958 by which Norman Stead purchased Owlery Farm records the acreage as 89.995 acres (West Yorkshire Archives Service reference [WYAS] vol 91 page 660 no.306). A second Deed is recorded on 14 June 1958 between Mr Stead and Barclays Bank regarding a mortgage relating to the acquisition of the Farm. In October 1959 Norman Stead disposed of 1400 sq yards of his ownership along the old Wakefield to Dewsbury Road to Ferro concrete and Stone (North Notts) Ltd.

OSSETT & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

## SECOND ANNUAL SHOW

at OWLERS FARM, FLUSHDYKE, OSSETT,

on SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd.

Judging Starts 11 a.m.

JUMPING, RIDING, CATTLE, POULTRY, RABBITS,  
HANDICRAFTS, HORSES, ATTESTED CATTLE,  
PIGS, PIGEONS, SPORTS ON HORSEBACK,  
YOUNG FARMERS' SPECIAL FEATURE SECTION.  
ANNUAL OPEN SHOW OF YORKSHIRE GOAT SOCIETY.  
CHILDREN'S PET SECTION (See other Advertisement).

The Dog Section has been withdrawn.

BAR OPEN 11.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. by J. BRAYSHAW, Markington.

LUNCHES AND TEAS PROVIDED by REIDS (Caterers) LTD.

ENTRIES CLOSE TO-MORROW'S (MAY 21st) POSTMARK,  
EXCEPT "PETS."

SCHEDULES OR TICKETS FROM:

Hon Secretary: JOHN F. ATKINSON,  
SOWOOD VILLA, OSSETT.  
Phone: Ossett 378.

Car Park.

Gawthorpe Victoria Prize Band.

Admission Tickets before June 3rd:

ADULTS 2/- CHILDREN (under 14) 1/-

Admission on Day:

ADULTS 2/6 CHILDREN (under 14) 1/6

Buy your Tickets from Local Shopkeepers or Hon. Secretary.

Make this Day YOUR DAY and bring your Family!

OSSETT JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB.

### Notice from the Ossett Observer for the 1950 Agricultural Show at Owlery Farm

It is possible that the first Ossett Agricultural Show was held in Kingsway in 1949 and in 1950 it moved to Owlery Farm where it remained at least until 1952 when the show made a loss of £193. (Notice and research courtesy of Neville Ashby)



## 1923-1958

1923-1954 Owner- Ernest Albert & Rosey Brown.

1954-1958 Owner- Harry Leach

1937-1958 Tenant – George Nettleton

Harry Leach, butcher of Bank Street Ossett acquired the Farm in 1954 when he inherited the holding following the death of his Uncle, *Ernest Albert Brown*. In April 1955 Harry Leach offered Owers Farm as security for a loan from Kathleen Lister, spinster of Batley and by 1958 he had sold the farm to Norman Stead. The 1955 Deed (WYAS vol 63 348 179) excludes from the charge 200 sq yards which housed a “fish and chipped potato sales shop” which had been conveyed to John William Dews by Ernest Albert and Rosey Brown on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1934.

In 1923 Ernest and Rosey Brown had acquired Owers Farmstead and 91 acres 2 roods and 9 perches from George Lionel Thomas Brudenell who was a descendant of the Earls of Cardigan. The sale excluded the “mineral railway from Low Laithes Colliery to Flushdyke”. Both Ernest and Rosey were from farming stock.

Ernest Albert Brown married Rosey Ellwood at Dewsbury in 1904 and in 1911 the couple were farming at “Carlinghow Old Hall Batley”. They had no children but the 1911 Census records that their 4 year old nephew, Jack Leach, is visiting them; also living there are 2 farm labourers (one born in California) and a general servant. The farmhouse has eight rooms.



According to Norman Ellis

"The original hall, build in 1521, had twenty-five apartments and oak panelling. Much of it was demolished in 1800. By the time this photograph was taken, the remains were in a sorry plight, but some of them lasted until 1969"

**The Archives Photographs Series AROUND BATLEY** compiled by Norman Ellis

The 1911 Census records Rosie as being born at Overton Hall. Earlier censuses record her born at Overton or Middlestown and living with her parents and siblings in various locations in the Batley area. Her father, Samuel, was a farm labourer born in Huntingdonshire.

Ernest Albert Brown was born at Howley Hall, Morley in 1877 and Rosey was born in 1876 at Overton Hall Wakefield. Howley Hall was also owned by the Earl of Cardigan and more will be heard of this later. Whilst the 1911 Census description carries Ernest's birthplace as Howley Hall this had long been demolished before his birth which would have been at the Howley Hall *Farm*. The 1901 census records him as the eldest son and he is working Howley Hall Farm with his widowed mother, Rachel, his brother and two sisters.



**Howley Hall Farm about 1900. The persons are unidentified but could be the Brown family who were occupying the Farm at that time. The 1901 census records Ernest Albert still living there.**

The acquisition of Owlars Farm by Ernest and Rosey Brown from the Brudenell family in 1923 marked the end of 250 years of ownership by the Brudenells who, for most of those years, were also the Earls of Cardigan.

In 1937 Ernest Albert Brown was 60 years of age and whilst he and Rosey continued in ownership of the farm until 1954 it was tenanted by George and Grace Nettleton. George was born in 1896 and married Grace Field in Spring 1919. In 1901 George was 5 years old and living with his parents at the Ferry Boat Inn at Bottom Boat Stanley. Next door lived Mark Barley, a farm labourer. Was he the one to influence George's decision to take up farm work?

## 1822 – 1923

About 1909 - 1923 Tenant James Herbert Brook

About 1879 - 1909 Tenant Francis Edwin Pape

About 1866 - 1876 Tenant George Hall/ Ephraim Hall.

About 1830 - 1866 Tenant Mark Stephenson

To About 1830 Tenant George Whitaker

We have seen that the Brudenell family owned the Farm in 1923 when they sold it to the Browns. There is more about the Brudenells and the Earls of Cardigan elsewhere in this research but it is sufficient here to record that they took possession of the New Park, of which Owers forms a part, in 1671. Consequently this section traces the Farm *tenants* between 1841 and 1923 relying in large part on the Censuses, Trade Directories and Newspapers which cover this period.

In **1923** we know that the owners and occupiers were Ernest and Rosie Brown. Prior to 1923 the Farm owners were the absentee Brudenell family (aka the Cardigans) of Deene Park Northamptonshire.

The **1911** Census records 43 year old Ossett born *James Herbert Brook* at Owers Farm. Brook is a Mungo Manufacturer and Farmer, continuing a trend, established earlier in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, of dual employment in manufacturing and farming. Living with James are his wife Ann Selina and an only child, Mary Ann. They have two farm workers, both in laws, and a domestic servant. The farm house has seven rooms (bathroom and scullery were not counted). James Hebert Brook was born in 1867 the son of Joseph Brook a rag dealer and mungo manufacturer who was living at Ossett Little Townend in 1871 and at Brook Street Ossett in 1881 and 1891 when James is described as a “woollen extractor. All this suggests he was a woollen man first and the farming business was secondary. By 1901 Brook is living on Eldon Terrace Flushdyke; just around the corner from Owers Farm suggesting that the Farm tenancy became available between 1901 and 1911 when it was taken up by James Herbert Brook. The previous tenant, Francis Edwin Pape (see below) had retired by 1911 and was living as a retired farmer in Stanley with his brother (also a retired farmer) and two sisters. He would have been 60 in 1909 and this could be the year that James Herbert Brook took over the tenancy of Owers Farm

In **1901** the Census records 52 year old *Francis Edwin Pape* as a Farmer living at Owers Farm with his widowed sister, Esther Ann Nalson, and one domestic servant. Francis and Esther were originally from Stanley. Close by, at Park Mills, lives a cowman and his family which may give an indication of some of the type of farming being carried on at Owers 100 years ago. Francis Pape was the son of farmer, Mark Pape, who in 1871 was farming 63 acres of land at Lake Lock in Stanley cum Wrenthorpe. His two sons, Luke and the younger Francis were working on the farm which Mark Pape had farmed since at least 1851 when the Census of that year shows the family working the farm. In that year Francis's eldest brother, 16 year old, John Pape, is a “gospel teacher at St Peter's School. In 1841 the 30 year old Mark Pape is a butcher living with his wife and three children in the household of 80 year old Thomas Pepper a farmer at Lake Lock Stanley. Next door is the Parsonage and two doors away lives 40 year old William Pape a stone mason. Mark Pape died in 1884.

By 1881 however Francis Edwin Pape had moved to Owlery Farm whilst his brother John had given up his early calling and was a captain's mate on the "Vessel Two Sisters from Brotherton in the River Derwent " at Barmby on Marsh.

In **1891** *Francis Edwin Pape* is recorded as a farmer living at "Wakefield Road Owlery Farm" with his widowed sister and one domestic servant. For the first time the Census records the number of rooms in a dwelling if it has less than five. The Farm had more than five rooms.

The late 1880's may have witnessed an uncertain time for Francis and his sister for on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1889 the Morning Post carried a Notice for the sale of the estates of the Earl of Cardigan. This is shown elsewhere and we know that the Auction wasn't successful, at least in so far as Owlery farm was concerned, for it was still in the hands of the Cardigan/brudenell family in 1923 when they sold the farm holding to Ernest and Rosy Brown.

In **1881** *Francis Pape* is shown at Owlery Farm, farming 97 acres and employing one man and one boy. The hired helps appear not to be living at the Farm and Francis, aged 32, is recorded living with his widowed sister Esther Ann Nelson aged 36. She had married Joseph Nelson in 1865 and was widowed in 1879 when Joseph died aged 39. By this time Francis's father, Mark Pape, would be in his 70's and perhaps 1879, or the late 1870's was the time when Francis became the tenant at Owlery Farm and when he was joined by his widowed sister. Francis Pape never married and he and his widowed sister were to live together for the rest of their lives. Francis died in 1918 aged 69.

In **1871** there is some uncertainty regarding the name of the farm tenant. The Census records 23 year old *George Hall* and his wife living on Lower Street at "Howlers". George is a woollen cloth weaver. It does seem odd that this should be the case but the Census records "Howlers" as the address. It is possible that George Hall was indeed living at the Farm perhaps in a caretaker capacity with the land being farmed by others. Mark Stephenson, the previous tenant, died in 1866 and probate of Mark's estate was granted at Wakefield on 11 August 1866 and is recorded as "*The Will of Mark Stephenson, late of Ossett in the County of York Mill Owner deceased who died on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1866 at Ossett was proved at Wakefield by the oaths of Ephraim Hall of Ossett aforesaid Manufacturer and Edward Stephenson of Ossett aforesaid Manufacturer the Son two of the Executors*"

This possibly provides the clue to the presence of a young weaver called George **Hall** living at "Howlers" Farm on Lower Street Ossett in 1871. One of the executors and trustees of Mark's Will was Ephraim **Hall** who was a manufacturer living on Dale Street Ossett but he was also a farmer. A Chancery Court case in March 1874 between Charles Stephenson (Mark's son) and Ephraim Hall saw Charles taking action to recover monies due to him under an arrangement made following Mark's death in 1866.

Mark's Will, made in 1862, provided that the farm stock and implements were to be left to certain trustees (including Ephraim Hall) to enable them to continue the farm until Charles Stephenson attained his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. It seems that Ephraim Hall was employed by the Executors (of which he was one) to manage the farm. Charles was 25 years old in 1869 and thus became entitled to claim the farming stock and implements valued at about £800 (£57,000 at current values). Charles was also entitled to possession of the land but the trustees declined to give it up.

They did however agree with Charles that they would settle upon the £800 for stock etc if the assets in Mark's estate would allow. Charles received only £200 and filed with the Court for an account of transactions in his father's estate since his death in 1866. The trustees refused to provide any statement or to pay Charles further funds and Charles consequently filed for liquidation and restraint. Whatever the outcome of the case it is clear that from Mark's death in 1866 until at least 1874 the farm was being worked by Ephraim Hall and it seems likely that he continued to live in his Dale Street home whilst allowing a relative, George Hall, to live at the Farm itself. Ephraim Hall died in his mid 50's in 1876 perhaps bringing to an end the dispute with Charles and his occupation of "Howlers" Farm.

The **1861** Census records 60 year old *Mark Stephenson* on Lower Street and a "Farmer of 150 acres employing 3 men". Living in the household are his wife Ann, two daughters (Bridget and Ann), one son (Charles), two grandchildren and a visitor. They have a live in domestic servant. Mark Stephenson was born in 1801 in Ossett and married Ann Whitaker in 1820. They had 11 children between 1821 and 1844 when their youngest child, Charles, was born. It will be seen below that Mark Stephenson had been a long term tenant by 1861 and in the year of his death the **1866** White's Trade Directory shows Mark Stephenson as a farmer of Ossett Street. He is also listed under the scribbling and fulling milling section of the Directory. Ann Stephenson died in 1867.

In 1865 the following report regarding Titus Stephenson, son of Mark, appeared in the Leeds Mercury of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1865.

**A WIFE BEATER PUNISHED.**—On Monday, at the West Riding Court-house, Dewsbury, Titus Stephenson, of Ossett, formerly a manufacturer, was placed in the dock charged with having assaulted his wife. Mr. Atkinson was for the complainant, and Mr. Marratt for the defendant. Mrs. Stephenson was suffering from lameness caused by the prisoner's brutality. The prisoner had formerly held a very respectable position, but of late had given way to habits of intemperance. There was no defence offered on behalf of the prisoner. The magistrates fined him £5 and costs, and bound him over to keep the peace for six months, himself in £200 and two sureties of £100 each.

Titus Stephenson died in 1874.

The **1851** Census records *Mark Stephenson*, his wife and family (daughters Ann and Bridget and son Charles) living at "Howlers House". They have one servant. Mark is recorded as a Manufacturer and Farmer. In **1854** White's Trade Directory M. Stephenson is listed as a Farmer of Ossett Street. He is also listed as both a fulling miller and a woollen manufacturer trading as Mark Stephenson & Sons (Geo & Titus). The **1858** White's Directory lists Mark as a Farmer and he is also listed under Scribbling and fulling millers and as Mark Stephenson and sons (Geo & Titus) Woollen manufacturers. All entries are for Ossett Street.

In 1856 the business partnership, "Mark Stephenson and Sons" comprising Mark senior and four of sons was dissolved to the extent that Mark junior left the business as demonstrated in the following Leeds Mercury Notice of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1856. Mark Stephenson junior died in 1858. His sister, Rebecca, died in the same year.

**NOTICE** is hereby given, that the **PARTNERSHIP** heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, carrying on business as manufacturers, at Ossett, in the county of York, under the style or firm of "Mark Stephenson and Sons," is this day **DIS-SOLVED** by mutual consent, so far as regards Mark Stephenson, the Younger. As witness our hands this Nineteenth day of February, 1856.

Witness to the signing hereof by  
the said Mark Stephenson, Jun.,  
and George Stephenson,  
George Mander, Clerk to  
Mr. Wainwright, Solicitor,  
Wakefield. } **MARK STEPHENSON, Jun.**  
**GEORGE STEPHENSON.**

Witness to the signing hereof by  
the said Mark Stephenson, Jun.,  
Titus Stephenson, and Edward  
Stephenson, John Driver. } **TITUS STEPHENSON.**  
**MARK STEPHENSON, Sen.**  
**EDWARD STEPHENSON.**

**1841** was the first year in which a National Census was undertaken and *Mark Stephenson* is recorded as living with his family on Lower Street. His occupation is farmer and his 7 children range in age between 20 years and 9 months. His eldest son, George, is a clothier. Also living on Lower Street are three other Stephenson households in close proximity; Thomas Stephenson Clothmaker (aged 55), William Stephenson (45 Clothmaker), and John Stephenson\* Clothmaker aged 50. All are listed in White's 1847 Leeds and Clothing District Directory and William and Mark appear to be in business together. Mark, Thomas, William and John Stephenson are brothers.

The **1830** White's Directory lists Mark, Thomas and William Stephenson as woollen manufacturers on Ossett Street. By this time Mark had been married to Ann Whitaker for ten years. It will be seen below that the Whitaker family were also tenants of Owlery Farm in earlier years. Ann Whitaker was the eldest of five daughters born to George and Mary Whitaker in the early 1800's. George Whitaker (born in Ossett about 1779) is recorded as a maltster on Ossett Street and it is possible that he was living here. By this time Mark Stephenson and his wife had five children and it may be that they too were living at Owlery Farm or nearby.

The 1830 Directory also informs subscribers and readers that "*Coaches – The Harkforward passes through Ossett Street from Dewsbury to Wakefield daily at 10 mng and return at 6 evng. – A Market coach to and from Dewsbury and Wakefield, at the same time, every Friday*"

In **1822** Baines' Directory lists John, Thomas and Mark Stephenson as Wool manufacturers, seemingly in their own right. Farmers in 1822 Baines include *George Whittaker* and it seems likely that he is living at Owlery Farm. Francis Whitaker and Mark Whitaker are wool yarn spinners.

1711-1822

The identification of tenants during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century is based on maps and other documents used during that period. No census information exists for Ossett covering this period of time. The 1813 Inclosure Order contains information for a large part of the Ossett township but the boundary of the Order's influence is the south side of the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road. However the 1774 Valuation of Ossett Cum Gawthorpe records the following land in Joseph Whitaker's possession

121	Survey			Value <sup>rs</sup> acre			Total
	A	R	P	£	s	d	
Whittaker Joseph House & garden	"	"	"	"	"	"	15 "
Great Sauns	13	3	8	"	8	"	8 8 "
Little D <sup>o</sup>	7	0	35	"			
Great Holdings	11	1	28	"	12	"	6 17 "
Little D <sup>o</sup>	9	2	11	"	11	"	5 5 2
Pinfold Close	11	3	10	"	14	"	8 5 4
Upper Moor	7	0	8	"	10	4	3 14 0
Swalton D <sup>o</sup>	12	0	39	"	10	6	4 8 6
Great Lodgehill	18	"	"	"	13	"	11 14 0
Little D <sup>o</sup>	16	1	12	"	12	"	9 3 9
Whistle Close	14	1	0	"	12	4	8 18 "
Five Moor	6	3	32	"	13	"	4 10 2
Four Moor	4	3	8	"	13	"	3 1 6
Brick Close	14	"	7	"	12	4	8 15 6
Backside	7	1	32	"	13	"	4 16 6
Twelve Moor	11	2	19	"	10	"	5 16 2
Honey Suckle Close	6	0	23	"	10	"	3 1 3
Gawthorpe Close	8	3	5	"	10	"	4 7 9
Great well Close	5	3	32	"	12	"	3 11 3
Little D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>	6	1	7	"	10	"	3 2 10
Upper Dale Close	5	1	0	"	10	"	2 12 6
Top of Well Close	1	0	26	"	10	"	11 6
							<u>£ 113/58</u>

The relationship between the above Joseph Whitaker and George Whitaker (born about 1779) recorded in 1822 on Ossett Street is uncertain but it is likely to be that Joseph was George's grandfather. George's father was probably Mark Whitaker born about 1752 and married Mary Hemingway in 1777.

The Valuation Book records the field names, acreage (almost 200 acres) and rate payable of the land occupied by Joseph Whitaker. The field names and acreages can be compared with contemporary records shown elsewhere (1711 Brudenell map) and studies undertaken by other historians (Richard Glover "Medieval and Post Medieval Ossett Township 2008). Comparison confirms that these fields comprise the farm known today as Owers Farm.

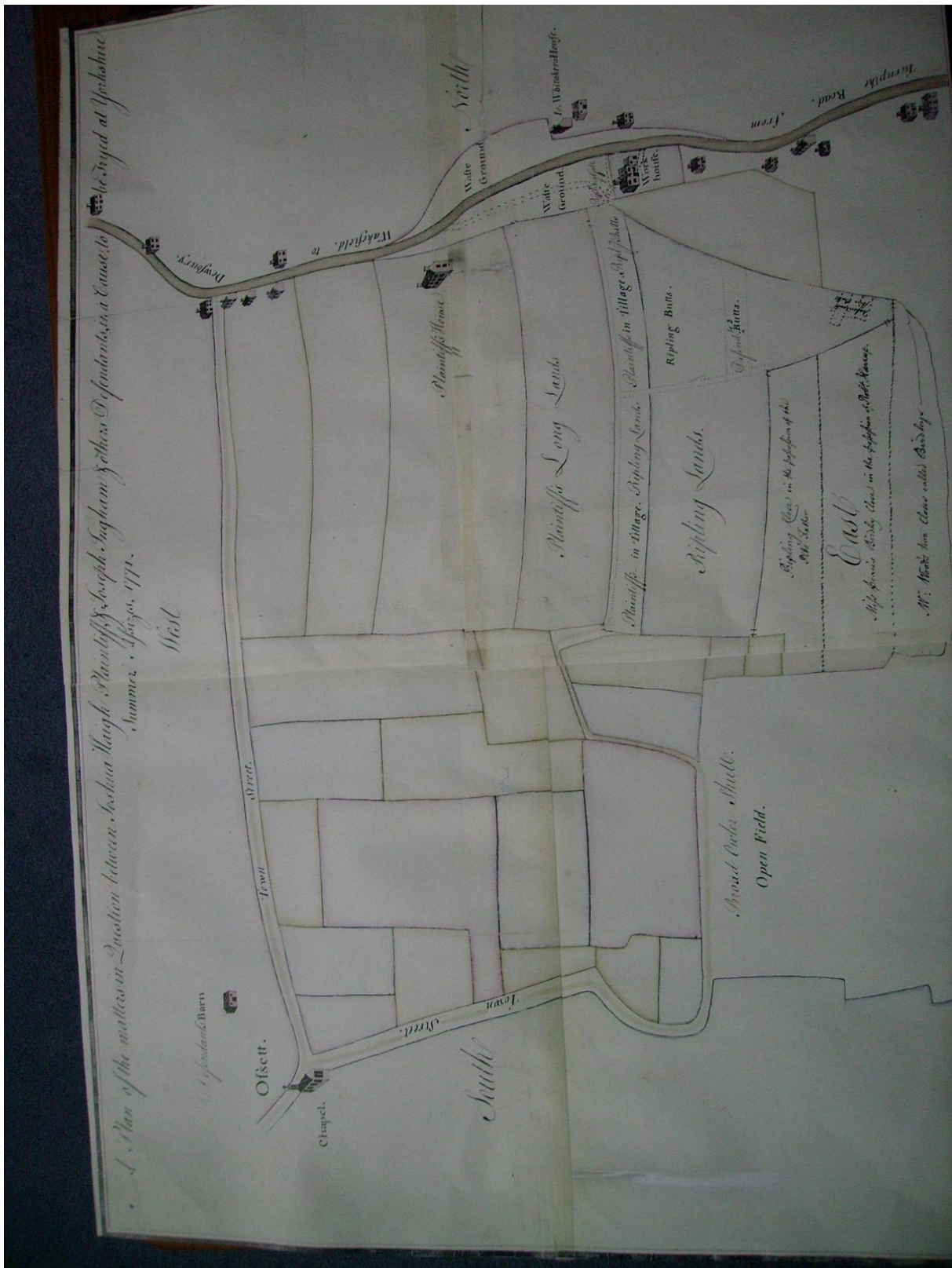
In 1771 the Summer session of the Yorkshire Assizes heard a case concerning a land dispute between Joshus Haigh, of nearby Longlands, and Joseph Ingham. A plan of the area in question was presented in support of the case and this is shown overleaf. To the north of the Wakefield to Dewsbury Road is (what appears to be) "I Whitaker's House". Whilst there is an Isaac Whitaker in Ossett around this time the map could almost as easily be read as J Whitakers. In any event the 1775 Valuation record shows Joseph Whitaker in possession and both records confirm the farm was held by the Whitaker family. If confirmation was needed the map also confirms that there was a house located here in 1771.

The next reference to the farm holding is in 1711 when it is shown in a map of that year entitled " *A map of the west pt. of New Park in Dewsbury in the West Riding of the County of York. Belonging to the Right Honourable George Earl of Cardigan*"

This 1711 map is also shown overleaf and shows the field names, acreages and tenancies. In so far as Owers Farm is concerned the area is tenanted by Mark Whittaker and comprises 190 acres. Compared with the 199 acres shown in the 1775 Valuation.

This suggests that the Whitaker family occupied the farm from 1711 to about 1822 or 1830. In either case the family tenanted the farm for more than 100 years. The record suggests the order of Whitaker tenancy was Mark (there in 1711), Joseph (1775) and George (about 1822) and I suspect there was another Whitaker between Mark and Joseph. Indeed since Ann Whitaker, daughter of George, married Mark Stephenson in 1820 and occupied the farm from sometime in the 1820's/1830's until 1866, a case can be made that the Whitakers occupied the Farm for over 155 years between 1711 and 1866.





Map from a 1771 case heard in the Summer Sessions of the Yorkshire Assizes

The following reference is taken from Richard Glover's History –Medieval and Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township and shows that Mark Whitaker's Will of 1727 refers to Streetside. The reference also indicates an early (1337) reference to "The Street" and its condition in 1640. A second reference reveals an early reference (1364) to a description of what may have been the area currently comprising Owlars Farm.

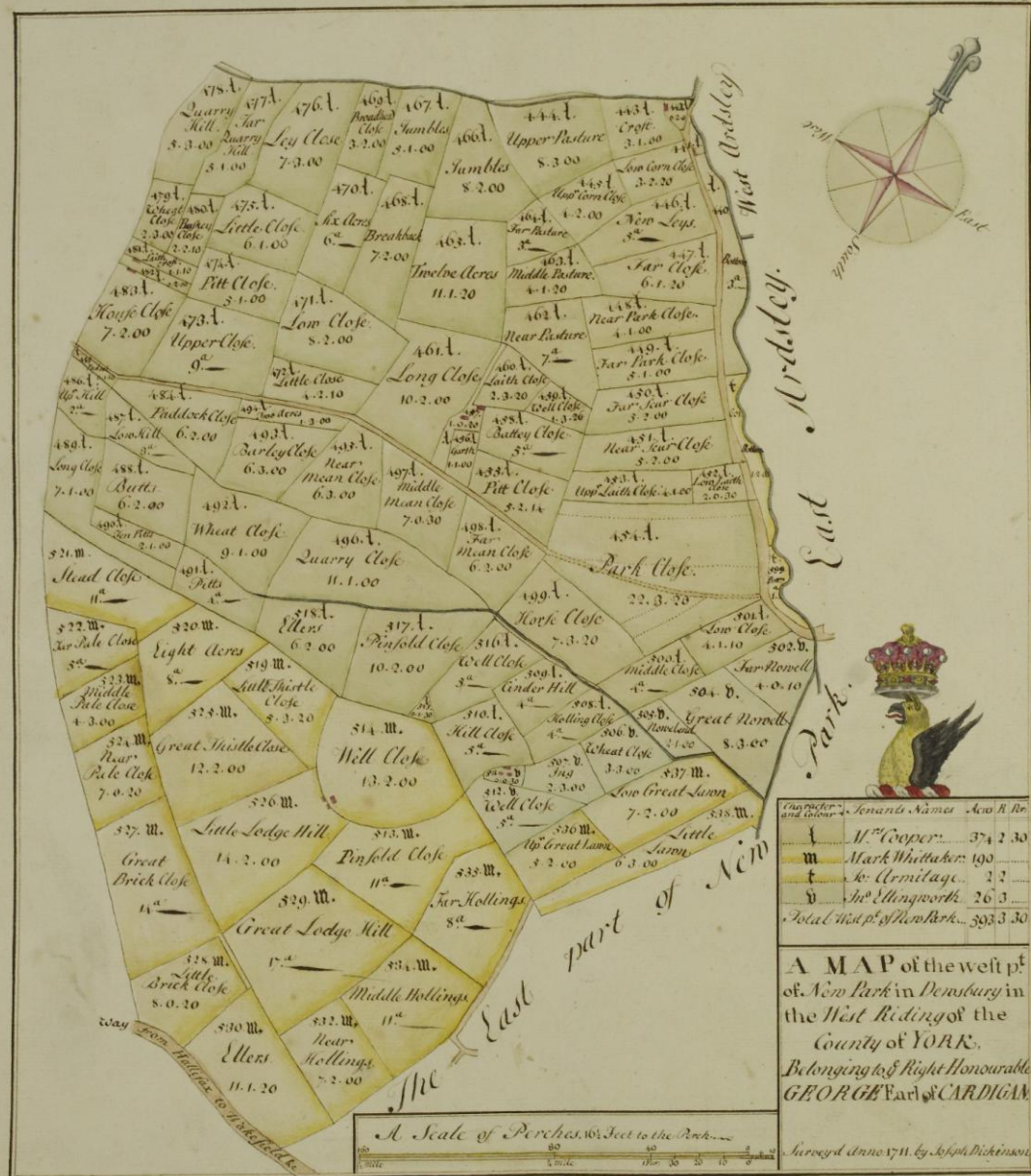
*"The STREETWCR1337 (Walker p. 102) Strethag WCR1392, 1462, 1492, Street Haggas WCR1544 Le Streetside WCR1608, 1639 & 1791; W1698 (Richard Whitley); WI727 (Mark Whitaker), Street Butts-W1698 (Roger Hurst), DI761 (Glover), W1708 (Thomas Peace), "abutting on ye street on the west and Storegate on the north" - Named after the 'Kinges' Street 1525 survey, which is the Wakefield/Dewsbury Road, originally assumed but not yet proven to be a Roman road. In 1640 the 'street' was in 'great decay'."*

*"ELLERSCHAGHSIKWCR1364 - OUELERS CROFTWMB1709, Ellers (Earl of Cardigan estate plan) 1711, - Alder tree croft, coppice and stream (Smith), ON 'Elri', Owlars farm today."*

The following reference is taken from local historian and archivist, John Goodchild's introduction to a 1978 publication of the 1672 Hearth Tax for Wakefield.

*"In 1662 Parliament granted (by 13 & 14 Chas.11, cap. 10) a tax of two shillings on every hearth or stove in every dwelling house, a tax thus known as the hearth or chimney money. It was regarded as an equitable tax in principle, but in practice unfair to the poor and disliked on account of the visits of inspection by the collectors and the rigorous policies of the farmers of the tax, and it was abolished very soon after the Glorious Revolution, being replaced in 1696 by taxes on houses and windows".*

The 1672 Hearth Tax record for "Ossitt" records "Marke Whitacres" paying tax on four hearths which, with some other taxpayers with the same number, is the highest in the Ossitt record. This does not confirm Marke in occupation at Owlars but does indicate that he lived in a substantial residence at that time.



Copyright Northamptonshire Record Office

1711 Brudenell Estate map of New Park – west part. Showing Mark Whitaker’s occupation (In yellow) of 190 acres (see legend – m ) including Ellers and Brick Close at bottom left.



## The Manor of Wakefield and The New Park

### 1066 and all that

Almost 1000 years ago land ownership in Ossett was largely the province of the privileged classes. In those days this meant the Crown and those who the ruling monarch, Edward The Confessor (1003-1066), wished to reward for their support and endeavours.

But things were about to change and when Edward died in 1066 there was an unseemly scramble to claim the Throne. There were three contenders; Harold Godwinson Earl of Wessex, the Viking King Harald III of Norway and William of Normandy, affectionately known as William The Bastard due to his uncertain parentage. In January 1066 in accordance with Edward's last Will Harold Godwinson was crowned King. His reign was to be short.

Neither William of Normandy nor Harald of Norway took kindly to being snubbed and the new King Harold was forced to head north in late September 1066 to repel Harald of Norway who was supported by the new King's brother Tostig. Having seen them off new King Harold headed south to engage William of Normandy, who had arrived at Pevensey Bay with a French invasion force.

Harold wasn't to be quite so successful on this occasion and he was killed on the Hastings battlefields and William of Normandy became William The Conqueror. He was crowned William 1<sup>st</sup> of England on Christmas Day 1066. Not all though was plain sailing and it was six more years before William was able to subjugate northern England. He did so by implementing a large scale and vicious scorched earth policy aimed at demoralising the local population by laying waste to much of the land relied upon by the people for their survival.

*The King stopped at nothing to hunt his enemies. He cut down many people and destroyed homes and land. Nowhere else had he shown such cruelty.*

*To his shame, William made no effort to control his fury, punishing the innocent with the guilty. He ordered that crops and herds, tools and food be burned to ashes.*

*More than 100,000 people perished of hunger.*

*I have often praised William in this book, but I can say nothing good about this brutal slaughter. God will punish him.*

—[Orderic Vitalis](#), 11th century<sup>[2]</sup>

### **The Lords of the Manor of Wakefield (1088-1362). The Earls De Warrene.**

Having forced the populace into submission William replaced the local Anglo-Danish lords with his own Norman supporters. So it was that the first Lord of the Manor of Wakefield was to be William's right hand man at Hastings, William De Warrene 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Surrey. When William De Warrene died in 1088 the Manor was inherited by his descendants and held by eight generations of Warrenes for another 300 eventful years.

This period was to see the de Warrene's building a wooden castle at Sandal and its replacement with a stone Castle which was to be the seat of power for the Manor and sometime later the site of the Battle of Wakefield. They also established three hunting parks; the Old Park to the south of the town, the Outwood and the New Park in the west covering parts of Alverthorpe, Dewsbury and Ossett

Every family has a black sheep and in the De Warrene's case it was John, the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl (1286-1347) by then the Earl of Sussex in addition to the long held title of Earl of Surrey. As it turned out he was also to be the last Earl de Warrene. When he was eighteen years of age John was married to the ten year old Joan de Barr the grand daughter (some sources have her as the daughter) of King Edward 1<sup>st</sup>. The marriage was childless but it is said that John De Warrene had many bastards and in 1316 he was excommunicated by the Catholic Church for his adultery with Isabel de Holland *and* Matilda de Neirford of Castle Acre Norfolk.

John was forced to grant the Manor of Wakefield to his enemy Thomas Earl of Lancaster probably as a result of his infidelity and ex communication. It was a short lived forfeiture for in 1317 he married Matilda and he, and his two sons Thomas and John, regained the rights to the Manor of Wakefield.

John, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warrene and Earl of Surrey and Sussex died in 1347 and whilst his widow, Matilda lived until 1360, their sons John and Thomas pre-deceased her and, because there was no surviving male heir, the Manor reverted to the Crown in 1362.

### **The Lords of the Manor of Wakefield (1362-1629) The English Monarch**

By 1362 Edward III had ascended to the Throne and he awarded the Manor of Wakefield to his son Edmund de Longley (Edward Plantagenet) who was also the Earl of Cambridge and Duke of York.

He was succeeded by Richard II (1377-1399) who died mysteriously in Pontefract Castle. The House of Lancaster then became pre-eminent with Henry IV (1399-1413), Henry V (1413-1422) and Henry VI (1422-1461) ruling until the House of York took the Crown in 1461. This period saw Edward IV (1461-1483) Edward V (1483) Richard III (1483-1485;killed at Bosworth). The House of Tudor then succeeded to the Throne seeing Henry VII (1485-1509), Henry VIII (1509-1547) Edward VI (1547-1553) Queen Jane (1553), Mary I (1553-1558) and Elizabeth I (1558-1603).

The House of Stuart then reigned through James I(1603-1625) ( aka James VI of Scotland) and Charles I (1625 -1649)until his beheading in 1649; 20 years earlier in 1629 he had sold the Manor of Wakefield in part settlement of a debt. The Commonwealth was declared on 19 May 1649 and Oliver Cromwell presided as Lord Protector (1653-1658) followed by Richard Cromwell (1658-1659). Charles II was King from the Restoration in 1660.

**The Lords of the Manor of Wakefield (1629 -1700) Henry Rich, Sir Gervase Clifton, Sir Christopher Clapham, The Duke of Leeds, Baron Conyers and the Earl of Yarborough.**

The Manor remained in Royal hands until 8<sup>th</sup> September 1629 when Charles 1<sup>st</sup> granted it to **Henry Rich 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Holland** ([www.pepysdiary.com/p/5612.php](http://www.pepysdiary.com/p/5612.php)) in part settlement of a debt of £25,000. Henry, born about 1589, was the second son of the Earl of Warwick, and “a peer both of singular grace and solidity”. After serving as an MP for Leicestershire and as the gentleman of the Bedchamber to Charles, Prince of Wales he was created Earl of Holland in about 1624.

During the War between the King and Parliament Henry adopted what was said to be a “vacillating policy” joining the Parliamentary party in 1642 but returning within a year to King Charles’ side. He met with an “ungracious reception” and again he was partially reconciled to the Parliament but five years later in 1648 he again took up arms for King Charles. He had changed his mind for the last time and he was captured by the Parliamentary forces at St Neots in 1648 and was beheaded on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1648 before Westminster Hall London.

In those turbulent times the sensible aristocracy took measures to safeguard their wealth. Perhaps foreseeing his vacillations and subsequent undoing Henry had put matters in hand some years before his untimely death. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 1630 Thomas Leeke, by the direction of Henry, Earl of Holland, conveyed the Manor of Wakefield to Robert Leeke and William Swanscoe in trust for the Royalist, **Sir Gervase Clifton**, Knight and baronet of Clifton Co. Notts and Penelope, his first wife and Henry’s daughter. The consideration paid to Henry was £6000 which had been bequeathed to Penelope by Charles Blount Earl of Devonshire.

The Clifton family had been seated at Clifton since the time of James 1<sup>st</sup>. Sir Gervase Clifton (1586-1666) was created a baronet in 1612 shortly after he was High Sherriff of Nottingham. In July 1661 Clifton conveyed the Manor to **Sir Christopher Clapham**. In 1674 a Royal Warrant was directed to the Solicitor General to prepare a bill for settling upon the Queen Consort, the second wife of James II, married 21<sup>st</sup> November 1673. The sum was to be £1236 16s 1d to be paid out of the fee farms of the certain places, among others:-

The Manor of Wakefield .. .. .	£303 0s 11d
The New Park there .. .. .	£19 8s 8d
The Old Park .. .. .	£20 0s 0d
The demesne of Sandal called Haloitha .. .. .	£4 16s 0d
Wakefield Mills .. .. .	£50 0s 0d

[It is interesting that the “bill” deals separately with the Manor and the two Parks. This suggests that by this date the ownership of the Manor may be different to the ownership of the Parks and the Mills. Certainly by 1711 the New Park is shown as “belonging” to George Brudenel, Earl of Cardigan.]

[Also of interest here is that Robert Leeke (born circa 1600) had a son and grandson each named Gervase Leeke. The grandson had a daughter called Barbara Leeke who was to marry the Reverend James Haigh, the Minister of Horbury St Peter’s. They had a son, Robert Haigh , the likely owner of Hags Farm in the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The Leeke family were of Halom in Notts and their relationship with Clifton, who, it is thought, brought Leeke with him from Notts to assist in the work of the Manor of Wakefield may provide a clue to means by which Robert Haigh came by Hags Farm. Robert Leeke was subsequently appointed a trustee for the Manor of Wakefield]

## **The Lords of the Manor of Wakefield (1700-1926) Duke of Leeds, Baron Conyers and the Earl of Yarborough**

By Indenture dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 1700 Sir Christopher Clapham conveyed the Manor to Thomas, first **Duke of Leeds**, a title created in 1694 for the prominent statesman Thomas Osborne 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Carmarthen. The Manor remained in his family until the sixth Duke of Leeds settled the Manor in trust on heirs of his only daughter, the Lady Charlotte Mary Anne Georgiana who on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1826 married Sackville Walter Lane Fox, third son of James Lane Fox of Bramham Park. Their son, Sackville George Lane Fox, on the death of his uncle the seventh Duke of Leeds became 12<sup>th</sup> **Baron Conyers** on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1859. On his death in 1888 the barony of Conyers fell into abeyance, which was terminated in favour of his elder daughter, Marcia Amelia Mary as Baroness of Fauconberg and Conyers on September 29<sup>th</sup> 1903. The baroness married the fourth **Earl of Yarborough** on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1886 and they became Lord and Lady of the Manor of Wakefield. Lady Yarborough died in 1926. D'Arcy Osborne (1884-1964) was the 12<sup>th</sup> and last Duke of Leeds having died without issue in 1964.

### **Some Stewards of the Manor of Wakefield\***

**William FitzRaven** of Hatfield Hall near Wakefield acted as William de Warrene's [Warene] steward for the manor of Wakefield 1148-1159.

**William de Horbury** seneschal [steward] to Earl William de Warrene about 1240

**Ralph de Horbury** was steward to Earl John de Warrene the 7th Earl Warenne & Surrey about 1250

**Alexander Lucas** was the steward during the time of John the 7th Earl of Warrene, 1274-1277

**John de Ravensfeud**<sup>4</sup> later in the year of 1274.

**Sir Thomas Coke** in 1284 & 1285 [**Also rector of Dewsbury 1292-1293.**]

**Richard de Heydon** 25th November 1285 [**W.C.R.**]

**1297 John de Doncastre**

**Henry de Welda** [[de la Welde/de la Walda](#)] 1315

**John de Burton** described in April 1322 as the late steward of Wakefield

**Sir Simon de Baldreston**

**John de Trehampton**, 1327

**Sir Simon de Baldreston\***, 1330

**John de Trehampton** again in 1331.

**John de Grenegate** mentioned 25th October 1331.

**Sir Simon de Baldreston\*** recorded again on the 15th Dec. 1331 and later in 1336 & 1337.

**John de Doncastre**<sup>6</sup> recorded again as steward in 1302 and in 1332-3

**William de Skargill sen.** 1332

**Sir John de Eland** [also [High Sheriff of Yorkshire 1341](#)]

**Sir John Savile, Baron Pontefract, Viscount Savile**, was high steward of the Wakefield Manor and custodian of Sandal Castle for life. Sir John was also a High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1455 and 1461

\*Source; [www.midgeleywebpages.com](http://www.midgeleywebpages.com) /stewards



## The New Park, The Saviles and The Earl of Cardigan

The Manor of Wakefield included three Hunting Parks called The Old Park (to the south of the City) The New Park (to the west incorporating parts of Alverthorpe and North Ossett) and the Outwood. Since these Hunting Parks had been constructed for the Lord of The Manor it seems reasonable to assume that they were always in his ownership. The New Park bordered the north side of the Wakefield to Halifax Turnpike Road, an area known today as Flushdyke, incorporating, amongst others, 12 farm holdings including Lodge Hill, Tufty (Le Tofte) and Owlars Farm. In total the New Park comprised 1300 acres. How was it then that at least one of those parks, the New Park, was shown in a map dated 1711 as *“Belonging to the Right Honourable George, Earl of Cardigan”*?

The answer lies in the relationship between the Cardigans of Northamptonshire and one of the several branches of the Savile family of Yorkshire. On or about 1 June 1668 Francis Brudenell married Frances Savile, the grand-daughter of Sir John Savile of Howley Hall Morley. At the time of their marriage the Saviles were in possession of the New Park and the union between Francis and Frances brought it within the Brudenell/Cardigan ownership.

Development of parts of the City of Leeds and other areas in Yorkshire over the last 400 years is bound up with the history of the **Brudenell** and **Savile** families, who were major landowners. The Saviles were granted land around Kirkstall Abbey by Elizabeth I and also held considerable areas elsewhere in Yorkshire. They played a major part in the development of Leeds and Sir John Savile, Knight, was a royal courtier who became the first Leeds Alderman in 1626.

The Brudenells were based at Deene Park in Northamptonshire, and became the Earls of Cardigan after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660. These two families were united in 1668 by the marriage of Francis Brudenell and Frances Savile. This marriage brought the Savile lands in Yorkshire, *including The New Park in Wakefield*, within the orbit of the Earls of Cardigan.

Although both families owned considerable areas, both were seriously in debt. Their land was extensively leased or mortgaged, often on complex and convoluted terms. The constant need to service debts and increase yields were one of the driving forces behind the industrial development of their land ownerships. Sub-letting broke up the great estates and made land accessible to people of lesser means. The intricate legal agreements later become a barrier to further development, since it was no longer clear who owned the land. In 1835 a private Act of Parliament was necessary to resolve these issues.

But how and when did the Saviles first own the Wakefield New Park?

## The Savile Family of Howley Hall Morley

There were several branches of the Savile family in Yorkshire but the relevant branch in this history is the Saviles of Howley Hall, an illegitimate line from the Thornhill Saviles.

Sir Henry Savile (1499-1558) was the father of the illegitimate

Sir Robert Savile (d 1585) was the father of

Sir John Savile (1556-1630) was the father of

Sir Thomas Savile (1590-1660) was the father of

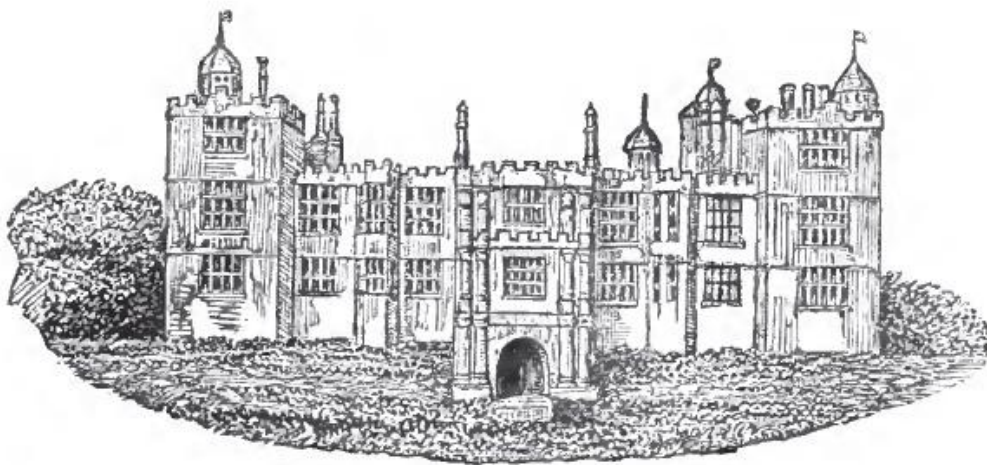
Frances Savile (died 1695) who married Francis Lord Brudenell whose family were Earls of Cardigan

George Brudenell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Cardigan was the son of Frances Savile and Francis Lord Brudenell

When *Frances Savile* and Francis, Lord Brudenell married in 1668 she had not yet inherited the estates, which included Wakefield New Park, of her father, *Sir Thomas Savile* (1590-1660). She was to do so three years later in 1671 when her only brother, James, passed away at a young age. The Saviles home at Howley Hall near Morley had been built by Frances' grandfather *Sir John Savile* in 1590. Sir Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Savile (created 1628) and 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Sussex (created 1644), and his second wife Lady Anne Villiers also lived at Howley Hall.

In addition to Frances they had a male child, James, Earl of Sussex but he died young in 1671 having buried his infant son, also James, in 1670. On the death of James in 1671 the Howley line ended and the Manor of Morley passed to the Thornhill branch of the Saviles. However the Wakefield New Park and Howley Hall remained with this branch of the Saviles (ie Frances) and subsequently the Cardigans and in 1730 it is said that the Earl of Cardigan ordered the demolition of Howley Hall; it is thought to avoid rising maintenance costs of the house.

*Sir John Savile* (1556-1630) 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Savile of Pomfret, was the first Alderman or Mayor of Leeds when it was incorporated as a borough by Charles I in 1626. He built his home at Howley Hall which gained the following accolade "the magnificent seat of an **illegitimate** branch of the Saviles though by address and court service they outstripped the heads of the family for a time in honour"



Howley Hall (from an old Engraving).

Howley cost £100000 in 1590 which equates to a staggering £16,500,000 at current worth. Sir John was a man of national standing and JJ Cartwright in his Chapters of Yorkshire History says *“the foremost Yorkshireman in the early part of the reign of James I was undoubtedly Sir John Savile of Howley”*. He was keeper of the rolls for the West Riding; High Steward of Pontefract Wakefield and Bradford; an MP for the County; a trustee of Batley Grammar school and a Governor, some say founder, of Wakefield Grammar School. He died at Howley on 31 August 1630 and following an Inquisition of his estates in **1631** it was certified that he held *“the manors of Headingley, Batley, Morley, East Ardsley, Woodchurch and Gildersome and also certain lands known as the **New Park of Wakefield situate in several parishes towns places of Wakefield Dewsbury Alverthorpe and Ossett; the rectory of Woodchurch; a fabrica ferraria, Anglice “the Iron Forge” at Kirkstall with the floodgates and streams connected with the said forge.** Savile also held six corn mills and one fulling mill in his several manors.*

Sir John Savile was married, on 20 November 1586, to Elizabeth Carey the daughter of Sir Edward Carey who was the chief steward of the Manor. At this time the Lord of the Manor was Queen Elizabeth I and she placed it under the jurisdiction of the Duchy of Lancaster. Carey was also an officer of the Duchy of Lancaster and perhaps significantly a distant cousin of the Queen.

Sir John's father and Frances' great grandfather was *Sir Robert Savile* (died 1585) the **illegitimate** beloved son of *Sir Henry Savile of Thornhill* (1499-1558) and a waiting woman named Margaret Barkston (or Barlaston). Sir Henry and his wife, Elizabeth Sotehill of Dewsbury, had a son Edward Savile (d 1604) who was adjudged to be imbecile. Consequently the Howley Saviles were the illegitimate branch of the Thornhill Saviles, who nevertheless did rather well. But their roots were at Thornhill as evidenced by Sir Henry Savile the father of the illegitimate Robert. It was Robert who bought the Howley estate in 1578 where he began to build Howley Hall that was completed by his son in 1590. He was knighted in 1583 two years before his death.

Sir Henry was High Sherriff of Yorkshire 1537-41 and an important man in the reign of Henry VIII. Henry was the only son of Sir John Savile of Thornhill (died 1505) who was also High Sherriff of Yorkshire in 1486, the year of the Battle of Boswell. He succeeded his grandfather, also Sir John (died about 1482), as Steward of Wakefield. This Sir John Savile was High Sherrif of Yorkshire 1455 and 1461 and MP for Yorkshire 1450 and 1467 and *“he was **chief steward of the manor of Wakefield connected with which office was the custody of the castle of Sandal. The castle became his occasional residence where he died on the morrow of the feast of St Basil 1482. He was carried through Wakefield and sumptuously buried at Thornhill”** He married Alice the daughter of Sir William Gascoigne of Gawthorpe. There are other Saviles in this line (Thomas, Henry, John and John died 1353) but none appear to have a connection with Wakefield.*

**Evidence of the precise date when the Saviles became owners of the New Park is sparse but they owned it by 1631 (Sir John Savile's Estate Inquisition). Some 45 years earlier in 1586 Sir John married Elizabeth Carey and the position of her father (Sir Edward Carey) as chief steward of the Manor, and a distant cousin of the Queen suggests the period 1586-1631 as a distinct possibility of the time at which the New Park came into the Saviles' possession. There is evidence of other branches of the Saviles working land in the Park before this but no evidence of ownership.**

**Moreover the Manor ,which had reverted to the Crown in 1362 when the last of the De Warennes died, was sold to Sir Henry Rich by King Charles I (in part settlement of a debt) in September 1629. Was the New Park stripped out of this sale of the Manor and granted, for services rendered, to Sir Edward Carey or his son in law, Sir John Savile around this time?**

## The Brudenells and Earls of Cardigan

**Thomas Brudenell** 1st Earl of Cardigan (1583-1663); father of

**Robert Brudenell**, 2nd Earl of Cardigan (1607- 1703); father of

**Francis, Lord Brudenell** (died 1698 predeceasing his father) married Frances Savile in 1668. Frances inherited the New Park 1671. They were the parents of

**George Brudenell**, the 3rd Earl of Cardigan (1685-1732) son of Francis and Frances who is shown as the owner of New Park in 1711.

It is known then that in 1711 the New Park belonged to George Brudenell, the 3rd Earl of Cardigan (1685-1732); the result of his father, Francis Brudenell's marriage to Frances Savile on or about 1 June 1668.

At the time of his marriage Francis, Lord Brudenell, had not succeeded to the Cardigan title and because he pre-deceased his father Robert, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl, he never would. Francis, Lord Brudenell was a Jacobite, who had been imprisoned in the Tower of London for four years for high treason. He died in 1698 and his wife Frances (nee Savile) died in 1695.

Francis and Frances had four children; three girls and one boy, George. One of the girls, Frances (1673-1735) became famous for ruling "a social circle of tribades in Dublin" in the early 1730's; her primary lover being Lady Allen. Frances was bisexual, twice married and mother of two.. She was portrayed, in a satire by an alleged creditor, as a promiscuous bisexual witch and lesbian named Myra.



**George Brudenell 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Cardigan**

Francis Brudenell's father, *Robert Brudenell, 2nd Earl of Cardigan (1607- 1703)* was the son of *Thomas Brudenell 1st Earl of Cardigan (1583-1663)* . Thomas Brudenell was a zealous royalist and suffered badly in the Civil War. He gave Charles I financial support and Charles II rewarded him with the creation of the Earldom of Cardigan on 20 April 1661, following the Restoration.

*George*, became the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Earl of Cardigan* in 1703 following the death, at 96, of his grandfather Robert. When George succeeded his grandfather as Earl of Cardigan on 16 July 1703 he was living in Rome but came home in 1706. He renounced his Roman Catholic faith in 1708 converted to the Church of England, took his seat in the House of Lords and married Lady Elizabeth Bruce by whom he had six children. He held the office of Master of the Buckhounds between 1712 and 1715 to Queen Anne and to King George I. George Brudenell died, aged 46, of a nosebleed on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1732.

Consequently, even though Frances Savile inherited the New Park on the death of her brother James in 1671 it would be 1698, when his father died, before George, then Lord Brudenell, inherited the New Park. He did not become the Earl of Cardigan until 5 years later in 1703. It is supposed then that between 1671 and 1703 the Brudenells would have been the New Park owners. The Brudenells aka the Earls of Cardigan were to hold most of the New Park for 200 years between 1671 and 1889. Parts (for example Owlery Farm) remained in their ownership until at least the 1920's

But the Earls of Cardigan were to be remembered, not for their support of the King during the Civil War or for their ownership of the Wakefield New Park, important though it was. Instead their name is known for the part played by the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cardigan in the Crimea War and the Charge of The Light Brigade. George Brudenell (1685-1732), it will be recalled was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Cardigan and he inherited the New Park from his father Francis who had married Frances Savile in 1668. George married Lady Elizabeth Bruce and they had 6 children including the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Earls of Cardigan (George became 4<sup>th</sup> Earl on the death of his father in 1732 and when George died in 1790, his brother James became the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl)

Both George and James died without leaving a male heir and when James died in 1811 the title 6<sup>th</sup> *Earl of Cardigan* passed to his nephew and keen cricketer Robert Brudenell (1760-1837). He played for the Marylebone Cricket Club between 1790 and 1793. He was also the father of the 7<sup>th</sup> *Earl of Cardigan*, James Thomas Brudenell (1797-1868).

James Thomas is known for his catastrophic command during the Crimean War when he led the Charge of the Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaclava. It is said that he typified the popular conception of the snobbish, arrogant, bone-headed and incompetent aristocrat of the period but it is also said that this belied his genuine bravery and generosity.

Either way he was the owner of the Wakefield New Park at the time of Charge of the Light Brigade on 25 October 1854 though it is doubtful that the collection of rents from his New Park tenants was uppermost in his mind on that fateful day.

James Thomas Brudenell, the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cardigan is noteworthy for many other notorious incidents too frequent to be related here but his personal life was not without incident. He was to woo, Elizabeth Tollemache Johnstone, the wife of his friend shortly after their wedding in 1824. This was to cost Cardigan £1000 damages paid to her husband following their subsequent divorce. Mr Johnstone it seems was pleased to be rid of his adulterous wife describing her as "the most bad tempered and extravagant bitch in the kingdom". Not a man to mince his words but instead of heeding the comments of his former friend Cardigan married Mrs Johnstone in 1826. It was not to be a happy marriage and by 1837 they had separated though they never divorced. Elizabeth died in 1858 and Cardigan married for a second time later that year, to Adeline de Horsey. But even in this Brudenell achieved greater notoriety by conducting an affair with Adeline as his wife was dying. Adeline was socially isolated, particularly after Cardigan's death in 1868.

He was succeeded in the same year by Sir George William Frederick Brudenell Bruce who became the 8<sup>th</sup> *Earl of Cardigan* (1804-1878). He was the Great Grandson of George Brudenell the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of

Cardigan mentioned in the New Park estate map of 1711. He died without issue and was succeeded by his brother Sir Ernest Augustus Charles Brudenell Bruce (1811-1886) who became the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl in 1878. George William Thomas Brudenell Bruce (1863-1894) and Henry Augustus Brudenell Bruce (1842-1911) were respectively the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Earls.

It was during the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl's tenure that the following Notice appeared in The Morning Post on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1889 offering the whole of the 1300 acre New Park and other land for sale by auction in 45 lots.

No. 1. The Cardigan Estates, Wakefield Division.—Important Freehold Properties, embracing valuable building estates and wharriage premises, situate in the city of Wakefield, and several well appointed farms, small holdings, accommodation and market garden lands, dwelling-houses and cottages, comprising in all about 1,300 acres, situate at New-park, in the parishes of Alverthorpe and Ossett-cum-Gawthorpe, with Flushdyke and Alverthorpe Stations upon the property, affording easy communication with all the commercial centres of the North. In the occupation of responsible tenants, at moderate rents.

**CHINNOCK, GALSWORTHY, and CHINNOCK** will SELL, by AUCTION, in 45 Lots, at the Albert Hall, Cookridge-street, Leeds, on TUESDAY, July 23, at twelve for one precisely.

The above Valuable FREEHOLD ESTATES, comprising an important wharf having a good frontage to the navigable River Calder, together with a strip of building land extending from Thorne's-lane to the Denbydale-road; a chief rent of £50 per annum, most amply secured upon Messrs. Craddock's extensive wire and hemp rope manufactory in the Denbydale-road; about 12 acres of building and accommodation land, with frontages to Denbydale-road and Lawefield-lane, divided into convenient lots; four plots of building land, with frontages to Orsett and Horbury Roads; two plots of building land abutting on Humble Jumble-lane and Stafford-road; and several enclosures of rich pasture land adjoining same, all situate in and around the important and increasing city of Wakefield, affording many eligible building sites immediately ripe for development. Also several compact farms, situate at New-park, in the parishes of Alverthorpe and Ossett-cum-Gawthorpe, consisting of Pease House Farm, with about 83 acres, and an enclosure of market garden land, let to Mr. George Haigh; Lindale-hill Farm, comprising 20a. 2r. 34p., let to Mrs. Illingworth; and several enclosures of accommodation land on Lindale-hill, divided into convenient lots; Kirkham-gate Farm, comprising 78a. 2r. 13p., let to Messrs. T. W. and F. S. Greaves; Park-mill Farm, comprising about 55 acres and mill, let to Mr. Right Hepworth; Low Lathes Farm, comprising about 90 acres, in the occupation of Mr. C. S. Robson; New-park Farm and Low New-park Farm, commanding extensive building frontages to the Dewsbury and Wakefield road, let to Mr. J. F. Brown; Owlars Farm and a plot of building land, situate close to Flushdyke Station, let to Mr. F. E. Pape; Lodge-hill Farm, comprising about 212 acres, with a capital homestead; Tufty's Farm, comprising about 113 acres; Greaves Low-park Farm, of about 134 acres, with a commodious homestead; and Upper-park Farm, comprising about 99 acres, in the occupation of Mr. George Gosling, Messrs. T. and J. Greaves, Mr. Stevenson, and others; about 15 acres of accommodation land at South Ossett, let to Mr. Mark Welby; and a rent charge of £37 12s. 4d., secured upon lands forming part of the Great Northern Railway.

Particulars (No. 1) may be obtained of Messrs. Walker and Mewburn-Walker, solicitors, 12, Furnival's-inn, E.C.; of Messrs. Burch, Whitehead, and Davidsons, solicitors, 29, Spring-gardens, S.W.; of Messrs. Martin and Fenwick, surveyors, 1, Park-place, Leeds; and of Messrs. Chinnock and Co., land agents and surveyors, 11, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, London, S.W.

It is not certain how much of the estate was sold at this auction but it is known that at least one of the holdings, Owlars Farm remained unsold until 1923. At that time George William James Chandos Brudenell-Bruce (1873-1961) was 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cardigan and the 6<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Ailesbury. The 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cardigan, Michael Sydney Cedric Brudenell-Bruce was born in 1926.

## THE WAKEFIELD NEW PARK

### Life in the New Park (1090-1347) from "Wakefield Its History And People" by J W Walker

At an Inquisition of the estate of the last Earl de Warrene in 1347 it was reported that there were "also certain parks with wild beasts called the old park and the new park, the agisement whereof was worth yearly besides the maintenance of the wild beasts (deer) £5; also the pannage for pigs was worth 6s 8d. At Alverthorpe the customary rents were yearly 6s 8d and the tenants also rendered hens and eggs"

*The New Park was larger than the Old park, being four miles in circuit. It lay on the west side of the town, and included Westgate Moor, spreading towards horbury and Ossett, extending up to Lodge hill at its north west corner, with Red Lodge one mile north, over Lindle hill and Kirkhamgate towards Wrenthorpe with the Humble Jumble beck flowing through the midst of the park.....*

*The Park was described as bushy barren ground and was stocked with re and fallow deer, hares, rabbits and partridges. In 1304 John de Fulham, the King's yeoman was directed by the Earl to take twenty red deer and one hundred and twenty fallow does from these parks, to salt them down as venison, to pack them into barrels, and to send them for the Kings use*

*The duty of the parker was to thin the herds of deer, which was usually done in August and September the fallow deer being ready for shooting in the former month, and the red deer in the latter month when they had completely lost their velvet from their horns. These were shot with bolts from cross-bows. Later in the year it was the parker's business to hunt the fox and badger, and so protect the grouse, partridges and pheasants which were numerous in these parks. Another obligation of this officer was to keep down the pike, water wolves as they were called in the mill dam and in the river near the dam stakes, so that the salmon could safely ascend the river for spawning. With the turn of the year the training of falcons occupied much of the time of the parker and his assistants; so that this office was no sinecure*

*Poaching was common in these parks. In the Court Rolls constant notices of this crime are found; such as in November 1284 " a doe was strangled at Alverthorpe, and John Salesman's dog was found upon her; William de Lewenthorpe and others unknown killed a deer in Wrenthorpe field..... Such large numbers of deer must have been very troublesome to the farmers; in January 1285, Richard de Heya was charged with taking the earl's deer at thornes with traps made of great cord. Richard said that he intended to take whenever he could all deer found in his close, because that was his common chase.*

*Sometimes there was wholesale poaching, as in 1302, when there was a commission of oyer and terminer to try the persons who with a multitude of armed men, while the earl was in Scotland fighting in the King's service, entered the earl's parks and chases and warrens at Wakefield, hunted therein and carried away deer, hares, rabbits, and partridges, also took fish from his fishery at Sandal. There was also another commission in 1331 to examine certain persons who had broken into the earl's parks in Yorkshire, and had carried away two hundred swans, worth 100 marks, and also as many deer. Two years later William de Skargill was appointed by the earl to be the chief forester of his chases in Wakefield and Sourebyshire, to have the custody of vert and venison, with a daily wage of 4d.*

*In 1454 two chantry priests were brought before the the manor court and fined for taking grouse, showing at the time the presence of game birds, and consequently heather in the neighbourhood. In 1471 three people were fined for taking partridges in the warren. Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Sir John Savile, the parker of the Old and New parks in addition to his salaru had a grant of a tun of red wine, a hart, two fallow bucks and two does. This largesse would enable him to dine right royally.*

*In these parks the fees received by the bailiffs of the lord for grazing rights from may to October 1325 amounted for the Old Park to £2 11s 8d and for the New Park to £8 5s 3d besides 21s for the grazing of eighteen oxen and nine horses, which was remitted to the owners of four and a half ploughs, because they had no pasture for their beasts except in the parks. The charges for the season were 8d for an ox, 4d for a steer, 2d for a calf, 12d for a horse, In 1308, John Cay paid 13s 4d for his pigs feeding in the new coppice, and for those in the New Park 6s 8d. Grazing values had increased by this date for in 1296 the total pannage of the Old park was worth nothing and for those in the New Park was valued at only 26 shillings. By 1312 the payments for pigs in the Outwood and the New Park amounted to 39s 1d for pigs bred within the town, to 79s 8d for strange pigs and pigs brought in; townsmen paid 4s 5d for their pigs grazing within the Old Park*

*In the time of Elizabeth there were over 300 deer in the New park and the lodges and palings were in good repair, so that the deer did not escape.*

*The Outwood of Wakefield or as it was sometimes called the Micklewood consisted of some 2300 acres which were thickly covered with oak trees among which were a large number of hollies. Several roads ran through it, which were closed on the outskirts by gates, Kirkhamgate, Carr gate, Lingwell gate and Lofthouse gate, the latter mentioned in 1298.....the free burgesses of Wakefield were allowed to feed their hogs and pigs in all the woods around the town....burgesses also had the right of taking dead wood from the Outwood to burn.*

*The timber growing in the parks and on the Outwood were also a source of profit to the lord; in 1241 ten oaks from the Outwood and ten from the parks were given to the Archbishop of York to help in the construction of the south transept of York Minster...*

*The chief amusements of the nobility of this period were hunting and hawking. The various parks of the earl gave ample opportunity for hunting deer which abounded in them. No and again a wolf would be the quarry, for these animals were fairly common in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire until the first quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Wild boars also roamed the woods and pheasants, grouse, partridges, hares and rabbits abounded in the earl's preserves.*

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