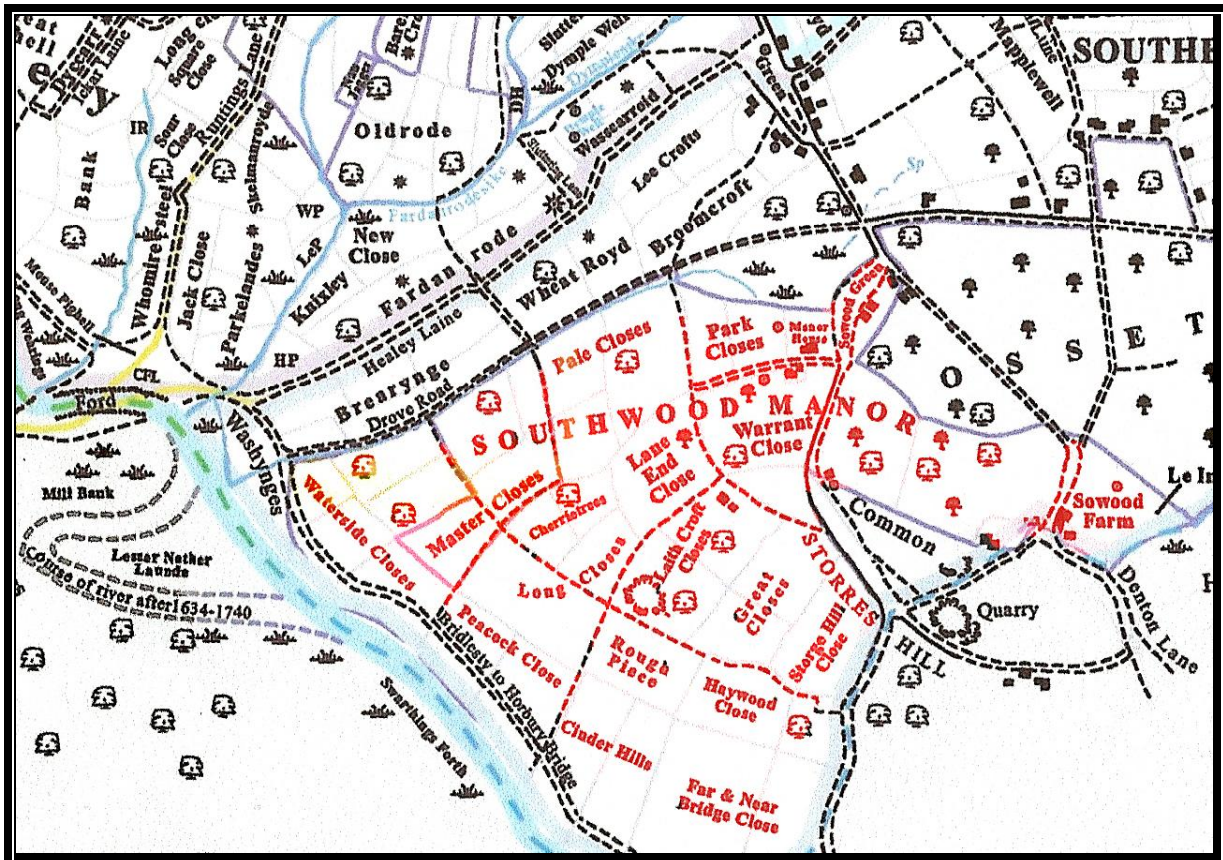


THE MANOR OF SOUTH WOOD GREEN

SOWOOD OSSETT

A Collection of Historical References



Alan Howe

January 2013

Preface

The following pages of notes and references were collected in 2012 during research of Sowood Farm which is believed to have been situated within the area of the Manor of Southwood Green or Sowood. It had not been my intention to write a history of the Manor when I embarked on the Sowood Farm research and I do not claim, by any means, that this is a comprehensive history of the area. It does not purport to be so.

However having collected much of this information in the search for land ownership in the area of Sowood Farm it seemed fitting to record the information I had collected with the thought that it may form a useful basis for further research in the future. In any event I hope that the reader finds something of interest in the notes.

There is much more to discover about The Manor of Southwood Green.

The research notes which follow include a four page Introduction, Summary & Conclusion of the findings for those who do not wish to read the detail .This section is intended to stand alone but this does result in some repetition in the detailed text. For those with an even lower boredom threshold there is, on page 5, a Timeline and Key Events summary.

This collection of notes is a companion to The History of Sowood Farm, The History of Rock Cottages and notes of the Old Halfway House and Matty Marsden Lane Horbury to be published by the same writer in 2013.

Acknowledgements

As ever I am grateful to other Ossett historians who have provided information and support to me in the preparation of these notes. Many articles reported in the Ossett Observer over the years since it was first published in the early 1860's have proved *the* most important part of this study as it relates to the location of the former Sowood Manor House. The articles preserved what otherwise may have been lost for all time. I am also grateful to Richard Glover for his published work on the history of Ossett and for his findings and conclusions in connection with the Manor. Also to David Scriven for referring me to other sources and literature which I would not have found without his support and direction.

Their support and efforts have been invaluable but the observations are mine as are any mistakes.

Alan Howe

January 2013

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THE MANOR OF SOWOOD or SOUTHWOOD GREEN OSSETT

Introduction, Summary and Conclusions.

In 1316 three former Wakefield manor officials were fined for not repairing the *Sowood manor house* and in 1349 the manor was described as “*a messuage and a caracute of land*” A carucate was a measure of land generally taken to be 120 acres but could be more depending on the terrain and the quality of the land. A messuage was a dwelling house generally with curtilage, outbuildings, orchard, garden and courtyard.

These references from the Manor of Wakefield Court Rolls inform us that Sowood was a manor in its own right and that it had a manor house, which stood in its own grounds, and extended to about 120 acres. Until now the major consensus was that Sowood Farm and its farmhouse, which was built or re-built in 1689, stood on the site of an earlier medieval manor house. Previously undiscovered documentary evidence¹ has now emerged that confirms the existence of a pre 1676 dwelling at Sowood Farm which supports the view that there was an earlier building at Sowood Farm.

However other evidence has also been discovered that reveals the existence of a dwelling further west off a lane leading westwards from the road now known as Storrs Hill Road. This dwelling, recorded as *Manor House* on the 1850 Ordnance Survey map of Ossett, was built in 1684 and demolished in 1958/59. The dwelling stood on the north side of the lane which, today, leads from Storrs Hill Road to Ossett Academy. A photograph of the dwelling's date stone records the date and the builder's initials “EG” but his or her full identity has, thus far, remained elusive.

“In mediæval times the manor was the nucleus of English rural life. It was an administrative unit of an extensive area of land. The whole of it was owned originally by the lord of the manor. He lived in the big house called the manor house. Attached to it were many acres of grassland and woodlands called the park. These were the “demesne lands” which were for the personal use of the lord of the manor. Dotted all round were the enclosed homes and land occupied by the “tenants of the manor”.²

The above description of a manor, gives some clues as to the nature of a medieval manor, its house and land but also the presence nearby of manor tenants and workers. If this was a description of Sowood Manor where would it, and its Manor House, have been located?

The area known as *Sowood* in 21st Century Ossett is represented by the land at the top of Storrs Hill, between Storrs Hill Road and Horbury Road, including *The Green*, and bounded, more or less, to the south by Sowood Avenue. Sowood's modern day description would also include land to the east of Sowood Lane from Manor Road (Sowood Cottage) to Sowood Bend (Sowood Farmstead).

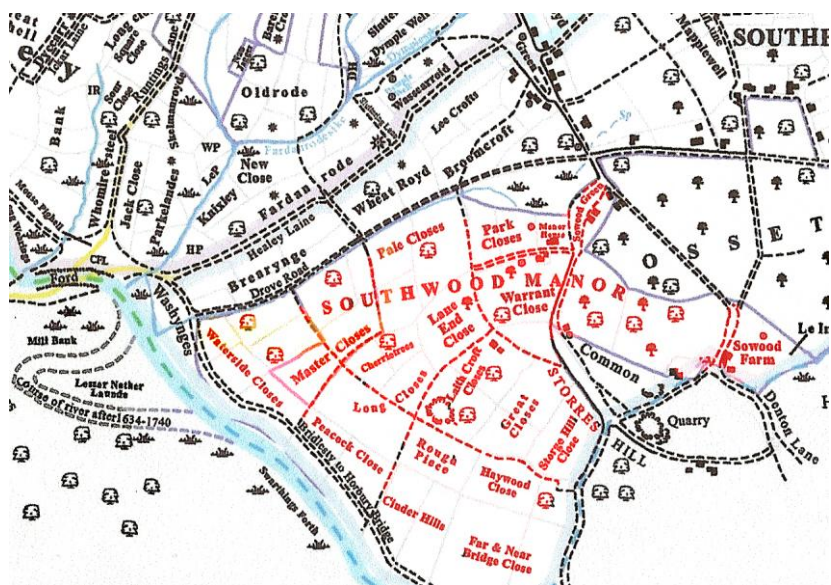
Not many of Sowood's residents in 2012 are likely to know of the long history of Sowood which dates back to the 13th Century. Sowood, or South Wood, appears first in 1277³ as *Soutwode* in the Manor of Wakefield Court Roll. About this time Sowood was a Manor in its own right and became known as *The Manor of Southwood or Southwood Green*. By most reckoning the manor area was quite different then and may not have included much of the land we think of today as Sowood.

¹ Wakefield Manor Court Roll 1676 [Yorkshire Archaeological Society] & History of Sowood Farm [Alan Howe 2013]

² Lord Denning Corpus Christi College Oxford v Gloucestershire County Council [1983] QB 360

³ Place Names of South-West Yorkshire Armitage Goodall M.A University Press 1913

The following representational map suggests (in red) the possible area of the Manor in medieval times. It suggests that *most* of the manor was located between Storrs Hill Road and an ancient drove road to the east of Healey Road and extended as far east as Sowood Farmstead. 1709 Wakefield Manor Book references record that the whole of the Manor was situated within the Ossett boundary and that it abutted Horbury graveship⁴ in the east.



Representation of the area thought to be Southwood Green Manor in earlier times⁵

Before the Norman invasion in 1066 the Sowood land was terra regis (Crown Land) but in 1086 or so it was part of the Wakefield Manor Estate awarded by the conquering Norman King William (The Conqueror) to the Earl de Warrene who was one of his right hand men at the Battle of Hastings. Thus the Earl de Warenne became Lord of the Manor of Wakefield.

Some sources consider it likely that Sowood was purchased by Earl de Warenne from Sir John de Horbury in 1302, at the same time that he acquired the Manor of Horbury⁶. This suggests that the de Horbury family owned the Sowood manor land before 1302 although no evidence of this has emerged. In 1302 de Warenne leased Sowood back to Sir John de Horbury but he died in about 1304 and the land reverted to the Lord of The Manor of Wakefield.

From that time until 1323 Sowood Manor and the farm, was run as a *demesne* farm by and for the benefit of the Earl de Warenne, Lord of the Manor of Wakefield. This was the beginning of the 'Little Ice Age' poor, wet and cold summers led to poor crop yields and in 1315-1317 the Great Famine caused many deaths. The manor brought in new men, including Henry de Flockton as shepherd and Henry Sprigionell as forester, to run the mixed arable and livestock farm at Sowood.

⁴ 1709 Wakefield Manor Book Charlesworth 1939

⁵ Map from Medieval & Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township Manor of Wakefield Richard D Glover 2008. The colouring to denote the likely Manor area is from Glover and the writer's 2012 research. The Manor area on this model extends to approximately 180 acres.

⁶ West Yorkshire: an Archaeological Survey to A.D 1500 [1981] page 471

These were desperate times and records reveal 20 years or so of corruption and malpractice and by 1323 the farmstead was leased out to tenants. The Earl de Warenne subsequently granted the manor to John de Breus who sold it to William de Scargill. In 1349 there was a serious outbreak of the Great Plague or Black Death which led to many deaths including Warin de Scargill, the son of the then owner. Life in the 14th Century Manor was hard.

In 1585 'Christopher Denton did not make his part of Sowodd lone [lane] and was fined 4d. which was equivalent to two weeks wages. In those days, and as recently as 1881, if you wanted to go to Sowood Farm from Ossett or from Horbury, you did so by taking "the Lane to Denton's House" and for 300 years thereafter the road was known as Denton Lane.

In 1593 Christopher Denton and seven of his family died of The Plague. They and five others were buried at "Denton's House" [Sowood Farm] in Summer 1593.



The 14th Century references to Sowood indicate the presence of a manor house and farming activity at Sowood but none of those references specify the location, within Sowood, of the manor house or the farm. In the light of documentary evidence discovered in 2012 this study considers two possible locations for the Manor House, its associated land and the farm.

The first of the possible locations for the Manor House is Sowood Farm.



Datestone and initials on Sowood Farmhouse –weathered name Marsden below "FM"

In 1689, the farm house, which stands there today, was built or re-built by Penistone born Francis Marsden. In 1676 Francis acquired the copyhold interest in *Sowood House* and 29 acres of land which was then owned by Thomas Purdue and his wife Priscilla (nee Rayner) of Pudsey. The dwelling was tenanted by two families, Edmund Lord and Edward Haigh. The 1676 Wakefield Manor Court Roll is the earliest evidence to emerge of a dwelling existing *on this site*.

In 1988 Sowood Farmhouse was granted Grade II Listed Building status and the source document for the listing is as follows;

"Ossett, Sowood, Farm, West Yorkshire, (SE 28451903): D.J.H. Michelmore of Historic Building Specialists Ltd. Reports that work at Sowood Farm has revealed substantial rafters which probably came from the buildings of the medieval manorial centre which is known to have existed on the site from at least 1302 (see West Yorkshire: an archaeological survey to A.D. 1500, p.471). The present

house, built in 1689 by F. Mackender, ⁷incorporates a timber-framed partition between the body of the house and the outshot.

The source report by DJH Michelmores of Historic Building Specialists Ltd (who undertook refurbishment works at Sowood Farm in the late 1980's) discovered substantial rafters in the Sowood farmhouse roofspace. These, it was surmised, may have come from a medieval manorial centre. A timber framed partition was also found between the body of the house and the outshot but the report is silent regarding the origins.

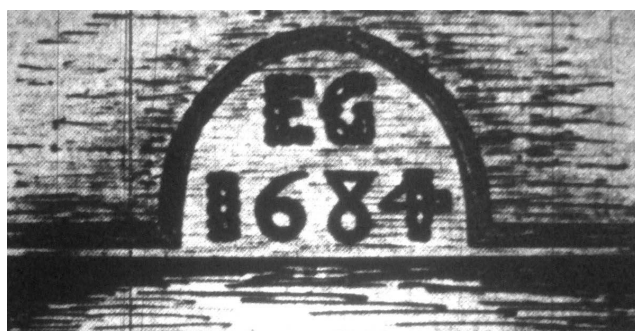
It is a reasonable assumption that both the rafters and the partition came from an earlier building which stood on the site and the discovery of the 1676 acquisition of Sowood House by Francis Marsden confirms that a building stood at the Sowood Farm site earlier than 1689. The listing source quotes *West Yorkshire: an archaeological survey to A.D. 1500, p 471* (DJH Michelmores 1981) as its source for the comment that it was *known* that a manorial centre existed on the site since 1302.

As indicated earlier the 14th century references do not specify the location, within Sowood, of the manor house or of a medieval manorial centre or, indeed, of the farm. It is *possible* that Sowood Farm was the site of a medieval manorial centre but it is by no means certain and evidence has not emerged to confirm Sowood Farm as the location.

The site of today's Sowood Farm was known as *Sowood House* in 1676 confirming the address as Sowood and suggesting, perhaps, that in earlier times the site had been part of an area or entity called Sowood. It is known that in 1709 the Manor of *South wood green* had an eastern boundary with Horbury graveship which suggests that Sowood Farm would have been at the very eastern edge of Sowood. 17th Century References to other residents of Sowood often refer to them as being of Sowood Green and a Wakefield Manor Estate map of 1790 shows dwellings in that location (the area known today as The Green). The same map shows dwellings in the vicinity of Sowood Farm but it is known that all of these dwellings were built by the Marsdens in the late 17th and the 18th Century.

On the other hand the Sowood Farm site is close to Horbury Township and would be convenient for Sir John de Horbury the 13th or early 14th century owner of Sowood Manor.

The other possible location for the Manor House is on a lane off Storrs Hill Road



Datestone and initials on the *Manor House* which stood off Storrs Hill Road

In 1684 a house⁸, known in 1850 as *Manor House*, was built just to the west of Storrs Hill Road – on the side of the drive which now leads to Ossett Academy. The builder's name has not yet been discovered but a datestone carried the legend "E G 1684" The dwellinghouse was later converted into two dwellings and was demolished in 1958/59.

⁷ The datestone lintel of the farmhouse includes weathered letters which the source has interpreted as *F Mackender* but documentary evidence and a more careful examination of the date stone shows the letters read *Marsden*

⁸ 1813 Ossett Inclosure Order map 'Sowood House', in 1850/1890 maps 'Manor House' .Demolished in 1958/9

In 1349 the manor was described as a “*messuage and a carucate of land*” The description suggests a *single* dwelling (messuage) and about **120 -180** acres of land. The Wakefield Manor Book 1709⁹ records that William Oates was the *Lord of Southwood Green*. By 1775 William Oates’ son Edward had become owner of *121 acres* of land in Sowood all of which, including a house and orchard, was rented to local farmers. It also included field names consistent with a park area, with a river frontage, enclosures for game animals for pleasure and the table and a collection of other buildings, barns etc in the vicinity of the Manor House.

As with all dynasties time took a hand and by 1843 the major landowner in Sowood, with 55 acres was William Moseley Perfect who inherited the land from his ancestor Edward Oates. Some sources¹⁰ believe that the 1684 Storrs Hill Road ‘Manor House’ site was the Sowood Manor House which could have been a 17th Century replacement for an earlier structure mentioned in 1316.

The location and the 121 acres described suggests that this area, owned by the Oates family, might at one time have comprised the *whole* of Sowood Manor. At its most northerly point stood a Manor House, on a lane leading off Storrs Hill Road, looking southwards over the Calder valley and the park and farm land which comprised the manor estate. Nearby stood the settlement of Sowood Green which, perhaps, was home to the men and women who worked on the nearby manor.

What *conclusions* can be drawn from these findings?

The Manor area to the west of Storrs Hill Road totals about 120 acres. In 1676 Sowood Farm is described as Sowood House suggesting the Manor may once have included land, including the Farm, on the east of Storrs Hill Road – but within the Ossett Township boundary. This total area is also shown on the representational map above and brings the total acreage to about 180 acres – still within the 14th Century description of the Manor as a messuage and a carucate of land.

Aerial photographs of Sowood Farm and the Storrs Hill Road Manor House show signs of medieval farming suggesting that both were sites of medieval activity. Both sites have characteristics consistent with the one time presence of a Manor House.

Sowood Farm, built 1689, has evidence of a pre 1676 dwelling which may have been of timber construction and it was a farm. There is also evidence of occupation – Denton’s House - in the late 16th Century. Its location though was peripheral to what would have been the Manor area and it is more distant from Sowood Green which appears to have been more of a population centre for Sowood.

The *Storrs Hill Road Manor House*, built 1684, was a part of a 120 acre parkland owned by single a family, a member of which, in 1709, was Lord of South wood green. This was the acreage of the Manor in the 14th Century. Known as *Manor House* in 1850 it was also located close to Sowood Green and consequently bears more of the characteristics of a typical manor as described by Denning (see above)

The evidence from this study casts doubt on the certainty of assertions that the 1689 Sowood Farm was *known* to be the site of a medieval manorial centre. The study concludes that the 1684 Storrs Hill Road Manor House site offers a possible location with equal credentials to the Sowood Farm site and that both deserve further consideration as the location of Sowood Manor House.

⁹ Manor of Wakefield Book 1709

¹⁰ Medieval & Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township (Richard Glover 2008)

Sowood Manor Timeline

1277 Wakefield Court Roll [WCR] reference to *Soutwode*

1302 Manor possibly purchased by Earl de Warenne from Sir John de Horbury & leased back to Sir John for life

1304 Sir John de Horbury dies and Manor reverts back to Earl de Warenne

1309 Wakefield Court Rolls reference to Southwode

1315 Henry Sprigonel appointed forester of Sowood. Adam son of William Shilnyng fined 50s for malpractice at Sowood (Farm) & three former graves of Horbury fined for not repairing the manor house at Sowood

1316 Henry de Flockton, lord's shepherd at Sowood fined for trespass

1323 Sowood leased to Thomas Alayn

1327 Feoffment reference to Henry, Thomas Del Hill & John Alayn of Southwod

1323-1335 Earl de Warenne grants manor to John de Breus

1336 John de Breus sells to William de Scargill and his wife Joan

1349 Warin de Scargill, son of William, died of Plague - manor is a *messuage & carucate in hands of tenants at will*. i.e. about 120 acres

1363 Sold to William de Gargrave and his wife Christian

1585 Christopher Denton fined for not maintaining his gate on Sowood Lone[Lane]

1593 Plague at Sowood 8 Dentons & 5 more buried at Denton's home. Several more Sowood deaths

1660 Restoration of the Monarchy. Manor possibly granted to the Royalist Oates family.

1684 *Manor House* built by "EG" on lane off Storrs Hill Road

1676 - 1689 Francis Marsden acquires Sowood Farm & builds/re-builds the farmhouse

1709 William Oates recorded as Lord of Manor of Southwood Green.

1775 Edward, son of William, Oates owner of 121 acres including Manor House at Storrs Hill

1807 Ossett Inclosure Order records Edward Oates' nephew John Crowder as owner of land on which stood Storrs Hill Road Manor House

1843 Ossett Tithe Award records Edward Oates' great great nephew William Moseley Perfect owner of 55 acres of the Manor including Storrs Hill Road Manor House

1959 Storrs Hill Road Manor House demolished

Sowood Manor – The origins

21st century Ossett inhabitants will know of places which carry the name Sowood but a stranger to the town asking for directions to Sowood will be met with blank looks and a further question to determine whether it is Sowood Avenue, Sowood Grange, Sowood View , Sowood Farm or maybe Sowood House. Nowadays though few people are likely to say that they live *in* Sowood.

In earlier times Sowood was not only an area of Ossett but a Manor in its own right. The earliest reference to Sowood is in the Wakefield Court Rolls of 1277 (Soutwode) and further references are recorded in the Rolls of 1309 (Southwode) and 1573(Sowewode)¹¹ The meaning is 'south wood' from Old English *Su* and *wudu*.

There is much more research to be undertaken before what follows could properly be called a comprehensive history. It is rather a collection of findings and information sourced whilst researching the history of Sowood Farm. I hope these notes might form a basis for further research.

By way of context the following section examines a little of the history of the Manor of Wakefield and the sub manor of Horbury to understand how and when the manor of Sowood came about and how it came to be known as the "largest freeholding" in Ossett¹²

¹¹ Place Names of South West Yorkshire....Armitage Goodall MA Univ Press 1913

¹² West Yorkshire: an Archaeological Survey to A.D 1500 [1981] page 471

The Manor of Wakefield

To understand how Sowood Manor or the *Manor of Southwood Green* came about this section begins with a definition of a manor. Lord Denning in *Corpus Christi College Oxford v Gloucestershire County Council* [1983] QB 360, described the manor thus:

In medieval times the manor was the nucleus of English rural life. It was an administrative unit of an extensive area of land. The whole of it was owned originally by the lord of the manor. He lived in the big house called the manor house. Attached to it were many acres of grassland and woodlands called the park. These were the "demesne lands" which were for the personal use of the lord of the manor. Dotted all round were the enclosed homes and land occupied by the "tenants of the manor".

Manors were usually granted to individuals for services rendered, knight's service, to the ruling monarch or to successful pretenders. Wakefield manor and Sowood manor were such manors.

The manor of Sowood stood within and was 'inferior' to the Manor of Wakefield in the sense that the owners of Sowood Manor owed and swore their allegiance to the Lord of the significantly larger Manor of Wakefield. An understanding of Sowood can only be gained by a knowledge of the beginnings of the senior Manor and by way of context the following paragraphs describe the early history of Wakefield Manor.

Almost 1000 years ago land ownership in Ossett and elsewhere 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. When Edward the Confessor 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 1st 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 in 1069

Having forced the populace into submission William replaced the local Anglo-Danish lords with his own Norman supporters. So it was that, in about 1086, King William granted the Wakefield estates to William de Warenne 1st Earl of Surrey and he thus became the first *Lord of the Manor of Wakefield*. There is no mention of Sowood, or any alternative spelling of it, in the Domesday Book but by way of context Ossett or Osleset was referenced in the 1086 Domesday and had 3.5 carucates of arable land, four villeins, i.e. villagers, and three bordars, i.e. smallholders, a total of only seven men in all. With their families, there would be perhaps 25 or 35 people in total. Nearby Crigglestone had ten bovates of land and Horbury had two carucates and seven bovates. The two villages combined had a total population of four sokemen, one villein and three bordars with two ploughs.

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 family build a wooden castle at Sandal, and its replacement 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* in 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 7th Earl (1286-1347) by then also the Earl of Sussex in addition to the long held title of Earl of Surrey. He became Lord of the Manor of Wakefield in 1304 on the death of his father and whilst some have him as the 8th Earl it turned out he was 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 daughter of King Edward 1st. The marriage was childless and the couple were soon estranged but it is said that John De Warrene had many bastards and in 1316 he was ex communicated 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, 7th 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 of Wakefield reverted to the Crown in 1362.

This continued to be the case until 1629 when the Manor of Wakefield was granted, in settlement of a debt, to Henry Rich 1st Earl of Holland. On 30 November 1630 under Henry's direction Thomas Leeke conveyed the Manor to Robert Leeke and William Swanscoe in trust for Sir Gervase Clifton who was married to Henry's daughter. After the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the manor was conveyed, in 1661, to Sir Christopher Clapham. The Duke of Leeds purchased the Manor of Wakefield in 1700 and it remained in that family until the death in 1964 of the last Duke of Leeds who died without issue.

Life in The Manor¹³

The following narrative is reproduced in full from *Lives and Livelihoods in Conisbrough Manor*. Whilst this Manor is much larger than Sowood it too was owned by the Earls de Warenne and is only 30 miles from Sowood. The narrative relates to village life in the period covered by these historical notes and is more likely to reflect the lives of those living in the wider Ossett area than within the confines of the small manor of Sowood. Nevertheless, Ossett itself stood within the Manor of Wakefield and so the narrative provides a context for this study.

'Life within the manor was centred on the individual villages, each forming a distinct community of family and neighbours. It was within the village that people spent most of their time and had most of their contacts. Houses were, in the main, grouped closely together, and villagers spent much of their time working alongside one another in the open fields. This close association fostered mutual help and support and the borrowing and lending of goods, money, equipment and draught animals. It could also lead, as the manor court rolls reveal, to disagreements, disputes and physical attacks.

Although villagers formed a close community and virtually all were involved in agriculture, there were varying degrees of wealth and status amongst them. The status distinction in the medieval period between free and servile tenants was not always clear (there were borderline cases), nor did the distinction necessarily indicate an individual's relative wealth. The reduction in population resulting from the mid-fourteenth century plagues gave rise to an improvement in economic conditions for a time, but these conditions also allowed an increasing differential to develop between rich and poor, whether free or servile.

Throughout the medieval and early modern periods, the amount of land an individual villager held largely determined his wealth. This in turn depended fundamentally on inheritance: the amount of land held by one's father, the claims on the estate in the form of debts and the number of heirs. Although in most parts of the country the eldest son inherited his father's lands, some provision would be expected for younger sons and for daughters' dowries. Land could also be inherited from childless relatives.

The differential in inheritance could then be compounded by the opportunities to increase holdings for those with more to start with. A man with a larger holding would be likely to attract a wife with a larger dowry, adding to the household wealth. If she had no brothers, the dowry was likely to be in the form of land. An increasing land market allowed wealthier villagers to acquire additional holdings. Those with enough land to produce a surplus could take advantage of higher grain prices in years of dearth.

Poor villagers, on the other hand, might be forced to sell land to pay debts or to buy grain when their own crop was insufficient. Even the middling villagers, those holding about 15 acres of land, were liable to suffer in a year of poor harvests. Crop yields in the medieval period were low, about 3-4:1, and approximately one-third of land lay fallow each year. Furthermore, not all of the grain produced went to feed the household: seed had to be saved for the next year, one-tenth of the crop went to the church in tithes, and rents and taxes had to be paid.

¹³ <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/conisbrough/find/village.html>

Those whose landholdings were too small to support their households, or those who had no land at all, had to use additional means to provide for themselves and their families. One of these was labouring. Some labouring opportunities arose when the lord of the manor needed work doing that was not covered by customary labour services due by tenants to the lord. Wealthier villagers also hired labourers to help on their lands, especially at harvest, or to perform some of the labour services they owed to the lord.

Labourers were hired by the day, when needed, for particular tasks. Labouring opportunities were unpredictable and likely to be reduced in years of poor harvests. Those dependent on labouring were therefore particularly vulnerable in these years. Both wages and prices were calculated in money terms. Consequently, whether wages were paid in coin or in corn, the price of corn at the time would determine the amount of corn received for a day's work; when the harvest was poor, grain prices would rise. While labouring was intermittent, steady employment was provided for servants, living in the households of their masters and mistresses. Servants, however, were unable to marry while they were in service.

Another way of supplementing the household income was through by-employments. Some of these appear in the manor court rolls as descriptions of individuals, as leases or rights granted to carry out the work, or because of infringements resulting in amercements. Brewing was clearly a popular by-employment; as individuals were regularly amerced for this but continued brewing for sale, it appears to have been profitable. Other activities included baking, butchering, grinding corn, fishing, weaving, tanning, smithing, coopering, carpentry, shoemaking, rope and harness making, and wheel and cart making.

Women as well as men were engaged in by-employments, often extensions of their normal activities, to produce a surplus for sale: brewing, baking, spinning, weaving, and cheese and butter making. Bee keeping produced honey and wax for candles for sale to the wealthy and the church. Women could be paid for services as midwives, and both men and women might be paid as healers. All of these occupations were followed along with farming, and farming produced most of the raw materials for these activities. Scribes employed by the lord of the manor could also be granted lands to farm, and parish priests might rent out their glebe land or farm it themselves.

While most village production, especially in the medieval period, was for local consumption, some wider marketing opportunities, both for buying and selling, were available. Transporting goods over a distance was expensive and time-consuming, but carting labour for the lord of the manor could take villagers, on occasion, to more distant markets. Peddlars and chapmen passed through at times with cheap items for sale. When a more integrated national market began to emerge in the seventeenth century, wealthier villagers were again in a favourable position. (These were the men who were termed "yeomen" by the Tudor period, and some of these families were eventually able to gain gentry status.)

Those with larger landholdings were able to invest in improved equipment and new techniques and grow crops for specific markets. Their wider network of contacts enabled them to get loans and credit from their suppliers and find buyers from further afield who could be trusted to pay for goods. Others with less land also had increased opportunities to market any surplus. Most villagers, however, the smallholders and landless, continued to concentrate on subsistence farming, supplemented by labouring, by-employments producing goods for local consumption, and the resources of the commons.

In any period, the wealth, as well as personal qualities, of the individual were important in establishing his or her position in the village community. Wealthier villagers were more likely to hold positions of authority in the manor and in the village, serving as graves, churchwardens, overseeing poor relief. More informally, their authority was often called upon to settle disputes.

Within the community of the village, relative wealth and authority carried with it community obligations. Charity, lending to those unlikely to be able to repay, and extending credit in hard times were expected of those who were better off, and community pressure could be exerted to mediate the most severe hardships or the difficulties of those who seen as suffering through no fault of their own. But the principal obligations were towards the immediate family and heirs, ensuring that the village community continued to vary in wealth and in the means to increase it.'

Sowood Manor – ownership, activity, acreage and boundaries

DJH Michelmore¹⁴ acknowledges that documentary proof of this has yet to be discovered but he considers it likely that the manor of Sowood, '*the largest freeholding in Ossett... now represented by Sowood Farm*' was purchased by the 7th Earl de Warrenne from Sir John de Horbury in 1302 at the same time that the Earl purchased Horbury from Sir John. In the same way that de Horbury was granted back to Sir John for life, on 22 March 1302, then so too, it is thought, was Sowood. On Sir John's death a few years later Sowood reverted to *demesne*¹⁵ land in the Manor of Wakefield in the same way that Horbury had done.

This implies that the de Horbury family held Horbury township and lands (perhaps including Sowood) earlier than 1302 when they sold it to Earl de Warenne. No evidence appears to be offered or has emerged to determine a date when the de Horbury family purchased or were granted Horbury (and perhaps Sowood) but some sources suggest that Horbury (and perhaps Sowood) may, more simply, have been granted to Sir John de Horbury for life in 1302.

During the 7th Earl de Warrene's tenure of the manor of Wakefield his stewards included Sir Robert de Horbury and Sir John de Horbury. Records also show that the 5th Earl had granted 42 acres to Matthew de Horbury between 1164 and 1196 and the Horbury family acquired more land in the township between 1196 and 1202¹⁶. It is possible that Horbury was granted to the de Horbury family sometime during this period.

Walker¹⁷ makes no reference to Sowood manor but suggests that Sir John de Horbury was granted Horbury township and its lands, presumably for services to the de Warennes. This grant would be made during the period that Sir John de Horbury was steward or serving the de Warennes in some other capacity. This would probably date the acquisition of Horbury by Sir John to the second half of the 13th century.

There are differing views then as to when and how the de Horbury family acquired Horbury and also, perhaps, Sowood. In any event when Sir John de Horbury died in 1304 the Manor reverted to the Earl de Warenne lord of the Manor of Wakefield.

Sowood's existence is documented as early as 1277 in the Wakefield Manor Court Rolls and it is certain that a working farm had been established by 1302. Life went on in Sowood manor after it reverted to the de Warenne Lords of the Manor of Wakefield in about 1304 as other references to Sowood testify¹⁸

In 1315, Henry Sprigonel was appointed forester of Sowood by the Lord of the manor of Wakefield, the 7th Earl de Warenne.

¹⁴ West Yorkshire: an Archaeological Survey to A.D. 1500 page 471

¹⁵ Demesne – worked by the Lord of the Manor for his own use

¹⁶ Note 15 page 404

¹⁷ Walker JW(1966) Wakefield its History and People vol 1&2 3rd edition S R Publishers page 94

¹⁸ See note 5

Not all was well however with the administration and operation of the recently acquired former manor and in October 1315 Adam son of William Shilnyng was questioned about some threshing he had done in the grange [ie barn] of Sowood when *grave*¹⁹ of Sowood in 1314. It was submitted that he had done so only with the consent of senior officials of the manor. He was also accused of failing to sow corn, for not gathering in and selling hay and for not threshing the earl's spring wheat and oats. For thus failing in his administration of Sowood manor he was amerced (fined) the substantial sum of 50 shillings. (almost £1000 in current money)

In 1316 Henry de Flockton, the Lord's shepherd at Sowood was amerced 46s 8d for trespass he had committed and in 1315 three former graves were amerced for failing to repair the manor house of Sowood. These references to apparent corruption in the administration of Sowood manor so soon after it was purchased by the Lord of the manor of Wakefield tell something about the land use referring to threshing, corn, oats, spring wheat, hay and so on. The appointment of a shepherd at Sowood indicates that sheep were raised here.

The activity around this time may also be the product of the difficult times being encountered. Between 1300 and 1600 Britain suffered cold summers with very heavy rainfall with the result that crop yields were unusually low and starvation manifested itself in the Great Famine of 1315-1317. These were desperate times when men were looking to their own and perhaps took advantage of their office whilst turning their hand to other work which might generate income to buy food for their families

In any event it seems the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield had enough by 1323 when Sowood was leased to Thomas Aleyn for seven years. It was subsequently granted by the 7th Earl to John de Breus but he retained Sowood only until 1336 when he and his wife sold three carucates of land in Ossett, Stanley and Wakefield to William de Scargill and his wife Joan.

When Warin de Scargill, their son, died of the plague in 1349 the manor was described as a *messuage*²⁰ and a *carucate*²¹ of land in the hands of tenants at will. Warin's heir was his son William who alienated Sowood, its descent being given in detail in a confirmation to William de Gargrave and his wife Christian of 1363.

It is difficult to be precise about the specific boundaries and acreage of the Manor of Sowood but in 1349 the manor was described as comprising a carucate of land which is approximately 120 -180 acres. A carucate of land is said to be that acreage which can be tilled by eight oxen in a season. Generally it is taken to be 120 acres but could be more dependent upon the terrain and land quality. In certain circumstances it can be that a carucate measures to approximately 180 acres, In either case the manor is very small but nevertheless appears large enough in the early 14th century to warrant its own forester, Henry Sprigonel and its own shepherd, Henry de Flockton.

Despite the implied de Horbury family ownership in the early 14th and perhaps the late 13th century by the 18th Century the manor lay entirely within the Ossett boundary. In 1709 the

¹⁹ *Grave*: An official, usually serving for a year, chosen from a manor's tenants responsible for collecting rents etc due to the lord of the manor and for carrying out instructions handed down by the manor court

²⁰ *Messuage*: a plot of land which usually includes a dwelling

²¹ *Carucate*: a measure of land, for example in the Domesday Book. An area of land which a plough team of eight oxen could till in an annual season. Generally taken to be 120-180 acres

Wakefield Manor Book (page 72) records that ‘*The Graveship of Horbury is bounded by.....Southwood to the west....*’ which tells us that Southwood was most definitely an entity in its own right and that it shared a boundary with Horbury. This fixes the eastern boundary of the manor along part of Storrs Hill Road which may suggest that the area of the manor was towards the higher end of the 120-180 acres range.

The representation on page 1 is taken from Glover²² and the Wakefield manor (Ossett) estate map c.1795²³ which shows Sowood **Green**, which was part of the Manor, at the top of Storrs Hill Road. Shortly afterwards in 1813 the Ossett Inclosure Order map shows “*Sowood Green*” extending from Storrs Hill Road to Dimple²⁴ Well Lane. The manor’s western boundary is suggested as the course of a former drove road to the east of Healey Road, which still exists as a disjointed footpath, and this is reinforced by the field names adjacent and to the east of this drove road which include the descriptions such as *Pale Close* and *Far Park*.

There was a small settlement in Sowood which housed workers for the manor and farm and several people are described as ‘de’ or ‘del Southwode’. On 14th April 1327 an agreement involving Henry Wyldebor of Ossett and Hugh his brother which was witnessed, amongst others, by Henry de Southwod, Thomas del Hill of Southwod, John Alayn of Southwod and others²⁵ The subsidy rolls (Poll Tax) for 1379 includes the names Thomas Grene, Johannes de Grene – only two of about 70 listed but almost certainly living at Sowood Green It is likely that this settlement was at Sowood Green (shown on the 1790 Estate map) and the 1813 Ossett Inclosure Order map shows many dwellings (many of which were encroachments ie built without proper consent) along this road between Storrs Hill Road and Healey Road/Dimple Wells Road.

An analysis of the whole area shown on the Glover map (above) reveals an acreage of about 180 acres of which 120 acres is to the west of Storrs Hill Road across towards Healey Road. The 120 acres equates to the lower end of the range attributed to the ‘carucate’ mentioned in 1349 as being the size of the manor. It also comprises the Oates land ownership in 1775. The land to the east of Storrs Hill Road might reasonably be thought to have been in the manor at some stage is within the Ossett boundary and measures a further 60 acres. In this scenario the manor would be 180 acres in size which is the higher end of the carucate definition. It was the case in 1676 that today’s Sowood Farm was known then as *Sowood House* suggesting that it was part of an area or entity known as Sowood

A detailed investigation and analysis of ownerships in 1775 and in 1843 has identified two significant land owners in the manor of Sowood. In 1775²⁶ Edward Oates is owner of 121 acres (all between Storrs Hill Road towards Healey Road (see map overpage) and in 1843²⁷ William Mosley Perfect, a descendant of Edward Oates is the owner of a lesser 55 acres all of which was once in Oates’ ownership. The following chapter has more to say about the Oates’ ownership in the Manor area not least because at 121 acres it is almost exactly the same size as that stated to be the size of the manor in 1349.

²² Medieval & Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township(2008) Richard D Glover page 11

²³ Wakefield Manor (Ossett) Estate map c. 1790 Yorkshire Archaeological Society MD 392/1

²⁴ *Dympel* a natural or manmade pool West Yorkshire: an Archaeological Survey to A.D. 1500 page 37.

²⁵ National Archives Feoffment SpSt/4/11/93/1 at West Yorkshire Archives [WYAS] Bradford

²⁶ Ossett Valuation 1775 John Goodchild Collection Drury Lane Wakefield

²⁷ Ossett Tithe Award 1843 West Yorkshire Archive Service and The National Archives Kew London

Lords of the Manor of Sowood or Southwood Green

For a limited period of time in the late 13th and early 14th century the title of Lord of Sowood Manor would be held by the de Horbury family until it reverted to the manor of Wakefield in about 1304. No evidence has been discovered to suggest that it did not remain thus for the next 400 years or so.

In 1700 the Duke of Leeds acquired the Manor of Wakefield and to assist his administration of the manor he commissioned a survey entitled *'The Present State of the Mannor of Wakefield in the County of York belonging to His Grace The Duke Of Leeds in 1709'*²⁸ This record, probably taken by William Emsall Deputy Steward of the Manor of Wakefield, was published in 1939.

It records the names of towns villages and hamlets.....which are claimed by *Inferior Lords* and includes *'William Oates Gent Southwood Green'*. Others on the list of 40 Inferior Lords claiming lands elsewhere within the Manor of Wakefield include the Right Honourable Earl of Cardigan, Sir George Savile Baronett, Thomas Thornhill Esq, Sir Wm Wentworth Baron and Charles Waterton Esq. The Manor Book continues;

'All the aforementioned Lords of the Inferior Mannors doe hold of the cheif (sic) Lord of the Mannor and they & several other Freeholders doe pay Cheif rents which are called Earles Rents supposed from the Earls Warrene And which is to be noted that these rents have been always left with the Baylywicks²⁹ and collected by the Four Bayliffs'

The Lord of the Manor of Sowood Green, although inferior to the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield was, perhaps, a title worth having and it conveyed status and rights and probably also helped to open a few doors. Could this be the focus and driving force behind the Oates family's land acquisitions. Perhaps it was but on the other hand John Martin Robinson, Maltravers Herald Extraordinary and co-author of *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry*, gave his opinion that "*Lordship of this or that manor is no more a title than Landlord of The Dog and Duck*"

The reality is more probably that William Oates acquired the land interests at Sowood by Inheritance or, more pragmatically, perhaps they were purchased to provide a rental income stream to the Oates family.

Precisely what rights attached to the Lord of The Manor title is uncertain and probably lost in time but each of the Inferior Lords pay "Earls rents" to the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield in respect of the lands they held and in some cases, sub-let. William Oates is recorded as paying 4s p.a. Earles Rent in Ossett. – one of ten persons doing so. The amount he is paying is similar to the sum paid by his contemporaries who include well known Ossett names of the period including John Whitley, Richard Foster, John Bradford and John Illingworth.

Elsewhere in the Manor Book *William Oates* (1673-1737) and his father *Josias* (1649-1713) are recorded as 'Gents' and two of the forty recorded Ossett freeholders. Neither William nor Josias appear on the Jury appointed by the Lord to enquire into the 'old rentals &

²⁸ Wakefield Manor Book 1709 Yorkshire Archaeological Society record series 1939 John Charlesworth F.S.A.

²⁹ Baylywick – the area of jurisdiction of a bailiff

evidences concerning...Ossett..' and interestingly neither do any other freeholders paying earls rents. This enquiry also recorded freeholders and copyholders in Ossett who pay rents and do service (by acting as graves³⁰) to the Lord within the Manor of Wakefield. They list 22(and their 'helpers') each to serve for a period of one year. Those paying earls rents in Ossett are not amongst them.

These exceptions from service as graves appear to be one of the advantages of paying earles rent and in William's case another advantage was being known as the Lord of the Manor of Southwood Green. What remains unclear and uncertain is how he came by the title. It may have been that his father or grandfather had purchased the Manor as the Duke of Leeds had done in 1700 when he purchased the Wakefield Manor or indeed when, in 1854, the Rectory Manor was purchased for the infant Charles Edward Nettleton who inherited the title when he came of age in 1866³¹

It may be that Oates was granted the Manor for services rendered to the Lord or the Crown in earlier years. In either case the circumstances are not known although the Wakefield Court Rolls³² will no doubt reveal this to an enthusiastic and patient researcher.

The Oates family can be traced back to *John* born at Nether Denby Yorkshire before 1579. His son William was also born there and he was buried at Kirkburton in 1659 having married Anne Beaumont of Castle Hall Mirfield in 1630. It is here perhaps that the answer can be found to the question of the date and circumstances of the Oates succession to Sowood. The Beaumonts of Castle Hill Mirfield were well connected and family members fought on the Royalist side in the Civil War of between 1642 and 1651.

Indeed even before this Sir Thomas Beaumont had been the owner of Sandal Castle which he purchased from Sir John Savile of Howley who had been given the Castle by his father in law Sir Edward Carey who had been granted Sandall castle in 1566 by Queen Elizabeth. The Beaumonts sold Sandal on 1st November 1638³³³⁴ although elsewhere³⁵ it is said that '*When Civil War broke out [in 1645] Sandal Castle was owned by Major Beaumont and was garrisoned for the King*'. The Beaumonts were proven loyal Royalists

William and Anne Oates had a son Josias in 1649 who was born at Chickenley Hall and it is he who appears in the 1709 Manor Book along with his son William. Consequently Josias was the son of a Beaumont and could it be that Sowood was a grant to the family to recognise their support for the Crown in the Civil War conflict?

This is supposition but it is fact that the Oates Dynasty continued a while longer when *Edward* (1708-1776) was born to William. Edward had a son named after his grandfather and it is this William who appears In the 1775 Valuation of Ossett as owner of approximately 121 acres of land in the Sowood Manor area of Ossett . All of the land is rented by Oates to local families and includes about 86 acres rented to the likes of the Illingworth and the Marsden families who were known to be farming in the area of Sowood and Storrs Hill in the

³⁰ See note 8

³¹ Wakefield its History and People [J W Walker 1934]

³² Many of which are housed at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Claremont House Leeds

³³ Wakefield Its History & People page 283

³⁴ Ibid page 379 records that Sandal was sold 1st Nov 1662

³⁵ Ibid page 376

18th Century. The land rented to John Illingworth in 1775 includes a “house and orchard” There is more about these families and their contribution to the history of Sowood in a “History of Sowood Farm” recorded elsewhere.

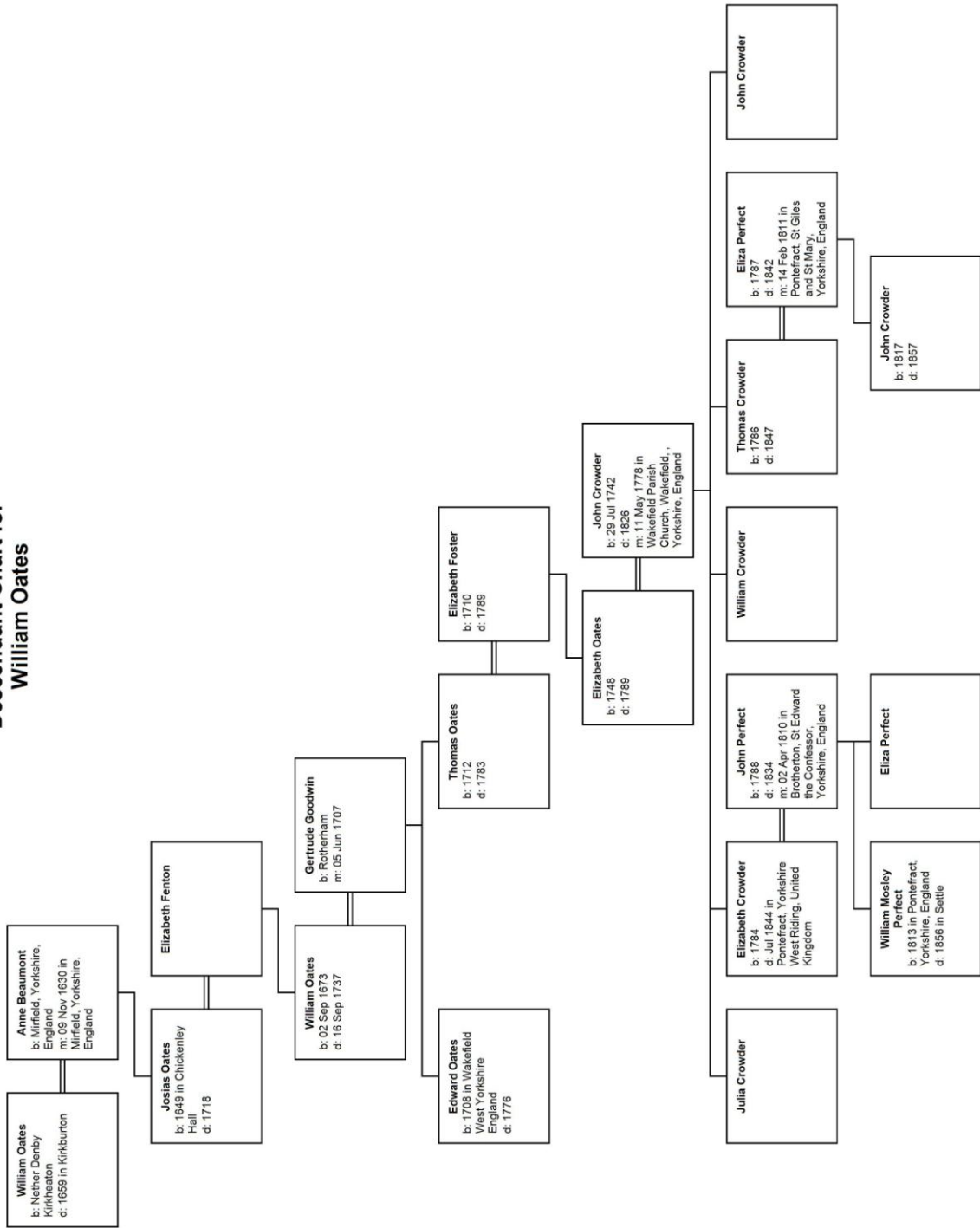
Meanwhile as one dynasty, the Oates, faded away another one rose to take its place. In 1813 John Crowder is recorded as a significant landowner in the Sowood area and by 1843 William Mosley Perfect is recorded in the Ossett Tithe Award as owner of approximately 55 acres of land in the area which was Sowood manor. Much of this land was once owned by the Oates family.

This is no great surprise since in 1778 Elizabeth **Oates** married John **Crowder** and in 1810 their daughter Elizabeth **Crowder** married John **Perfect** who was William Mosley Perfect's father. To ensure the knot was tightly tied Elizabeth Crowder's brother also married John Perfect's sister. In short half of the Oates empire of the 18th century was inherited by William Mosley Perfect in the 19th century. The family tree is overleaf.

In the 1837 Wakefield Poll Book William Mosley Perfect's entitlement to vote is his Ossett landholdings but his places of abode are given as Pontefract and London. The Census of 1841 records him as a Solicitor living in Pontefract with a 5 month old son. His first wife died in 1840 possibly in child birth. By 1851 he has moved to Blackburn in Lancashire with a new wife and three children. Mr Perfect was an absentee landlord it seems. Befitting a man of the law and substantial landowner he has five servants and a groom. He was just 38 years of age and he died in Settle, apparently of apoplexy, in 1856.

The following section relates to possible locations for the manor house of Sowood.

Descendant Chart for William Oates



Sowood Manor House – Possible locations and occupants

In 1316 three former graves of Horbury were fined for not repairing *the manor house* of Sowood thus confirming that at one time a manor house stood within the manor. Other contemporaneous references confirm the existence of a farm, or land being farmed, and perhaps crucial is the reference in 1349 to the description of Sowood manor as a "message". *Singular*. This suggests the existence of only one dwelling of any significance in the manor and if so was this the farmstead or the manor house? Or were they one and the same? Perhaps a single entity.

Some sources³⁶ report that the earlier Farmstead stood where today's Sowood farm stands and that what we see there today is a rebuilt Farmhouse on the site of a medieval manor possibly reusing timbers from the manor house. Other sources³⁷ though consider that the manor house was on Storrs Hill Road (formerly known as Horbury Bridge Road) on the north side of the school drive which now leads to Ossett Academy. The 1850 Ordnance Survey map shows "Manor House" in this location which would have been within Sowood manor. The 1813 map in the Ossett Inclosure Order³⁸ of that year also shows "Sowood House" in that position. The 1790 Wakefield Manor Estate map³⁹ also appears to show a building there.

Readers may be confused by the description *Sowood House* and over time there have been at least four dwellings carrying this name. Three, including Sowood Farm, still exist in 2012 but two of them have no history before about 1850. One was the home of the Greenwood family and is now a hair salon. It is situated at the north side of the junction of Healey Road and The Green. The second is situated on Sowood Lane near the junction with Manor Road and is a private dwelling built in the 1870's and first occupied by Samuel Pickard⁴⁰ and now known as South Wood. Both of these are fine mid Victorian houses but can be dismissed as possible locations for the Sowood Manor House.

More particularly however the remaining two candidates each have reasonable claim to be the site of the 1349 manor house. Sowood Farm itself was called Sowood House in 1676 and on the 1850 OS map of Ossett and an examination of the 1850 map will reveal other farms being similarly marked with the suffix "house" (e.g. Hagg's Hill House) Another Sowood House is the one shown on Storrs Hill Road in the 1813 map referred to elsewhere and in 1850 this house is called "Manor House". This house was demolished in about 1958. Each of these two houses can fairly stake a claim to be the *Sowood Manor House*.

Little is known about The "Manor House" on Storrs Hill Road (formerly known as Horbury Bridge Road) which stood on the north side of the school drive which now leads to Ossett Academy. Much of what is known and that which is reproduced below, is by courtesy of local historians who had the foresight to collect such information over a number of years. This includes a report in the Ossett Observer, in 1959, which refers to it the Manor House thus "*above is a photograph[**] of the Manor House, Storrs Hill Road, believed to be the oldest house in Ossett, having been built in the 17th Century. Apart from its obvious claims to*

³⁶ www.heritagegateway.org.uk based on Michelmore 1986

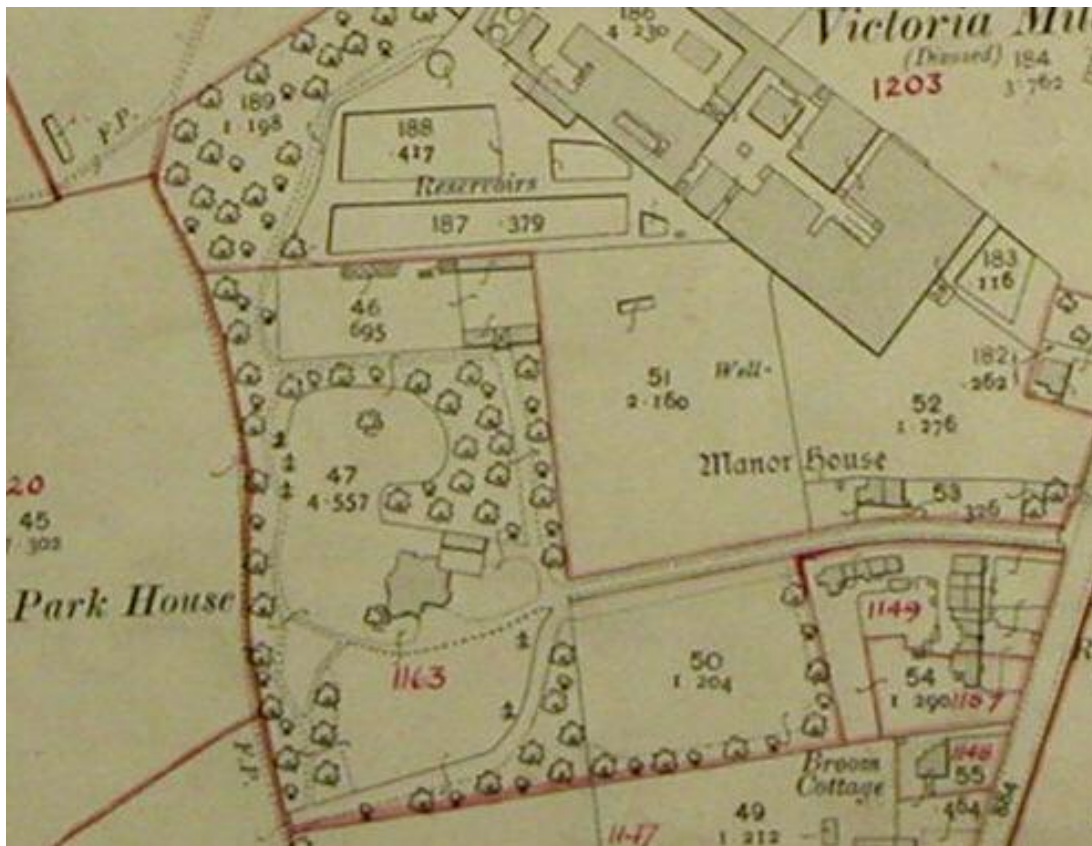
³⁷ Medieval & Post Medieval Landscape of Ossett Township(2008) Richard D Glover page 20

³⁸ West Yorkshire Archives Service Wakefield (reference A108)

³⁹ Yorkshire Archaeological Society Claremont House Leeds (document ref. MD 392/1)

⁴⁰ A History of Highfield House & Cottage including a brief History of Sowood House Sowood Lane by Joan P Smith (2010)

antiquity very little is known about it and written references to it are very rare. We would be interested to receive information about it from any reader who may possess same" ** The photograph is very poor quality and has not been reproduced here.



Storrs Hill Road (to right) & Manor House. Park House also shown to the left became part of Ossett School in 1908. The Manor House, demolished in 1959 stood on the north side of the driveway to the present Ossett Academy

The following notes of Ossett Observer articles about the Manor House are reproduced here in full;

Notes from the Ossett Observer articles mentioning Manor House, Storrs Hill Road.

Work began in the Spring of 1959 on the demolition of Manor House. It had been empty for some time, when it was two dwellings. It was demolished by Ossett Corporation contractors under the slum clearance programme. It was stone built, and been dilapidated for many years.

The Manor House at Storrs Hill Road is described as having neither modern conveniences nor antique charm. This suggests that it was in a state of neglect when it was demolished. The datestone above the door bore the initials EG and the date 1684. The Observer states that when the high walls to Park House were built they took away its frontage, suggesting the direction which it faced. As late as the beginning of the 20th century it was lived in by a town councillor and Justice of the Peace. Of its origins and history, so far no details were known, but it was suggested that documents must exist somewhere, and sometime somebody would piece the history together.

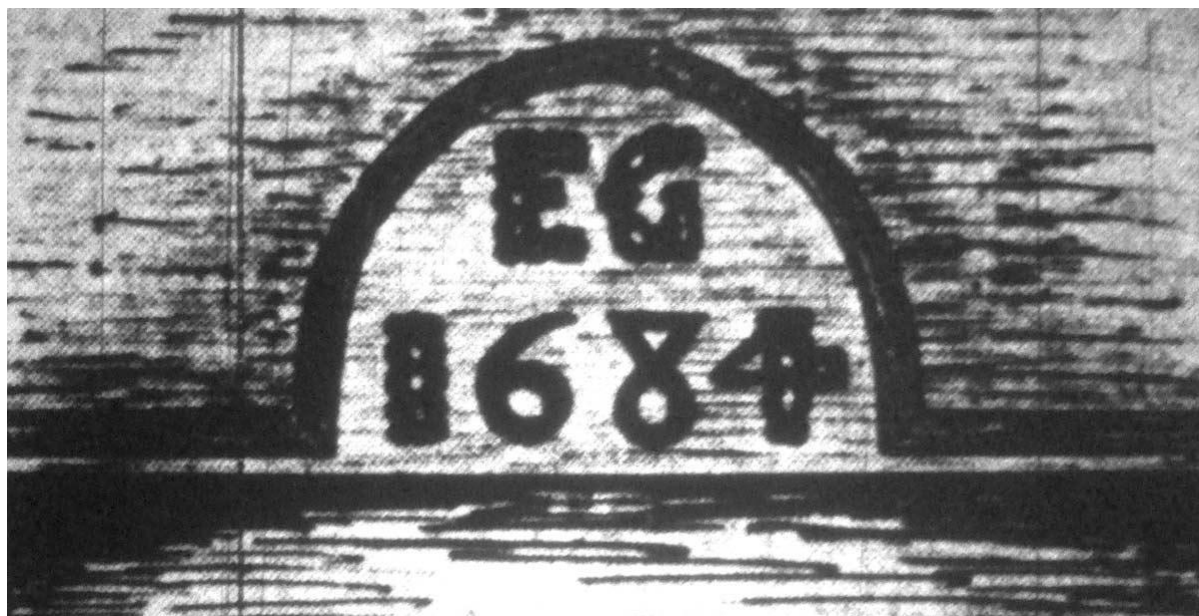
Suggestions are put forward as to who the family represented by 'E G' may be. Local names which appear in the 17th century parish registers include Gibson, Gill, Glover, Galley, Garret, Goodall, Greene or Greenwood. The Gill family were established at Sowood and the Green during that century, but none appear to have a Christian name beginning with E. Only one person with the initials EG appeared in the registers (as far as they were published, up to 1653), and we are given an insight into the troubles of those times by the entry of June 1636:

"Edward, son of Henry Greaves, of Ossett, baptised at Thornhill Church the 26th day for want of a lawfull minister within the parish of Dewsburie".

It is suggested that he would have been 48 when the house was built, old enough to have been prosperous enough to do so. From the registers, further facts emerge about the family. Edward's father, Henry, came from Leeds, and on 10th November 1618 he was married to Anne Brooke of Dewsbury, at Dewsbury parish church by special licence "from mye lorde archebusshope". Henry and Anne had quite a family. A daughter, Rosamund, was born in 1622 but died in 1642. A son, Henry, was baptised on the 7th of August 1625, Richard 4th November 1627, Agnes 20th December 1629, Leonard 6th January 1632 (died 1643), Edward was baptised at Thornhill in 1636 and another son in 1639. The family appear to have been of some status.

The last tenants of Manor House were a Mr & Mrs Judge, who were rehoused to the newly built Broadacre Road. Mr Judge had another theory about the initials EG: A couple of years previously he had a dream in which a man dressed as a cavalier appeared at the foot of the bed. He had said that it was he who had built the house, and that it had passed through troubled times, but soon its troubles would be over. He personally had never seen the date-stone with the initials. It was over a door at the back of the house, in a part occupied by another family. This suggests that after the high wall was built at Park House, the back of Manor House became the front. It was suggested by the Observer that Mr Judge could have been mistaken between Greaves and Green, but he was adamant. Mrs Judge was born at the house 31 years previously.

The reference in the notes about Park House relates to a grand mansion built in 1867 by the Ellis family who were owners of the nearby Victoria Mills. It appears that a high wall had been built around Park House, close enough to the Manor House to entirely block the south facing view across the Calder Valley which had been enjoyed for almost 200 years. The south facing entrance of the Manor House was thereafter used as the rear entrance and the new front entrance enjoyed a view of Victoria Mills. Park House still exists and is part of Ossett Academy.

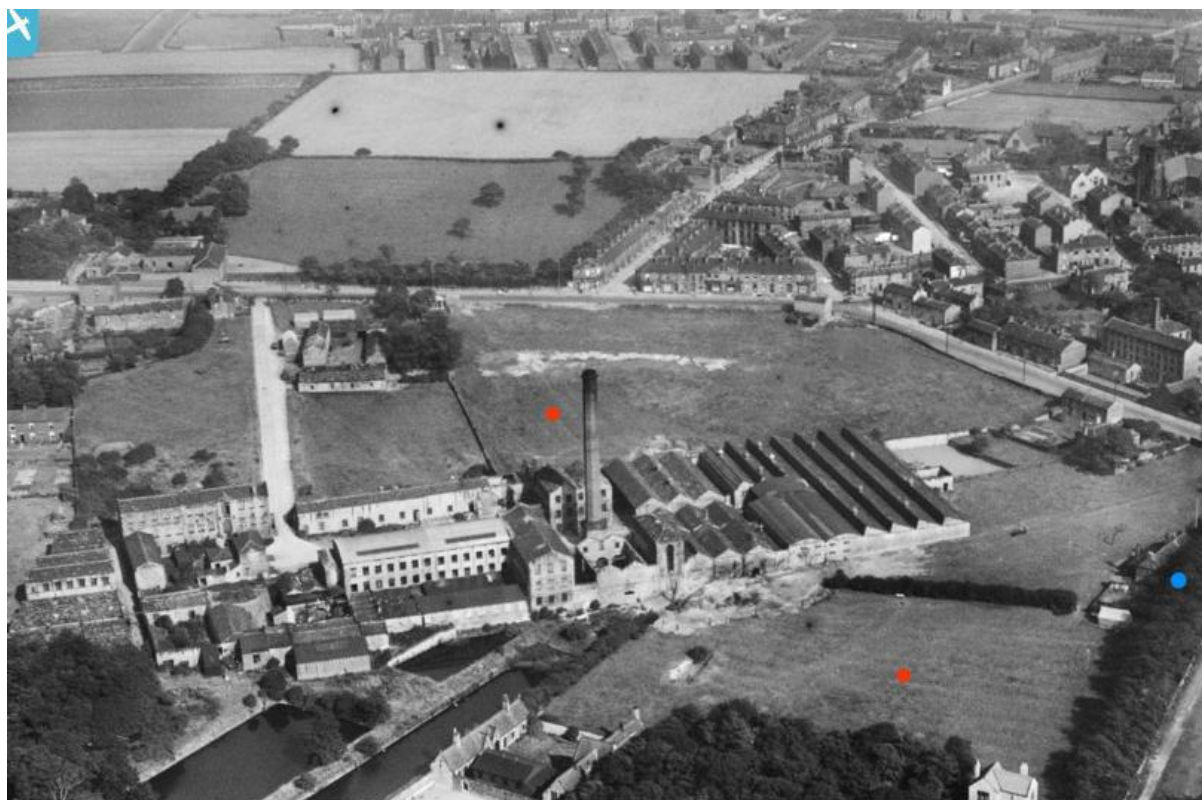


The Datestone from the Manor House situated off Storrs Hill Road

Another source⁴¹ adds of the Manor House*the earliest buildings in Ossett and in other parts of Yorkshire date back to around 1650. The oldest was the Manor House which stood*

⁴¹ Glimpses of Ossett [John Pollard 1983] page 20

off Storrs Hill Road and was demolished a few years ago. It was built of stone, as this material was coming into general use.



Aerial view of Victoria Mills. The Green runs left to right in background Blue dot marks the Manor House. Red dots mark fields with markings suggesting medieval ridge & furrow farming

The photograph above shows the location of the Manor House on a lane off Storrs Hill Road. This lane became the entrance to Park House, built in 1867, and latterly to Ossett Grammar School which opened on this site in 1906. The lane is now the main entrance to Ossett Acedemy. Park House is now part of the School complex and the school's sports facilities stand where the Manor House once stood. The blue dot on the photograph shows the Manor House and the red dots record examples of crop marks typical of those signifying medieval ridge and furrow farming. There are similar crop marks in the fields (Ox Close) adjacent to Sowood Farm. Evidence that both sites had a medieval stage.

The Storrs Hill Road Manor House built in 1684 met its end when the Borough of Ossett Council received and agreed the report of the Medical Officer of Health on 23rd July 1957. In pursuance of Section 154 (2) of the Housing Act 1936 the Council agreed to confirm the "Storrs Hill Road Clearance Area 1957" on the basis that the houses were unfit for human habitation and that the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions in the Area was the demolition of all the buildings in the area. In fact there were only two addresses and a shared privy in the Clearance Order, numbers 46 and 48 Storrs Hill Road which was the Manor House which sometime earlier had been converted into two dwellings. So ended 273 years of history and the opportunity to consider whether the house had a longer and more illustrious past. Instead, the focus for attention shifted to Sowood Farm, perhaps because in 1984 rafters and timbers had been found which *may* be from an earlier manorial centre on the site. It appears that the Storrs Hill Road site did not have the benefit of similar forensic consideration. Instead it had its very own Clearance Order. The property at that time was

owned by J & F Burrows Ltd of Victoria Mills The Green Ossett and its last residents, Mr and Mrs Judge at number 48 and Mr P Gannon at number 46 were re-housed by a sympathetic Ossett Borough Council.

The respective ownerships of the Oates family in 1775 and their Perfect descendants in 1843 are shown in the annotated 1850 map overleaf.. The ownerships show the extent to which the land formed a “park” attached to this Storrs Hill Road Manor House. By 1775 this park area totalled approximately 120 acres (the approximate size of the Manor in 1349) but by 1843 the Perfect’s ownership had dwindled to about 55 acres. One reason for the reduction in the acreage was the loss of the family’s land for the building of the Leeds and Manchester railway in the 1840’s. Parts of the land to the south of the railway line which were in Oates ownership in the 18th Century are no longer owned by the Perfects by 1843.

The fields names⁴² within the Storrs Hill Road Manor House park area include Warrant Close (Warren Close – probably for keeping game animals including birds rabbits etc), Peacock Close, Laithe Close (barn closes), Far Park and Pale Close (Pale being fencing and a common description used in defining areas close to the Wakefield New *Park* in North Ossett – eg today’s Paleside). All these suggest an enclosed park area, with a river frontage, used to provide game and other food for the table and entertainment for the residents and their acquaintances.

Indeed by 1775 the whole of the Oates Sowood land ownership was rented out and it is likely that this included the Manor House itself. Of the 120 acre park, 58 acres were rented to John Illingworth, including a House and Orchard, which could be the Manor House itself. 28 acres were rented to “Widow Marsden” (widow of the late Francis Marsden of Sowood Farm). The balance of the 121 acres was rented to Widow Ward and Abraham Saxton.

It seems unlikely that William Moseley Perfect (referred to earlier) ever lived in Ossett his residences being variously recorded as Pontefract, London, Blackburn and, perhaps, Settle where he died. He is however recorded in the 1843 Ossett Tithe Award as the owner of the land upon which the Storrs Hill Manor House was built. In 1813 the same land was in the ownership of John Crowder of Brotherton and in 1810 his daughter Elizabeth had married John Perfect a banker from Pontefract. They were to become the parents of William Moseley Perfect. We have seen earlier that the Crowders and Perfects were related by marriage to the Oates family confirming that the 1843 Perfect family land ownership in Sowood, including the Storrs Hill Manor House, came from the Oates. It is doubtful that either the Crowder or Perfect family ever lived in the Storrs Hill Manor House.

It may also be the case that the Oates family, who lived in nearby Chickenley Hall in the mid 17th Century, never lived in Ossett. The Oates family probably still lived elsewhere in 1741 when Edward Oates is recorded voting in the Yorkshire Elections for the Tory George Fox. His place of abode is Southill (which included Earlsheaton where his grandfather Josias had land ownerships in 1709) and his freehold ownership is Chickenley

The proximity of the Oates family home at Chickenley Hall, the description of John Crowder being of Brotherton and well documented abodes of the Perfect family in the 19th Century suggests that perhaps none of these families lived in Ossett itself even though they appear

⁴² Ossett Tithe Award 1843 Map and Schedule

to have owned the Storrs Hill Road land on which the “Manor House” or “Sowood House” is recorded in 1790,1813,1843 and 1850. Josias Oates was born at Chickenley Hall in 1639 but by 1709 he is recorded as being one of only 40 freeholders (as is his son) in Ossett confirming that by this time he had a land ownership in Ossett.

As referred to above some sources suggest a timber built medieval manor house may have stood on the site now occupied by Sowood Farm. It was only in the 17th century that stone began to replace earlier timber structures and so a medieval manor house, at Storrs Hill Road or Sowood Farm, would be past its best by the mid to late 17th Century.

SOWOOD FARMHOUSE ✉ [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [Google+](#) [LinkedIn](#) [More](#) | [Print](#)

ABOUT THIS MONUMENT + / -

EH Visitor Information	✘	More Pictures	✘	Monument Types	✔
Related Monuments	✘	Modern Map	✔	Sources	✔
Related Text	✔	Old Map	✔	Thesaurus	✔
Investigation History	✘	Aerial Photograph	✔	Description	✔

DESCRIPTION + / -

Built in 1689, on the site of a Medieval manor extant in 1302, possibly reusing timbers from the manor house.

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DETAIL + / -

MORE INFORMATION & SOURCES + / -

SE 2850 1905. Sowood Farm, Ossett. Work has revealed substantial rafters which probably came from the buildings of the Medieval manorial centre which is known to have existed on the site from at least 1302. The present house, built in 1689 by F Mackender, incorporates a timber-framed partition between the body of the house and the outshot. (1-2)

Sowood Farmhouse. Grade II. (3)

SOURCE TEXT

(1) Annual newssheet/CBA Group 4
1986 (DJH Michelmores) Page(s)42

(3) List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest
DOE (Listed Buildings) Boro of Wakefield, W Yorks 6-May-1988 20

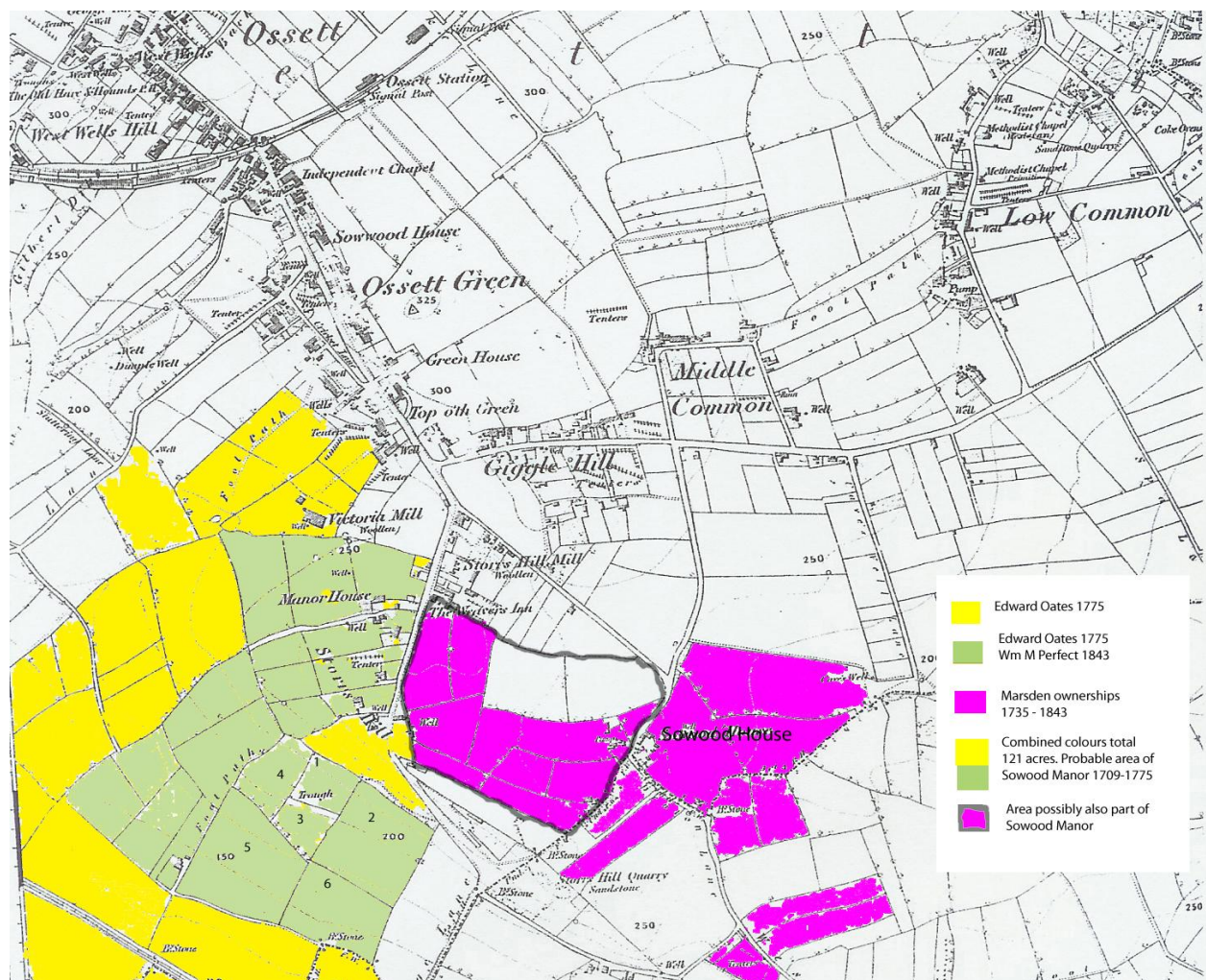
www.pastscape.org.uk

The Grade II listing information and sources appear on the above [English Heritage] website with unequivocal reference to the manorial centre “*which is known to have existed on the site from 1302*”. Evidence of this does not exist with the certainty supposed in the above comment. Neither was the builder of the Farmhouse *F Mackender*.

The building or re-building of the Storrs Hill Road Manor House in 1684 by “E G” and the building or re-building of the present Sowood Farm house in 1689 by Francis Marsden offers two possible locations for the earlier Sowood Medieval Manor House referred to in 1349. The evidence reported here does however suggest that the Storrs Hill Road site is at least as likely to be the site of a former Manor house but it appears not to have been considered at all in 1986 when Sowood Farm was advanced as the site of the earlier Manor House. This is probably due to the demolition of the Storrs Hill Road Manor House 30 years earlier in 1958/9. In any event the evidence does demonstrate that the 1680’s were a busy time with both buildings almost certainly using stone from local quarries including those on nearby Storrs Hill.

More detailed histories of Sowood Farm and the nearby 18th Century Rock Cottages are

recorded in a companion histories⁴³



Map showing Oates, Perfect and Marsden (and descendents) land ownerships 1775-1843

The yellow and grey shading on the above map shows Edward Oates' land ownerships in 1775. This area totals 121 acres including the Storrs Hill Road Manor House shown on the map. This could be the area of Sowood Manor in 1349 described as "a messuage and carucate of land". By 1843 all the yellow shaded land had been disposed of to third parties but Edward's great great nephew William Mosley Perfect continued to own the land shaded grey. The purple shaded land, some of which is in Horbury, was at various times in the 18th and early 19th Century, owned or occupied by the Marsden family of Sowood Farm and their descendants. The map denotes Sowood Farm as Sowood House - the name by which it was known in 1676 suggesting that this was part of an area or an entity known as Sowood.

The Plague or The Black Death at Sowood 1593

'In the year 1593, - in the 35th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, - it appears from our Parish Registers that the Plague raged fearfully in these parts; and a curious fact is elicited that the unfortunate sufferers, no doubt to prevent the contagion spreading, were buried at

⁴³ The History of Sowood Farm and The History of Rock Cottages Alan Howe 2012

their own houses: no wonder, therefore, that one whole family of the name of Denton- at least eight persons- were all swept away. I have made enquiries, but fruitlessly, as to the locality of Denton's house'.

So wrote John Beswicke Greenwood MA Dewsbury Moor in his 1859 'The Early Ecclesiastical History of Dewsbury'. This wasn't the first time that the plague had touched Sowood for in 1349 the owner of Sowood, Warin de Scargill, died of the plague although it is uncertain where he lived. This death was in the plague pandemic of 1348-1350 which killed 1.5m out of a population of 4m.

With the exception of some malpractice in the operation of Sowood Farm in the early 14th Century little of any real significance appears to have affected Sowood Manor over the many centuries of its existence. Except for July and August 1593 that is.

In 1585 the Manor of Wakefield Tourn held at Wakefield on 25 April of that year found, inter alia, that '*Christopher Denton did not make his part of Sowodd lone gate: amerced 4d.*' This tells us that there was a 'gate' on Sowood Lane and that Christopher Denton was charged with maintaining it. The purpose of the gate would have been to prevent roaming livestock wandering into the nearby Horbury and Ossett townships. The failure of Denton to maintain the structure was a serious offence. As recently as 1881⁴⁴ whether you were approaching Sowood Farm from Ossett or from Horbury you would take the lane to Denton's ie *Denton Lane* to reach it. Things were to get worse for Christopher and the Denton family who lived , and several died, at the farmstead known today as Sowood Farm.

The Dewsbury Parish Register for July and August 1593 testify to the horrors which were to descend on Sowood in the Summer of that year. Christopher Denton the elder and probably the eldest of those who were infected was the first to succumb. He was buried of the **plague** at his own house on 18th July 1593. His son, also Christopher was next to suffer the same fate on 31 July when he was buried on the same day as his 18 year old son William. Four days later on 3rd August his children Isabell (aged 21), James (aged 16), Thomas (aged 11) and Margaret (aged 3) were buried with Alice Denton who was probably their mother⁴⁵. This brought to eight the total number of Denton family deaths from the Plague at Sowood Farm. All were buried there.

In addition the record reveals that others died of the Plague and were also buried at 'Denton's House '. These unfortunates were Joanye Brouke⁴⁶, Alice Nowell, Ann Ward, Agnes Ward and, as late as 21 September, John Boothe. It is possible that these were servants or employees of the Dentons or perhaps members of families who lived nearby and who had offered their help to the stricken Denton family. In addition to the thirteen who died and were buried at Denton's House, Thomas Sykes was buried at his house on Sowode Grene on 27th August and much later, Jane Willson was *buried at Ossett of the plague at home* on 18 December 1593. The same day Uxor [ie wife] Pickeringe was buried at Ossett

⁴⁴ The 1881 Census

⁴⁵ There are baptism records for all the children but none for the two Christophers or Alice suggesting they were older and possibly the grandfather, father and mother of the children.

⁴⁶ In 2012 the Brook family own and occupy Sowood Farm and are almost certainly descendants of Joanye's family.

of the plague. August to October were known to be “the plague months”⁴⁷ and this was certainly the case in this outbreak.

It is also clear that the Plague raged more widely than Sowood for there were five deaths and burials caused by the plague in ‘the leighes’ – probably Thornhill Lees -in the same Summer months. They too were buried at home. The final record of a plague death around this time in the area was on 17 February 1594 when *Agnes wife of George Naylor buried of the plague at night here.*

This suggests a burial at Dewsbury All Saints Church and Agnes it seems may be the only plague victim of the 1593 scourge to be buried at Dewsbury Church in consecrated ground. Robert Grayve had been buried at night in November 1593 though there is no reference to the plague in this case. Ann Forrest was buried of the plague on 19 December but no location is given. In total sixteen burials of Sowood and Ossett people who died of the plague were recorded in 1593/4 and another five, perhaps seven, elsewhere in the Dewsbury area.

⁴⁷ A History of Bubonic Plague in the British Isles JFD Shrewsbury. Cambridge University Press 1970

1592.	1593.
Feb. 2—Elizabeth daughter of John Grenewoode baptised.	July 14—Robert base son of John Harrope and Jenet Clayton baptised.
" 3—Edward son of Willme Barloe buried.	" 18—Christopher Denton elder buried of the plague at his own house.
" 4—Margrett daughter of Mrs.* Wilbe buried.	" 19—Joseph son of Robert Dey buried.
" 4—Averye son of Edward More baptised.	" 21—Merye Arrandell buried.
" 10—Agnes daughter of Rychard Medlay baptised at Horbury and the same Agnes	" 25—Rosumond daughter of Rychard Forrest baptised.
" 11— was buried here the xi th days.	" 26—John son of John Dawson baptised.
" 13—Robert Dey and Dorithye Walker married.	" 26—Alice daughter of James Kent baptised.
" 21—George Walker and Isabell Forrest married.	" 30—John Craven buried of the plague in the leighes.
" 25—George son of Gorge Lee baptised.	" 31—Christopher Denton younger buried of the plague.
" 26—Rychard Gopson and Agnes Gaunt married.	" 31—William Denton buried of the plague at their father's house.
" 27—James Awdsley the younger was buried.	Aug. 3—Isabell Denton buried of the plague at home.
Mch. 11—Michael son of John Berry baptised.	" 3—James Denton buried of the plague at home.
" 11—Henrye son of Christopher Brouke baptised.	" 3—Thomas Denton buried of the plague at home.
" 11—Philemon son of Christopher Dixson baptised.	" 3—Alice Denton buried of the plague at home.
" 18—Willme son of John Duyo baptised.	" 3—Margrett Denton buried of the plague at home.
" 23—Michael Ward was buried.	" 3—Joanye Brouke buried at Denton's of the plague.
The begiunge of the yeare Ano Dni 1593.	" 3—Ann Ward buried at Denton's house of the plague.
1593.	" 8—Alice Hudson buried of the place in the leighes.
Mch. 25—Perigryne son of Mr. Wilkinson baptised.	" 9—Thomas son of Thomas Langefeld baptised.
" 28—Joanye daughter of Willme Hall baptised.	" 10—Alice Nowell buried of the plague at Denton's house.
April 12—Rychard son of Robert Awdesley the elder baptised.	" 10—Agnes Ward buried of the plague at Denton's house.
" 14—Uxor Linley of Hangings Heaton was buried.	" 11—John son of Edward Wilkinson baptised.
" 17—Dorithie daughter of Raphe Stator baptised.	" 14—Thomas Acrod and Ann Tebbe married being Tuesday.
" 22—Nicolas son of Nicholas Walker baptised	" 15—Uxor Craven widow died of the plague and buried at home in the leighes.
" 22—A young son of Willme Barloe not baptised buried.	" 15—John Craven a young child buried of the plague in the leighes.
" 29—Edward and John sons of Willme Rychardson both baptised.	" 19—Isabell daughter of James Brouke baptised.
May 13—John son of Edward Ouldroyd baptised.	" 20—Agnes Hudson buried of the plague at home in the leighes.
" 13—Gorge son of Willme Gill the younger baptised.	" 21—James Brodley and Sibell Lee married.
" 20—Willme Tyas and Agnes Smithe married.	" 26—Dorithye daughter of Robte Barton baptised.
" 20—Ellen daughter of Lawrance Wamsley baptised.	" 26—Thomas son of Robte Awdesley the younger baptised.
" 27—Thomas son of Willme Burnett baptised.	" 27—Thomas Sykes buried at his own house at Sowode Grene.
June 2—Edward son of Willme Rychardson buried.	Sept. 10—John Nowell and Edan Boothe married.
" 8—John Robinson buried his wyfe.	" 16—Dorithye daughter of Henrye Nayler baptised.
" 10—John base son of John Jagger and Margrett Exam baptised.	" 21—John Boothe buried of the plague at Denton's house.
" 10—Jonye daughter of Robte Smithson baptised.	" 28—Dorithye daughter of Robte Barton buried.
" 14—Joseph son of Robert Dey baptised.	Oct. 2—Edward Megson and Grace Acrod married.
" 20—Elizabeth daughter of Rychard Brigge buried.	
" 24—Rychard son of John Nayler baptised.	
" 26—Willme Thomson and Elizabeth Carter married.	
" 30—Averye son of Edward More buried.	
July 1—Jenye daughter of Willme Hall buried.	
" 3—A young daughter of Nicholas Wood not baptised buried.	

* The word is not distinct in the original.

Extract from The Registers of Dewsbury 1538-1653 (S.J. Chadwick)

One Denton appears to have escaped with her life. Elizabeth Denton was baptised at Dewsbury, as were her siblings. In 1593 she was 19 years of age and there is no record of her death in 1593 or any year preceding or following. Perhaps she had the good fortune to be elsewhere.

The Plague or Black Death was characterised by its seasonal incidence in summer and early autumn months with a peak mortality in the August and September of a year. It was a peculiarly 'household' disease because it derived from the house rat or more particularly from the rat flea. Its origins however were in India and its existence in Great Britain had always depended upon the transmission of the disease by infected rats from beyond our shores, most usually through the Port of London. In the 14th Century the Plague manifested

itself in pandemic form but land borne infections much reduced when sea trade began to replace land based trading. Outbreaks of the Plague in the 15th and 16th century were many, sometimes significant in size and always a threat to human life but not to the extent of the Great Pestilence in the mid 14th century.

The Plague continued to be carried and caused by cross infecting house rats and their fleas and it often, but not invariably, led to outbreaks of human plague. Outbreaks rarely lasted for long either because of the onset of colder weather or because the rat population itself died out or became too small to be significant in local areas. This of course was of no significance or comfort to those humans who became infected due to their contact with rats or other people with the disease. In many cases the disease was confined to several or even single households and measures were usually taken to isolate the family from others to minimise the spread of the disease.

The following is an extract from a piece written about the effect of an outbreak of the plague in 1665 in Eyam Village in Derbyshire⁴⁸. The Sowood outbreak would have been similar in nature and effect.

In the summer of 1665, in the village of Eyam in Derbyshire a tailor received a parcel of material from his supplier in London. This parcel contained the fleas that caused the plague. The tailor was dead from the plague within one week of receiving his parcel. By the end of September, five more villagers had died. Twenty three died in October.

Some of the villagers suggested that they should flee the village for the nearby city of Sheffield. But they were persuaded not to do this as it was feared that they would spread the plague into the north of England that had more or less escaped the worst of it. In fact, the village decided to cut itself off from the outside world. They effectively agreed to quarantine themselves even though it would mean death for many of them.

The village was supplied with food by those who lived outside of the village. People brought supplies and left them at the parish stones that marked the start of Eyam. The villagers left money in a water trough filled with vinegar to sterilise the coins left in them. In this way, Eyam was not left to starve to death. Those who supplied the food did not come into contact with the villagers.

To control the infection within the village they agreed firstly to bury their own dead, close to their homes, rather than in consecrated ground, in the belief that unburied corpses were a major hazard in the spread of the pestilence, so that speed was essential, and secondly to worship in the open air, where it would be possible to maintain corporate worship without being in close proximity with their neighbours and thus expose themselves to danger

As early as 1353, Boccaccio⁴⁹ wrote about the classic symptoms associated with the Bubonic Plague:

“The first sign of the plague was that swellings appeared in the groin or the armpits. Some of the swellings became as large as an apple, sometimes they were the size of an egg. The deadly swellings then began to spread in all directions over the body. Then the disease changed. Black or red spots broke out, sometimes on the thigh or arm. These spots were large in some cases; in other they were almost like a rash.”

⁴⁸ www.eyamplaguevillage.co.uk

⁴⁹ Giovanni Boccaccio Italian author poet and humanist (1313-1375)

A few days after being infected, a victim developed a rash and there was pain all over the body. The victim began to feel tired and lethargic but the pain made it difficult to sleep. The temperature of the body increased and this affected the brain and the nerves. Speech was affected and the victims became less and less intelligible. As the disease took more of a hold, the victim took on the physical appearance of a drunk with stumbling movement and gait. The victim then became delirious.

After about six days, the lymphatic glands became swollen and inflamed. In the groin, neck and armpit areas of the body this led to buboes – large and highly painful swellings. These buboes caused bleeding underneath the skin, which turned the buboes and surrounding areas blue/purple. In some cases, red spots appeared on the buboes as death approached.

The average time of death from the first symptom was between four to seven days. It is thought that between 50% and 75% of those who caught the disease died.⁵⁰

Much of what is reported about outbreaks elsewhere also happened at Sowood. A single household, infection in the plague months of August and September, a short period of illness before an almost inevitable and painful death, isolation of a household or community, a family largely wiped out, burial at home and the plague declining in the late autumn as temperatures cooled.

All of this also required conditions conducive to rat infestation. This was 1593, five years after the failure of the Spanish Armada. Living conditions and hygiene within and beyond the home were not first on the list of important issues when the key concern was feeding a growing family. Moreover the home in which the Dentons lived was most probably timber built and may have been several hundred years old. It was also a farm with other livestock, feedstuffs, crops and nooks and crannies a many. Ideal rat country and within weeks thirteen victims were buried at Denton's house..

⁵⁰ www.historylearningsite.co.uk

After the Plague - other Sowood connections and references

17th Century Parish records support the view that Sowood was expanding as more births marriages and deaths are recorded of people living on *Sawid Grene* or *Sowood Green*. For example the Registers of the Chapelry of Horbury 1598-1812 include the following;

1656 Timothie the son of Michael Wheateley of *Sowood* borne the sixth day of februarye 1656 and baptised the xxvith of februarye aforesaid
1657 Willm the son of Edward Lord of *Sowood* buried the fift day of februarye
1659 Robert Wheateley sonne of Michael of *Sowood* born the iii day of June and baptised the xii of the said june
1665 Ann daughter of Robt Stappleton of *Sowood Green* baptised the vi day of August
1676 Francis Marsden acquires copyhold interest in Sowood House [Sowood Farm]
1696 Richard **Marsdin** of *Sawid Greene* buried the iii day of januarie
1699 William Pollard and Mary **Marsden** of *Sowood Green* married at Dusbury ye ii day of februarye

The 1709 *Wakefield Manor Book* records

William Curtice for House and Croft on Sowood Green... in the possession of Michael Wheelwright
Joshua Thompson for a Cottage house in Sowood Green
Joshua Ellis for a Cottage House and Garth in Sowood Green
Francis **Marsdin** for a messuage & lands on Sowood Green
John Nettleton a parcel of land at Sowood Green being 14 yards square
George Pickard a small parcel of land on Sowood Green
Thomas Pashley a small parcel of land taken off the Wast [waste] at Sowood green rent

References begin to emerge in the late 17th and early 18th century of the Marsden name and this family was to play a significant role in the next 100 years in the future of the area then known as Sowood Green. Much more of this family and the Illingworth and Nettleton families is recorded in the companion history "The History of Sowood Farm" but in the beginning the Marsdens were to be responsible for the building, or re-building of Sowood Farm, Rock Cottages, a dwelling close to the former tram depot site on Sowood Bend and, probably, the dwelling which was to become The Half Way House public house on Westfield Road Horbury.

These references are in addition to those referring to the Oates family which are reported elsewhere. The presence of these other families within the Manor confirms the pattern of manors in other locations. A Manor House, a farm and a grouping of small crofts and cottages often situated closely together on a green.

The 18th Century was to see much more development on Sowood Green and nearby Storrs Hill much of it to house the expanding Marsden and Illingworth families. But it was the beginning of the end for the area once known as The Manor of South Wood.