

# THE HISTORY OF CONONLEY

*An Airedale Village*

TREVOR HODGSON & DAVID GULLIVER



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OF CONONLEY:  
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## FOREWORD

SIR JOHN SWIRE, C.B.E.

IF EVERY village in England had marked the Millennium by producing a book such as this, it would have made a real contribution to the Social History of England over the past 400 years. We must be grateful to Trevor Hodgson and David Gulliver for the painstaking way in which they have assembled such a mass of detail. The hardness of life – the poverty – is certainly well illustrated, but also the feeling of community and care for the less fortunate.

The era of the enclosures has been much castigated by historians, but this book brings out the benefits, in many cases, of higher production and the provision of secure jobs that resulted, and the easy relationship between the Rev. Samuel Swire (1739-1816) and Joseph Brown, the Quaker stone waller who was employed to enclose his moor, must come as a surprise to many. Samuel Swire gave him the run of his library and even sent him books when he was in jail in York for refusing, as a Quaker, to pay his tithes.

Many families have, over the years, made their contribution to the history of Cononley and, if the name of Swire occurs disproportionately often in this book, it is because our family records are more complete than others and reach back into the 16th century. The senior branch of our family is headed today by Dr. Jim Swire, whose name will be familiar to many from his tireless and determined battle to establish the truth behind the Lockerbie air disaster in which his much beloved and talented daughter so tragically lost her life. Jim's forebears sold Cononley Hall in 1837, the remaining 750 acres of the estate following in 1867, so it is 133 years since a Swire actually had direct involvement in the affairs of Cononley. However, I believe that every one of my ancestors since the 16th Century, and indeed my own generation and sons and nephews, must have visited Cononley with interest and a sense of belonging. My great-great-grandfather was at one time the heir to Cononley and, if a quirk of fate had not denied him this, his son doubtless would not have been induced to seek his fortune in the Far East. Our forebears' fortunes originally depended on sheep and the textile trade; they might be surprised by the range of the activities of the present day Swire Group in airlines, shipping and other international businesses. But I hope we have inherited some of their attitudes and we must be grateful to the authors for painting for us such a vivid picture of Cononley and its hardy inhabitants over the years.

## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ONE of the principal objectives of this history has been to bring together in one place information relating to Cononley, which has already been published. These sources are detailed in the 'References and Notes' section. A number of authors whose own works are referred to there have read and commented on chapters of the book which relate to their own areas of study. These include Professor Ian Kershaw, Stephen Moorhouse, the late Dr Richard Spence, Dr George Ingle, Mike Gill, Michael Walmsley and the Revd. Dr. Lewis Burton. Professor Kershaw drew our attention to the work of Professor David Smith and Katrina Legg. As a result we were able to see extracts from a forthcoming edition of the Bolton Priory Compotus and Katrina Legg's initial transcripts of more than seventy Bolton Priory charters relating to lands at Cononley. Although all these people made suggestions about the research this should not be interpreted as an endorsement of a text for which we alone are responsible.

We have been assisted by the staff of a number of Archive collections and libraries. These include the Yorkshire Archaeological Society; West Yorkshire Archive Service at Bradford and Leeds; Christ Church, Oxford; Cliffe Castle, Keighley with the assistance of Alison Armstrong; Skipton Public Library. The assistance of Peter Day, Keeper of Collections at Chatsworth, Peter Watkins, Honorary Archivist at Bolton Abbey and Judith Curthoys, Assistant Archivist at Christ Church Oxford has been particularly appreciated. We have also been assisted by Charlotte Bleasdale the archivist for the Swire Group.

Several chapters draw extensively on the writings of two former residents of Cononley who died in the second half of the 20th century. John William Moorhouse has left several notebooks of memories dating back to the middle of the 19th century. Catherine Moscrop wrote a lengthy memoir of her life as a teenager in Cononley before the First World War. We are pleased that their memories of Cononley can reach a new and wider audience.

Of course many people with Cononley connections have assisted us in all kinds of ways. Some of these are noted in the References and Notes and others in the acknowledgements for the illustrations. It is difficult to list all the others without risking an unintentional omission. One or two exceptions can be made. For example, Elsie and the late Jim Laycock were able to provide details of



Cononley shops and itinerant tradesmen of some eighty years ago. George and Brian Green gave us access to documents, which enabled us to study the development of both Station Mills and Aireside Mill and also the ownership of Cononley Hall during the last 150 years. A considerable number of Cononley people gave us access to their homes and deeds and this has proved invaluable. Freda Gulliver has undertaken the onerous task of editing the text. We have been fortunate in having several maps and plans created for this work: that on page 15 by Mr. J. Gulliver and those on page 125 by Mr. M. Gill.

The authors wish to thank the following who have given permission to reproduce illustrations:

National Maritime Museum, British Library, K. Barnes, Mr. & Mrs. E. Buckley, Miss N. Chandler, Cliffe Castle Museum, Dr. & Mrs. G.B.R. Fisher, Mr. G. Green, Mr. M. Gill, Mr. J. Spencer, Dr. H. Swire, Sir J. & Sir A. Swire, The Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement, Mr P. Teal, West Yorkshire Archive Service, Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

All other illustrations are from the authors' collections. The photographs of documents were all taken with a hand held camera.

### **An Introductory Note**

One or two aspects of the text do need explanation. Early surnames have been left in the form used in our source. This can be rather disconcerting as they can be spelt in several different ways on one page. As with variations in the spelling of place names, no undue attention should be paid to these different forms of surnames. It was of no consequence to the original people, most of whom would not have been able to read anyway.

Before 1752 the New Year began on 25th March. For example, the 25th March 1711 was the day after 24th March 1710. Most books convert the dates, but occasionally this is done carelessly and an error is perpetuated. We have preferred to give this latter date in the form 24th March 1710/11. We feel that this is less ambiguous.

All prices are given in the pre-decimal currency of twelve pence to the shilling and twenty shillings to the pound.

Although no separate bibliography is provided we hope that those seeking further reading and additional facts will study the section containing References and Notes towards the end of the book.

## CHAPTER I

### EARLY HISTORY OF CONONLEY

**D**URING the final phase of the last Ice Age the Aire Valley, where Cononley now stands, was filled with a retreating glacier. 12,000 years ago a lake had already formed behind a moraine, where Cononley bridge now crosses the river. The lake stretched as far as Gargrave and formed part of a chain of similar lakes extending further down the valley. The landscape which the earliest bands of men saw was desolate tundra. The climate fluctuated and about 8,500 years ago it was about 2°C warmer than now. The hills were clothed in woodland of pine, elm, oak and lime. The valley bottom had areas of willow and marsh. Mesolithic hunters exploited the herds of deer, as well as animals unknown to us such as the auroch – a giant wild ox. On Ickornshaw, Farnhill and Kildwick Moors flint blades have been found, left by such hunters. During this period Cononley Beck created a delta stretching into the lake which, in any case, was shrinking as it filled with sediment. Borings taken at Cononley Bridge during the 20th century showed a maximum of 64 feet of drift, consisting of 35 feet of various layers of sand and boulders, below which was 29 feet of clay. This represents the original depth of the lake but by 5000 years ago this had probably shrunk to a smaller shallow area of water.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest evidence of a human presence in the Cononley area occurs about 4,000 years ago. By this time it is likely that people were already engaged in farming. Immigrants from Europe had brought seed-corn, domestic cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. The woodlands still sheltered bears, beaver, wild boar and wolves. Although hunting was still a necessary part of life, these farmers would have cleared much of the woodlands. They might have been disappointed to find the moor turning to heather rather than grassland. Some evidence of settlement in this period exists. During the Second World War, a polished flint axe and what might have been a boat, made from a hollowed out log, were found in the croft behind the school playing field in Cononley, where the lakeside would have been. The axe has been dated to about 1800BC in the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age, and both finds may be evidence of a family living on or near the site now occupied by the village.<sup>2</sup> Another axe of a similar age, now at the Craven Museum, was found in the vicinity of Hadfield House in Nethergill Lane. This is a perforated axe hammer, that is, one with a large hole bored through it to take a shaft just like a modern hammer.



On Low Bradley Moor a site has produced human bones and flints in association with a stone cist under a barrow. When excavated in 1930 it was thought to be a Neolithic long barrow.<sup>3</sup> It is now believed to be part of a more complex sequence some of which dates from the late Bronze Age.<sup>4</sup> The ancient route known as Rombald's Way with its associated cup and ring stones passes only a few miles to the north. Two urns of the type used for Bronze Age cremations were found when the railway was being built 'near Kildwick'.<sup>5</sup> Above Cononley, near Babyhouse Lane, is a pentagonal area surrounded by a ditch covering just over an acre. Although wishful thinking has seen this as a hill fort it is most probably an enclosure to protect sheep or cattle from wolves, perhaps with a farmstead, which might date from this period or as late as the Romano-British period.<sup>6</sup>

By 1000BC England might have been as heavily populated as it would be in 1300AD, just before the 'Black Death'. The whole of Airedale was owned and farmed. It is not impossible that the ancient boundary of Kildwick Parish represents the extent of such a territory. Farming was intensified still further after 300BC with the availability of better ploughs. However poorer weather forced more use of the valley bottom. The valley would be quite familiar to us, although there would be extensive areas of birch and alder along the river and around the marshlands. Iron Age life is illuminated by one particular find from Cross Hills. This is a bone weaving comb now in Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley. The site of Cononley might well have been occupied by a group of circular thatched farmhouses, their outbuildings and small fields. They might have used the same lanes as we do. The Romans called these people the Brigantes. In 1998 the local press carried reports of the discovery of 27 Celtic coins of the 1st century AD in a field at Silsden. As the Brigantes rarely used coins, this remarkable find indicates that some native people had links with the more economically advanced south of Britain.<sup>7</sup>

The Romans occupied the territory of the Brigantes from about 75AD to the beginning of the 5th century. Unlike the situation in Southern England, they were an alien military regime resented by the native people of this area. Although there were forts at Elslack and Ilkley and a villa at Gargrave, these did not necessarily impinge on life in the Cononley area. However, a Roman stone ballista ball was found about twenty years ago at High Woodside Farm. This missile, about the size of a tennis ball, which would have been fired from a catapult, is now in the Craven Museum. There has been some speculation about a possible Roman Road from the Bradford area to Elslack and passing near Cononley. The place name 'Street Head' has been cited as evidence, as

have actual physical remains.<sup>8</sup> However, the suggestion does not appear to have found unanimous support amongst historians, and the nearest generally accepted Roman Road remains the one from Ilkley to Elslack passing near Addingham and Skipton. Many years ago some Roman artefacts, two funereal urns and some coins, were said to have been found at Scarcliffe.<sup>9</sup> If this report is correct then it may well be an indication of the presence of a native Romano-British family living nearby who had obtained the coins by trade with Romans.

Following the withdrawal of the Romans this land reverted to being part of a British Kingdom which is thought to have covered a similar area to modern Craven. We would call those people and their language: Welsh. The name Craven itself is derived from a word related to the Welsh 'craf' or garlic.<sup>10</sup> The 5th century seems to have been a disastrous time made worse by warfare and plague. Farmland reverted to scrub and then woodland. This is the period often known as the 'Dark Ages'.

### **English Settlement and the Creation of Cononley**

During the 7th century English (or 'Anglian') settlers moved up the Aire Valley. They created a series of settlements, many of which they called by names ending in 'ley'. Cononley was one of these names ending in 'ley', indicating a clearing. As we have seen, this does not mean that the land had not been farmed previously. The 'Conon' element has been interpreted as a personal name, for example, Old Norse 'Konthmundr', Old English 'Cuthmund' or Old Irish 'Conan'. Certainly it does not seem to have anything to do with King Canute or 'The King's Meadow'. It may be derived, on the other hand, from 'Cound', a British name for Cononley Beck or the River Aire. If this were the case, then the English settlers might have learnt of the name used by Britons who already lived there.<sup>11</sup> This early Cononley might have been a dispersed group of farmsteads having little in common with the present village. Later in the Anglo-Saxon period the village is more likely to have come together on the present site with its arable land in large open fields. The ordered sequence of plots (known as tofts) between Main Street and Back Lane (now known as Meadow Lane) may date from as early as the 8th century but equally it may well date from as late as the 12th century. In the 10th and 11th centuries Scandinavian settlers came into the Dales via Scotland and Ireland. They do not appear to have displaced the English inhabitants but rather to have fitted in around them. They must have made a profound and influential impression though, as so many local names are Scandinavian, for example, Beck, Gill, Carr, Gate, Holme





Snaygill Dngs

Carlton

B R A D

T O N

N O R T H K E N T

F A R N

K

I



and Ing. During restoration work on Kildwick Church in 1901 the remains of several stone crosses were found built into the chancel wall. The design was identified as Scandinavian of the late 9th and early 10th centuries.<sup>12</sup>

According to the Domesday Book, before Edward the Confessor died in 1066, Cononley had been part of an extensive estate scattered throughout Yorkshire belonging to a thegn named Thorketill (spelt Torchil in the Domesday Book), who himself held the land from his overlord: Edwin, Earl of Mercia.<sup>13</sup> Thorketill had farmed two 'carucates' of arable land (about 240 acres). Immediately before the Norman Conquest there had been a period of prosperity in Yorkshire even relative to other parts of England.

### The Norman Invasion

Although 1066 is the most memorable date in English history, the Norman invasion of Yorkshire took place two years later, when William I occupied York and established a garrison there. The Normans were adventurers, seen as 'efficient in their ruthlessness', men who had come to stay and to hold on to their gains.<sup>14</sup> A rebellion by the English frightened the Normans into an extreme reaction.

By the Spring of 1070 the arrival of the Normans had turned into a calamity for the inhabitants of Yorkshire. Orderic Vitalis, writing some 55 years after the disaster, stated that, through the action of his forces, William had created famine conditions which claimed more than 100,000 lives.<sup>15</sup> This event, now thought to have been somewhat exaggerated by Orderic Vitalis, has become known as the 'Harrying of the North'. William's army must have passed near Cononley on its way out of Yorkshire early in 1070. We can only guess at the terror that accompanied this invasion, and we can assume that even when comparatively peaceful times returned, the memory of these events remained vivid amongst the survivors and their children for many years afterwards.

Much of the debate about the extent of the effects of the 'Harrying of the North' is based on the interpretation of the disorganised and inconsistent text of the Domesday Book, which was created in 1086. The Domesday Book often uses the word 'waste' which most historians now agree should not be interpreted in a literal sense, but rather as an accounting term. In the case of Cononley there is a complete absence of information about farming or any other activity in 1086.<sup>16</sup>

In 1086 the Domesday Book lists Cononley as 'Terra Regis' meaning that it was land, formerly belonging to Edwin, which was now directly held by William



the Conqueror with no recognised tenant. No additional information is given to update the situation from King Edward's time, but the significance of the entry, to people of the time, lay in the potential income when the estate was again farmed. We do not know who, if anyone, lived in Cononley at that time but it does seem unlikely that it was entirely uninhabited. Various historians have suggested that possibly some of the English farmers had been 'encouraged' to move to more productive areas such as the Vale of York.<sup>17</sup>

Early in the 12th century the whole area around Skipton, including Cononley, was given to a Norman Baron: Robert de Romille. Not all of his vassals were Normans, however, as English thegns did not, in fact, all disappear from the scene after the Conquest. It is now clear that some of them managed to retain some status throughout the next century. An English thegn (perhaps with Scandinavian ancestors) named Alric held land in Yorkshire in 1065. He might, perhaps, have collaborated with the Normans and might even have directly replaced Thorketill. His son Sveinn was granted the lands of Cononley by the De Romille family, and his descendants feature later in the section on the Lords of the Manor of Cononley.<sup>18</sup>

In the foothills of the Pennines new monasteries were founded during the 12th century, including one at Embsay in 1120/21, which was subsequently moved



Cononley. The Township of Cononley stretched almost to the horizon but much of the upper part shown here was moorland until the 18th century.

to Bolton in 1154/55. An important gift of land at Cononley was made to the new Augustinian Priory at Bolton.<sup>19</sup> This gift, which is described in subsequent pages of this history, was significant because it was to influence the subsequent development of Cononley until relatively recent times. A particular benefit to us is the survival of documents belonging to the Priory, allowing far more to be told of the history of Cononley than would otherwise be the case.<sup>20</sup>

During the 'Harrying of the North' the countryside could well have been disrupted to such an extent that some buildings and field boundaries were abandoned. It has been suggested that a landscape of regularly planned tofts and back lanes may be an indication of the use of new sites.<sup>21</sup> The regular plan found at Cononley could, therefore, either date back before the Norman Conquest or, alternatively, it could be a consequence of deliberate management by Bolton Priory. Pottery dating from the 12th century onwards has been found in and near the toft now occupied by Milton House in Main Street. The same site has produced an early example of a 'bakst'n' (the local name for a stone used for baking oatcakes) and also louvres from the roofs of two of the buildings of a relatively prosperous medieval farm.<sup>22</sup> By 1200 the village of Cononley was in a form which would not change very much, except for the replacement of houses, for some six hundred years.

### **The Lords of the Manor of Cononley**

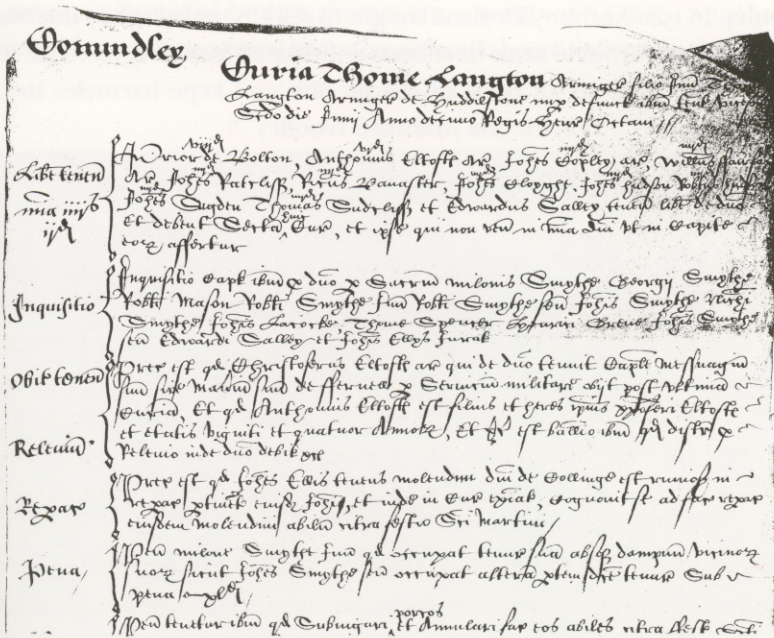
It has already been noted that in the 12th century the De Romille family granted Cononley to a tenant of theirs named Sveinn, the son of Alric. Some sources refer to him in a Norman style as Swain FitzAlric. His son Adam held Cononley and other manors in Yorkshire. He founded the Priory at Monk Bretton near Barnsley. On the death of Adam in 1159 his lands were divided between his daughters. Maud (or Matilda) whose share included Cononley was the wife of Adam de Montbegon. After his death in 1171/2 she married John Malherbe, who died in 1181, and later still Gerard de Glanville, each of whom became in turn Lord of the Manor.<sup>23</sup>

Maud's son Roger de Montbegon succeeded his mother in all her estates, but as he had died childless some time before 1227, the Manor passed to his half sister Clemence (or Clementia) Malherbe who had married Eudo de Longvillers II.<sup>24</sup> Eudo, like the other people noted here, held many other manors spread throughout Yorkshire and neighbouring counties. The Longvillers family derived their name from Longville in the department of Calvados in Normandy. On the death of Eudo de Longvillers in 1229 the Manor of Cononley passed



first to his son John, who died on the 2nd October 1254, then to his son, also named John, who died only three months later in early 1255, leaving it, in turn, to his daughter Margaret.

Margaret married Geoffrey de Neville, so bringing Cononley into the hands of this famous Northern family. In 1302/3 Cononley, Farnhill, Hetton, Newsholme and Oakworth formed a group of manors which together made up a 'Knight's Fee' - lands granted in return for feudal service to an overlord, in this case the holder of the 'Honour of Skipton'.<sup>25</sup> In her later life Margaret de Neville might have lived at Cononley where the 'Compotus' (an account book) of Bolton Priory has been interpreted, probably incorrectly, as showing she had a domestic chapel.<sup>26</sup> She died around February 1319 and seems to have been buried at Bolton Priory. Geoffrey had died by 1287 and the Manor continued to pass through the hands of his direct descendants, four of whom were named Robert. On the 18th May 1362 Robert de Nevill of Horneby granted the Manor to his son Robert.<sup>27</sup> The last Robert Neville died on the 4th April 1413.<sup>28</sup>

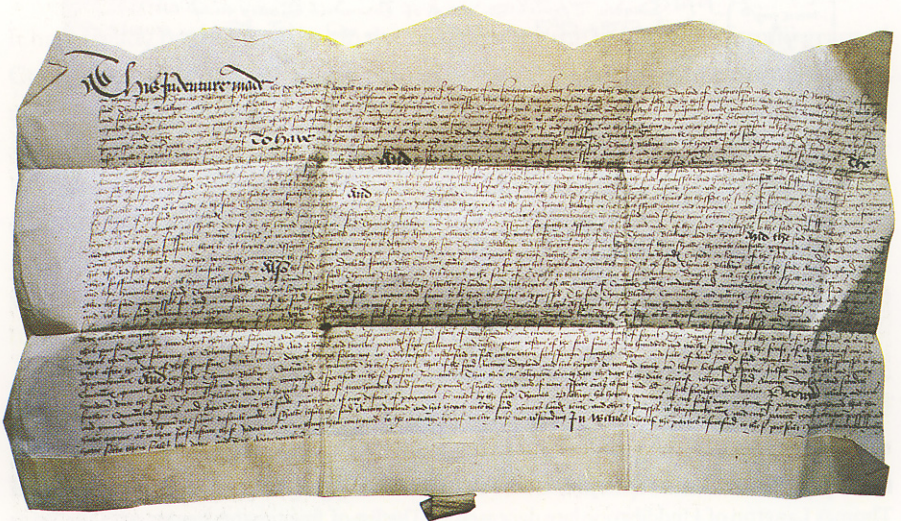


Cononley Manor Court Roll 1519. 'Court of Thomas Langton Esquire the younger son of Thomas Langton of Huddilstone late deceased...' The list of free tenants begins with the Prior of Bolton and Anthony Eltoftes (of Farnhill Hall) and ends with Edward Salley. Although the court met at Cononley its business included Anthony Eltoftes' succession to the Manor of Farnhill and the need for repairs to the Lord's mill at Cowling. (Chatsworth L/45/7)



The title now passed to Robert's granddaughter, Margaret, and her husband Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, who was an illegitimate son of John of Gaunt. Thomas died on 27th December 1426. In 1433 the Neville family's many properties were divided into two parts and the Manor of Cononley was given to another grandchild of Robert Neville, named John Langton.<sup>29</sup> When his descendant, Thomas Langton died on 21st December 1517, yet another division was made. The new Lord of the Manor was his second son, also named Thomas.<sup>30</sup>

In 1538 Thomas Langton sold the 'manors of Collynge and Cononlay and thirty messuages and two mills with lands in the same and common pasturage in Warlewthes' to Anthony Dryland of Colyweston in Northamptonshire.<sup>31</sup> Two years later in 1540 two more people became involved. The first of these is Ambrose Woolley a 'moneylender-merchant' who was warden of the Grocers' Company in the City of London. Woolley is recorded as having made a loan to Thomas Langton and Anthony Dryland on the security of one of Langton's other manors, that at Huddleston.<sup>32</sup> He probably did the same in respect of Cononley. In 1540 Anthony Dryland sought to sell Cononley again, this time to Thomas Blakey. Trouble must have been anticipated for the agreement stated that Dryland 'shall att all tyme discharge save and kepe harmeles the said Thomas Blakaye ... agaynst one Ambrose Woolley'.<sup>33</sup>



Agreement for the sale of the Manor of Cononley to Thomas Blakaye in 1540.  
(Chatsworth L/24/6)



Thomas Blakey was a member of a notorious family in the Parish of Kildwick and he was associated with a series of attacks on their neighbours. Another member of the family, Hugh Blakey, was apparently bound over to keep the peace at the Court of the Star Chamber on 4th June 1538. He had in effect sought to seize the Manor of Sutton by force. In fact, by then, Hugh Blakey had been murdered. The attack took place in Glusburn at Cononley Brow between 10 and 11 o'clock on 3rd May 1538. The murderers were Richard Garforth and Nicholas Johnson who were acting on behalf of Thomas Blakey. They were pardoned for the crime in 1544.<sup>34</sup> According to the early 19th century historian Thomas Whitaker, Thomas Blakey was eventually hanged and his estate forfeited.<sup>35</sup>

Dryland must not have repaid the loan made by Ambrose Woolley because by 1545 the Manor of Cononley had fallen into Woolley's hands.<sup>36</sup> In 1556 the Manor was in the hands of another London merchant named Richard Tyrrell. In 1586 Edward Tyrrell of Aeston in Essex made sales which suggest he was divesting himself of his interest in the Manors of both Cononley and Cowling.<sup>37</sup> The new purchasers of both manors were a group of 23 men, mostly from Cowling, but including several from Cononley. Robert Bradley was one of these.



Cononley, looking east from Stockshott Lane.

In principle, all these Lords of the Manor of Cononley held their land from the chief Lord of the 'Honour of Skipton'. To follow what happened to the Manor of Cononley at the end of the 16th century it is necessary first to look back nearly two hundred years. In 1310 the Honour of Skipton had been granted to the Clifford Family. At an enquiry or 'inquisition' into Clifford lands held on the 12th September 1570 the Manor of Cononley was stated to be 'held of whom and by what services the jurors know not'.<sup>38</sup> This is entirely compatible with the Manor being actually held by Richard Tyrrell, a London businessman, with whom none of them had dealings. When Edward Tyrrell sold the property it appears that Henry Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, was not happy with the title to the two Manors being held by the Cowling and Cononley men. He negotiated with them with the result that his claim to the title was confirmed.<sup>39</sup> After the death of the 5th Earl of Cumberland in 1643 the title passed to his daughter's husband, Richard Boyle, 2nd Earl of Cork and 1st Earl of Burlington. With the death of the 4th Earl of Cork in 1753 the title passed on again, this time to his daughter's husband William Cavendish, later 4th Duke of Devonshire. The present Lord of the Manor of Cononley is Andrew Cavendish, 11th Duke of Devonshire.

The discussion of the history of the Manor of Cononley is complicated because it was possible for a village to be included within several different manors. In the 17th century the records of the 'Court Baron' distinguish between the Manor formerly of the Prior of Bolton and that formerly of Richard Tyrrell, later associated with Robert Bradley.<sup>40</sup> A third, and entirely different manor, was associated with the former properties of the Knights Hospitallers and is referred to later in the section on the Knights. This type of situation sometimes resulted in more than one family laying claim to manorial rights and it seems possible that this happened in Cononley also.

### **The Estate of Bolton Priory at Cononley**

The development of the Bolton Priory estate is recorded in a collection of charters now kept at Chatsworth House. Many of these were collected together in the 16th century in, what is known as, the Coucher Book. Some of the charters include detailed descriptions of the land with which they deal. It is in these documents that the first record occurs of field names which were familiar to Cononley people for the greater part of the last thousand years. The local knowledge of most of these names has now been lost, but a selection of them is listed in an appendix at the end of this book. In one or two cases such as



'Dedehee' (Dead Eye) one of these medieval charters appears to record a name in the form still used by some older villagers at the end of the 20th century.<sup>41</sup>

Between 1181 and 1191 Walter le Fleming made a gift to the Priory 'for the health of the soul of Reinier his nephew and for the soul of William his brother'. Walter was a sub-tenant of John Malherbe, then Lord of the Manor. The gift was 12 bovates of land. This way of measuring land was based on the amount of ploughing which a team of oxen could undertake. Eight bovates made up a carucate, which was of the order of 120 acres. More gifts followed; Renier the son of Ulf, Richard Reuel and Adam de Farnhill each gave a bovate and Reniers' son Elias gave six acres. There were gifts by the de Kigheley family and in 1287 Margaret Neville confirmed on the Priory all her property in Cononley. One other gift was a mill in Farnhill, which may have actually been on the Cononley side of the present bridge over the River Aire.<sup>42</sup>

One gift, apparently in Cononley, is particularly interesting because the actual fields are named. Peter the son of 'John del Grene of Cunedlay' gave several small plots including ones 'lying together on Langeflath in Suinwath' and another called 'le Rane' near the road 'extending towards Glusburne and Cunedlay'.<sup>43</sup> Suinwath means a ford associated with pigs and it would seem likely that these fields were those through which the riverside footpath from Cononley Bridge to Cross Hills Road now passes.

By means of these gifts the estate increased in size so that by 1302/3 the Priory had two carucates and three bovates (about 285 acres).<sup>44</sup> Technically, the Prior of Bolton still held this land from Margaret Neville, as did two others: William Todde who had half a carucate and John Browne who had two bovates. This information, taken together with that in an earlier source, dated 1254, which refers to the Manor as having four carucates, suggests that the total area of land actively farmed in the village could have been about 400 acres.<sup>45</sup>

Bolton Priory had two types of property in Cononley. The first was its demesne, the land of the monastic farm, which was directly managed by its local agent. The second type was leased or literally 'farmed' out to tenants. In 1305, one of these tenants, Adam de Coling, was granted a 12 year lease of two bovates of land at an annual rent of 10 shillings.<sup>46</sup> Incidentally, a witness to this agreement was Henry Crocbayn, a member of an important Cononley family to be discussed again later. At Cononley the demesne appears to have been mixed in with the tenants' strips in the open fields. There was an effort to rationalise and consolidate the demesne. In the years after 1286 the demesne was reduced from about 150 to about 70 acres. However after 1299/1300, except for a short period from 1315 to 1317, during the famine, the demesne was

'demised', which meant it was leased out. The Prior supervised the estates of Bolton Priory. He would tour the estate and watch over its management. A member of the community called the 'cellarer' deputised for the Prior as estate manager. John of Laund was the Prior from approximately 1286 to 1330. Both John and his mother, Eva of Laund, might have had family connections with Cononley or Kildwick.<sup>47</sup>

### **Agriculture on the Bolton Priory Estates at Cononley**

In the early 14th century Cononley would have looked quite different from today's wholly green landscape, as much of the land around the village was planted with corn. In the 12th century, Salley Abbey, in the slightly wetter west of Craven, had been referred to as being in a 'cloudy and rainy district' where crops usually rotted in the stalk.<sup>48</sup> Lime would have been used to increase the yield and, although both barley and wheat were grown, only oats proved reasonably successful in the climate of Craven, so this cereal accounted for more than three quarters of the crop. The fields were rarely left fallow for a whole year as only one annual crop was planted, in spring. The population reached a peak in the early years of the 14th century and there was pressure to bring more land into cultivation. The name 'Rloyd', which was given to fields just to the north of the newest houses in Skipton Road, could well be a record of this process, and indicates that new fields, and perhaps Spring Head Farm itself, were created out of the woodland which then lay on both sides of Woodside Lane.

All ploughing was done with teams of oxen which survived the winter with less feed than horses needed. Part of the cereal crop was required as fodder for the oxen, but another important element of winter feed for both oxen and horses was holly leaves. Even today holly can be seen in many parts of Cononley, along what were probably the boundaries of the medieval fields. It was also grown in clumps, sometimes known then as 'hollins'.

In the early years of the 14th century the Priory established a bercary at Cononley. This was a sheep farm with a moorland lodge for the shepherd, sheepcotes and pens with facilities for shearing and milking. Casual payments would be made to women for milking and to men at lambing time. Sheep's milk and cheese were important as there is no record of dairy cattle being kept at Cononley at this time. Grease tar and quicksilver were used to protect the sheep against scab. The wool was destined for Hull and exported to what is now Belgium from where it was reimported as fine cloth. The Priory borrowed money from its Italian bankers against the anticipated wool production of future years.



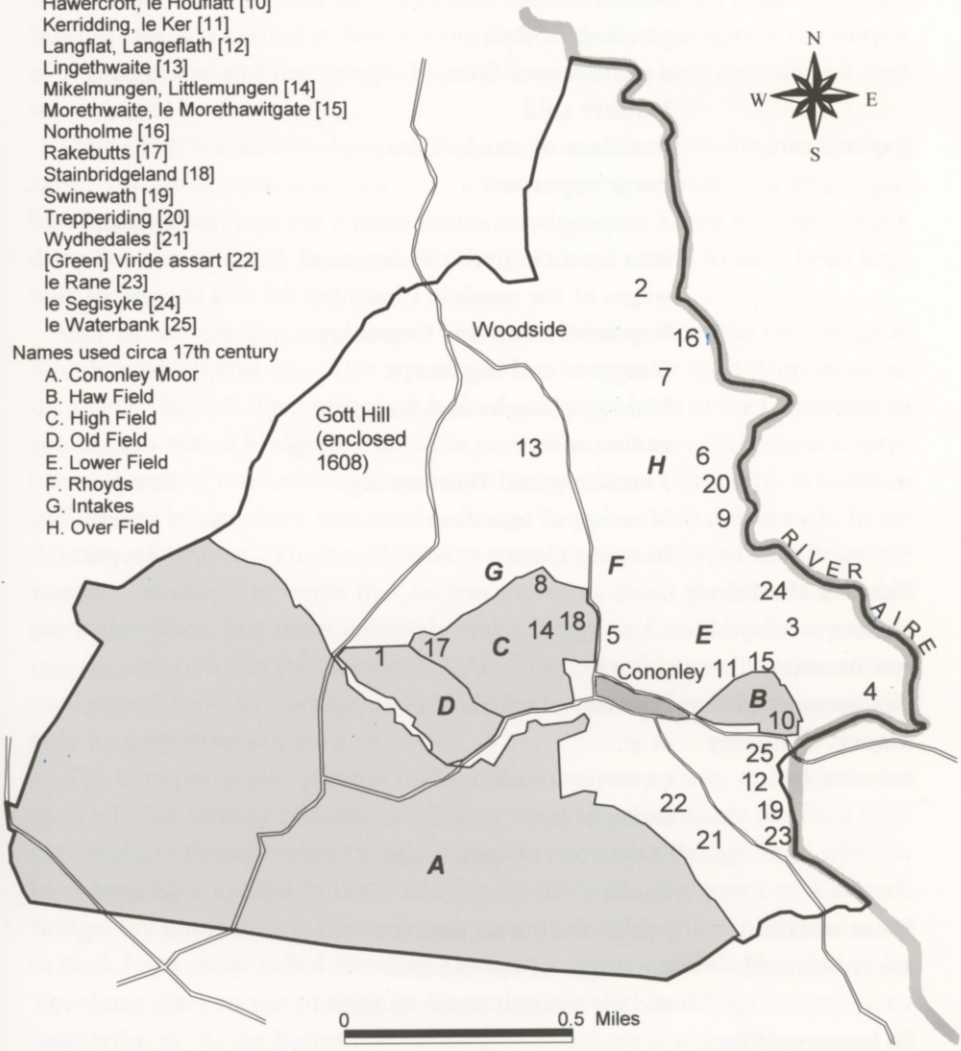
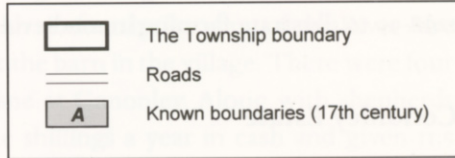
### Township of Cononley Showing Some Likely Field Locations

Names used circa 1300

- Aldefeld [1]
- Barskelbec [2]
- Birkheved [3]
- Brigheholme [4]
- Clayflatt [5]
- Crokedland, Crocketflatt [6]
- Dedehee, Dedeheved, Dedheridding [7]
- Fall, le Fall [8]
- Foulesike [9]
- Hawercroft, le Houflatt [10]
- Kerridding, le Ker [11]
- Langflat, Langeflath [12]
- Lingethwaite [13]
- Mikelmungen, Littlemungen [14]
- Morethwaite, le Morethawitgate [15]
- Northolme [16]
- Rakebutts [17]
- Stainbridgeland [18]
- Swinewath [19]
- Trepperiding [20]
- Wydhedales [21]
- [Green] Viride assart [22]
- le Rane [23]
- le Segisyke [24]
- le Waterbank [25]

Names used circa 17th century

- A. Cononley Moor
- B. Haw Field
- C. High Field
- D. Old Field
- E. Lower Field
- F. Rhyods
- G. Intakes
- H. Over Field



The Computus of the Priory survives covering the period from 1286 to 1325 and, like the Coucher Book, is now kept at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. The Computus is an account book which records the income and expenditure of the Priory. The following entries have been extracted from the accounts for 1298-99 to illustrate farming in medieval Cononley: <sup>49</sup>

### Cononley Estate

<b>Income:</b>	<b>Rents from land</b>	£4 10s 7½d Net
	<b>Sale of Corn:</b>	
	3 bushels of Rye;	
	6.5 quarters of Oats	12s 6d
	<b>Manure sold</b>	6s 6d
<b>Expenditure:</b>	<b>Purchase of stock: Goats</b>	£1 6s 8d
	<b>Forge expenses:</b>	
	A reaping hook at Cononley	11½d
	Iron for shoeing farm horses and wages of the smith at Cononley	2s 2d
	<b>Repair of houses at Cononley, Gargrave and Ingthorpe</b>	12s 4d
	<b>Making ploughs and waggons at Cononley</b>	1s 7d
	<b>Threshing and Winnowing.</b>	8s 10½d
	<b>Mowing of meadow.</b>	1s 0d
	<b>Reaping Corn</b>	19s 6d
<b>Share of the Priory arrears attributable to Cononley:</b>		4d
<b>Net account of the Manor. Cononley answers for:</b>	1 quarter 5 bushels of rye at 4s,	
	1 quarter 6 bushels of barley at 40d	
	68 quarters of oats at 20d	
	<b>Total:</b>	£6 5s 8d
<b>From which are subtracted:</b>	[which the bursar pays for the wages of the oxherds and for autumn expenses there]	£1 1s 8d
<b>So it answers for:</b>		£5 4s 0d Net



An analysis of the *Compotus* by Professor Ian Kershaw has enabled us to gain a vivid insight into life in Cononley in the early years of the 14th century.<sup>50</sup> This analysis, on which this section is based, extends to the everyday details of farming activities described here. Mowing normally cost from 4d to 6d an acre at Cononley but it could cost more, such as after the flooding of the River Aire in 1312/13. Threshing was done at the tithe barn in the village. There were four ploughmen or oxherds on the demesne at Cononley. Along with shepherds and 'horseherds' they were paid three shillings a year in cash and given 11.5 quarters of oats each which was worth 23 shillings. In addition to the output of the demesne and the rents, the Priory received the tithe of their tenants' output. Most of this was carried to Bolton from Cononley. Comparison of the output of the demesne and the tenanted land shows that the best agricultural land was retained by the Priory.

Only a few horses were kept and these were used for harrowing and pulling carts. The oxen were neutered male animals over four years old and might have been calves from the Bolton Priory's dairy farms. There was definitely a dairy farm at Kildwick from 1311-18. The goat herd seems to have been kept only to provide kids for the Priory kitchen.

One of the greatest investments which the Priory made was the bridge at Kildwick which cost £90. This was needed to bring tithe corn from south of the river to Bolton. Two very similar place names are used in the *Compotus* in connection with a bridge and the tithe corn. The names, which seem to have been a source of confusion in the past, are 'Brigwath' and 'Briglath'. In addition to Kildwick bridge there was another bridge at a place called Brigwath. In his 'History of Craven', Thomas Whitaker stated that he believed that Brigwath was in Cononley.<sup>51</sup> It seems that he was incorrect about the location of this particular place, but there definitely was a bridge at Cononley. Its repair, in 1309/10 is recorded in the *Compotus*.<sup>52</sup> Any bridge would most likely have been sited near the modern bridge, and could have been a modest structure suitable only for pedestrians or pack animals.

The *Compotus* also records that a tithe barn was rebuilt, at Briglath, for £8.6s.7d. The vicinity of Cononley Bridge would be an unlikely site for a tithe barn and it is almost certain that this is a reference to the 'Bridge Barn' which is known to have existed in the Township of Kildwick, just south of Kildwick Bridge. We know that, in the early 19th century, the Cononley tithe barn stood in Back Lane (now called Meadow Lane) at its junction with New Inn Fold. There are clues to the position in Cononley of other buildings belonging to Bolton Priory. At the bottom of Nethergill Lane there stood a 17th century, or







Main Street. Monk House is the old house on the left. The tradition that this was the site of the grange or estate farm of Bolton Priory is very likely to be correct. (Photo. early 20th c.)

To add to these problems there was a third disaster. In the single year 1315/6 two thirds of the sheep were lost to disease. The wet weather also contributed to an epidemic of a cattle disease known as the 'murrain' which reached Cononley in 1319. After these disasters the demesnes were mostly leased or decentrally controlled and much of the tenanted land remained unoccupied. A generation later the Black Death would have reached Cononley in the summer of 1349. In its aftermath there were at least a third less people to work the land, a situation made worse by a return of the plague in the 1360s. The resulting scarcity of labour produced far-reaching changes in the way the land was managed. By the 15th century it had become normal practice for the Priory to operate as a landlord with its lands held by tenant farmers.

The importance of the Priory in the everyday lives of people, other than as a landlord and employer, is hard to judge. The poor in the area were maintained and assisted by the Priory, although only a fraction of its wealth was directed to these ends. When Bolton Priory was suppressed, its responsibilities associated with the spiritual life of the district were granted in 1542 to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford. This included the right to collect the tithes.

## People of Medieval Cononley

The names of some of the people who lived in Cononley in the 13th and 14th centuries are recorded in the charters of Bolton Priory. These references bring us closer to these people but, frustratingly, the exact locations of their houses cannot be known. Even their names are recorded in a latinised form which would, probably, have been as unfamiliar to them as it is to us. One entry in the Coucher Book, for example, records a toft and croft which lies between 'toftum Helie Nigri et toftum Edwinii'. The former person (Elias Black, or perhaps Elias Brown) also owned some woodland in 'le fall', the hillside above what is now Skipton Road.<sup>55</sup>



This scene of ploughing with oxen from the Luttrell Psalter would have been also typical of farming in early 14th century Cononley. (*British Library Add. 42130. f.170. detail*)

The Poll Tax Returns of 1379 give us the first comprehensive list of inhabitants.<sup>56</sup> However, at this time Cononley and Farnhill constituted a single township (a situation which continued until 1838), so it is not practical to distinguish those who lived in Cononley from those who lived in Farnhill. Fifty men and women paid the tax which was levied at a minimum rate of four



pence on a single person or a married couple. Some people paid more. Johannes de Coplay, *Frankleyn*, was a substantial owner of freehold property who paid 40 pence. Thomas Kyrystendome was a cissor (a tailor), as also may have been Henry Crokbane. These two together with Willelmus Speght and Cecilia Crokbane paid the higher rate of six pence. Magota de Bradley is listed and she might be an ancestor of the Bradley Wainman family which would later be one of the principal landowners in the village.

The Crokebayns (a name spelt in several ways), who may have been amongst the first people to enhance their income through the clothing trade, were clearly an important local family. They rented a carucate (something like 120 acres) of land from the Priory. The subsequent history of this property, which probably lay immediately to the north and west of the village, is known. In 1473 it was recorded as being in the hands of Richard Jenkinson.<sup>57</sup> By the 17th century the Sawley family owned this same substantial holding. A Bolton Priory charter records the names and relationships of several members of the Crokebayn family. Henry Crokebayn married Agnes, the daughter of William Bott, and they had a son named John. Robert Crokebayn was a witness to this document.<sup>58</sup> However, there was more than one lawless member of the family. In 1274/5 Henry Crekebayn and a William Bec both from Cononley 'obstructed' the King's Highway between Thornton in Craven and Bracewell.<sup>59</sup> Worse still, John the son of Robert Crokebayn, a Cononley tenant of the Priory was hanged for a felony. In December 1339 his lands which had been forfeit to the king were returned into the hands of the Prior of Bolton. The order, which was recorded in the 'Close Roll', is interesting because it lists the property, consisting of a messuage (a house), 38 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow and 2 acres of wood.<sup>60</sup>

In 1405, after the death of Robert de Plesyngton, his property passed to his one year old son, also named Robert. This estate was recorded as including messuages, land and meadows and 50 acres of moor 'in Conondlay' held directly of the heirs of Thomas, Lord Clyfford. There is a possibility that this land was near the boundary with Carleton.<sup>61</sup>

We have already seen how Bolton Priory came to move exclusively to tenanted farms. In 1473 there were 14 tenants: John Somerscalis, Richard Brown, Willam Pacok, Thomas Cowpland, John Speight, Isabel Guybouson, Nicholas Walsh, William Jakson, James Horn, Robert Wilson, Henry Emson, William Broun, Thomas Jenkinson and John Bery. Three others were freeholders and paid nominal rents: Adam Scardburgh, Richard Jenkinson (whose land had formerly belonged to Henry Crokeben) and John Langton.<sup>62</sup> Langton also, although Lord of the Manor, paid the Priory a substantial rent for the principal





Extract from a Plan of Cononley and Farnhill 1813. At the extremities of the village a number of new buildings have been added to the map, perhaps about 1865.



house and its lands. Thomas Jenkinson rented a cottage, a croft (an adjoining field) and one acre of land. A feature of this tenancy was that 18 pence, or half the rent of three shillings, was passed on to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. This same arrangement can be traced from before 1324<sup>63</sup> to 1539<sup>64</sup> and possibly refers to land associated with King's House or St. John's Cross.<sup>65</sup> It is also possible to deduce that the land occupied by Richard Brown was that on which Gordon Terrace, in Cononley, now stands.<sup>66</sup>

### The Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem

In addition to the land held by Bolton Priory, another religious order, the Knights of St. John, also held land in Cononley which they leased out to their tenants, who were latterly six in number. As we have seen, land at, or near, St. John's Cross was recorded in the Bolton Priory accounts for 1324/5 as being held in conjunction with the Knights of St. John.<sup>67</sup> The income raised by these and many other estates in Yorkshire supported the Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers at Newland near Wakefield. Newland seems to have been originally founded as a Preceptory of the Knights Templars but after the suppression of



St. John's Cross. Although the prominent cross forms part of an 18th century frontage it undoubtedly marks the site of a property of the Knights of St John. (Photo. early 20th c.)

that order in 1312 it was acquired by the rival order of Hospitallers.<sup>68</sup> The Yorkshire estates were divided into twelve administrative units, known as 'bailiwicks'; some included land in many parishes but the Bailiwick of Kildwick covered the ancient Parish of Kildwick only.

After the suppression of the Knights Hospitallers in 1540 the former bailiwicks began to be spoken of as manors even though their lands were scattered within the boundaries of other manors. The lords of these manors and their tenants had rights and privileges derived from the Knights of St. John, and the holders of these properties claimed these rights long after 1540. Tenants of the Knights had been required to display crosses on their properties, and, in order to broadcast their special rights, so too did their successors. No doubt the former farm known as St. John's Cross, on Cross Hills Road, is one such.

In 1637 Roger Swyer made a grant of land to Thomas Tillotson. This was of a rood (a quarter of an acre) of land 'part of the lands of St. John of Jerusalem' and was recorded in 'St. John's Court of Jerusalem'. St. John's Court was, in fact, the Manor Court of Farnhill.<sup>69</sup> Other properties of the Knights of St John might have included what were later Bradley's Farm and King's Farm. When



Royd House. This isolated farm between Cononley and Cross Hills was a property of the Knights of St John. At the time of this photograph it still retained its early 17th century appearance. (Photo. early 20th c. prior to 1910)



John Bradley died, probate was granted in 1685 in respect of his will in the Manor Court of Farnhill, which continued to have 'testamentary jurisdiction' over the former possessions of the Knights of St. John.<sup>70</sup> This Manor Court was not the same one as that held by the Clifford's Manor. As has been noted earlier there was more than one manor operating within the Township of Cononley.

Just outside the boundaries of Cononley lay one of the principal farms of the Knights of St John. This was Royd House, known in 1540 as Roodehouse. It was then described as having 'eight assarts called Preste Roode and Collte Roode containing by estimation 32 acres of land and meadow'.<sup>71</sup> Whether or not the word Royd derives from rood, meaning a cross, or from royd, meaning a clearing, the use of the term assart suggests that this farm was created out of woodland in about 1300. In 1540 it was occupied by William Maymond, no doubt a relative of John Maymond who was the last bailiff of the Kildwick properties of the Knights. So perhaps the Bailiwick of Kildwick was managed from Royd House.

It is not known whether the Knights of St. John made any contribution to the spiritual life of the community or whether there were any adverse effects when the order was dissolved. There were very few actual members of the order living in Yorkshire, and perhaps only their steward ever visited Cononley.<sup>72</sup>

CHAPTER 2  
CONONLEY IN THE 16TH AND 17TH  
CENTURIES

### **The Sixteenth Century Landscape**

**A**LTHOUGH an initial impression might suggest that there are no physical remains of the 16th century village, the community of the 16th and earlier centuries has left a strong impression on the landscape. A farm occupied each toft, or plot of land. As at least fifteen of these tofts in the village are still occupied by buildings, which show features dating from the 17th century or the early part of the 18th century, it is possible to try to imagine the 16th century houses and their farm buildings. They would have been built on stone foundations with walls of 'wattle and daub' and with roofs of thatch or stone. The roofs were supported by pairs of massive curved oak timbers arranged to resemble an 'A' and known as 'crucks'. Some of the poorer cottages would have had their entire walls composed of wattling rendered with mud. It is possible that several existing buildings incorporate re-used 'cruck' frames and other timber dating from the 16th century, even though they were rebuilt into their present form one or two hundred years later.

Around the village lay its open fields, recorded in 1608/9 as including the Lower (or Nether) Field, the Over Field and the High Field. The High Field lay on the hillside west of the village where the 19th century Church of St. John now stands.<sup>1</sup> The western and northern boundaries of the High Field almost certainly coincided with stretches of ditch lined with holly and oak, which still exist today. Later fields tend to be surrounded only by stone walls. Beyond the western boundary of the High Field was another field known then as the Old Field (In the middle ages it had been called the 'Aldefeld' and even today the name still survives as Hadfield). The other open fields lay mainly between the village and the River Aire. At the east end of the village was an area slightly raised above the flood plain known as the Haw or Haw Field. This name might be derived from a reference to a hedge surrounding it, or it might refer to its proximity to the low-lying land near the river. The total arable land still amounted to about 400 acres as it had done two or three centuries earlier. At least three-quarters of this arable land remained in the hands of the tenants of Bolton Priory up until its dissolution in 1539.





This surviving fragment of Royd House is probably some 400 years old.

Overlooking the village from across the valley to the east was Farnhill Hall, then known as 'Farnhill Peele'. The Hall, which still stands, was 'built in the early fourteenth century as a ground floor block with four angle turrets but later given a three storied solar wing, which was virtually a separate tower house'.<sup>2</sup> In the 16th century it was occupied by the Eltofte family, the Lords of the Manor of Farnhill. Although Farnhill and Cononley were linked within one township, Cononley had a distinct and different tenurial history, which influenced its subsequent development.

### **The Inhabitants of Early 16th Century Cononley**

A number of records exist which enable us to form an impression of the inhabitants of Cononley in the first part of the 16th century, and to arrive at an estimation of the population at that time. The Loan Book of 1522 was created for taxation purposes during the reign of Henry VIII and is a valuable source of information because it not only lists the male inhabitants of Farnhill and Cononley but it also indicates of whom they were tenants.

The Loan Book lists 36 men in all. Of these the first eight listed are tenants of Anthony Eltoffes and therefore residents of Farnhill. The Lord of the Manor

of Cononley, Thomas Langton, is recorded as having seven tenants. Much more significant was the estate in the hands of Bolton Priory, which had 13 tenants, one at least of whom lived in Farnhill. Then there were three other land holders who shared between them the remaining eight tenants. One of these was Richard Banaster who had four tenants. The Loan Book, the 1543 Lay Subsidy (another tax record) and a 1539 Muster, listing men available for military service, all show an unusual degree of correlation, and confirm that there were 35-38 men in the township.<sup>3</sup>

Another source of information is found in the rentals of both Bolton Priory<sup>4</sup> and of the Knights Hospitallers at Newland.<sup>5</sup> The last rental of Bolton Priory, made in 1538-39, lists 17 tenants in Cononley. The relatively greater number given in the rental as compared with the 1522 Loan Book is probably accounted for by the inclusion of women and poorer tenants; for example, in 1538-39 two tenants are shown who only have cottages. The rental of the lands of the Preceptory of Newland for 1539-40 shows that the Knights Hospitallers had 6 tenants at Cononley. These tenants are not additional to those listed in the



The valley side immediately north of Cononley was once wooded. Spring Head Farm in the middle distance is on Woodside Lane. The fields immediately behind and in front of the house were known as Rhoys, which suggests a medieval date for their creation. At the top of the hill is Scarcliffe Farm, which probably dates from the 17th century, or even much earlier.



Loan Book as, for example, the name of Richard Banastere occurs as the Knights Hospitallers' principal tenant in two instances. By comparing the Cononley monastic rentals, which list a total of 19 different men and 3 women, with the Loan Book and the Lay Subsidy of 1543 an accurate number of households for the first half of the 16th century can be deduced. This figure is about 30 which, in fact, also almost exactly tallies with the number of inhabitants listed in the 1553 Cononley court roll.<sup>6</sup> The court roll recorded the transactions of the manor court to which all the tenants were sworn in as a jury.

John Rycroft established a charitable fund in 1532 to help the poor of Kildwick Parish. This came to be known as the 'Winter Silver' and survived as a charity right up until 1999. A chantry certificate of 1548 shows that the fund was required to support either 11% or 22 % of the population (the source is ambiguous).<sup>7</sup> Poorer people would not be likely to appear in the documents discussed above. By adding these poorer people to the 30 noted in the previous paragraph and then increasing the number to take account of other women and children it is possible to deduce that the total population of Cononley would have been at least 150 in the 16th century.

### A Time of Change

For the inhabitants of Cononley this was a time of change and uncertainty. Following the dissolution of Bolton Priory, its lands were 'granted' to Henry Clifford on the 3rd of April 1542. Clifford was a lifelong friend and supporter of Henry VIII who created him 1st Earl of Cumberland. The reality was that it was 'so much to the kings advantage' <sup>8</sup> that a reduction of £1,000 was made for him and the final price was £2490.1s.1d. for the entire estate. Shortly before then, in 1537-8 two Cononley tenants are known to have obtained new leases from the Priory. William Young, his wife Janet and son James obtained a lease on 16th March 1537 and so did Edmond Moyne and his son Allan on 16th September 1538. Again it is possible to identify the land leased by William Young as that on which Gordon Terrace would be built three centuries later. Although the motives for these leases are not clear this process 'insidiously served to dissolve his (Clifford's) rights over the tenants'.<sup>9</sup>

The disposal of the Manor of Cononley by its Lord, Thomas Langton, eventually made it possible for some of his former tenants to buy their properties. As noted in the previous chapter, by 1556 the Manor was in the hands of a London merchant named Richard Tyrrell.<sup>10</sup> Between 1562 and 1564 three Cononley men purchased farms from Tyrrell; Thomas Smythe, John

Grene and Thomas Bradley." These are the same prominent Cononley families who, a generation later, were to join up with the men of Cowling to purchase both manors.

In 1579 George Clifford, the grandson of Henry, came of age. A lease book made that year lists at least twenty tenants at Cononley.<sup>12</sup> George was a colourful character who was soon set on a dangerous course of privateering on the high seas and seeking prominence at the Court of Elizabeth I, which would squander his inheritance and lead him into enormous debts. His life story has recently been fully recounted in a book by Richard Spence.<sup>13</sup> By 1587 George's business affairs had reached a position in which he came under pressure from Lord Burghley and Elizabeth herself to protect his assets from creditors and realise some of them to pay off his debts. First, many of his properties, including those at Cononley, were assigned to Burghley and George Clifford's more level headed brother Francis. Then in May 1588 sales of individual properties began

Cononley adm.

John Yonge son of James Yonge deceased  
 hath taken in and sue moore or better  
 of the rent of the said land in the manor  
 of the said James his father & part  
 thereof & taken by the said Abbott and  
 convent of Beke by the said James &  
 the said Abbott for the said James &  
 his heirs for the term of the said lease  
 made by the said James the said land in  
 the manor of Beke before his time was  
 occupied to the said James and his heirs  
 and he hath paid for the said land  
 the sum of 100 lb. and he hath paid  
 for the said land the sum of 100 lb.  
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Cononley entry in the lease book of 1579 referring to John Yonge. The text of part of this entry is given in Appendix 1. (YAS DD 121/36/C/1)



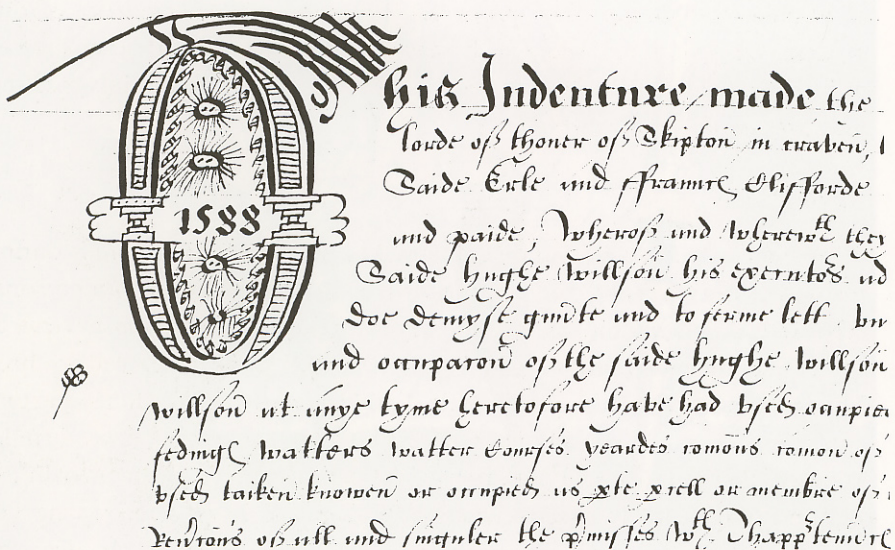


George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, by Nicholas Hilliard. Clifford was Queen's Champion to Queen Elizabeth I and is flamboyantly dressed for that role. (© National Maritime Museum, London)

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in Cononley and in the neighbouring villages of Carleton and Lothersdale. Typically, the tenants were offered 5,000 year leases on their farms. In reality they amounted to outright sales. Although they continued to pay a small rent and were still subject to the manorial courts, in terms of their properties they became free men in charge of their own destinies. This change of circumstances would enable at least some of them to prosper and increase their property during the 17th century.

On 10th May 1588 five Cononley men acquired these 5,000 year leases on their farms. Hugh Wilson purchased a farm, almost certainly the one represented by the fine 17th century house now known as 'Milton House' in Main Street.<sup>14</sup> James Bradley made a purchase, including the land on which, in the early 19th century, was to be built the long row of weavers cottages now named Aire View.<sup>15</sup> William Townley purchased a farm, no doubt the one later known as Townley Farm, which stood opposite Milton House on the other side of the Beck. Edward Dixon and Thomas Dixon each purchased a farm. One of these was possibly King's Farm.



The attractive initial letter of a lease sold by the Clifford family to Hugh Wilson on 10th May 1588. (Chatsworth L/28/15)



Although we do not know how Cononley people reacted to the events of 1588 we do have some idea of reactions in this part of Craven to similar changes a few years later. Then not everyone was happy or could afford the entry fines (a substantial initial payment) to these leases, or even to the shorter less expensive ones. Clifford's agent, Thomas Ferrand, reported to him in 1602 that 'It is a wonder to heare the murmuring of the people & especially of the porer sort, what ffeare allredy possesseth them' and a few months later 'the poore hopeth my Lord wilbe both Honourable and pitiful to them & in some respect respect their habilities'.<sup>16</sup> Better off tenants were in a position to strike better deals. By 1616 most of the farms had been sold.

### **A New-Found Prosperity?**

As the Cliffords disposed of their lands, so their former Cononley tenants benefited. Now they could retain their profits and manage their farms as they wished. Richard Spence has suggested that this process 'was the beginning of a social revolution' which would be largely completed by 1640.<sup>17</sup> Spence has also pointed out that the source of the money required to purchase the leases in the first place has not yet been satisfactorily explained. However, by the first half of the 17th century the better off inhabitants of Cononley were wealthy enough to begin a rebuilding of their property; the earliest reliable evidence of this process being Milton House, which bears the date 1635. Several other sources of income besides agriculture are possible, for example: lead mining, coal and lime production and textiles.

### **Agriculture**

It can be reasonably assumed that almost everyone living in Cononley during the 16th century was engaged in some form of agriculture, mostly for personal subsistence. This was the case even if they had a second occupation and source of income. Essentially, farming had changed very little in the preceding three hundred years and there would be little significant change in the following two centuries. Every family of any substance had at least one cow, but fewer farmers kept sheep. One fascinating insight into the period is given by an entry in the Bolton Priory rental for 1538-39; Richard Bradley paid 4s for 'le browsynge' of 'the hollyes' which is in his tenure 'this year'.<sup>18</sup> Holly leaves and bark were used as winter feed for sheep, horses and cattle. Bolton Priory had used only oxen for ploughing its demesne lands, but it is reasonable to speculate that very small farms might find a horse more practical for a range of activities. On June



Pear Tree Farm in Main Street is believed to date from the middle years of the 17th century.



Pear Tree Farm barn and the adjacent garth. Before 1800 much of the land between Main Street and Back Lane would have been occupied by farm buildings and 'green' garths. These are now the only ones which remain part of a working farm.





Milton House in Main Street bears a date stone for 1635.



Milton House. The impressive arch-braced collar-beam truss shown here was intended to be seen although it is now hidden in the roof space of the house. The red lines created by the carpenter to mark out his work nearly 400 years ago remain clearly visible.

2nd 1631, Henry Speight of Cononley sold a bay mare at Adwalton Fair for £2.14s.4d.<sup>19</sup> However, oxen were being used by some farmers in this area for ploughing right up until the middle of the 18th century.<sup>20</sup>

In the 16th century there is ample proof that the process of enclosing small parcels of wasteland was well established. Enclosed land ceased to be used communally and was 'fenced' off for the exclusive use of a single farmer who would be prepared to improve its quality. Drystone walls were used but so too were hedges and ditches and even today a hedge is an indication of a boundary having a possibly pre-18th century origin. The 1579 lease book, mentioned above, notes six improvements, including one 'laitlie inclosed'. Several of these are clearly in the appropriately named hamlet of Woodside, which is situated on the fairly steep valley side of Airedale, a mile north of Cononley. It is possible that some of the sales associated with the Tyrrell family relate to this area. However, the original settlement of Woodside must have occurred at a much earlier date. Some shards of medieval pottery, now in Craven Museum, have been found there.

On October 4th 1639 the inhabitants of Cononley told the justices that 'tyme out of mynd of man their grounds have been ancient and enclosed lands' divided up proportionally. They continue by stating that 'certain parcells of land beinge lately ymproved out of the wasts there amounted to 163 acres which are enclosed and converted into arable and pasture grounds'.<sup>21</sup> They are clearly referring to an agreement made with Francis Clifford in 1608/9 and cited in another agreement of 1610/1, the subject of both being the enclosure of 153 acres 'accounted the third part of the common moors and wastes of Cononley'.<sup>22</sup> Attempts to identify the actual location of this land are frustrating as the stated field names bear only a limited relationship to those used in the 1842 Tithe Award.<sup>23</sup> As well as eight acres of woodland at Cononley Fall (which was situated above Skipton Road), the agreements mention some additional parcels of land, which seem to have been scattered amongst previously enclosed fields. This part of the agreement may be seen as a final tidying up operation in the fields near the village. The 153 acres, which form the principal subject of the agreements, appear to have been former moorland lying between Peat Gill and Woodside and including Gott Hill. Gott Hill may well be named after Richard Gott who appears, along with Henry Gill, to have been one of the initiators of this scheme.

A rental of Francis Clifford's property drawn up in 1613 shows Gott and Gill sharing a payment of £3 which was greater than the amount paid by any other tenant.<sup>24</sup>



## Corn Milling

From the Middle Ages up to the early part of the 19th century Cononley people needed access to a mill to grind their cereal crops into flour. The manorial lord had a monopoly and his tenants could use only his mill. The history of the local mills is unfortunately rather ambiguous at present and some of what follows is speculative. We do know that in January 1607/8 William Peele died of injuries sustained when he tried to break the ice obstructing the wheel of Farnhill Mill.<sup>25</sup> In fact Farnhill Mill was probably sited on the Cononley side of the bridge over the Aire on the land which was locally known as the 'Island' in more recent times. This site was still part of the Parish of Farnhill until 1981. This site for the mill is supported by an inventory, dated 14th January 1614. This was made after the death of Edmund Eltofte and refers to his mill 'in Cononley' which was then out of use.<sup>26</sup> It is even possible that the combination of Cononley and Farnhill into one township, in the Middle Ages, had been brought about by the need to share this mill. The mill would have used the waters of Cononley Beck, which appear to follow a man-made diversion from the bottom of Meadow Lane to the River Aire. The 'natural' course could be across the playing fields.

There is a possibility that at a later date there was another mill, closer to the village of Cononley. The first six inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1848, records a corn mill on part of the site occupied in the 20th century by Horace Green's Mill, although the Tithe Award of 1842 records only weaving shops on this site. There are many examples in Yorkshire of textile mills which were originally built as corn mills. There are at least two more possible sites for a corn mill actually in the village, both near the Beck. The first is the building at the upper end of the village, now known as Gill Cottage, which appears to have been occupied in 1800 by a cotton mill. The second is at the top of Main Street (at the point known as Kiln Hill). This building, now known as Kiln Cottage, appears to have been used for the kiln drying of corn, a necessary activity in wetter districts and one frequently undertaken at or near a mill.

## Lead Mining

On 15th July 1532 Roger Aske took out a 20 year lease to mine on the moors above Cononley. He agreed to pay a tithe of ore to Bolton Priory if he covered his costs and to give the Prior a hogshead (a large cask) of 'Gascigne wyne' every year.<sup>27</sup> The 1539-40 Priory Rental records that 'no such lead was found



there' and therefore there was no income to the Priory.<sup>28</sup> Towards the end of the 16th century, with the Clifford fortune in dire straits, a variety of ventures to extract minerals were embarked upon. At Cononley it appears that mining was resumed about 1590. In September 1589 Margaret Clifford and Richard Cavendish took a 21 year lease on the area of the moor in Glusburn which immediately adjoined Cononley. Besides a reference to four hogsheads being delivered from Skipton Castle to the site on 8th September 1590, we have no evidence of the mining operation or its success. There are many shallow shafts and pits on this area of the moor which is known as the Gib.<sup>29</sup>

### Coal and Lime

Although no coal extraction is actually recorded in Cononley, seams were worked in the neighbouring areas of Carleton and Lothersdale. This coal was burned at a limekiln on the Clifford estate at Carleton Newbiggin, which is a short distance north of the Cononley township boundary at Woodside. Limestone from Carleton and Lothersdale was burnt to create lime, which was used to improve the quality of the land and for building purposes. Francis Clifford granted the Holden coalmine at Silsden to Thomas Barker of Cononley and Roger Barker of Skipton for three years from 2nd February 1615. Not only did they have to pay £90 rent but they had to deliver 300 loads of coal a year to Skipton Castle. Despite these conditions they made a good profit in 1615 and 1616 but a loss in 1617. Also the Barkers were given a monopoly of all coal mining in the Parish of Kildwick.<sup>30</sup>

### Textiles

Little evidence of the involvement of Cononley inhabitants in the textile industry is available for the period around 1600. This is surprising and somewhat frustrating. A coarse white cloth known as kersey was produced in the parish of Keighley in the early 17th century. In 1588 there had been a proposal to employ 60 poor people in a textile workshop at Skipton, presumably people familiar with the various occupations which would be included. In the neighbouring Township of Glusburn an inventory dating from 1558 records equipment for weaving and for finishing cloth. The items include 'a payre of tentars, a payre of sheares, and a payre of loomes wythe a shearborde'.<sup>31</sup> Richard Gott of Cononley is referred to as a 'clothier' in 1608.<sup>32</sup> The earliest actual reference to weaving in Cononley is in 1718, the very first year in which Kildwick Parish



Cononley, also Conky w<sup>ch</sup> lands in Ribblesdale

Thomas Dutton &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
James Dutton &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
James Bradlow &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Edward Jenkinson &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
M <sup>r</sup> Cononley &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Thomas Moore &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
John Wadde &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Edward Dutton &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
John Bradlow &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Richard Bradlow &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Richard Bradlow &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Richard Gott & Henry Gill &	10 <sup>0</sup>		—

Wm. Laporte &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
John Wadde &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Edward Bradlow &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
James Erskine &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
James Bradlow &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Henry Spaight &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Edward Bradlow Jun <sup>r</sup> &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Thomas Jenkinson Jun <sup>r</sup> &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Richard Wadde Jun <sup>r</sup> &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Edward Bradlow Jun <sup>r</sup> &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—
Edward Dutton &	10 <sup>0</sup>	obtn	—

Cononley rental of 1613 listing some of the principal residents of the village. An entry for Richard Gott and Henry Gill refers to the lands enclosed in 1608. (YAS DD 121/29/8)

Registers commenced recording occupations.<sup>33</sup> Weaving and related tasks would become by far the most numerous occupations in 18th and 19th century Cononley.

There were looms in *half* the households recorded in probate inventories in the immediate area around Colne, between 1558 and 1640.<sup>34</sup> This circumstantial evidence makes it hard to resist the conclusion that hand loom weaving was well established in Cononley also by the end of the 16th century and that, as in the Colne area it was an important source of secondary wealth. However as the houses built in Cononley in the 17th century are relatively modest by comparison with those around Colne it may be assumed that weaving in Cononley was somewhat less profitable.

### The Civil War in Airedale

In the period from 1500 to the first years of the 17th century, the horizons of the more fortunate inhabitants of Cononley had broadened considerably. They had developed from being tenants of their Lord or of a monastic institution, living by subsistence farming, to being free men profiting from agriculture, mineral working and textile production. Many of these people, because of their financial interests and their religious leanings, must have been inclined to support the Parliamentary cause when civil war broke out in 1642. Others would, no doubt, have tended towards a conservative position and sided with their former lords, the Clifford Family, the principal allies of King Charles in the area.

For three years Cononley people found themselves on the boundary between King and Parliament. Skipton Castle was being held for the King. Parliamentary supporters were based at Kildwick Hall and at Keighley. Carleton was the site of an outlying barricade, created to hold Parliamentary forces at a distance from Skipton Castle. Carleton was the scene of a skirmish on the 9th April 1643, which led to the deaths of three Royalist soldiers and the imprisonment of others at Kildwick. At the Battle of Adwalton Moor, on 30th June 1643, the Royalists defeated a Parliamentary force, pillaged Bradford and gained the upper hand in much of Yorkshire. In spite of the war, the autumn of 1643 saw the harvest gathered in, coal from the mines at Holden transported to Skipton and the Clifford family's rents still collected in Airedale.<sup>35</sup>

By the end of January 1644, when Halifax was retaken, the war was moving again in Parliament's favour. The booty from a Roundhead attack on Skipton in May 1644 included 200 oxen. In one of the war's many swings of fortune



Prince Rupert finally occupied Kildwick on or about the 1st July 1644, but within a few days he was to be decisively beaten at Marston Moor. In the last phase of the war the Royalists from Skipton mounted an attack on Keighley on Wednesday 12th February 1645. Unfortunately for them, they were intercepted on the way back with disastrous results. A local tradition suggests that the site of this skirmish was at a place near the village of Cononley called 'Black Hill', which was situated immediately to the north of the point where Shady Lane crosses the railway. In the late autumn of 1645 Skipton Castle was under siege and was forced to surrender on the 21st December 1645.

Warfare and sieges had dreadful consequences for local people. Crops, livestock and homes were continually at risk. Cononley people must have been badly affected and from time to time all the markets they used were inaccessible. In addition, there was yet another serious outbreak of plague in 1645. No entries were made in Kildwick Parish Registers for this period, and it is thought that burials had to be made locally.

There is a tradition that Oliver Cromwell spent a night at Royd House. This is possible. The most credible occasion would have been on 14th August 1648 during the 'second' Civil War, when Cromwell moved swiftly from Yorkshire to Preston where he defeated a Scottish Army. He would surely have been welcome there, as the Coates family who owned Royd House were ardent supporters of the Commonwealth. Roger Coates was a magistrate whose reputed suicide in 1660/1 was, according to tradition, brought about by his desire not to see his family dispossessed were he to be tried for treason by the administration of the newly restored Charles II.<sup>36</sup>

CHAPTER 3  
CONONLEY FAMILIES

**F**ORTUNATELY there are a number of sources which enable us to discover the names of the principal Cononley families of the 17th century. In the reign of Charles II a tax was imposed based on the number of hearths that a house had. The following list is based on the 'Farnhill' return for 1672. To these names there have been added four others [marked †] who are known to have owned property in Cononley at that time. The figures following the names give the number of hearths in each house. Milton House is an example of a property recorded as having four hearths. This is an indication of a larger house and therefore of Edward Sawley's standing in the village. On the other hand some householders (marked 'p') were so poor that they were unable to pay the tax.<sup>1</sup>

<i>Wm. Anderton</i> (1) p	<i>Tho. Goodwin</i> (2)	Henry Sawley (2)
<i>Wm. Anderton jun.</i> (1) p	John Greene (1) p	Henry Smith (2)
Thomas Barker (4)	Robert Greenwood (1)	John Smith (2)
<i>Robert Baxter</i> (2)	Stephen Hargraves (1)	John Speight (1)
<i>William Baxter</i> (1)	<i>Wm. Harington</i> (1) p	Samuel Swire †
Edward Bawdwen (1)	George Horner †	John Tillotson †
William Bawdwen (2)	Peter Laycock (2)	William Townley (1) p
James Bradley (2)	Thomas Laycock (2)	Edward Walsh (1- thrice)*
John Bradley (1-twice)*	William Laycock (1)	<i>John Whitehead</i> (1)
Thomas Bradley (1)	William Lister (3)	William Windle †
<i>Samuel Browne</i> (1)	<i>John Mosley</i> (1) p	Edward Young's widow (1)
Henry Dixon (1)	Laurence Robert (1)	
Hugh Foster (4)	Thomas Robertshaw (1)	
Henry Gawthorp (1)	Edward Sawley (4)	* Names which appear more than once.
James Gawthorp (1)		

Although this is a list of both Farnhill and Cononley taxpayers, comparison with other records shows that most of the entries are, in fact, for Cononley families. Those surnames, which do not appear in other, solely Cononley, records of the time, are shown in *italics*. These may or may not be Farnhill families. A Robert Baxter, for example, occupied Townley House in Cononley in 1710.<sup>2</sup>



	monies received	monies paid	lambes	fleece of wool	Ratts
Cummsley					
John Bradley 34: sheepe: 11: lambes	0.0.2	0.0.0	1	3	
Edmund Baldwin 26: sheepe	0.0.0	0.0.0	0	2	
William Butler 12: sheepe	0.0.0	0.0.0	0	1	
Henry Sarsby					
Stephen Hargreaves 7: p: 2: lambes	0.0.0	0.0.0	0	1	
Lawrence Roberts 10: sheepe	0.0.0	0.0.0	0	1	
Edward Young 12: sheepe	0.0.1	0.0.0	0	1	
William Gister 9: p: 6: sold	0.0.2	0.0.0	0	1	
Thomas Barker 19: p: 5: lambes	0.1.3	0.0.0	0	2	
Thomas Baldwin 10: p: 4: lambes	0.0.2	0.0.0	0	1	
Henry Smyth 5: sheepe: 3: ewes	0.0.4	0.0.0	0	0	
Thomas Bradley 10: p: 4: lambes	0.0.2	0.0.0	0	1	
Hugh Baldwin					
John Smyth 12: and 2: lambes	0.0.1	0.0.0	0	1	
Edward Walsh Junior 19: sheepe	0.0.4	0.0.0	0	2	
for 8: sheepe sold					
Edward Walsh Senior 14: sheepe	0.0.0	0.0.0	0	1	
for sheepe sold					
for lambes sold					
for all	0.2.6	0.0.0	0	0	

A record of the tithes of lambs and wool (fleeces) which were paid by Cononley farmers in 1662. (Bradford WYAS 68D82/21/11)

The details of these families are, inevitably, difficult to discover because we are dependent on very limited information. We are fortunate if we are even in a position to speculate about which houses they lived in. Seeing their laboured signatures, or more likely 'marks', is usually as close as we can get to them as individuals. Families, for example the Sawleys, used the same Christian names for generations and this enables connections to be made which would otherwise be more difficult. Many of the families inter-married, so that even if the surnames in this list seem unfamiliar, it is quite likely that some of their descendants still live in Cononley. Our detailed knowledge of these families starts at the beginning of the 16th century with their appearance in the sources, which have already been used as a basis for the previous chapter.

An additional useful source is the Muster, which was created in about 1510 to record the forces available to Lord Clifford. Local historians later assumed that this list had an association with the Battle of Flodden, although this actually happened several years later. Four men are listed under the entry for 'Farnehill': – Henry Curror, Edward Salley, Robert Bradley and William Wylson.<sup>3</sup> (As with other records of this time the variations in the spelling of surnames are of no significance). The Curren family subsequently lived at Kildwick Hall and a 17th century Henry Curren built the hall as it now exists. In the 15th and 16th century the Wilsons were an important Cononley family, whose principal property appears to have been on the site now occupied by Milton House in Main Street. The families of Edward Salley (or Sawley) and Robert Bradley remained in Cononley until the 18th century and are now explored in more detail.

### **The Sawley Family**

The first reference to the Sawley family in Cononley occurs in the taxation record known as the Loan Book.<sup>4</sup> Edward Salley is recorded, in 1522, as being a tenant of the Lord of the Manor, Thomas Langton. The spelling of the name as Salley is, perhaps, an indication of the pronunciation. Edward's son Hugh is recorded in the Lay Subsidy, imposed in 1543, as one of the three wealthiest property owners in Cononley and Farnhill.<sup>5</sup> The Salleys appear never to have been tenants of Bolton Priory or of the Knights Hospitallers. In 1553 the manorial court recorded Edward Salley as a 'free tenant'. The same document records Issabell Salley, perhaps Hugh's widow.<sup>6</sup>

In the middle of the 18th century when the Sawley family was no longer living in Cononley an old man named Thomas Barker was asked to try to remember as much as he could about them. This was done to try to establish



the ownership of Shady Grove Farm. He remembered that there were three different branches of the family. In fact they were all closely related and, no doubt, were all descended from the 16th century Edward Sawley. From Barker's memories, a variety of documents and the Kildwick Parish Registers, a family tree has been created.<sup>7</sup>

In 1608 we find William Sawley and his wife Agnes making a gift of property to their son Hugh. Some 14 years earlier, in 1594, Hugh had married Agnes Jenkinson and by 1608 they had a growing family of their own. On the 27th July 1624 Hugh is party to a marriage settlement which was made immediately prior to the marriage of his eldest son William. William born in December 1594, was to be married to Agnes Hird, the daughter of Edmund Hird of Farnhill. Barely eight months later Agnes was buried, on 24th March 1624, having died in childbirth. Four years later the family's misfortune was compounded when the child died. On December 10th 1628 William Sawley's four year old son Hugh was buried at Kildwick. He had been killed in an accident, apparently crushed by a falling wheel.

The picture, which emerges, is of a family who were prospering and increasing their estates. When a son made a marriage with another local landed family additional property was brought into the family. Men who were freeholders of their farms, or who had them on very long leases with small free rents, effectively owned their own property and were known as yeomen. One group of properties acquired by the family was that inherited from Hugh Sawley's wife, Agnes Jenkinson. This new ownership can be confirmed by examining the amount paid by Hugh as a free rent to the Lord of the Manor.<sup>8</sup> These rents remained the same for centuries and this fact assists the process of identifying successive holders of the same property. The rent paid by Hugh Sawley (£1.0s.6d) is exactly the same as that paid by Richard Jenkinson in 1538 and Edward Jenkinson in 1591.<sup>9</sup> Even more intriguingly this very same amount was paid in 1473 for the 'capital message'. If not a manor house, then this certainly would have been one of the principal houses in the village. Also in 1473 Richard Jenkinson was recorded as owning more than one hundred acres of land which had formerly been the property of Henry Crokeben.<sup>10</sup> The Crokeben, or Crokebayn, family who featured in Chapter one appear to have been the principal Cononley family in the later Middle Ages.

Hugh Sawley and his wife Agnes had been married for nearly sixty years when he died in 1653. The following year three of his five sons made an agreement about a house that still exists. The brothers were William (born 1594) who married in 1624, Hugh (born 1598) and Edward (born 1610). In 1631

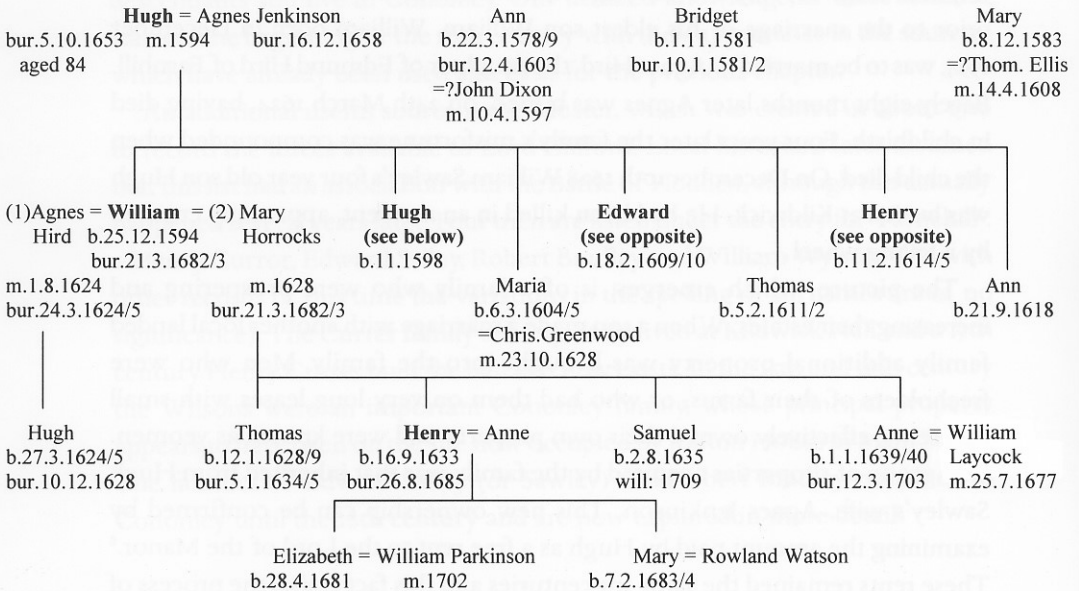
## The Sawley Family of Cononley in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

(b: baptised; m: married; bur: buried)

The families of three of the sons of Hugh Sawley and Agnes Jenkinson are shown separately for clarity.

**William Sawley = Agnes**

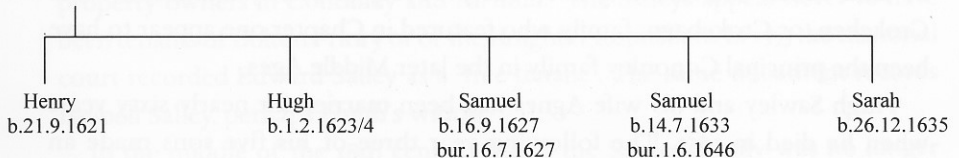
bur.6.2.1620/1      bur.29.3.1615



## Family of Hugh Sawley b.11.1598

**Hugh Sawley = Ann Somerscales**

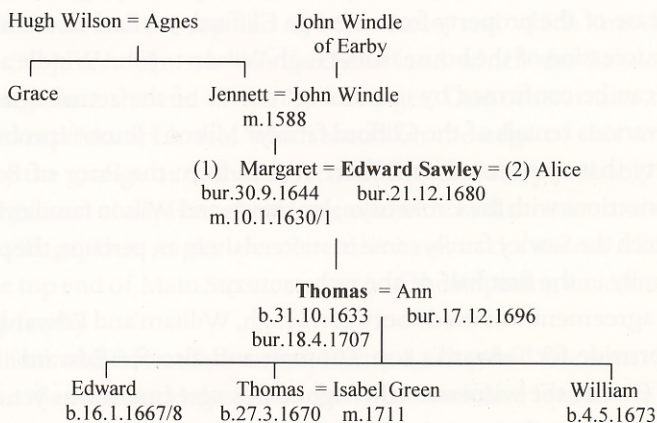
bur.10.5.1658      m.26.5.1621



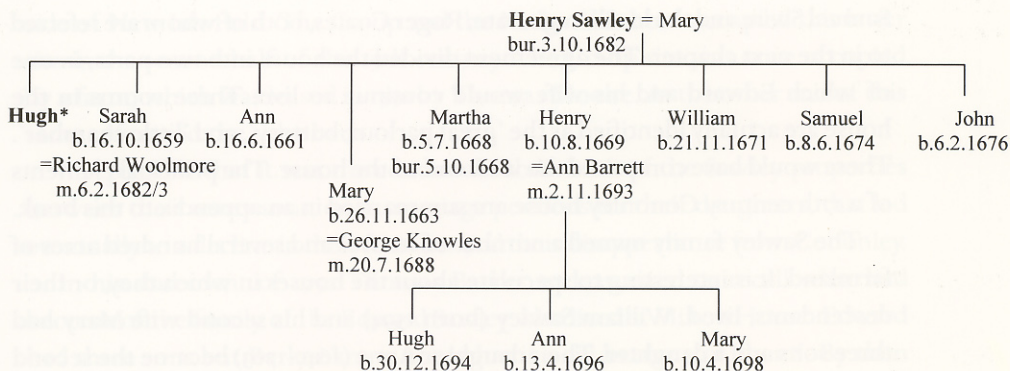


**Family of Edward Sawley b.18.2.1609/10:**

Showing the descent of the property now known as Milton House from Hugh Wilson.



**Family of Henry Sawley b.11.2.1614/5:**



\*According to Thomas Barker Hugh sold his leasehold inheritance worth 20s a year to Samuel Swire. Hugh is named in the Manor court c.1704-13.

The will of Henry Sawley (1615-82) lists all his living children including Hugh, but refers also to 'Hugh Sawley my naturall brother' who is not found in other sources.

this Edward had married Margaret Windle. Their home was once known as Sawley House, but since the 1860s it has been known by its present name of Milton House. They had their initials and the date 1635 placed over the door and the existing house, which incorporates the datestone, was built, or substantially rebuilt, soon after their marriage. Margaret's grandfather, Hugh Wilson, had bought the lease of the property from George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland in 1588. The succession of the house from Hugh Wilson to John Windle and then to Margaret can be confirmed by examining records of the actual agreements and also the various rentals of the Clifford family.<sup>11</sup> Milton House is probably the same property that was rented by Robert Wilson from the Prior of Bolton in 1473. The connections with the Crokebayn, Jenkinson and Wilson families indicate the way in which the Sawley family came to succeed them as, perhaps, the principal Cononley family in the first half of the 17th century.

In 1654 an agreement was made between Hugh, William and Edward Sawley in order to provide for Edward's son Thomas, and also for Edward's second wife, Alice.<sup>12</sup> One of the witnesses who signed this agreement was yet another brother, Henry Sawley (born 1615). It appears that Edward was in some financial difficulty and that he needed to transfer the ownership of what is now known as Milton House to Hugh and William. After the death of his wife Agnes, William had made a second marriage to Mary Horrocks. It is likely that he was distantly related to the other two witnesses to the 1654 agreement. These were Samuel Swire and the local magistrate, Roger Coates, both of whom are referred to in the next chapter. The agreement divided the house into two parts, in one of which Edward and his wife would continue to live. Three rooms in the house are actually identified as the 'great parlour, buttery', and 'little chamber'. These would have comprised the west end of the house. The principal elements of a 17th century Cononley house are summarised in an appendix to this book.

The Sawley family owned a number of houses and several hundred acres of farmland. It is interesting to speculate about the houses in which they, or their descendants, lived. William Sawley (born 1594) and his second wife Mary had three sons and a daughter. Their daughter Anne (1640-1703) became the second wife of William Laycock in 1677. This is the William Laycock who appears in the Hearth Tax list at the beginning of this chapter. The newly built farmhouse in which they lived survives in an altered form as nos. 92 and 94 Main Street. The later history of this house is told in another appendix. The complex story of the many different branches of the Laycock family was researched and published many years ago.<sup>13</sup> William and Mary Sawley were buried on the same day, 21st March 1682/3.



At least one of William and Mary Sawley's properties was inherited by their granddaughter, Elizabeth and her husband, William Parkinson. William and Elizabeth Parkinson's descendants lived at Shady Grove Farm. This house still exists on Skipton Road.<sup>14</sup> The Sawleys could well have built this house in the later 17th century. It is possible that much of the land which is bounded by Skipton Road and the top end of Main Street and which stretches up to just below St. John's Church was freehold land which the Sawley family had possessed since the end of the Middle Ages. One can surmise that they may have owned Monk House, which stood on the edge of this site. In the 13th century the grange or monastic farm of Bolton Priory probably occupied this site. This must always have been one of the most distinctive and desirable sites in the village. One might speculate that here, at the corner of Skipton Road and the top end of Main Street, once stood the imposing ancestral home of the Sawley family.

William and Edward's brother, Henry Sawley, had five sons: Hugh, Henry, William, Samuel and John. Apparently the sons had few, if any children, and their principal property was acquired by Samuel Swire. The documentary evidence points to this having been a farm leased by Henry's father, Hugh Sawley in 1652.<sup>15</sup> One of these five sons, Samuel Sawley, still owned a small part of this property in 1745.<sup>16</sup> The sites of this or the other Sawley farms are not known but they could have included the New Inn, and the farm on the other side of New Inn Fold. The Co-op and the National School occupied this latter site in the second half of the 19th century. The Co-op site was once occupied by a farm, which was leased in 1591 by Thomas Moone. At the other end of this same toft stood the tithe barn.

It is possible that it was the continual subdivision of the Sawley properties between their many sons, or as marriage portions for their daughters, that led eventually to a decline in their fortunes and their disappearance from Cononley.

In his statement of 1752 Thomas Barker endeavoured to recall what had become of the family of the Edward Sawley who lived at Milton House. Edward had three sons but Barker knew not 'what is now become of them'. By then the Sawley family was only a memory and Milton House was the home of William Wigglesworth. William Wigglesworth, who died in 1784, was a surgeon. His son, also named William and also a surgeon, died in 1832. Like the previous owners of the house he too owned a substantial amount of land, amounting in his case to 77 acres. Milton House then passed to the Balme family who were related to Wigglesworth's descendants by marriage.<sup>17</sup> Milton House and Shady Grove were unusual and noteworthy because neither farm was ever part of



the estates of the Wainman and Swire families. The story of the origin of the Wainman and Swire Estates is told in the remaining part of this chapter and the following one.

On a rather lighter note we can end this look at the Sawley family by quoting John William Moorhouse who seems to have recorded local memories of them:

'The Sawleys were a numerous family and spread themselves over the district. Unlike the Swires they were fighting folks and whenever there was fighting afoot or loot to be got sure enough the tribe would be there'.<sup>18</sup>

### The Bradley Family

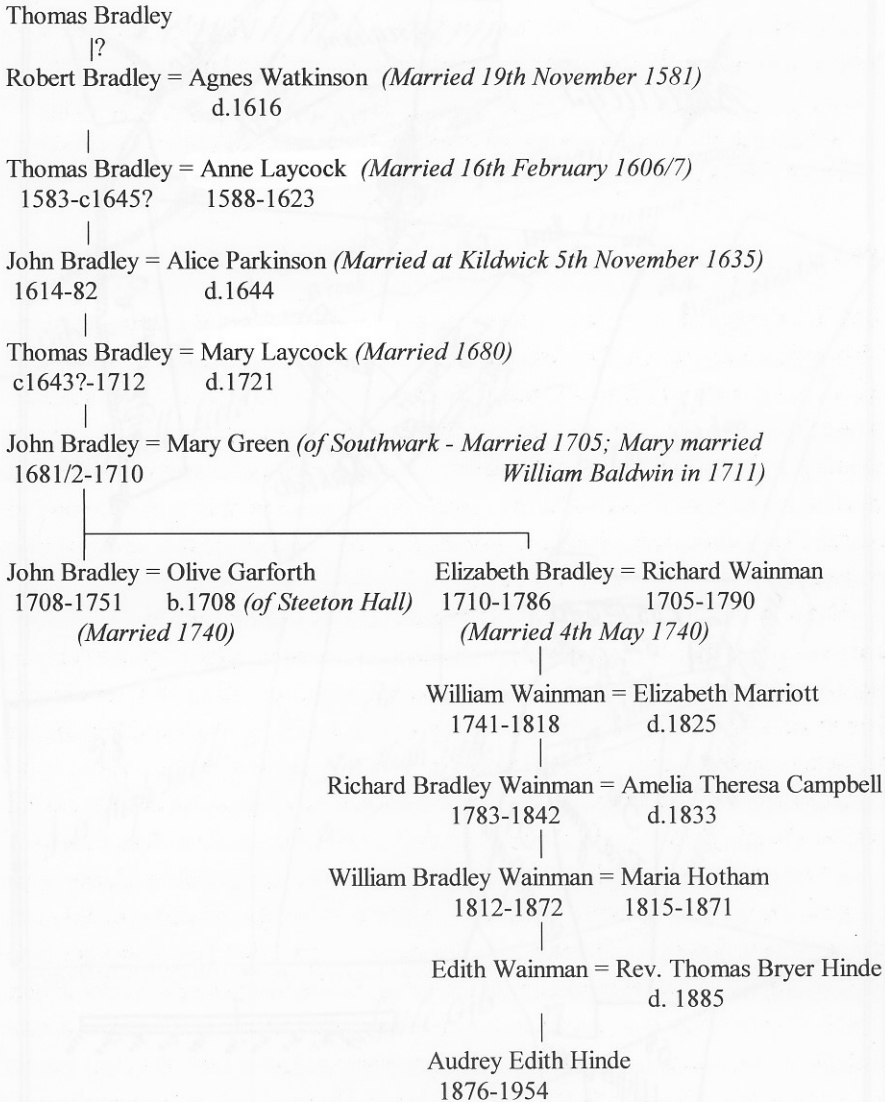
The Bradley family played an important part in the history of Cononley in the 16th and 17th centuries. The descendants of one branch of the family continued to be major landowners in the village right up to the middle of the 20th century. After the Robert Bradley of 1510, recorded in the Muster, a record of a James Bradley and a Richard Bradley occurs in the 1522 Loan Book. James was a tenant of Richard Banaster, and Richard a tenant of Bolton Priory. In 1539 both names occur, listed as tenants of Bolton Priory. A third member of the family is also present in 1543. This is Thomas Bradley.<sup>19</sup>

Although it seems reasonable to surmise that all these men were related we have to accept that it is unlikely that we can know their relationships for certain. To complicate matters further there were, in addition, other Bradleys in the Parish of Kildwick, particularly at Silsden. The Bradleys of Cononley appear to have required further identification even amongst their contemporaries. In 1579 George Clifford's tenants included: 'Robert Bradley of Woodsyde son of Richard Bradley'; 'James Bradley son of Robert Bradley' and Thomas Bradley.<sup>20</sup>

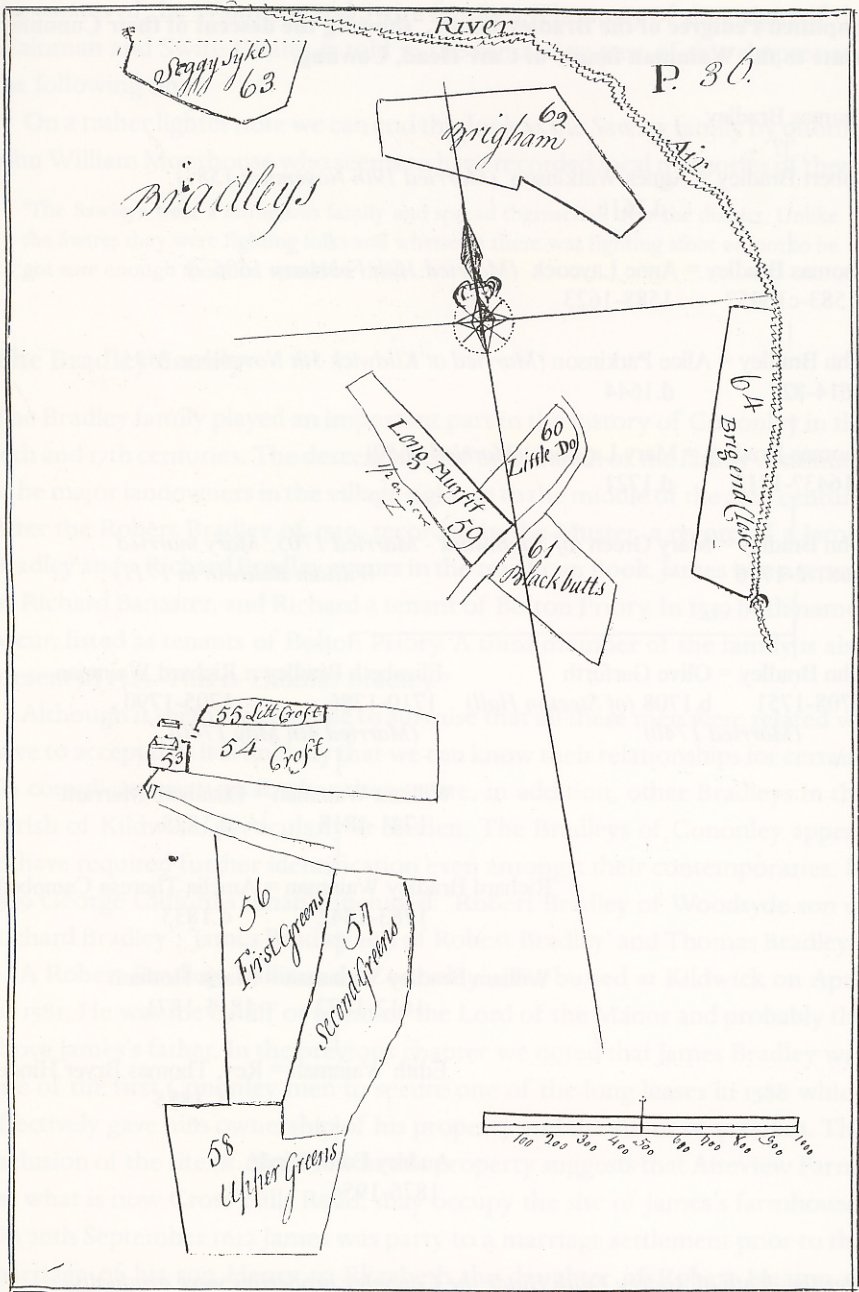
A Robert Bradley, 'ballivus de Cononley', was buried at Kildwick on April 1st 1581. He was the bailiff or agent of the Lord of the Manor and probably the above James's father. In the previous chapter we noted that James Bradley was one of the first Cononley men to secure one of the long leases in 1588 which effectively gave him ownership of his property and the status of yeoman. The inclusion of the site of Aire View in this property suggests that Aireview Farm, on what is now Cross Hills Road, may occupy the site of James's farmhouse. On 20th September 1612 James was party to a marriage settlement prior to the marriage of his son Henry to Elizabeth the daughter of Robert Heaton of Stanbury.<sup>21</sup> The agreement tells us that James Bradley has purchased at least some of his property from Richard Banaster. This allows us to speculate that James is probably the grandson of the James recorded in 1522. Henry and



**Simplified Pedigree of the Bradley family, showing the descent of their Cononley Estate to the Wainman family of Carr Head, Cowling.**

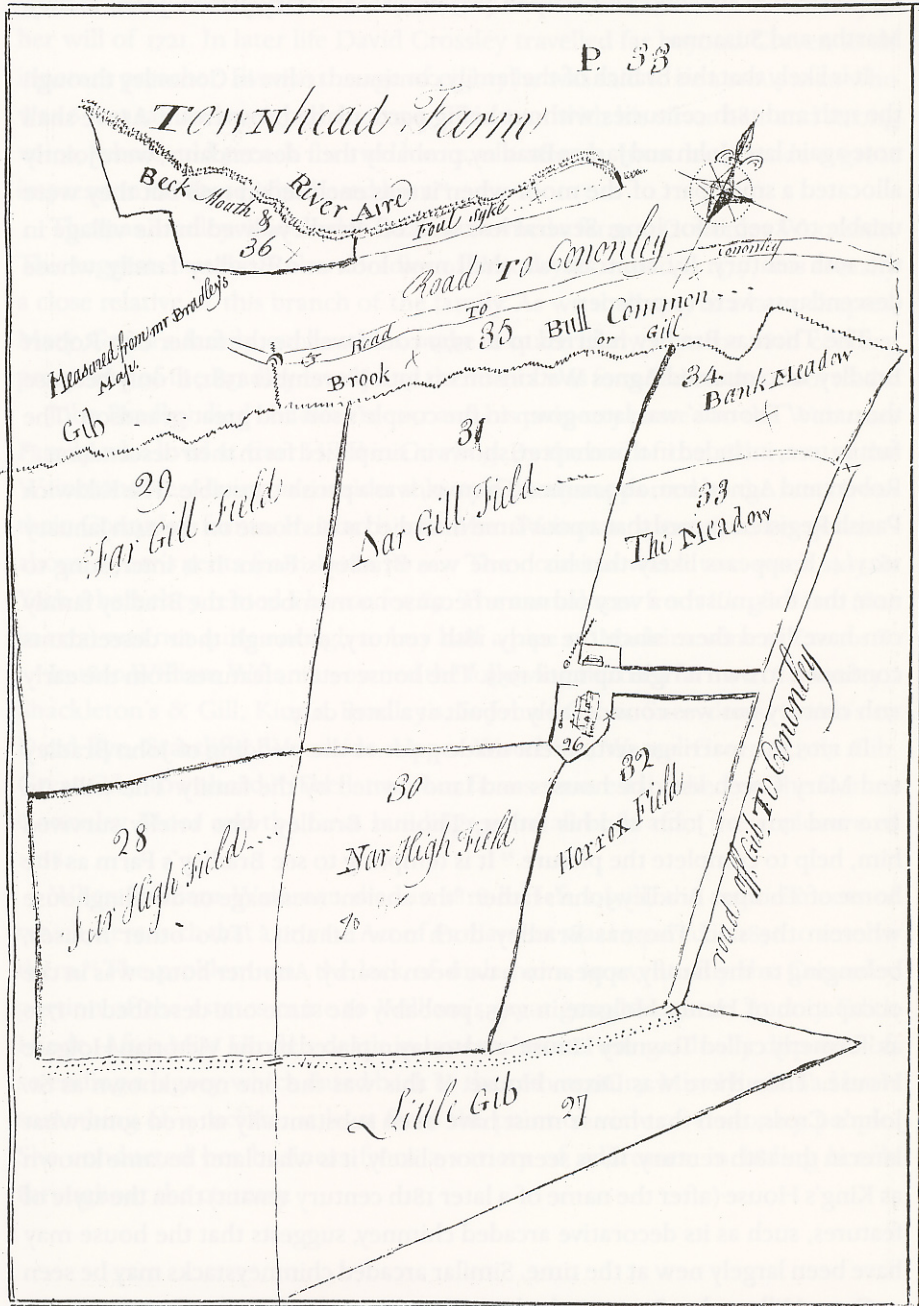


*After the death of Audrey Edith Hinde the Cononley properties were gradually disposed of by her trustees, also descendants of William Wainman. They included Richard Tottie (1888-1968), a grandson of Edith Wainman's elder sister, Mary Amelia Wainman.*



Bradley's Farm. This was a long established farm and the distribution of its fields still preserved an element of the pre-enclosure landscape. From the Wainman Estate Book. c.1800. (Bradford WYAS 14 D 95 6/26)





Townhead Farm. This farm was created after the Enclosure Act of 1768 and is mostly on one site. From the Wainman Estate Book. c.1800. (Bradford WYAS 14 D 95 6/26)

Elizabeth had six children between 1613 and 1629:- Mary, James, John, Henry, Martha and Susanna.

It is likely that this branch of the family continued to live in Cononley through the 17th and 18th centuries without being particularly prosperous. As we shall note again later John and James Bradley, probably their descendants, were jointly allocated a small part of the moor when it was enclosed in 1768 but they were unable to keep it for long. Several less well off Bradleys lived in the village in the 19th century. By contrast we shall now look at a Bradley family whose descendants were to prosper.

The Thomas Bradley referred to in 1579 could well be the father of a Robert Bradley who married Agnes Watkinson on 19th November 1581, if only because the name 'Thomas' was later given to the couple's son and great-grandson. The family tree, included in this chapter, shows in simplified form their descendants.<sup>22</sup> Robert and Agnes' son, also named Thomas, was a parish constable. The Kildwick Parish Registers record that a poor lame man died at his home on the 24th January 1623/4. It appears likely that his home was Bradley's Farm. It is interesting to note that this must be a very old name because no member of the Bradley family can have lived there since the early 18th century, although their descendants continued to own it right up until 1955. The house retains features from the early 17th century but was considerably rebuilt at a later date.

In 1705 the marriage settlement made prior to the wedding of John Bradley and Mary Green lists the houses and land owned by the family. The wills (in 1710 and 1711) of John and his father, Thomas Bradley, who briefly survived him, help to complete the picture.<sup>23</sup> It is tempting to see Bradley's Farm as the home of Thomas Bradley, John's father: 'the ancient message or dwellinghouse wherein the said Thomas Bradley doth now inhabit.' Two other houses, belonging to the family, appear to have been nearby. Another house was in the occupation of Henry Holgate in 1705, probably the same one described in 1710 as 'formerly called Townley House' and today replaced by the Victorian Holgate House. Then there was Dixon House. If this was the one now known as St. John's Cross, then that house must have been substantially altered somewhat later in the 18th century. If, as seems more likely, it is what later became known as King's House (after the name of a later 18th century tenant) then the style of features, such as its decorative arcaded chimney, suggests that the house may have been largely new at the time. Similar arcaded chimneystacks may be seen at Cross Hills and at Steeton, the latter on a house bearing the date 1710.

In 1711 Dixon House was given over for the use of David Crossley, his wife and family. Crossley was a Baptist Minister and this suggests that the Bradleys



were of that persuasion also. Mary Bradley bequeathed £5 to Susan Crossley in her will of 1721. In later life David Crossley travelled far beyond Craven as an itinerant preacher. Even at the age of eighty he was said to be a stout man who was 6 feet tall and weighed 20 stone. This man with his silver hair and strong voice, who could preach for two hours at a stretch, must have made a great impression on those who heard him.<sup>24</sup>

Thomas Bradley, who died in 1712, also owned a farm at Cononley Woodside. This suggests that the 'Robert Bradley of Woodsyde', noted in 1579, was actually a close relative of this branch of the family. As we shall see, in a later chapter, Mary Green's family connections make it quite likely that the 18th century prosperity of the Bradley family and their heirs was founded on the wool trade.

John Bradley died childless in 1751 and his property passed to the Wainman Family who lived at Carr Head in Cowling. By the end of the 18th century the Wainmans were living in considerable style partly supported by the rents from their Cononley farms. In March 1781 Mrs. Wainman spent £100 on gowns - about a year's rents from three farms. The occasion was a two week stay in York where they rented a house for £9. The annual rent from King's Farm (£22 in 1775) was not quite enough to buy half a pipe of Madeira wine at £22.10s.<sup>25</sup>

In 1800 William Wainman owned the following thirteen farms in Cononley:- Shackleton's & Gill, King's, Bradley's, St John's Cross, Snowden's, Smith's or Dead Eye, Scarcliffe, Woodside, Upper Woodside, Weasel Green, Little Gib, Great Gib, Townhead.<sup>26</sup> The latter four farms were established on the former Cononley Moor and the farm buildings were all built after the enclosure of 1768.

When William Wainman died in 1818 he left a will, the requirements of which were such that a private Act of Parliament was required in 1856 to resolve them.<sup>27</sup> The problem was the lack of male heirs, so eventually the Cononley portion of the estates came to William's great granddaughter, Audrey Edith Hinde. After Miss Hinde's death in 1954 the estate was gradually disposed of, so ending a legacy which dated back to the 16th century. Miss Hinde had been something of a recluse, at least from the point of view of Cononley people. She conducted her business from a variety of addresses, including hotels throughout the country.

## CHAPTER 4

### THE SWIRE FAMILY OF CONONLEY HALL

#### **The Origins of the Swire Family**

FOR some two hundred years the most prominent family in Cononley were the Swires. They were members of an extensive family, which is first recorded some seven miles away at Gargrave. William Squyer, Richard Squyer and John Squyer are recorded in the Loan Book of 1522 as living in Gargrave.<sup>1</sup> William died in 1532. He had two sons, Roger and Richard who appear in the Lay Subsidy record for 1543. Richard's son, named as Richard Swier jun. in the same document, was to be the ancestor of the Cononley family. Other closely related Swires were to live in and around Skipton right up to the 19th century. The consistent spelling of the name as 'Swire' did not become the norm until the second half of the 17th century.

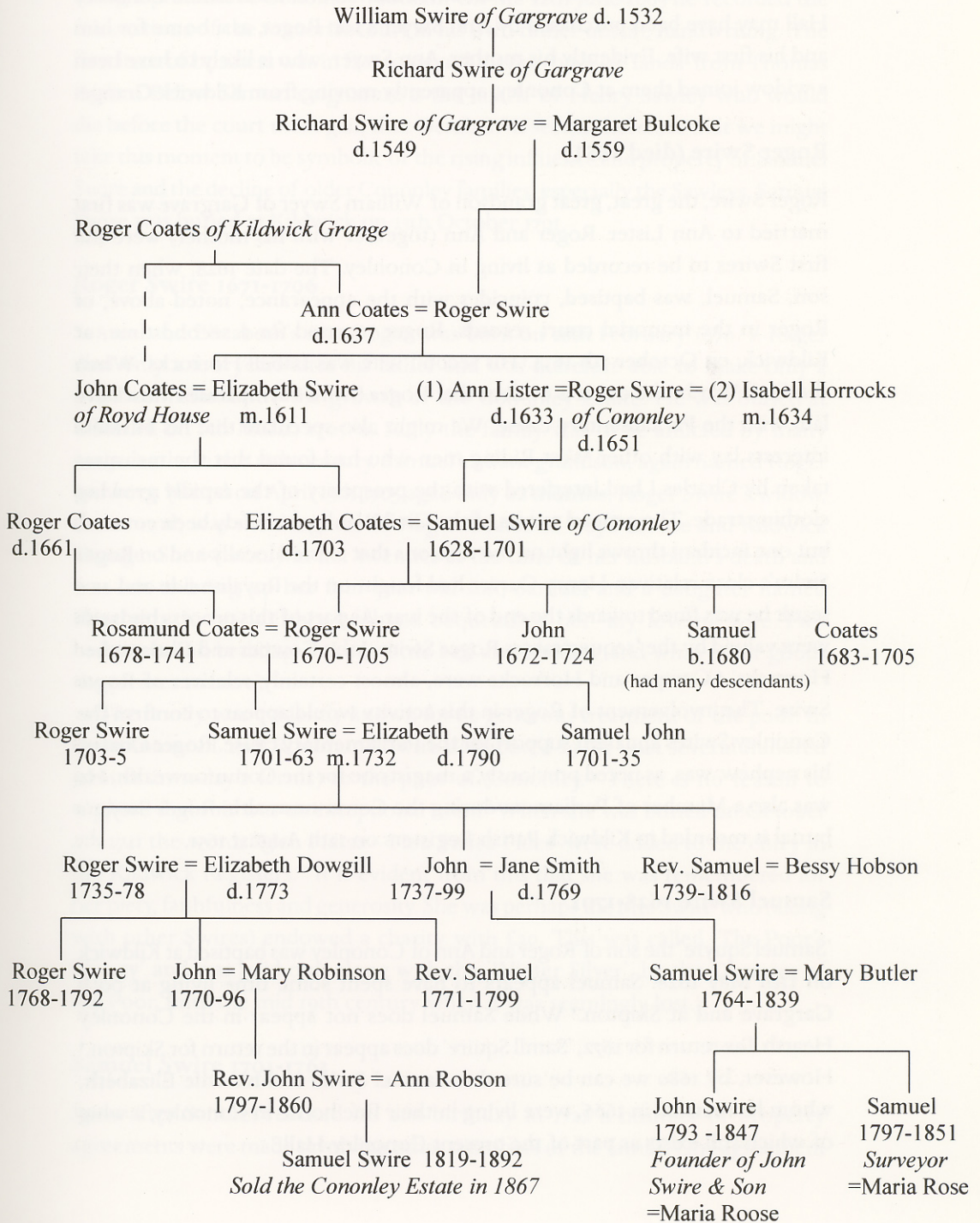
William Swyer's great grandson, Roger Swyer married Ann Coates. The Coates family lived at Kildwick Grange, an attractive sprawling house, which still stands about half a mile to the east of Kildwick Hall. In the 17th century the Coates family also acquired Royd House, situated on the road between Cononley and Cross Hills. Fragments of this building still survive in the grounds of the house which replaced it in 1910. The Will of Ann Swyer, latterly of Cononley, dated 20th July 1636, names three sons and a daughter. The sons were Roger, Richard and John, and the daughter Elizabeth. We will continue to follow the fortunes of Roger and his descendants. The daughter Elizabeth's first husband was John Coates and their eldest son was the Roger, mentioned in chapter two, who grew up to be an ardent Parliamentarian. At least four generations of Swires and Coates intermarried but there is no record of the Swires marrying their Cononley neighbours.

#### **The Swires of Cononley**

The family's arrival in Cononley appears to date from around 1627. In that year the name of a Roger Swyer appears in the manorial court records.<sup>2</sup> The context is evidently one in which Roger is shown to have bought some of the property of Miles Gill. The Gill family was prominent throughout the district. A Miles Gill had married Lucia Currer of Kildwick Hall in 1585 and Henry Gill had been a partner in the major enclosure of lands in 1608 already referred to in



**Simplified Pedigree of the Swire Family of Cononley**



chapter two. It is very tempting to speculate that later Swires had a Gill amongst their maternal ancestors but no evidence for this has ever been found. Cononley Hall may have been purchased by Ann Swyer's son Roger, as a home for him and his first wife. Evidently his mother, Ann Swyer, who is likely to have been a widow joined them at Cononley, apparently moving from Kildwick Grange.

### **Roger Swire (died 1651)**

Roger Swire, the great, great grandson of William Swyer of Gargrave was first married to Ann Lister. Roger and Ann (together with his mother) were the first Swires to be recorded as living in Cononley. The date 1628, when their son, Samuel, was baptised, coincides with the appearance, noted above, of Roger in the manorial court records. Roger married for a second time, at Kildwick, on October 7th 1634.<sup>3</sup> His second wife was Isabell Horrocks. When the Civil War broke out it is evident that Roger Swire's sympathies must have lain with the Parliamentary cause. We might also speculate that his business interests lay with other West Riding men who had found that the measures taken by Charles I had interfered with the prosperity of the rapidly growing clothing trade. The general events of the Civil War have already been covered, but one incident throws light on the tensions that existed locally and on Roger Swire's close relatives. Henry Curre had fought on the Royalist side and as a result he was fined towards the end of the war. As part of this process his lands were valued by the 'sequestrators Roger Swire, John Cowper and Christopher Horrocks'.<sup>4</sup> Cowper and Horrocks were, almost certainly, relatives of Roger Swire. The involvement of Roger in this activity would appear to confirm the Cononley Swires apparent support for the Parliamentary cause. Roger Coates, his nephew, was, as noted previously, a magistrate for the Commonwealth. He was also a Member of Parliament during the Commonwealth. Roger Swyer's burial is recorded in Kildwick Parish Registers on 12th August 1651.

### **Samuel Swire 1628-1701**

'Samuel Squyre' the son of Roger and Ann of Cononley was baptised at Kildwick on 11th May 1628. Samuel appears to have spent some time living at both Gargrave and at Skipton.<sup>5</sup> While Samuel does not appear in the Cononley Hearth Tax return for 1672, 'Samll Squire' does appear in the return for Skipton.<sup>6</sup> However, by 1680 we can be sure that Samuel Swire and his wife Elizabeth, whom he married in 1666, were living in their fine house in Cononley, a wing of which still exists as part of the present Cononley Hall.<sup>7</sup>



Samuel is definitely known to have assumed the obligations that went with being a prominent Cononley yeoman. On the 12th June 1685 he recorded the transactions of the manorial court in his own rather unsure handwriting. The first item of business was in fact to record his purchase of 'lands' from Thomas Barker. Below Samuel's signature is the 'mark' of Henry Sawley who would die before the court met again that October.<sup>8</sup> It seems therefore that we might take this moment to be symbolic of the rising influence and property of Samuel Swire and the decline of older Cononley families, especially the Sawleys. Samuel Swire was buried at Kildwick on 13th October 1701.

### **Roger Swire 1671-1706**

Samuel and Elizabeth's son, Roger, was born on 16th February 1670/1. Roger died only a few years after his father and was therefore able to make only a small contribution to the growth of the Cononley Estate. He was buried at Kildwick on 7th March 1705/6. Sadly the family was to be afflicted by many early deaths in the 18th century. Samuel's infant grandson, again named Roger had been buried on April 13th 1705 aged only 22 months. Roger Swire's widow, Rosamund, was the daughter of Roger Coates of Royd House and Kildwick Grange. She was only in her twenties at the time of her husband's death and was left to bring up her four year old son, Samuel and a daughter named Elizabeth. In his will her husband bequeathed her 'my loveing wife Two bedsteads and bedding and one little bed and bedding and what other goods she pleases to have'.<sup>9</sup>

The family was evidently known for its generous treatment of the poor. In the summer of 1718 Rosamund Swire distributed £3 (at least several hundred pounds in today's terms) to the poor of Cononley.<sup>10</sup> There is no reason to suppose that this was an exceptional event. When she was buried on October 4th 1741 the words 'Heu Pietas – Heu Prisca Fides' were added to the entry in the Kildwick Registers.<sup>11</sup> It is evident from this that she was remembered for her piety, faithfulness and generosity. She was perhaps the Mrs Swire who (along with other Swires) endowed a charity with £20. This was called 'The Poor's Money' and was paid out, along with the 'Winter Silver', by the Overseer of the Poor, until the mid 19th century when it was seemingly lost.<sup>12</sup>

### **Samuel Swire 1701-1763**

Soon after Samuel reached his 21st birthday in 1722 a number of property agreements were made involving other members of the family. One agreement

of 23rd February 1722/3 listed Samuel's inheritance.<sup>13</sup> There was the 'Capitall Messuage situate and being in Cononley aforesaid and wherein Samuel Swire Grandfather of the said Samuel Swire party to this said Indenture formerly dwelt'. As well as the Hall, to which this refers, there were 'Tannyards, Tan-houses and Tanpitts'. It is assumed that these are now represented by 'Tan Cottage' which still stands in West Lane. Two other agreements were actually witnessed by 'Thomas Tennant, Tanner'.<sup>14</sup> The tanning of leather, which involved soaking it in a pit with oak bark, had been a profitable activity for well-to-do landowners.<sup>15</sup> At least four other houses in the village were owned by young Samuel. Two of these were farms still occupied, at that time, by members of the Baxter family.

More land came from the Skipton branch of the family including Cowper House and half shares in Bull Common (between Nethergill Lane and Cononley Beck) and the Drying Kiln (probably now Kiln Cottage, although this was not the only grain drying kiln in the village). One of the frustrations of studying these contemporary documents is that some of the houses and fields defy identification. Another of the properties, 'Didylands', is however remembered today as the land near its namesake, Dead Eye. It was at this time that the Swires acquired land that was leasehold, and formerly property of the Clifford family. The Hall appears to have always been a freehold property.

The small 'free rents' paid on the leasehold lands were recorded in books, which still exist at Bolton Abbey.<sup>16</sup> In the second half of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century the rents were gathered on behalf of the Lords of the Manor - the Earls of Burlington. The amounts which the Swires had to pay give an *indication* of the gradual expansion of the family's land holdings in the 18th century but do not include their freehold properties.

1652-1704	15s 8d	1754	£4 6s 18d
1705	£2 9s 4d	1768	£5 7s 8d
1735	£3 5s 6d	1785	£7 10s 11d
1745	£4 4s 8d	1865	£7 9s 10d

Much of the property, which Samuel Swire owned, lay to the north of the village, on either side of Woodside Lane. Some of the land, which he owned at Woodside, was subject to an entirely different 'free rent', which was owed to Henry Currer of Skipton.<sup>17</sup> This raises the possibility that the Swires had owned this particular land since 1627 and that it just might account for the appearance of Samuel's ancestor Roger Swire in the records of the Farnhill Manorial Court at that time.



Samuel Swire was married at Kildwick on 31st January 1732. His wife was Elizabeth Swire, another very close relative. In fact, Elizabeth and Samuel both had the same grandfather, the Samuel Swire who had died in 1701. These marriages between cousins had the effect of retaining more of the family's property within the close family than otherwise would be the case. We can never know whether the people involved welcomed the idea or not. In any case Elizabeth and Samuel were the last generation of Swires who married an obviously close cousin.

Tradition has it that a kinsman of Samuel and Elizabeth was a Jacobite who was involved in some way in the events leading up to the rebellion of 1745. When the cause of Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Young Pretender, collapsed, the King's men followed the Swire's relative to Cononley. The fugitive eluded George II's forces by a secret passage leading from the Hall out on to the moor. He is said to have found refuge on the Continent.

The story may well be true. There was a general panic in Craven in the autumn of 1745 when the Young Pretender's army marched south through Lancashire. There was always the possibility that they might have chosen to march through Airedale. The secret passage is likely to have been the substantial stone walled water conduit or drain, part of which has been found just beyond the boundary wall to the west of the Hall.

It would appear that Samuel Swire was responsible for building a workhouse in the village. An agreement of 1762 refers to his ownership of 'that one other lately erected Building or Workhouse commonly called or known by the Name of the New Building'.<sup>18</sup> Unfortunately the accounts of the Overseer of the Poor do not appear to have survived for this period, so we can only speculate about this property and its occupants. It will not, however, have been one of the large workhouses associated with the worst aspects of the 19th century. It may well have been the freestanding house in front of the former Bay Horse Inn. This building, immediately opposite Cononley Hall, closely resembles a workhouse built at Pudsey about 1765.

Samuel and Elizabeth had five children. Once more the family Christian names were used and so their three sons were named Roger, John, and Samuel. The daughters were Rosamund who was baptised on 15th March 1733/4 and Anne, who died young. Rosamund married Henry Alcock and was over eighty when she died in 1815. Samuel, their father, died on the 5th May 1763. Elizabeth outlived her eldest son and after her husband's death returned to Skipton where she lived in the family's house in Swadford Street. Her will is dated 8th August 1788.<sup>19</sup>



View from Cononley Hall. The 18th century house in the foreground may have been built as a workhouse. Behind it is the 17th century house which was formerly the Bay Horse Inn.

### **Roger Swire 1735-1778 and his descendants**

Roger Swire, the eldest son of Samuel Swire, was baptised on 10th January 1735/6, although he was born in 1735. In 1762 Roger married Elizabeth Dowgill of Hartwith, near Ripley, who was several years older than him. They had eight children in almost as many years. Roger and his wife were only 42 and 45, respectively, when they died but even so only one of their children would live even that long. It was probably before Elizabeth died in 1773 that the decision was taken to rebuild Cononley Hall for in his will, made the 26th October 1774, Roger refers to 'my Mansion House at Cononley'.<sup>20</sup> A local tradition relates that the old hall was badly damaged by fire and this made the rebuilding necessary. Perhaps it was a hasty decision because a new and more open site outside the village would surely have been more suitable. Perhaps Roger and Elizabeth never saw their Mansion House completed.

We are fortunate to have an appreciation of Roger Swire, written nine months after his death in 1778 by someone who worked for him and with him. This was Joseph Brown, who was a Quaker and also happened to be a very literate and well read man.<sup>21</sup> Joseph Brown was employed by Roger Swire to





Roger Swire (1735-1778).



Elizabeth Swire (d.1773) was the wife of Roger who died in 1778.



Elizabeth Swire (1763-1818).



Roger Swire (1767-1792).

enclose and set-out that portion of Cononley Moor which had been allotted to Swire in the Enclosure Act of 1768. He wrote of Roger Swire:

'He was a man of distinguished abilities in many respects for he had not only been favoured with a liberal and polite education but was of a sound judgement and strong natural parts – of a disposition so amiable and engaging that from the height of affluence and grandeur he would remarkably condescend to the lowest ranks of people. He was of a sociable and complacent deportment, of a free and easy access, of a pleasant and cheerful temper, of a quick and lively understanding and of a charitable and benevolent mind. He was an indulgent master, a most tender and affectionate parent (over a fine and hopeful offspring) and an honest neighbour and a kind friend – and as providence had favoured him with a great share of temporal blessings he did not avariciously strive to heap up riches for the sake of riches but endeavoured to do good with what he had. His excellent management in the various branches of business in which he engaged himself was indeed extraordinary as the numerous hands he employed can abundantly testify. He wisely avoided contentious quarrels and was not easily provoked to a public dispute ... He was a constant friend and benefactor to the poor and needy who have reason to acknowledge his favours and to remember him with affection and gratitude...'

After Roger Swire's death the estate passed in quick succession to two sons, both of whom were to die young, and then to an, as yet, unborn baby. A son, another Roger Swire, died in 1792 aged 24 and was succeeded by his brother John. John Swire married Mary Robinson of Hull and was described as a 'Merchant in Hull' in 1793.<sup>22</sup> John himself died at Cononley in 1796 aged only 25. Two months after his death Mary gave birth to his only son. Naturally he was named John and he grew up to be the last member of the family who would live, briefly, at Cononley Hall. This John will feature again in the history of the family.

### **John Swire 1737-1799 and his descendants**

John Swire, the second son of Samuel Swire, was born 'between three & four of the Clock the same morning' as he was baptised – 25th May 1737. John became a cloth merchant in Halifax and married a fellow merchant's daughter, Jane Smith. This raises the strong possibility that his father, Samuel Swire (1701-1763), was himself involved in the wool trade. The family evidently lived also for some time in Embsay where a branch of the family owned an estate at Clark House, about two miles north of Skipton. John Swire was involved in a number of unsuccessful business ventures, and died, in financial trouble, on 1st February 1799, after having accidentally ridden, in a snowstorm, into a bog on Kex Gill Moor. The Leeds Intelligencer for Monday, February 18th 1799 reported that:



'Amongst other melancholy accidents of the late inclement season, we have to report, that there are great reasons to apprehend that Mr. John Swire of Halifax, who was on Friday fo'nnight in the afternoon travelling from Knaresbro' to Skipton, is lost in the snow, his horse, hat and cane having been found; but no discovery has yet been made of his body'.<sup>23</sup>

John Swire's horse was found alive but it was some days before his body was found and taken to Halifax for burial.

His son, another Samuel, married Mary Butler of Carleton Biggin, just outside Cononley. The Butlers were actually tenants of the Cononley Estate.<sup>24</sup> Samuel too was unsuccessful in business and apparently also lived for a time at Embsay. Samuel and Mary had ten children. Two of them were of especial interest. Their son, John, was born in 1793 and the success of the business he founded will be mentioned later. Another son was yet again named Samuel and was to remain in the Skipton area. Samuel (1797-1851) produced two of the earliest surviving maps of Cononley, extracts from both of which form illustrations in this book. The earliest one was produced in 1813 and carries the legend 'Sam. Swire Junior; Land Surveyor'. Samuel Swire also produced the similar map, dated 1842, which accompanies the Tithe Award.<sup>25</sup> It appears that he may have actually lived at Cononley Woodside and managed the Swires' Cononley Estate Office, which once stood on the north side of what is known as Swires Lane. Unfortunately the only anecdote about Samuel Swire which the authors have discovered reveals a human weakness. Evidently in 1826 Samuel was asked to settle a boundary dispute regarding lead mines. A note on the subsequent award reads 'It has been ascertained that Mr. Swire was detained at the Public House at Greenhow Hill, where *parties* made him drunk and he gave his Award under their influence without even having seen the Spot'.<sup>26</sup>

### **The Rev. Samuel Swire (1739-1816)**

Samuel Swire, the third son of Samuel Swire (1701-1763), was born on the 25th October 1739. He was a Fellow of University College, Oxford and became Vicar of Coleshill in Berkshire in 1771. At first glance it could appear that his connection with Cononley in later life was tenuous. In fact there is good reason to suppose that he returned to live there for at least ten years. He travelled to Cononley at the end of October 1777 when his brother fell seriously ill. After Roger's death in January 1778 he remained at Cononley to look after the education and welfare of his young nieces and nephews and to manage the Cononley Estate. He returned to Coleshill for three months in 1778 and for a similar period in 1779. At other times a curate looked after the living of Coleshill on his behalf. In 1787



John Swire (1770-1796).



Mary Swire (1772-1847) was the wife of the John who died in 1796.



Jane Higginson. Although not an immediate member of the Cononley family Jane looked after the Swire children when they lost their mother in 1773. She was a great-granddaughter of Samuel Swire (d.1701).



Rev. Samuel Swire (1739-1816).





John Swire (1793-1847) was the founder of John Swire & Sons Ltd.



Children of Rev. John Swire (1797-1860).

he became the Rector of the more convenient Parish of Melsonby in the North Riding of Yorkshire.<sup>27</sup> One of his nephews, his namesake, Samuel, followed him to University College, Oxford and died at Melsonby in 1799. We know that two other children of Roger Swire, Elizabeth and Jane, travelled home from their boarding school at Crofton, near Wakefield, in Samuel's coach. On the occasion in question Joseph Brown, the Quaker, who had been employed by Roger Swire, is known to have travelled to Leeds in the same coach which was then on its way to Crofton. Brown continued his friendship with the family and borrowed books from Samuel's library. Whereas the Vicar of Carleton would eventually manage to have Joseph Brown sent to York prison for not paying tithes, the Rev. Samuel Swire was clearly fascinated by the Quaker and must have enjoyed his company and their arguments.

### **The Rev. John Swire (1797-1860) and his descendants**

John Swire, the posthumous son of John Swire, was born at Cononley on 16th January 1797. His mother was a widow and must have no longer wished to live at Cononley. Cononley Hall was let and its occupant is noted in a later section of this chapter. John married and returned to live at Cononley Hall not long after his 21st birthday. He married Ann Robson of Richmond and the first of their fifteen children, Samuel, was born on 24th December 1819. Their second son, John, was born on 30th December 1820 but not baptised until he was taken to Kildwick Church on 21st May 1821. He too was to become a clergyman.

It must have been apparent that Cononley was in danger of becoming a crowded and polluted village, and the opportunity to accept the living of Manfield (which is close to Melsonby) must have been attractive. It appears that the family ceased to live at Cononley about 1823. John also may have faced some kind of cash flow problem. He certainly had a reputation for spending money. In a letter to his fiancée in 1881 John Samuel Swire, a relative, wrote:

'For over three hundred years my grandsires were in a better social position than I am, but the estates that were in the family have vanished through extravagance of living and in the luxury of large families'.<sup>28</sup>

On 12th January 1837 Cononley Hall was sold for £1000 to a partnership of four Bradford wool merchants.<sup>29</sup> The Rev. John Swire remained the Vicar of Manfield. After his death the entire Cononley Estate comprising farms, cottages and totalling 742 acres was offered for sale at the Devonshire Arms Hotel in Skipton on 5th July 1865. The sale was completed in 1867.



Unfortunately there is not space to tell the later history of this branch of the family. An exception will be made for Captain Herbert Swire, RN (1850-1934), a son of Rev John Swire (1820-60) who was a celebrated navigator. The name 'Swire Deep' was given to the deepest part of the ocean then known when it was discovered in 1875. His grandson, Dr Jim Swire, is currently the head of the senior branch of the Swire family.

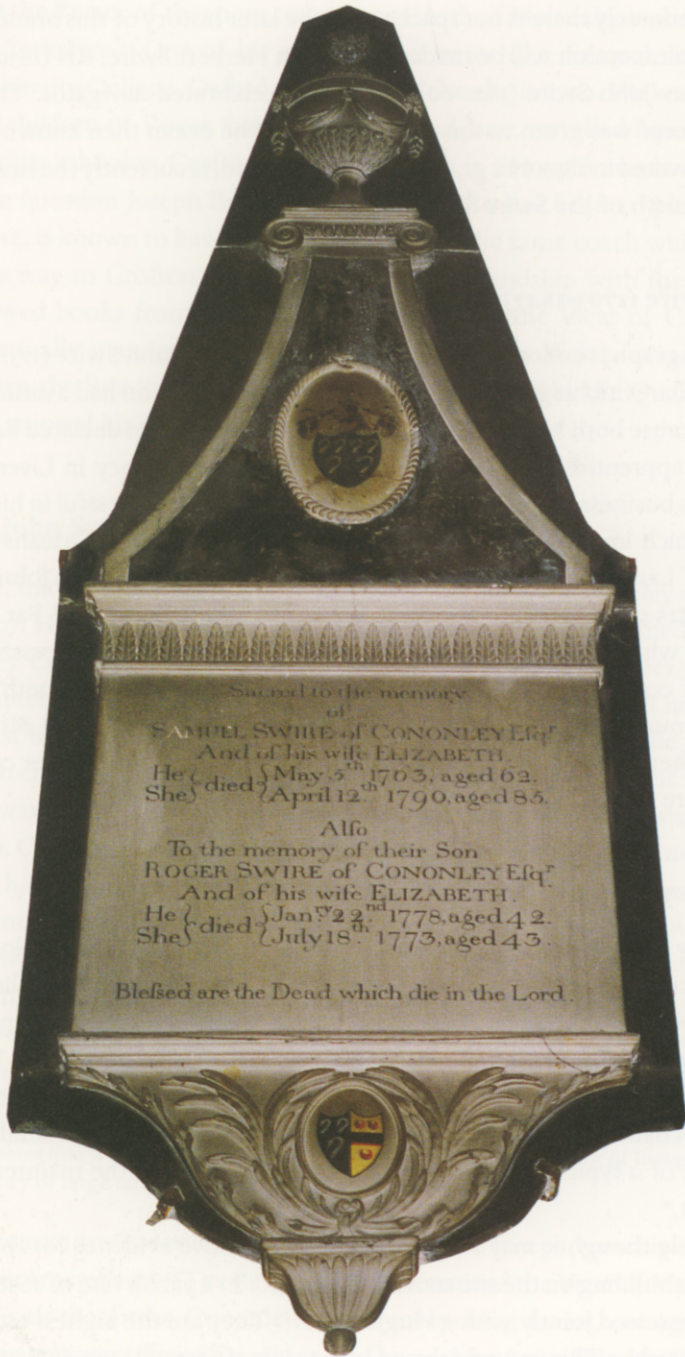
### **John Swire (1793-1847) and his descendants**

This paragraph is concerned with the descendants of John Swire (1737-99) and in particular with his grandson, John Swire (1793-1847). John had a difficult start in life because both his father and his grandfather had been declared bankrupt. After an apprenticeship at a cousin's general import agency in Liverpool he went into business under his own name in 1816. He was successful in his chosen trade, which involved the import of raw cotton from New Orleans and the export of Lancashire cotton goods. After his death in 1847, his son John Samuel Swire (1825-98) took John Swire & Sons into the Chinese and Far Eastern markets, which were to be the focus of the internationally successful Swire Group of companies in the 20th century. In the latter part of the 20th century John Samuel's great grandsons, Sir John Anthony Swire and Sir Adrian Christopher Swire, have successively been Chairmen of the parent company, John Swire & Sons.

### **Cononley Hall and its occupants**

The early history of Cononley Hall could certainly be said to be 'lost in the mists of time'. Normally a steward who might be a prominent member of the community would represent the Lord of the Manor. By the 16th century the Hall may have simply been a farm. No remains of these buildings have yet been found. The first reliable reference to a 'Conenley Hall' is in connection with the chantry priest of Kildwick in the 1540s. A rent of eight shillings, less than that of a typical farm, was produced by the Hall for the maintenance of the priest.<sup>30</sup>

Unlikely though it may seem, we have no positive evidence for the Swires living in a building on the site much before 1680. In a parish rate of 1658 Samuel Swire is assessed jointly with a Hugh Foster.<sup>31</sup> They are the highest rate payers in the township. This is, no doubt, an indication of Samuel Swire's status rather than that of Foster but it may indicate too that it was Hugh Foster who actually



Memorial to Roger and Elizabeth Swire in Kildwick Church.





Main entrance to Cononley Hall.

lived there. As we saw in chapter three the Hearth Tax return of 1672 shows no house in the village larger than Milton House.<sup>32</sup> It does not mention Samuel Swire but it does suggest that Hugh Foster lived in a house of similar size to Milton House. Perhaps parts of a medieval stone hall still existed then, or perhaps a smaller house built early in the 17th century. The layout of the hall cellars suggests that an earlier building might have been 'L' shaped.

Two datestones exist which may point to the history of the oldest part of the present Cononley Hall. They read:-

S.S: E.S:	E
	S : S
R.S. A.D. 1680	R: 1683: S

The 1680 date stone is now in Kent at the home of Sir John Swire, to whose family it was given by Mr Horace Green in 1930. The 1683 stone is in the south wall of Cononley Hall. The stone dated 1680 is well worn and has a certain crude simplicity which suggests that the house was not a particularly grand one. The 1683 stone is more neatly fashioned suggesting that either it was originally under cover or even that it was recut at some later time. At least some of the architectural details of the 17th century part of Cononley Hall are



Cononley Hall is on the right of this winter view. A range of outbuildings can be seen beside the Hall. (Photo. early 20th c. prior to 1909)



compatible with these dates. These include some of the original windows, for example, the ground floor fireplace window, which can be viewed from the road to Beech Mount. This window has a bulbous convex moulding on each of the splayed mullions. The mullioned windows together with the magnificent arched fireplace on the ground floor would all still have been fashionable in this part of Yorkshire in the second half of the 17th century.

By 1680 the Hall is most likely to have been a building with three south facing gables of exactly the same width as one in the remaining wing of the 17th century building. In this respect it would show similarities with both Bradley Hall and Glusburn Hall. The position of a structural internal wall within the later hall would seem to support this theory and suggest that more of the 17th century building was retained than might first appear to be the case.

During the second half of the 18th century most of the Hall was rebuilt. While the oldest part of the house is probably later than has traditionally been thought, the newer part is, by way of contrast, probably earlier than is generally thought. Its style is compatible with it having been designed before 1770. A notable feature of an earlier Georgian style is the main entrance with two tuscan pillars on the north side. Inside, a door carries detail in the 'Adam' style which was becoming fashionable around 1770. The reference to a 'Mansion House' in Roger Swire's will has been noted already. It seems less likely that a decision to rebuild the house would be taken after his death while his children were still young. Some features of the house, for example the marble fireplace in the north east ground floor room, may date from the last period of the family's occupation of the Hall around 1820.

### Later occupants of Cononley Hall

From 1805 until his death in 1817 the Hall was rented by Dr Johnson Atkinson Busfield. For many years he was Colonel of the Bradford Volunteers and in 1809 when he was in his 70th year he was elected Registrar at the Registry of Deeds at Wakefield.<sup>33</sup> As we have seen the Rev. John Swire only briefly lived at the Hall. On more than one occasion Cononley Hall was used as a boarding school but it is not known whether the building was shared with other tenants or even the owner at these times.

On 12th January 1837 the Hall was purchased by Robert Milligan, Henry Forbes, Nathaniel Briggs and Alexander Allan Robertson, all described as stuff merchants.<sup>34</sup> We do not know whether they intended the purchase to be a home, or simply an investment or even the site for a mill. At the time of the 1841







Cononley Hall. There is a distinct difference in style between the remaining wing of the 17th century Hall and the 18th century Hall on the left of this view.



Cononley Hall from the south. The formal gardens of the Hall have now disappeared but were once to be found on this side of the building.

These large and ornate volumes would have found a place of honour in middle class Victorian homes. They actually carry a Cononley imprint. Slater must have had other schemes in mind for he had the open Beck covered in. He probably intended to build houses in the Hall grounds. Since the 18th century only that part of the Beck which was immediately in front of the Hall had been covered over, but now the culvert was carried down to join the covered section created under the terrace of houses built about 1870 opposite the New Inn. This was not popular with residents on the other side of Towngate (the old name for Main Street) and Slater was forced to make an agreement in June 1876 to allow them access to the Hall's water supply.<sup>37</sup>

Edward Slater appears to have seen an opportunity for profit for after only three years he sold the Hall to John Turner for £4750 on 29th January 1878.<sup>38</sup> The purchase evidently included some of the farm land formerly in the possession of the Sawley and Parkinson families. The subsequent history of the ownership of the Hall will be told along with that of the Turner family's mills in chapter six.



## CHAPTER 5

# CONONLEY 1660-1850

### Agriculture

FOR centuries the concerns of the farmers of Cononley remained the same as those of their medieval predecessors. The 'court baron' was the manorial court which recorded transfers of land ownership and made decisions relating to remaining shared agricultural activities. The verdicts of the Cononley Court Baron still exist at Chatsworth House, the home of the present Lord of the Manor. They give us an insight into those issues which had to be formally addressed. The form of the meetings was similar all over England for centuries. Thomas Tillotson recorded the decisions of a meeting held in 1626 and both his draft and final version survive. One regular issue was the drainage of the meadows achieved by 'scouring' the ditches, dikes and grips (another name for small ditches). The following examples give an idea of the recurring concerns and the decisions, which were enforced by fines.

At the Court held on 29th October 1685 it was noted 'Item we do Amerce (fine) Anne Sawley 3 shillings 4 pence for her default for not scouring her ditches in the croft land ing side if the same be not done before the last day of November'. It was noted at the same meeting that her husband Henry Sawley had recently died but no allowance, at least in the formal record, could be made for this. An early reference to 'Dead Eye' occurs in 1704, the context being the need to clean out an adjoining ditch. Three centuries ago Cononley Beck was as much a concern as it is today. On 28th September 1713 the Court noted that they were prepared to fine 'Mrs Mary Bradley Widdow and Christopher Shackleton if they do not sufficiently scoure and make good all their part of the Becke and water course running from the Towne end yeate to the Millne yeate'. Towngate was the name used up to the end of the 19th century for what is now Main Street. The earliest known use of the name is in 1626 when Thomas Tillotson had also called it the 'Towne yeate'. In 1703 there was also a reference to the 'Higher Town Gate'. 'Millne yeate' or Mill Gate, as we would spell it, is that part of Main Street which stretched from the bottom of Back Lane (now known as Meadow Lane) to beyond where the railway now is.

The Court held on 12th May 1720 declared 'We lye a pain (a fine) upon all persons who suffer their swine to goe in the towngate of Cononley ... of 12d a swine'. Stray pigs were to be kept out of the centre of the village in summer.

The meeting in 1720 also recorded that the pinfold fence and gate had been repaired. The maintenance of a pinfold (evidently divided up so that everyone had a section to maintain) for stray animals was another common concern. It was in Piper Lane near the bottom of Nethergill and its site remains the property of the Parish Council to this day.

Another example ensures that the Moor was adequately fenced for the sheep to be turned out on it for the summer. From Michaelmas (29th September) to May Day the sheep would be kept in the farmers' own crofts and fields around the village. On 11th May 1703 the court recorded that 'Wee lye a paine upon the Moor fence that lyes betwixt the Stone lade gate and the Bottom of Highfield that the same be sufficiently repaired for turning [out] Sheep by several persons who ought to reparaire [it] on or before the Twenty fourth of June in the Yeare of our Lord 1704 upon paine of five shillings A Rood [i.e. per quarter acre] to the Lord of the Mannor'.<sup>1</sup> The term 'gate' was applied both to roads and to actual gates to the moor; for example, the moor was entered by the 'Stockshutt Gate' from what is now Stockshott Lane.

### **Agricultural 'Improvement'**

From the 17th century onwards there was an increasing interest in the means by which agricultural production could be increased. Improved drainage was one way but so too was the spreading of lime.<sup>2</sup> Lime, obtained by burning limestone in a kiln, was said to sweeten the soil but its effective use was only half understood. In 1664 it was said that forty horse loads of lime per acre were needed when land was first brought into cultivation.<sup>3</sup> The protection of an essential right of way to transport limestone was the subject of an agreement in 1668 in which Henry Smith granted a right of way to Margaret and George Horner 'with carts and carriages of Lymestones, Turves ... and other Fuel'.<sup>4</sup>

A new type of plough known as the 'Rotherham Plough' was the basis for more efficient exploitation of arable land. The more forward thinking landowners were keen to adopt new methods. However the 18th century writer William Marshall was able to say that 'Poverty and ignorance are the ordinary inhabitants of small farms'.<sup>5</sup> Farms, including those let out to tenants, often remained in the same families for generations. For a long time weaving and farming complemented each other as the amount of time spent on the two activities could be varied with the seasons. These 'weaver-farmers' had little incentive to change their farming practices. Sometimes a farm would be divided between two or more sons and become less viable. As a result the importance





of what had been secondary occupations increased and weaving grew in importance.

The principal land owners saw that their production and, therefore, profits would be increased if the remaining areas of common land were to be enclosed, that is divided up into fields owned by individual farmers. 'If the owners of about three-quarters of the value of the land agreed upon the desirability of enclosure, their wishes could be enforced by private Act of Parliament'.<sup>6</sup> In 1768 Cononley Moor was enclosed by just such an Act.<sup>7</sup> Of the total of 534 acres, which were enclosed, Roger Swire received 205 acres and Richard Wainman 118 acres. On the other hand William Lee was one of six villagers who received less than 2 acres each. This 'privatisation' of the public common deprived these smallholders of the land on which they had previously grazed their few animals. Unable sometimes to afford even to build the walls demanded by the enclosure act they were forced eventually to sell their allocation of land. By the end of the 18th century even those with slightly larger allocations had sold up. Robert Laycock had received over 5 acres but by 1791 it formed part of the Wainman Estate's 20 acre Weasel Green Farm.<sup>8</sup> As a result the numbers of landless wage earners increased. Even the somewhat better off farmers did not necessarily put their money back into improving their farms as the new industries and businesses offered a better return.<sup>9</sup>

The plan accompanying the Enclosure Award implies that no buildings then stood within the boundaries of the Moor. Several new farms were created and new buildings were erected during the years after 1768. Four farms were built on the land acquired by William Wainman (see chapter three) and two, Street Head and Gill Head, on that which formed part of Roger Swire's allocation. A wood, later known as 'Swire's Plantation', was created below Gill Head.

One casualty of the enclosure may have been the parish bull. John Moorhouse says that before the enclosures 'certain lands were set apart to provide fodder for the animal'.<sup>10</sup> The long narrow field between Cononley Beck and Nethergill Lane was in fact known as Bull Common about the year 1800.<sup>11</sup>

After an application of lime the newly reclaimed land on the Moor was sown with a cereal crop, mostly oats.<sup>12</sup> The growing population of England meant that after 1770 more corn was imported than was exported. Corn prices were higher in Craven than in most of England.<sup>13</sup> It was surely no coincidence that the enclosure of the Moor took place at a time of increasing demand for corn, particularly from neighbouring Lancashire. It was just at this time that a corn market was established in Skipton. Initially local corn was marketed there





Will of William Laycock 1710.

but the coming of the canal and improved roads greatly increased the supply of corn from the lowlands of Yorkshire to Skipton Market.<sup>14</sup>

In 1775 there were 340 acres of arable land in Cononley. Of this total 249 acres, or three-quarters of the total, were on the former Moor. The Tithe Valuation that year noted that 'the Moor which was lately taken in has produced excellent crops of corn'.

However the valuation also noted that 'Part of it is laid to grass and more will be soon but that is only because from their bad management it will grow corn no longer. As soon it has rested sufficiently it will be plowed up again.' In fact the writer was being optimistic as the farmers were lucky if their crop ripened satisfactorily. The tithe barn, which was opposite where Cononley School now stands, was described as being 'a pretty good one but only in indifferent repair'.<sup>15</sup>

By 1803 the arable land had more than halved to 160 acres. This consisted of 120 acres of oats, 16 acres of wheat, 6 acres of barley, 17 acres of turnips and potatoes and an acre and a half of beans. No less than 43 families kept at least



Main Street. Garth House. This exceptionally early photograph shows the fine late 18th century frontage of this house which was subsequently subtly modernised in 1874. (Photo. possibly 1860s)

one cow but the largest herd consisted of only eight animals. Only 13 families had sheep. In total there were 269 sheep and lambs.<sup>16</sup> Over a hundred years earlier, in 1662, we happen to know that there had been a very similar situation with 241 sheep and lambs owned by 14 families.<sup>17</sup> This does tend to support the statement, made by a local writer in 1793, that 'there has not been material alteration or improvement for the last century or more'. The same writer comments on the fact that the tithes are 'very reluctantly and ill paid' and discourage the growing of arable crops.<sup>18</sup>

In the 19th century the amount of arable farming continued to decline whilst, on the other hand, the number of sheep increased. In 1817, two years after the Battle of Waterloo, there were 94 acres under the plough of which 77 were growing oats. In the fourteen years since 1803 the number of cattle had altered little (down from 122 to 118) but the numbers of sheep and lambs increased to 335. In total 24 farmers, two thirds of the total, now kept sheep.<sup>19</sup>



When the Tithe Award was made in 1842 there were only about 70 acres of arable land. The award was made as part of a process which 'commuted' the tithes and converted them into cash payments.<sup>20</sup> The tithe barn, which had been in 'good repair' in 1803, became redundant. After being used for a time by a blacksmith, the barn was demolished as the National School expanded. Its site is now occupied by numbers 31-35 Meadow Lane.

## Droving

Droving had existed for centuries but it reached its peak early in the 19th century. At that time some 100,000 cattle were herded south from Scotland each year.<sup>21</sup> Cononley was well placed to take advantage of this trade. There were fairs at Malham Moor and at Boss Moor, Rylstone. It was said that 6000 cattle and 20,000 sheep and lambs could be seen at one time.<sup>22</sup> Some would be bought by local farmers. The meadows in the Aire Valley were suitable for rearing cattle, which were often fattened for a year or two before being sold on to the butcher.

Cattle moving directly through the area would keep to the moors so avoiding roads and toll gates (and indeed the village of Cononley itself). There is a tradition that a drovers' inn existed in the vicinity of Tow Top. Most of the drovers were Scots although some local people also worked in the trade. The names of two fields situated on the former Cononley Moor near Street Head may be associated with the drovers and the inn. These were known in 1842 as 'Near Scotchman' and 'Far Scotchman' fields. Inevitably there was some friction with some of the Scottish drovers if they were indifferent to the damage done by their herds. The drovers themselves were concerned to keep their animals fit during the journey. The cattle were shod with eight small shoes. As well as cattle there were flocks of geese, whose feet were protected by a mixture of sawdust and tar, and sheep which did not need to be shod. Local people sometimes bought a few 'tired geese'.<sup>23</sup>

## The Cotton Mill

The invention of the spinning jenny by James Hargreaves, the water frame by Richard Arkwright and the mule by Samuel Crompton marked the beginning of a dramatic change in the production of textiles as they speeded up the production of yarn. Resistance to these inventions in Lancashire encouraged the development of cotton mills in Yorkshire. The first Yorkshire cotton mill was the Low Mill at Keighley, which was built under license from Arkwright in

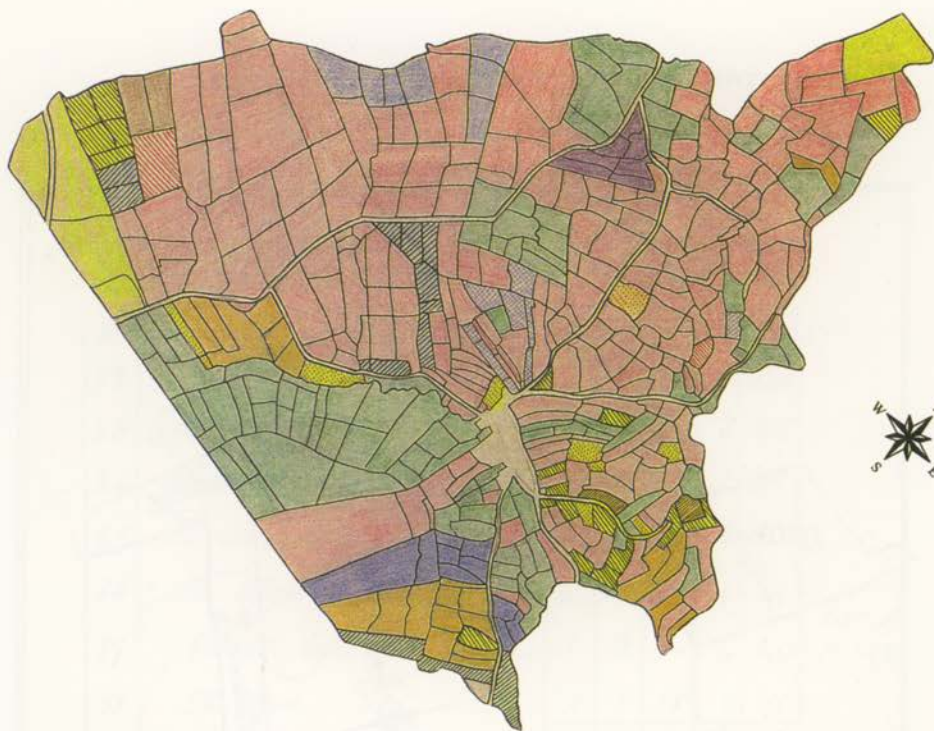


Part of the Tithe Award Map 1842. The numbers refer to owners and tenants listed in the text of the Award.

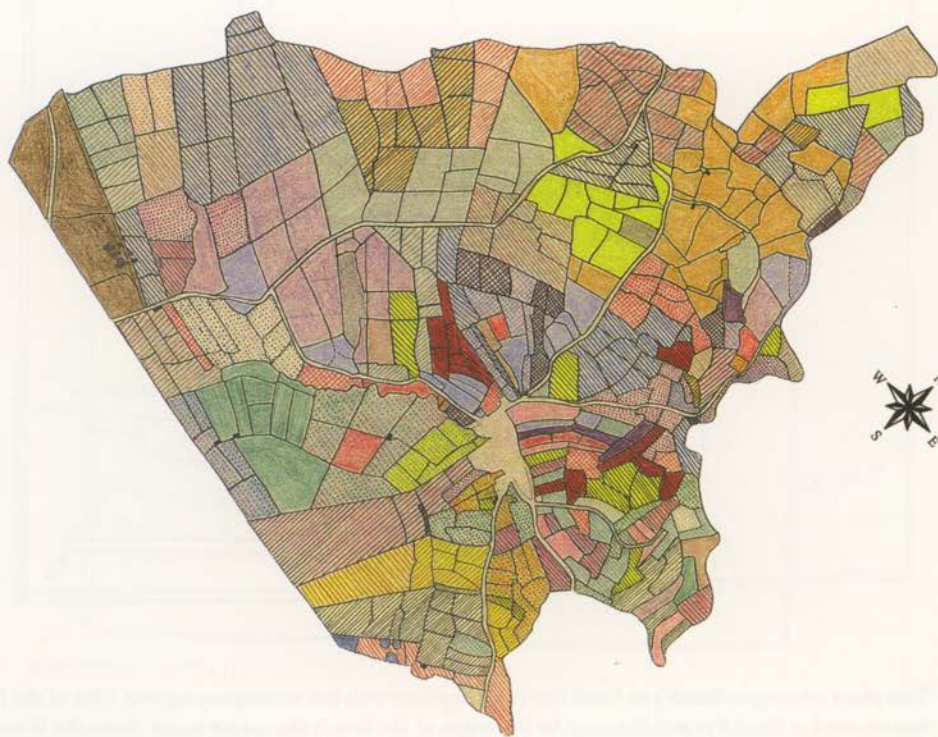
1780. About ten years later a very small mill was erected in Cononley. The siting of a mill was chiefly determined by the availability of a suitable flow of water.<sup>24</sup> Sometimes the available flow was misjudged in the rush to build mills and perhaps this was the case at Cononley where the mill was built on the Beck above the village in Nethergill. The water wheel was fed from a small mill pond, which is shown on the 19th century maps of Cononley. The Mill is named as a 'Cotton Mill' in a series of maps and surveys of the farms belonging to William Wainman made about 1800.<sup>25</sup> In the 1790s the advent of the cotton industry resulted in increased wages. This had an effect on farming where a day labourer's wages doubled to between 2s and 2s. 6d a day.<sup>26</sup>

The mill was in existence in 1791 when rent for it was paid to the Wainman estate.<sup>27</sup> In 1796 it was insured, by William Watson, for a total of £300, made up of £100 for the mill, £30 for mill work, £140 for machinery and £30 for the stock.<sup>28</sup> The mill was not registered under the first Factory Act of 1802. This is not surprising as such a small mill would be unlikely to employ the 20 people and 3 apprentices which was the threshold for registration. In 1810 the equipment

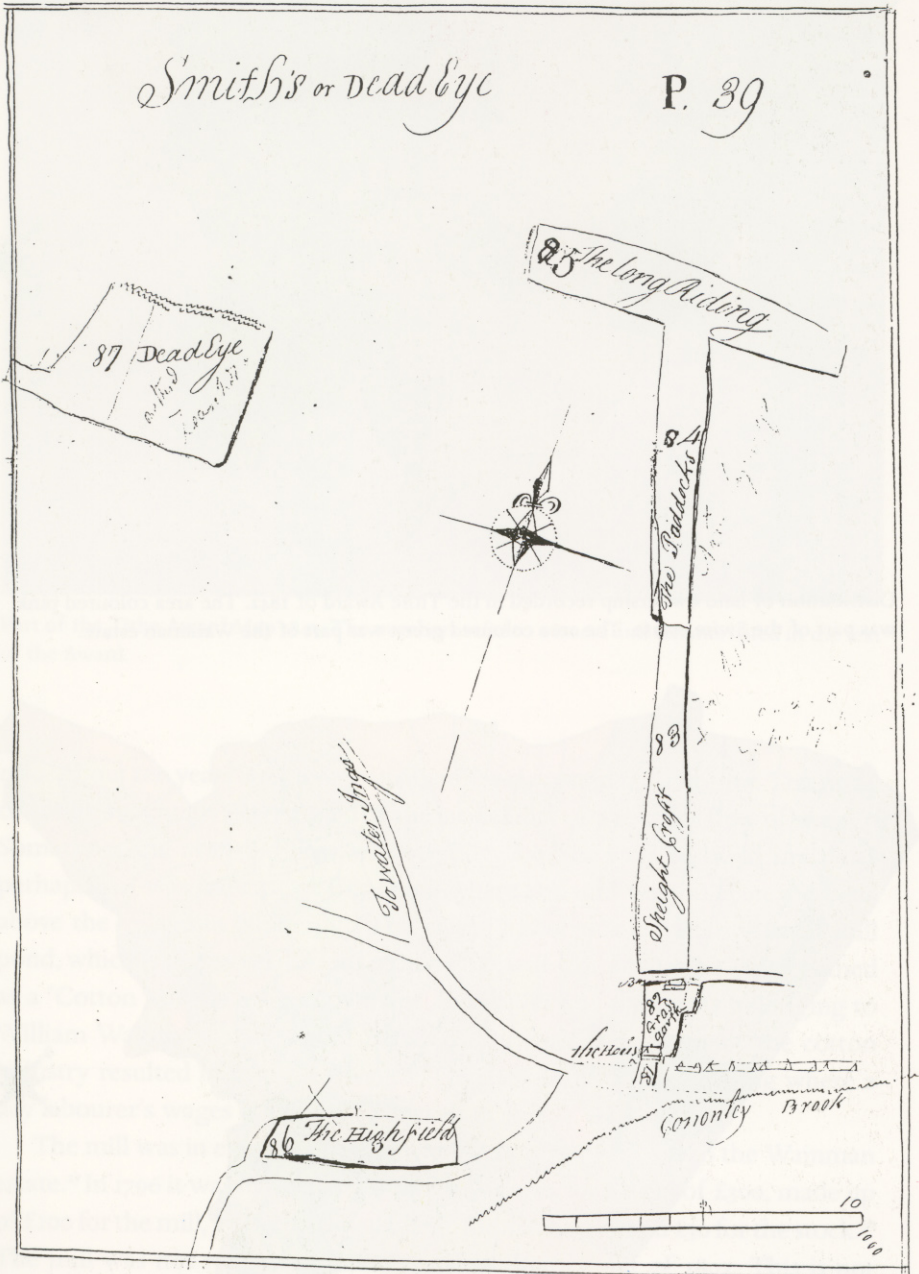




Distribution of land ownership recorded in the Tithe Award of 1842. The area coloured pink was part of the Swire estate. The area coloured green was part of the Wainman estate.



Distribution of land held by tenant farmers recorded in the Tithe Award of 1842.



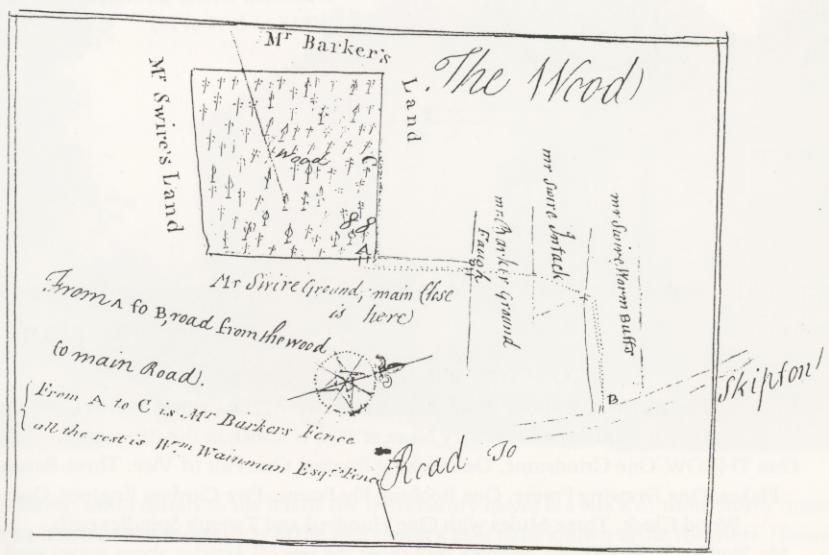
Two plans relating to Smith's or Dead Eye Farm together with the accompanying text. One of the fields was situated at Dead Eye and this must be the origin of the farm's alternative name. From the Wainman Estate Book. c.1800. (Bradford WYAS 14 D 95 6/26)



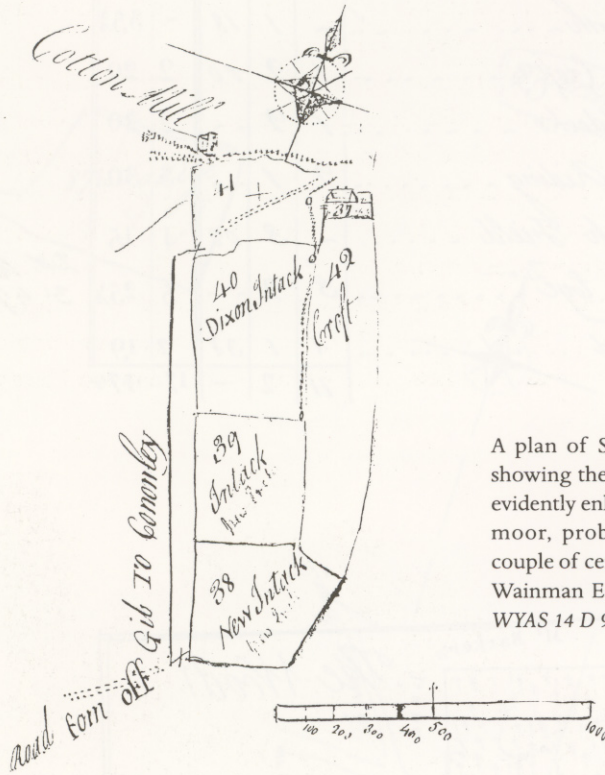
*Smiths or Dead Eye Farm*

N <sup>o</sup>		A. R. P.			DW.	P.
81	House Barn Fold & Garden	0	0	16	-	9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
82	Grass Garth	-	1	18	-	35 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
88	Spreight Croft	1	2	00	2	20
84	The Paddocks	1	2	-	2	20
85	The Long Riding	2	1	-	3	30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
86	The High Field	-	3	08	1	15
87	Dead Eye Farm	3	2	-	5	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
88	The Wood	1	1	38	2	19
		11	2	-	17	17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

*200 A.  
3: 49*



P. 34.

*Shackleton & Gill*

A plan of Shackleton's and Gill Farm showing the Cotton Mill. The farm was evidently enlarged by enclosures from the moor, probably at some time in the couple of centuries before 1768. From the Wainman Estate Book. c.1800. (Bradford WYAS 14 D 95 6/26)

at the Mill was advertised for sale in the Leeds Intelligencer in the following manner.<sup>29</sup>

## COTTON SPINNING MACHINERY

To be Sold by Auction, without Reserve, by Mr. Sharp At the Cotton Mill in Cononley, on the second day of February Next, at One o' Clock in the Afternoon.

One THROW, One Grindstone, One Picking Engine, One Pair of Vice, Three Batting Flakes, One Drawing Frame, One Bobbing Fly Frame, Five Carding Engines, One Wood Clock, Three Mules with One Hundred and Twenty Spindles each.

Mr. Nathan Horrocks of Cononley, will show the several Articles above mentioned.



Subsequently the mill was converted into a house, known in 1891 as 'Old Mill Cottage'. By the early 20th century the name had changed to 'Gill Cottage'. There is a tradition that the mill was badly damaged by fire. This story is at variance with the evidence of the 1810 sale and the surviving building. Perhaps there was a less destructive fire. Cotton mills were extremely vulnerable to fire. The floors and machinery were saturated with oil and cotton fluff and dust (or 'fly') clung to machinery and walls. This was always at risk of being ignited by the candles and oil lamps used for lighting.

The mill would have supplied cotton weavers, both in Lancashire and locally. By the time the Cononley Cotton Mill closed the industry was in decline in Yorkshire. Spinning in Lancashire had become profitable and supplied hand loom weavers there. For a time, during the Napoleonic War, Cononley hand loom weavers wove both worsted and cotton cloth. Thomas Binns and Holmes Hill were named as 'cotton weavers' in the 1803 Muster Roll.<sup>30</sup> The Muster Roll was created to record men who would be available for military service if Napoleon's armies were to invade Britain. The same source names several cotton spinners who must have worked at the cotton mill. They are Henry



Main Street. Immediately to the left of the 17th century house is a block of three storey houses built for hand loom weavers early in the 19th century, later to be known as the Foresters' Houses. (Photo. early 20th c.)

Harrison and Peter, Samuel and William Watson. The Watsons appear to have been the proprietors of the cotton mill. In 1791 John Watson of Cononley had become a member of the Yorkshire committee established under the Worsted Acts to control the misappropriation of materials by, what would now be called, sub-contractors. In the Cononley entry in Baines' directory for 1822 Reuben Stansfield is described as a 'Cotton Manufacturer' so he would have had his cotton cloth woven locally by hand loom weavers but his premises or warehouse in Cononley have not been traced.<sup>31</sup>

### Hand Loom Weaving

The wool trade fell into recession during the reign of Charles II. One initiative to help the flagging trade was the passing of the Wool Acts. The 1678 Act required corpses to be buried only in woollen shrouds. Wealthier people preferred to use linen so they simply chose to ignore the Act and pay a fine. This was what the Swire family did when Samuel Swire died in 1701.<sup>32</sup> Prosperity returned to the West Riding at the end of the 17th century when worsted began to replace the undyed and unfinished white 'kersey' cloth. It is possible that worsted production was only gradually introduced during the 18th century at Cononley. Shalloon was a name used for a type of light worsted cloth and Thomas Parkinson, a Cononley 'shalloon maker' is recorded in the parish registers in 1774.<sup>33</sup> Weaving and farming were activities which continued to complement each other and to provide a slightly more acceptable income for some families than would otherwise be the case.

Early weavers, no doubt, used their own wool or bought it locally. Locally produced wool, however, was not suitable for worsted weaving so the yarn had to be obtained from outside Yorkshire. Only those with enough resources could afford to travel and buy from the more distant wool markets. By the early 18th century wealthy clothiers had begun to employ others in a 'putting out' system. The clothier provided his weavers with yarn which he obtained from a woolstapler. The weaver's earnings were defined by a 'piece-rate'. There were two national centres for woolstapling: Blandford and Southwark. It is surely no coincidence that in 1705 John Bradley of Cononley married Mary Green, the daughter of John Green of Southwark, 'Yarnman'.<sup>34</sup> No doubt John Green was originally from the West Riding as he had two brothers living in Keighley and he left £100 in his will to the free Grammar School there.<sup>35</sup> The clothier came to act in effect as an employer providing the yarn, which the weavers wove at home into cloth for which they received a predetermined price.



The machinery developed by Arkwright for spinning cotton by power was soon adopted to spin worsted and in 1787 Low Mill at Addingham became the first mill in Yorkshire to spin worsted in this way. The initial effect of this was to increase the supply of yarn so enabling the hand loom weavers to increase their production and their incomes. Room for more looms was found in converted barns, outbuildings, new 'loom shops' and new weavers' cottages.<sup>36</sup> The Muster Roll of 1803 names 89 Cononley and Farnhill men as weavers out of a total of 167.<sup>37</sup> The Muster has recently been compared with the first national census of 1801, which showed 876 people living in the combined township. Of these about 600 lived in Cononley. The eligible men for the muster were aged between 17 and 55. However, a detailed comparison shows that almost 100 men were noted in the census, but must have been omitted from the Muster Roll.<sup>38</sup>

We are fortunate to have memories of that time, retold by John William Moorhouse, who would have heard them first hand in the latter part of the 19th century:

'Hand loom weaving seemed to be one of the staple trades. Almost every house had its looms, often both husband and wife had a loom. When the work was completed the pieces had to be carried, usually to Cross Roads (near Keighley), to Messrs Haggas. It was common sight to see both men and women journeying over Sutton Stoop with their pieces on their backs. On arrival women got a cup of tea and food before starting the long journey home with warp and weft for further weaving. The men, well, they pulled their belts a hole tighter, cadged a bit of twist (tobacco), loaded their warp and weft on their back and jogged their way to where they could [buy] a pint of home-brewed and a cake of oatbread and stew for two pence'.<sup>39</sup>

The surviving account book of the Overseer of the Poor contains a small number of references to hand loom weaving. In May 1819, for example, Ann Bradley was provided with 'A Pair of Looms' at a cost of £1. 15s. 6d. In August 1820 Susan Townend's 'Looms, Healds and Shuttle' cost £2. 7s. 4d. In March 1824 James Emmot was paid 8s. 8d for the loan of two pair of looms and Joseph Turner 4s. 4d for one pair. Clearly it was felt worthwhile to enable the poorer members of the community to work to support themselves.<sup>40</sup>

A number of buildings in the village were undoubtedly built to house hand loom weavers or to accommodate ancillary work. Most of these date from the first decades of the 19th century. One of the most enduring memorials to the weavers is the long row of houses, originally known as Union or Club Row, but later officially named Aire View. The Cononley Club Row Building Society was established on 14th February 1822. The five founder members were: Thomas Peel, a weaver; John Walker, a shoemaker; John Hogarth, a worsted manufacturer; William Harrison, a butcher; John Overend, a weaver. They purchased,

The image shows an open handwritten ledger book with two pages of accounts. The left page is headed 'December' and lists various payments to individuals and families, including names like James Bradley, Thomas Bradley, John Cooper, and William Bradley, with amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence. The right page continues the list of payments, including entries for William Bradley, Thomas Bradley, John Cooper, and others, also with amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence. The handwriting is in cursive and the paper shows signs of age.

The Overseer of the Poor's Accounts for December 1821 showing payments.

for the sum of £262, a strip of land on which 32 houses had been erected by 1832.

A building which became known as Hogarth's wool combing shop was erected in front of Bradley's Farm. Combing was the first major stage in worsted production. The atmosphere in the combing shop was heavy with the fumes of the charcoal or coal used to heat large earthenware pots and of the oil used by the comber. The comb had to be re-heated frequently and the fibres, hanging vertically from a spiked pad, were sprinkled with oil. In the first thirty years of the 19th century most cloth was still woven in the homes of weavers but as textile production concentrated in mechanised mills the hand loom weavers gradually disappeared. By the middle of the century, half of the weavers in the





Main Street. Looking east. On the right is Hogarth's wool combing shop and the footbridge, which was removed in the 1960s. (Photo. early 20th c.)



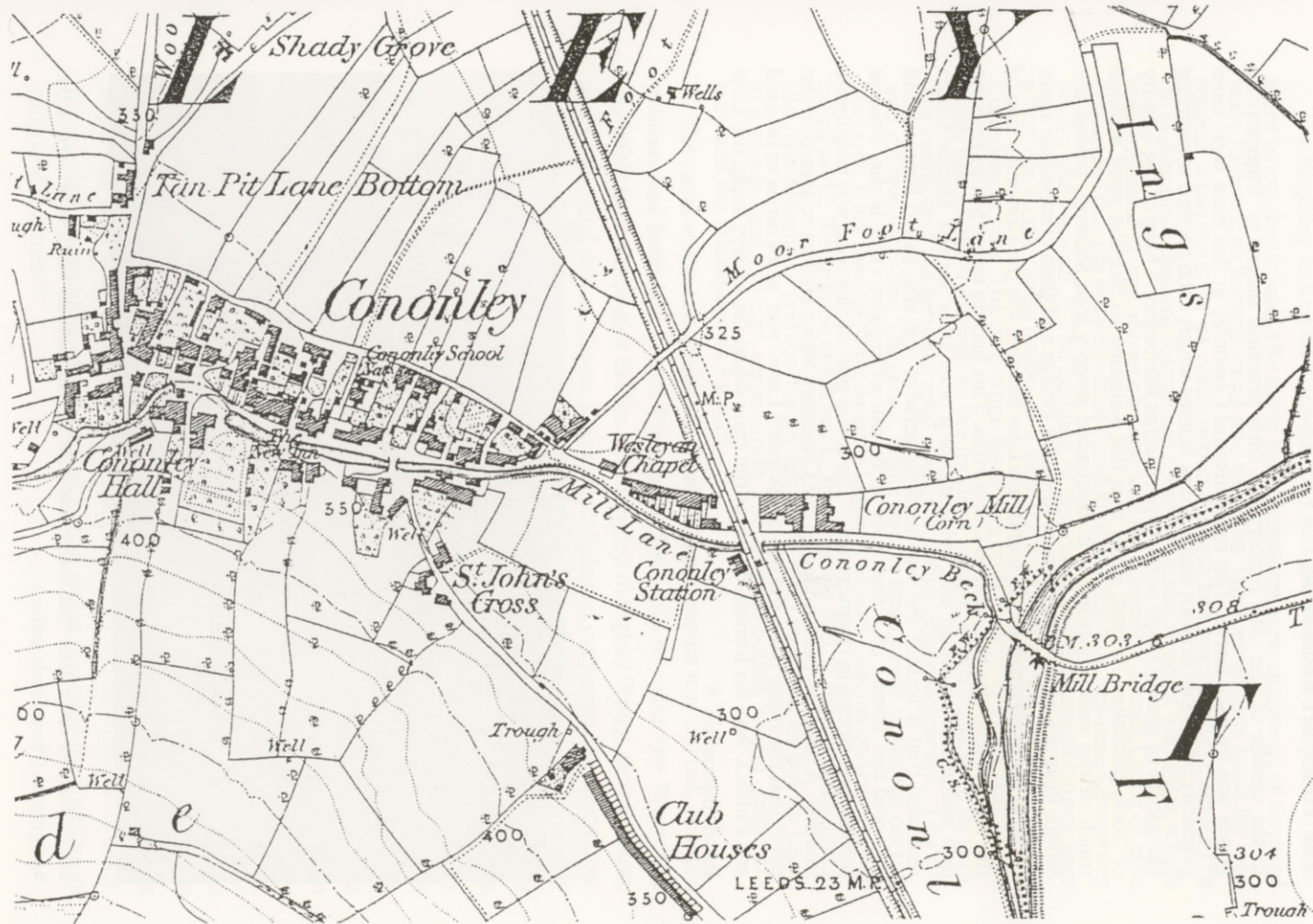
Aire View. One of a series of photographs of residents. We believe that the elderly woman on the left was born in 1822, the year that a group of hand loom weavers formed the building society, which built the houses. (Photo. early 20th c.)



James Archer (d.1904 aged 88) and his wife Jane (d.1895 aged 86). James had been a hand loom weaver and was a member of the Odd Fellows' Friendly Society in the 1830s.

village were working with power driven looms and the days of the hand loom weaver were numbered. Hand loom weavers appear for the last time in the 1861 census. John Hogarth's involvement in the building of the first steam driven textile mills in Cononley is discussed in the next chapter.





Reproduced from the 1st ed. of the 6 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey Map. Surveyed 1848. (enlarged)

## The Transport Revolution

In the middle of the 18th century the only practical means of transporting goods was by pack horse. The roads around Cononley at this time were used primarily by people on foot and by pack horses which each carried something like 240 lbs of goods. Maps of the time, such as Warburton's Map of the County of York, published in 1720, show that the Keighley to Skipton road avoided much of the valley bottom as it descended steeply into Steeton, passed the White Bear at Cross Hills, crossed Kildwick Bridge and then climbed up again to pass Hamblethorpe and descend into Low Bradley. On the Cononley side of the valley there was the road to Cross Hills. This had no name but in 1700 the part inside the township was evidently in a poor state for the Manor Court recorded that it found 'the way leading betwixt one sike called Preest Road Sike and the Towne of Cononley to be out of reaire' (this is the 'Preeste Roode' mentioned in chapter one).<sup>41</sup> The lower part of this road was frequently flooded. A note has been added to the Cononley Moor enclosure award to the effect that the route from the top of 'Windell Lane' was 'at all times to be used as a Publick Way for horses loaded at the time when the waters make the Low Road impassible'.<sup>42</sup>



Bridge over the River Aire. The Bridge was built in 1784. Aireside Mill can be seen in the background. (Photo. early 20th c.)



The Keighley to Kendal turnpike road was established by an Act of Parliament in 1753, but it would be thirty years before the new alignment of the road from Kildwick to Snaygill came into use. The Trustees' minute book for 1786 records a payment for its construction.<sup>43</sup> There had been a bridge across the River Aire since the early fourteenth century. Saxton's map of Yorkshire, which was published in 1577, shows a bridge, and the Cononley Manor Court of 1680 demanded that the inhabitants of Farnhill repair 'the way beweene Connonley Bridge and Farnhill'.<sup>44</sup> The building of the canal and the turnpike must have given rise to the construction of a new stone bridge across the River Aire at Cononley in 1784. The date stone from this bridge survives in the wall of the south side of the approach to the modern bridge, which replaced it in 1929. The creation of the turnpike road made the public stagecoach practical for the well off traveller. The 'Diligence' began to run from Leeds to Kendal on 11th May 1791. It left the Old Kings Arms in Leeds at 4 a.m.<sup>45</sup> Coaches on the turnpike called at the White Lion at Kildwick. Towards the end of the coaching age, in 1841, the 'Alexander' and the 'Union' left the White Lion on weekdays for Leeds at 6.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. respectively. The Skipton bound 'Union' called at 1 p.m. and the 'Alexander' at 8 p.m.<sup>46</sup>

The canal was in fact already built when the turnpike was laid out. In 1744 a petition had been laid before Parliament for a bill to make the River Aire navigable from Cottingley Bridge, near Bingley, to Inghay Bridge, near Skipton, at an estimated cost of £8000. This project failed to overcome the opposition. In 1764 the first proposal for a canal from Yorkshire to Lancashire was mooted. Nine years later on the 8th April 1773 the canal was opened. In fact this canal ran only from Bingley to Skipton. It would be 1777 before it was open to Leeds and 1816 before it was possible to travel from Leeds to Liverpool. One early advantage for Cononley people would have been a fall in the price of coal. The canal did not just carry the materials such as the coal and limestone for which it had been primarily built. There were also packet boats for merchandise and passengers. In 1794 it was possible to travel to Leeds by canal boat. Although such travel might seem rather slow to us it was popular with less well off families for whom coach travel was far too expensive. In 1841 a directory had an entry 'Conveyance by Water — The Union Company and Tyre, Rigby and Co.'s boats pass daily by which goods are conveyed to all parts'.<sup>47</sup> In 1855 Crowther and Dixon's boats provided the same service.<sup>48</sup> The canal was the single most important means by which the industrial revolution was brought to Airedale. It preceded the building of the turnpike road and it preceded the building of mills and factories.<sup>49</sup>

The transport revolution was completed just before the middle of the 19th century. The Leeds and Bradford Railway Company came into being by Act of Parliament on 4th July 1844. Towards the end of 1844 the company employed Thomas Longridge Gooch to survey the line of the proposed extension from Shipley to Skipton, for which parliamentary approval was 'secured' in June 1845. The company was concerned that if it did not act quickly, then other companies would enter its territory. A year later negotiations were proceeding for the acquisition of land. Much of the land required in Cononley was purchased from John Swire for £3503. The lowest part of the road to Cross Hills, between the village and Royd House at the 'flosh', was to be moved away from the river and the present straight length beside the railway was formed. On 9th September 1846 the contract for the section of the line from Bingley to Skipton was let to Messrs. Tredwell for £100,000. Like the canal the railway was entirely built by manual labour, although gunpowder was sometimes used for blasting in rock cuttings. Problems with the supply of rails resulted in only a single track being complete at the end of August 1847. From the beginning the service was provided by the Midland Railway which subsequently purchased the line in 1851.

Many local people joined the 'noisy and excited' crowds who watched a special train, carrying the company's directors, pass through the village on 1st September 1847. The engine, decked with flags, pulled a first class, a second class and three open carriages, on its half hour journey from Keighley to Skipton. The regular daily passenger service began on Tuesday 7th September 1847, a temporary wooden station being provided at Cononley. A tender was accepted from Messrs Sugden and Simpson and Isaac Shaw for the construction of a permanent station at a price of £900. With its pinnacled gables and ornamental chimney stacks it would have appeared rather impressive by comparison with most buildings in the village. By December 1847 the second track was in place and the new station at Cononley was completed and in use.<sup>50</sup>

Some aspects of railway travel one hundred and fifty years ago would have been unfamiliar to us. Cononley Station platform was at little more than rail height so passengers would have had to climb up into the small four wheeled coaches. The carriages were reminiscent of stagecoaches both in appearance and in the transporting of luggage outside on the roof. Some trains had not only 1st, 2nd and 3rd class but a 4th class too. Fortunately for the new but less well off Cononley travellers, the 4th or 'parliamentary' class had been, since 1844, required to offer protection from the weather, a minimum speed of 12 m.p.h and a maximum fare of one penny a mile. Also the track itself would





Cononley Station with its staff. Note the very low platform and the early lamps. (Photo. late 19th c.)



Cononley Station. A Midland Railway train is approaching the platform. (Photo. early 20th c.)

have looked very different. The sleepers would be covered with ballast and earth so that the rails had the appearance of lines in a road. Passengers would have walked across the track to reach their train.

Early services were slow and infrequent but, even so, represented a great improvement on coach travel. In 1854 there were five Midland Railway trains on a weekday in the Leeds/Bradford direction and only four to Skipton and beyond. Passengers on the 8.18am could reach Bradford at 9.10 and Leeds at 9.30.<sup>51</sup> They could travel on to London arriving at seven o'clock in the evening. In 1855 the stationmaster was a man known as Tweedy Hanson. Cononley sidings were in use for freight at an early date. Jonas Todd, born in 1839 at Tar Topping, on Silsden Moor, was employed there in 1857. His employers were the Spencers, owners of Raygill Quarry at Lothersdale.<sup>52</sup>

### Cononley People in 1841

Although it was not the first national census, that taken on the night of 6th June 1841 was the first to list everyone, young and old, by name. For the first time we have a 'snapshot' of the village showing us the names and occupations of the 1159 people then living in Cononley.

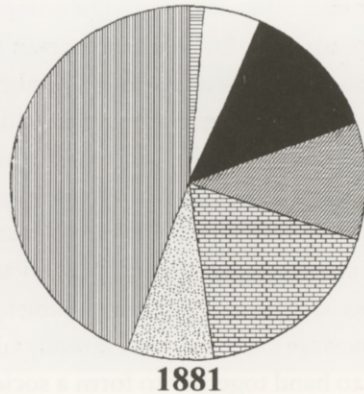
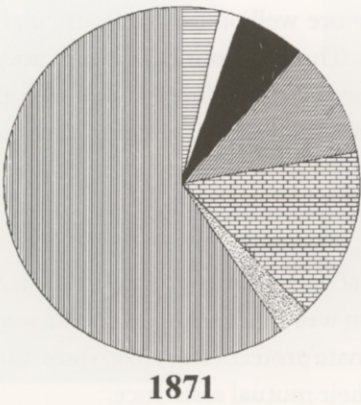
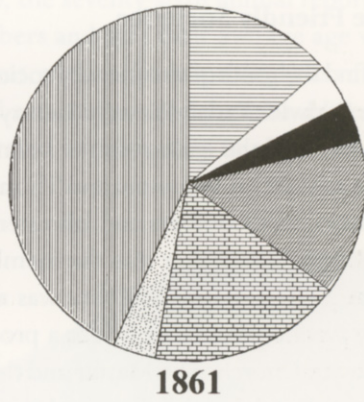
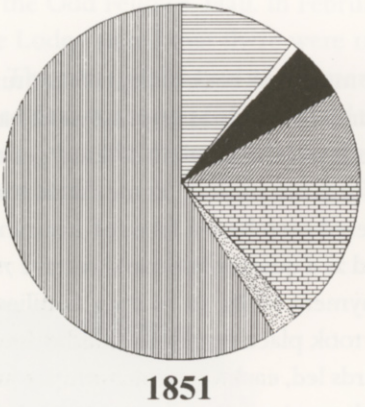
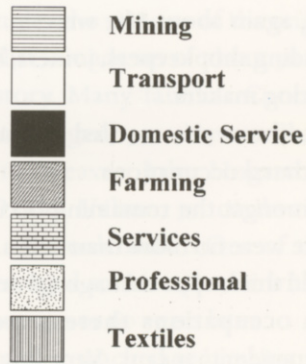
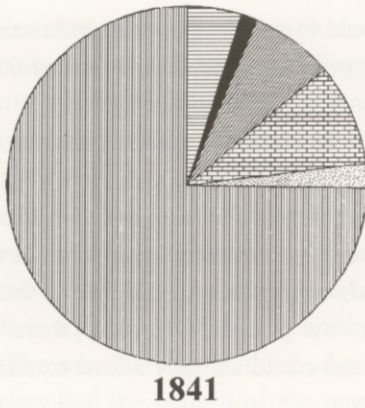
More people lived in Cononley then than did at any time during the 20th century. The census lists approximately 650 people in employment. It is difficult to be precise because, whilst there were a very few people who claimed to have more than one occupation, there were others who failed to give an occupation. For example, a few farmers' wives described themselves as 'farmers' so leading one to suspect that there were other women who might have been similarly described.

Approximately 500 men, women and children were occupied in the textile industry. This was *three-quarters of the population*. The pre-eminence of worsted weaving simply cannot be overemphasised; it was what Cononley was all about. Almost exactly half of the 410 or so worsted weavers were women.<sup>53</sup> These numbers include approximately 30 boys and girls of 14 or younger. A common activity for children, and some elderly people, was that of bobbinwinder. 9 boys and 11 girls aged 10 or under were so described in the census. In the new houses on Union Row (now known as Aire View) there were no less than 93 worsted weavers, 1 cotton weaver, 14 bobbinwinders and 9 woolcombers.

Of the other occupations:-

54, or about 8%, were on the land as farmers or farm labourers. Of these 35 described themselves as farmers.





The total workforce, by percentage groups, 1841 to 1881. The population of Cononley reached a peak of 1272 in 1851 but had fallen to 829 by 1881. (M. Gill)

51, again about 8%, were in what we could loosely call service industries, including shopkeepers, joiners, blacksmiths, publicans and no less than 13 shoe and clog makers.

35, about 5%, worked as lead miners in the recently opened mine or in associated occupations.

Amongst the remaining occupations were female servants and labourers. There were no more than half a dozen people who were employed in what we would think of as managerial or professional occupations. In addition to those with occupations there were relatively few people (25) who were of 'independent' means. Very few people indeed could actually afford to retire from work in the middle of the 19th century.

### **The Friendly Societies**

To find the roots of the friendly societies one must look back to the 18th century. The Kildwick Parish Friendly Society was founded as early as 1779 and must have been one of the earliest in the country. It enjoyed the support of local gentry such as William Wainman and Thomas Garforth but most of its members were weavers, woolcombers and labourers. It offered members a form of insurance against sickness. After 1810 the members paid 2s a quarter but could receive 7s a week if they were sick. There was also a payment of £5. 5s. to their families if they were to die. Once a year a procession took place from the club house to Kildwick Church. The Master and the Stewards led, each carrying a white staff, followed by the rest of the members each with a sprig of Green Oak in their hats.

After the Napoleonic wars there was both an increase in poverty and an increased reluctance amongst some of the more well off people, particularly in the south of England, to support the poor. The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act sought to force parishes to unite together and create 'union' workhouses. Although this development was widely opposed in Yorkshire, working people would have had an increased sense of insecurity. This period also saw considerable agitation amongst the working class, which manifested itself in the national radical movement known as Chartism (after its charter of demands). There is good reason to believe that radical politics thrived in Cononley amongst its chapelgoing hand loom weavers. In this national climate many working men saw that their only legitimate protection against misfortune was to band together to form a society for their mutual assistance.

The Loyal Airedale (Cononley) Lodge of the Odd Fellows' Friendly Society was formed on Saturday 30th August 1834 at the Bay Horse Inn. The innkeeper



at that time was a young man named David Fortune who was one of the original members of the Lodge. An early membership list is made up of about 50 men some of whom feature elsewhere in this history. Many familiar Cononley surnames occur in the list e.g. William Barker, (aged) 39, weaver; Charles Duckworth, 25, weaver; Samuel Harrison, 19, weaver; John Hogarth, 31, manufacturer; James Laycock, 34, weaver; Daniel Nelson, 35, cordwainer; Thomas Peel, 29, manufacturer; John Turner, 23, woolcomber. One of them was a young weaver named James Archer, then aged 19. He appears with his wife in a photograph (in this book) taken perhaps 50 or 60 years later.

The membership of the Lodge increased until it reached 109 in 1859. The society had the benefit of the rents on the Odd Fellows' Houses, which had been erected by the Lodge in 1850. The top floor of the building was given over to the Odd Fellows' Hall. In February 1910, the seventy-sixth annual report of the Lodge stated that there were 111 members and that their average age was 41. The average sickness of the members was, somewhat surprisingly, as much as 26 days in the previous year and they had received around about £1. 10s. each back from the society.<sup>54</sup> The Lodge celebrated its centenary in 1934 with 175 members.<sup>55</sup>



Cross Hills Road. Odd Fellows' Houses. The Odd Fellows' Hall was on the top floor of this block of houses, which was built by the Lodge in 1850. (Photo. early 20th c.)

The Court Miners Valley Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society was formed in about 1852.<sup>56</sup> This Lodge evidently was created to serve the needs of the lead miners. In 1867 they purchased the building now known as the Foresters' Houses, 94-98 Main Street. Their Hall was on the top floor and was approached by a stone staircase at the rear. When purchased the houses were probably already about 60 years old. The earlier history of this site appears in an appendix to this book. The Lodge's fifty eighth annual report in February 1910 stated that there had been 143 members in the previous year. Their average sickness was nearly 24 days and they each had received an average of £1.6s. altogether. Both the Cononley friendly societies recorded a considerable increase in sickness on the previous year, 1908.





## CHAPTER 6

### THE MILLS

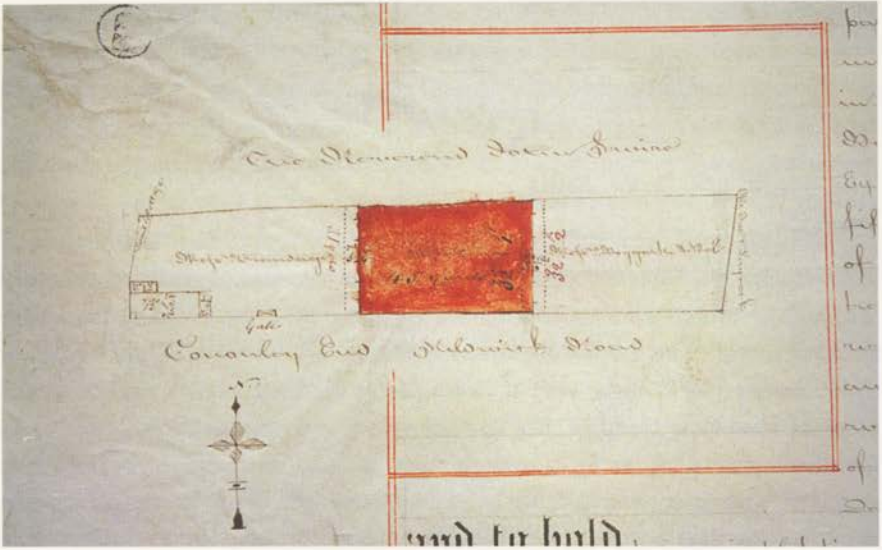
#### The 'High' and 'Low' Mills

THE story of these mills in Cononley could be said to have begun on 12th August 1836. On that day four members of the Grandage family entered into an agreement with three men who all described themselves as worsted manufacturers. The three were William Turner of Cross Hills, John Hogarth of Cononley and Thomas Peel of Cononley. William Turner agreed to lease a piece of land called Brigg Close and the two Cononley men jointly made an identical agreement for an adjoining piece of land. Each of the agreements stated that the men would 'at their own expense within the space of eighteen months now next ensuing erect build and finish ... one good and substantial Mill or factory with several Cottages or Dwellinghouses and necessary buildings of good stone and mortar and to be covered with good timber and slate'.<sup>1</sup>

John Hogarth, who lived at Bradley's Farm, had a reputation as a man who 'dabbled' in various enterprises. As already noted, he is remembered for the wool combing shop built in front of his farm. In 1841 he is recorded as 'Farmer & Lead Miner & Shopkeeper'.<sup>2</sup> Some of Hogarth's other enterprises are described in chapter eight. Peel and Hogarth had also been founder members of the Cononley Club Row Building Society, which built Union (or Club) Row, now Aire View.

The two mills were built in 1837 within the site which is now occupied by Station Mills. Incidentally, some houses, including the one which was later to become 'The Railway' public house, would have been built at about this time. The two mills were built to be parallel with each other and at right angles to the road. As the agreement stated that both of them had to be at least five yards from the boundary of their respective plots, there was a space of at least ten yards between them. They came to be known as the 'High' and 'Low' Mills.

The High Mill built by Turner was literally higher and closer to the village. In its early days this mill was engaged in spinning and probably weaving as well. The building still exists as part of the existing factory complex and on its gable can be seen the bellcote where the mill's bell would have hung. No doubt the bell was rung to mark the beginning and end of the parts of the working day. A typical mill day would begin at 6 a.m. or earlier and continue until at least 7 p.m. There was usually a half-hour break for breakfast and an hour for



A plan within one of the two agreements signed in 1836 which shows (in the centre) the site acquired by William Turner for a mill. The adjoining site was acquired by John Hogarth and Thomas Peel.



John Turner's High Mill. Loft of the building erected in 1837.



dinner. Since 1834 the employment of children under 9 had been prohibited in textile mills and those aged 9 to 13 were limited to 48 hours a week. The Low Mill was divided into two parts. Peel had the slightly larger section nearest the road and Hogarth the other. Both parts operated as weaving sheds (probably for both worsted and cotton). Later buildings have replaced this mill, together with two cottages erected there.

After William Turner's death in 1838 ownership of the High Mill passed to his son John. In 1852 John Turner of Cross Hills bought the lease of the other building from Hogarth and Peel. John Hogarth is described in the agreement as 'formerly worsted manufacturer but now farmer'.

In 1862 ownership of the High and Low mills passed from John Turner of Cross Hills to his son, also named John. This John Turner, who was recorded in the 1841 census as being a factory manager living in Cononley, was to be the most significant member of his family. A note has survived in a rate book, which describes the mills in the 1860s:

'Mr Turner's Mill, Cononley: Two engines = 20 Horse [power]; Mill 20 by 13.5 yds - three and a half stories high; Shed 19.5 by 36 yds, one story; Storeroom 6.5 by 11.5 yds, one story; Boiler, Engine and Counting House 13.5 by 11 yds one story; Engine Chimney 27 yds high. [£5 + £3.10s]. 190 looms and 130 hands.

James Midgley, Low Mill, Cononley; Mill 28 by 13yds, 2 stories; Throstle Spinning and Drawing frames; 20 Horse [power] Engine; Gase House and 1 retort at work. Employ about 50 hands including short-timers'.<sup>3</sup>

The still extant part of these mills does, in fact, have three floors, a smaller floor in the loft and is of the size given in this description. James Midgley must have leased the Low Mill or managed it on behalf of John Turner. The total workforce was 180, a figure which represents something like a third of the working population of Cononley. The 'gase house' and retort indicate that the mills must have been gas lit.

### **The Turner Family: Their Homes and Mills**

John Turner was clearly prospering. At about this time he built a new house, known as 'Mill House' in the grounds of his Cononley Mill (the whole complex is now known as 'Station Mills'). This house became in the 20th century the offices of Horace Green & Co. From 1864 to 1866 John Turner owned Milton House after which he sold it to James Marshall Laycock. Laycock improved the house and extended its grounds by purchasing a strip of land which was then part the former Tillotson's farm (now Sunny Bank). It was Laycock who named



John Turner. Photographed sometime before his death in 1886.



Sarah Catherine (Kate) Turner. Kate was the daughter of James Whittingham and the wife of George Turner. (Photo. late 19th c.)



Joseph Turner. 'Little Joseph' never acquired any significant position in his father's and brothers' mills. (Photo. late 19th c.)



the house after the 17th century poet, Milton. The adjoining Tillotson's farm was another 17th century house, but unlike Milton House it was almost entirely rebuilt in the 19th century and only parts of the original rear wall are still visible. In 1872 Milton House was purchased by John's son George and a year later the ownership was transferred to George's brother, another John. In the space of less than ten years three Turners had owned the house. It was John Turner (junior) who added the wing at the rear of Milton House which bears his initials and the date 1874. In January 1878 John Turner (senior) bought Cononley Hall for £4750 and lived there for the rest of his life. This John Turner had a two other sons named Joseph and Thomas. Joseph was considerably less than five feet tall and was always known as 'Little Joseph'.

For a time John Turner had another enterprise nearby. In 1866 land was purchased for the construction of a mill on the other side of the River Aire. The site was beside, what was then known as, Terriden Lane in the Township of Farnhill. The previous name of the field, which was High Mill Ing, seems to confirm that this was near the site of the medieval corn mill. The 'New' Mill was built and operated by Messrs. Middleton and Answorth & Co., but James Whittingham chose the site.

James Whittingham managed the 'New' or 'Aire Side' Mill, and continued to do so until his retirement in 1875. 'He was an ardent churchman and was vicars' warden for 15 years, principally during Mr Wynn's vicarate.' In the 1880s he was living at Hawfield House (the name soon changed to Howefield) on Moorfoot Lane as a tenant of John Turner. He died on 27th February 1901, aged 83.<sup>4</sup>

The *Craven Herald* of 19th February 1876 contains a lengthy article about Cononley. After noting that Aireside Mill was considered to be a 'Cononley property' and that the workers came from several villages the writer continued with a description of his visit:

'... we were much struck with the order and cleanliness which prevailed. The motive power is furnished by two large boilers, and one compounded beam engine, which seems equal to double the work it has to perform. The shed, a spacious, lofty, and well ventilated structure contains about 500 looms, and the perfect forest of belts, [and] shafting, combined with the noise of the machinery, is, to a novice, completely bewildering and deafening. The warehouse, dressing-room, and office, all seem amply sufficient to fulfil their purpose. More than 300 hands are employed on the premises, so at closing time there is quite a respectable turn out. The other mill close to the railway station, the property of Mr J. Turner is a much smaller one.'

On the 1st September 1880 John Turner purchased Aireside Mill. Unfortunately Turner had a high handed and tyrannical reputation, so that the news that

Turner was about to buy the only other mill in the vicinity of Cononley was greeted with gloom and anger by the people of Cononley. Things were not helped when he was reputed to have taunted an angry crowd with the words 'Nah then I've gettan' all on yer'. This is the commotion reported on in the *Bradford Daily Telegraph* of 9th June 1880:

'A disturbance took place at Cononley, near Skipton, on Monday evening last incidental to the sale and purchase of Aireside Mill by Mr John Turner, manufacturer. The purchase seems to have caused considerable ill feeling among the operatives, who met Mr. Turner on his arrival from Bradford on Monday and hooted him to his residence. A large crowd then gathered in front of the hall and commenced yelling and hooting. They made an effigy of Mr. Turner and carried it about subjecting it to all sorts of indignities, at length setting fire to it in front of Mr. Turner's house'.

When John Turner died in 1886 he left the more modern Aireside mill to his son, John, together with the adjoining cottages which he had recently had built. At the time of his father's death, John was living at Mill House. Turner left his other mill 'adjacent to the Midland Railway Station, Cononley' to another of his sons, George Turner, together with the house there. Later the two sons were to come to a new arrangement with the property and George lived at the Hall. John Turner senior left his wife Hannah the house known as 'Howefield' where James Whittingham had been living.

One of the earliest known photographs of Cononley shows the Cricket Team of 1874-6. In the background, beyond the station, can be seen the original Mill of 1837 and the (then) detached 'Mill House'. At that time what we would now recognise as the principal building on the Station Mills site was yet to be built. In 1895 George Turner mortgaged Cononley Hall. It could be that the construction of the main mill building was the cause of financial difficulties for the family.

On 17th August 1897, Station Mills and Cononley Hall were offered for sale at an auction. Following this sale the Hall was conveyed by the Craven Bank to Thomas Swire Laycock on 2nd October 1897. Although George Turner, in fact, managed to retain Station Mills, they were mortgaged on 3rd November that year for £2000.

### **The Events of 1898**

It can be no coincidence that the *Craven Herald* for 21st January 1898 reported two significant events at Cononley. The first was a plan to erect a new weaving shed in the centre of the village. The second event was at John Turner's Aireside Mill where the weavers had come out on strike on Thursday afternoon January 13th against a proposed reduction of wages:



'Whatever may be the merits or demerits of the case, there can be no gainsaying the fact that, for a considerable time past trade at both factories has been anything but good, consequent, evidently, on the general depression of the Bradford trade. Very recently the weavers at the 'Old Mill' left work owing to a proposed reduction of wages; but fortunately the 'strike' if such it be termed, was only of short duration – about a day – as an amicable arrangement was come to.'

The 'amicable arrangement' at the 'Old Mill' (Station Mills) was a reduction in wages of about 5%. However a greater reduction in wages proposed at the 'New Mill' (Aireside), and the refusal of John Turner to meet the workers caused another strike which quickly spread to the overlookers, warpdressers and twisters, who refused to weave out the warps remaining in the looms. Some 100 workers were affected. A week later the *Craven Herald* was reporting a slightly more conciliatory line by John Turner who had invited a deputation of seven weavers, who had worked at least three years, to meet him. The other workers, many of whom must have been under 21, 'spotted certain females' amongst the favoured seven who were thought to support a temporary compromise. In fact this group did not reach a settlement and Turner gave instructions for the warps to be taken out of the looms - a signal that there would be no work to return to. The *Craven Herald* of 11th February reported on a stormy meeting of strikers at the Foresters' Hall at which 15 or 16 people had without success tried to encourage the others to accept the employer's terms on the principle that 'half a loaf is better than none'. This group went to see their employer the next day and returned to work the same afternoon. Many of the others then turned up at the mill only to find themselves locked out, indeed the key was shaken at them. After further negotiations they all returned to work the following morning on the terms they had originally been offered.

Meanwhile, the *Craven Herald* of 28th January reported on a crowded public meeting held the previous Monday evening, also in the Foresters' Hall. The meeting heard about a proposed new company to spin and manufacture cotton and worsted:

'Mr Charles Walker, chairman of the parish council, presided, and he explained that he had been requested to convene the meeting in order to ascertain, if possible, what amount of support the proposed scheme would receive. He stated that there was an excellent site near the railway station and the solicitors to the owner had offered two lots at certain prices, but these were considered too high. Another site, which had been suggested as more suitable, was the Cononley Hall estate. There were about two acres of ground attached to it, and it was thought the Hall itself might be easily converted into warehouses.'

The Cononley Shed Company Ltd. was registered with a capital of £5000 and an architect produced rough plans. Seven local men subscribed in total the first

£170 but no doubt the capital raised was inadequate and the scheme folded up. It is quite likely that the project was born of a desire to offer employment on better conditions than that available at the established mills.<sup>5</sup>

### **The Retirement of Turner Brothers**

According to The Yorkshire Textile Directory of 1900 George Turner's Cononley Mills (Station Mills) had 250 looms and were manufacturing 'cashmeres, italians cords, etc'. The same source gives 450 looms at John Turner's Aireside Mill. These entries record the situation shortly before the Turner brothers sold their mills. Within a few years much of the Turners' remaining property was to change hands. Milton House was offered for sale in 1901 but George Turner was able to retain the property as his own home. In fact it appears that George was declared bankrupt in 1901 and village tradition (as we refer to contemporary gossip in this history) had it that he became dependent on the income of his second wife, Sarah Catherine or Kate, who happened to be the daughter of James Whittingham. Howefield was sold in 1902 to J. H. Reddihough. The *Craven Household Almanack* for 1903 shows Charles Weatherall as the occupier of Aireside Mill. Station Mills was sold to Peter Green & Co. in 1905.

John and George Turner lived in retirement for many more years in Cononley. Both brothers were staunch Liberals and members of the Cononley Liberal Association. They were also trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel. 'Little Joseph', one of the other brothers, was also a staunch Wesleyan, but evidently his eccentricities had prevented him from following in his father's footsteps. It was his daily custom to fetch his supply of drinking water from a spring up on Gibside. When he died in 1924 he was in his 88th year and believed to be Cononley's oldest inhabitant.<sup>6</sup> John Turner was in his 83rd year when he collapsed and died at the Village Institute in 1926. It was recalled then that 'his dignified and pleasing manner made it a pleasure to talk to him'.<sup>7</sup> George continued to live for the last thirty years of his life at Milton House, where it was said 'he delighted to be amongst his flowers, trees and plants'. He died, aged 91, after falling down the staircase from the upper store room in the Cononley Co-operative stores on 13th August 1932.<sup>8</sup>

### **The Green family**

When Peter Green & Co. acquired Station Mills they had already been producing textiles at Cross Lane Mills, Bradley, since 1883. The company would





Horace Green & Co.'s Dramatic Society. The members of the society are posed with some of the company's products. In the background is the equipment used to test the motors. (Photo. 1930s)

continue to produce textile related products for over 60 years. In the 1950s they were cotton manufacturers producing 'Bed Ticking, also Pocket Cloths for Spring Interiors. Makers of Cotton and Union Shirtings'.<sup>9</sup> The company operated at Station Mills up until 1968.

In 1910 Station Mills still occupied the same long narrow strip of land owned by the Grandage family before 1836. The main building was to undergo a substantial rebuilding. A fourth floor was added and a new higher roof with a single gable replaced the previous one which had two ridges similar to the adjoining weaving sheds. It may be that the north wall of the building was also rebuilt at the same time in brick with large windows. Between 1917 and 1938 the site was steadily increased in size and this enabled the works to be expanded considerably. Further acquisitions of former railway property continued until 1965.

Peter Green's son Horace began an apprenticeship in electric motor manufacture in Bradford. He subsequently worked for British Westinghouse (Metropolitan-Vickers) and the Lancashire Dynamo and Motor Company in



The foundry at Horace Green & Co. Ltd. (Photo. 1990s)

Manchester. He returned to Cononley and in 1910 established an electrical engineering works, later Horace Green & Co. The company occupied the half of Station Mills nearest to the railway. At first Horace Green made direct current motors for machine tools. The company pioneered the production of 'high efficient totally enclosed three phase induction motors' which were manufactured in many different sizes. The motors were used for many applications, for example, to power lifts, textile machinery and also to power conveyors, compressors and pumps in mines. During the Second World War the company undertook a variety of special assignments including the manufacture of some 2000 high frequency alternators for 'ASDIC', a system used to locate enemy submarines. Horace Green & Co. manufactured all their own components.





Electric motors being assembled at Horace Green & Co. Ltd. (Photo. 1990s)

One section of the works was a foundry where items such as the motor casings were produced. In the main shop, measuring 80ft by 250ft, the castings were machined and the motor shafts turned and ground. Young women were employed in lighter work in the 'winding department'. The company ceased production in 1997.

In 1908 Mrs Sarah Green, the wife of Peter Green, bought Cononley Hall from Thomas Swire Laycock who had rented it out and reputedly stripped it of some of its panelling. The Green family built the first four houses of the terrace known as 'Beech Mount' shortly afterwards and Horace Green lived in one of them. The Hall was divided into three parts in 1911 and occupied by a succession of families. The first of these were Louis Robert Green in the south-

eastern part, Mrs Jennings in the northern part facing Main Street and William Overend in the south-western, or 17th century part. William Overend used the substantial outbuildings of the Hall, which still existed then, for the manufacture of his patent washing machine. The ownership of the Hall was transferred to Horace Green & Co. in 1923 and the company continued to own the Hall until the early 1980s.

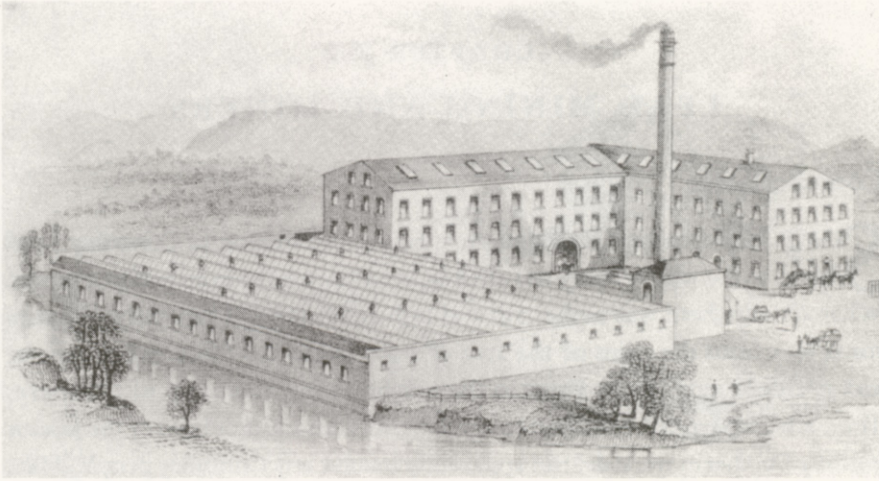
Both of the Greens' companies in Cononley ran trips for their workers. In 1936 a special train ran from Cononley to Blackpool to celebrate the golden jubilee of Peter Green & Co. and the silver jubilee of Horace Green's business. In 1960 for the golden jubilee of Horace Green & Co., 72 employees were flown to Dublin.

Horace Green was active in village life. He purchased land for the playing fields from Miss Hinde (almost certainly the site near the Railway Station sought by the Cononley Shed Company in 1898). Horace Green was also instrumental in the decision to build a new Methodist Church – now the Church Centre.

### **The Later History of Aireside Mill**

During the Edwardian period Aireside Mill was occupied by a number of textile manufacturers. There was an emphasis on the production of cotton goods in Cononley at this time but trade suffered from shortages of the raw material and labour disputes.<sup>10</sup> One of the occupants of the Mill in 1909 was J.W. Midgley & Co. who suffered a small fire in that year.<sup>11</sup> In 1911 Aireside Mill was occupied partly by 'Barker & Bilsborough', cotton manufacturers, and partly by Charles Weatherall. John Barker and his family moved from Trawden, about 1906, to live at Garth Cottage, a 17th century house on Main Street which still exists in an altered form. Later he moved to a house on the newly built Beech Mount and was Chairman of the Parish Council in the 1930s. Charles Weatherall was also a cotton manufacturer, and his family lived first at Tudor Cottage in Napier Street. After the Weatheralls moved subsequently to Garth House, Charles Weatherall and John Barker worked and lived next door to each other. It appears that Thomas Stell was actually already the owner of the Mill by the end of the first decade of the 20th century. John Barker was employed by Thomas Stell as manager of Aireside Mill in addition to his own business interests. Incidentally, John Barker, James Midgley, Thomas Stell and Charles Weatherall all agreed to act as trustees of Cononley Village Institute in 1909. Thomas Stell married Martha Sagar in 1907 and her father, Donald Sagar laid one of the foundation stones of the Institute.<sup>12</sup>





Aireside Mill. (1870s)

Charles Weatherall's business later became 'Stell and Weatherall'. The business was trading as Thomas Stell & Co., worsted spinners, in 1928. Thomas Stell's company continued in production until the 1960s. It was then sold to West Riding Woollen and Worsted Mills who in turn were absorbed by Coats Paton, yarns and fabric division. It finally closed down as a textile mill producing worsted yarn on 6th December 1979. About half of the 80 or so people who lost their jobs were working mothers from Cononley. The loss was all the more severe because Thomas Stell & Co. had been a progressive employer. According to a newspaper report at the time:

'Thos. Stell's still retained its family atmosphere and its internal flexibility allowed women to take on part-time work while its nursery catered for their children aged up to six. Those mothers with children too old for the nursery were granted leave for the duration of the school holidays'.<sup>13</sup>

However all was not lost because Aireside Mill was acquired by Tim Wilson in 1981 and was initially used as the headquarters of Total Auto Plan Ltd. Subsequently Mr Wilson began to produce ice cream there as Yorkshire Dales Ice Cream Ltd. The multi-storey part of the original Mill was destroyed by fire on the 3rd March 1992. Thereafter the site was split into two parts. The western half was renamed Cononley Business Park and now houses eight successful businesses, employing approximately 30 local people. The eastern half was renamed Yorkshire Dales Creamery and is the home of Yorkshire Dales Ice Cream Ltd. It is now the largest supplier of Dairy Ice Cream in the United Kingdom and employs 75 local people.<sup>14</sup>

## CHAPTER 7

### LEAD MINING AND MINERS

#### Cononley Mine

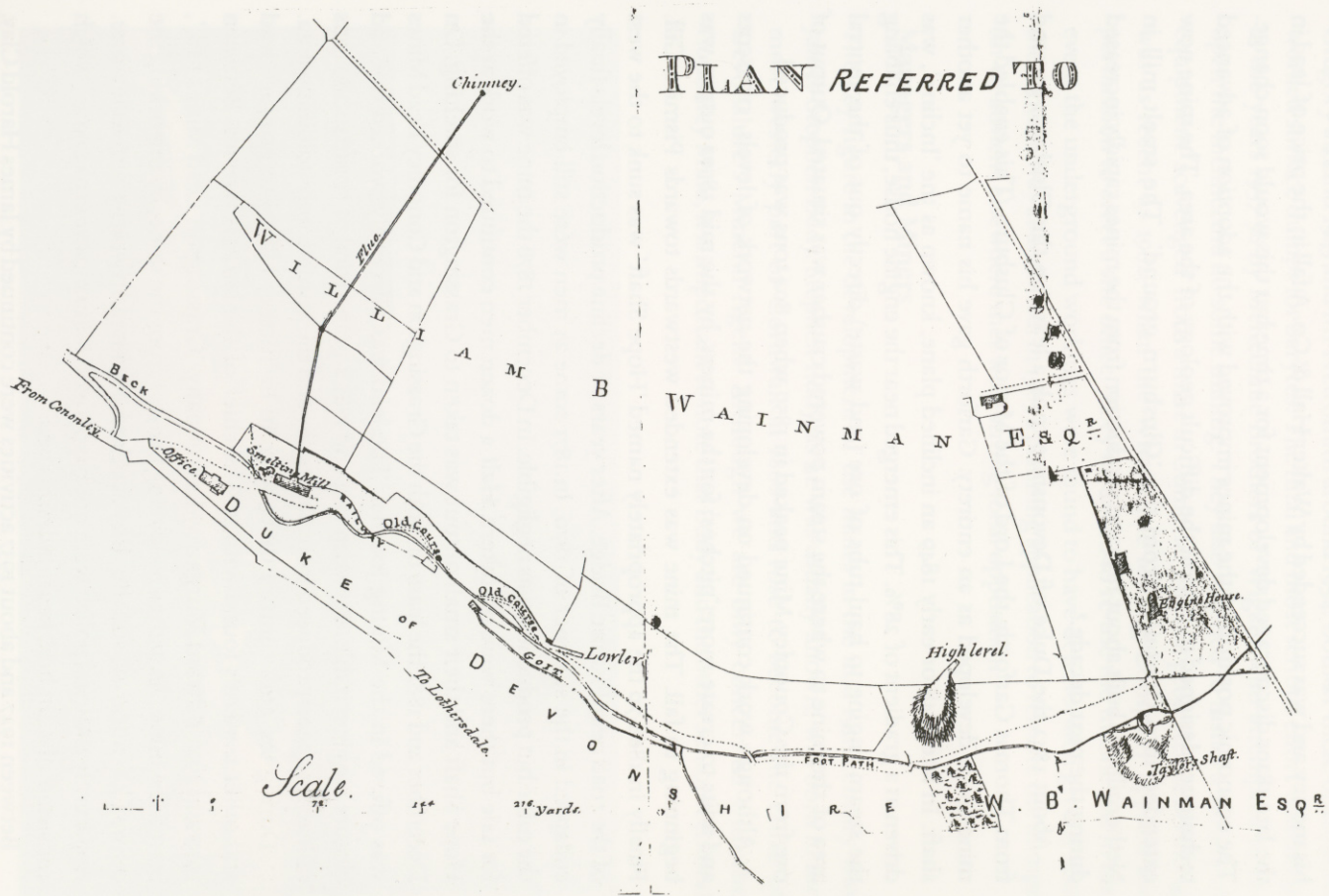
SOME of the earliest recorded prospecting and mining at Cononley Lead Mine, in the 16th century, has already been referred to in an earlier chapter. What activity there was in the 17th and 18th centuries was focused on an area some way from the ruins of the 19th century Cononley Mine engine house, and nearer Manor House Farm in the neighbouring Township of Glusburn. Therefore, this work was subject to agreements with another Lord of the Manor entirely. Furthermore, it did not apparently involve any Cononley people. Mike Gill identifies a lease made on 20th November 1666 as marking renewed activity on the moors above Cononley and Glusburn. His study is essential reading for those who wish to understand the detail and the technical development of the Lead Mine. This chapter draws extensively upon his work.<sup>1</sup>

Very little mining could have been done in the 1660s and definite evidence of renewed activity is not found again until the 18th century. This is in Kildwick Parish Registers where scattered references to miners, living in the district, occur between 1728 and 1746. An entry for 16th November 1742 records the marriage of 'Richard Braithwait[e] of Sutton, Steward of the Lead mines, & Ann Smith of Cross hills, Widow'.<sup>2</sup> In 1744 mining trials took place actually on the Gib but the 'Gib Vein' appears to have been of a poor nature. It is likely that by the middle of that century mining had again ceased due to a combination of the lack of ore, and the miners' inability to drain the mine.

In 1774 and 1775 some ore was brought out of the area around Park Head Quarry on Carleton Moor. This ore was taken to Grassington to be smelted. Roger Swire had a concession to mine and was one of those who, evidently, was optimistic about the results of this venture. His death in 1778 may have been one reason why the project came to an end. After a very small production in 1783 nothing further happened for another forty years.

In 1820 James Garth and partners made an agreement with the Duke of Devonshire's agents, John Taylor and Joseph Mason, enabling them to take the mine on favourable terms as an encouragement to its development. John Taylor managed the Duke's mineral affairs and Joseph Mason, who died in 1822, occupied the position known as the 'Barmaster' of the mines. Joseph Mason's son, also named Joseph, was himself also one of the Duke's agents at a later





Plan of the Lead Mine in 1845. (Chatsworth L/39/31)

date. These men gave their names to shafts at the mine. Garth apparently lost his money and was succeeded by Walter Hall & Co. A fall in the price of lead in the late 1820s discouraged development for a time but this would soon change. The economic position of the mines improved with the adoption of advanced techniques designed to exploit the difficult geology of the area. The mine now extended into Cononley from the 'Glusburn ground'. The smelt mill in Nethergill was built about 1839 and production from the mines rapidly increased during the next decade.<sup>3</sup>

About 1842 the Duke of Devonshire took a lease on the Glusburn ground from Thomas Garforth, the Lord of the Manor of Glusburn. This enabled the mine to be developed as an entirety. Garforth gave his name to yet another shaft. In late 1848 or early 1849 an inclined plane, known as the 'Incline', was driven at a gradient of 28%. This emerged near the engine house, thus enabling the steam engine to haul tubs of ore (and waste) directly out of the central area of the mine to where the steam powered crusher was situated. Output of ore from the Cononley Mine peaked in 1850 when 804 tons was produced.

Although work continued on developing the network of levels, crosscuts and adits to create more 'pitches' for the miners, by the mid 1850s output was beginning to fall. The mine was extended westwards towards Pismire Gill. Finally in 1868-70 the appropriately named 'Hope Shaft' was sunk to the west of the road near Pismire Bridge. After years of decline production levels finally collapsed in the summer of 1870. In 1871 some 25 men were still employed in the mine but production was negligible. In December 1878 the mine was offered for sale but there were no takers. Half a dozen men continued to work at the Hope Shaft and their small output was taken to Grassington for smelting. On December 2nd 1882 the lease on both the Grassington and Cononley Lead Mines was offered in the Mining Journal. The lead was effectively worked out and closure was inevitable. Between 1744 and 1881 a grand total of some 10,289 tons of lead had been produced from Cononley and the immediately adjoining area.

During the 20th century there were to be further efforts to produce lead and other minerals found with it. The chief of the latter is barytes. Between 1919 and 1927 Edward Murgatroyd's company, 'Grassington Lead Mines Ltd.', leased the mine. As well as producing barytes from the mine, by reworking the dumps of mine waste, he also worked Parkhead Quarry for limestone. Apparently the local police were not happy with his explosives magazine, which consisted of a tin box, kept under his bed.

Between 1927 and about 1937 activities were continued by James Harold Clay, initially under the title 'British Barytes Ltd'. Work was undertaken by Mr Ernest



Gregory around 1945 and Mr Fred Smith around 1954. Both of these operations worked surface dumps for barytes. The final and most serious effort was made in the years 1957-58 by McKechnie Brothers of Wigan, who attempted to re-open the Incline and do some mining. They also planned to install a variety of equipment 'scavenged' from a mine in Cumbria. The last projected re-working was as recent as 1982, when the Wharfedale Mining Company applied for permission to erect a site office. They intended to re-use the Incline but in the event the underground workings were found to have deteriorated greatly and the venture was abandoned. In 1985 a planning application to remove the dumps for treatment elsewhere met with strong local opposition.

### Managers and Miners

The key figure in the development of the mines in the mid 19th century was James Stephen Eddy. Stephen Eddy, as he was usually known, was born in the most westerly part of Cornwall in 1800 and rose to become the Duke of Devonshire's Mineral Agent. Although we are only concerned with the Cononley Mine, it is important to note that Eddy and the other senior technical

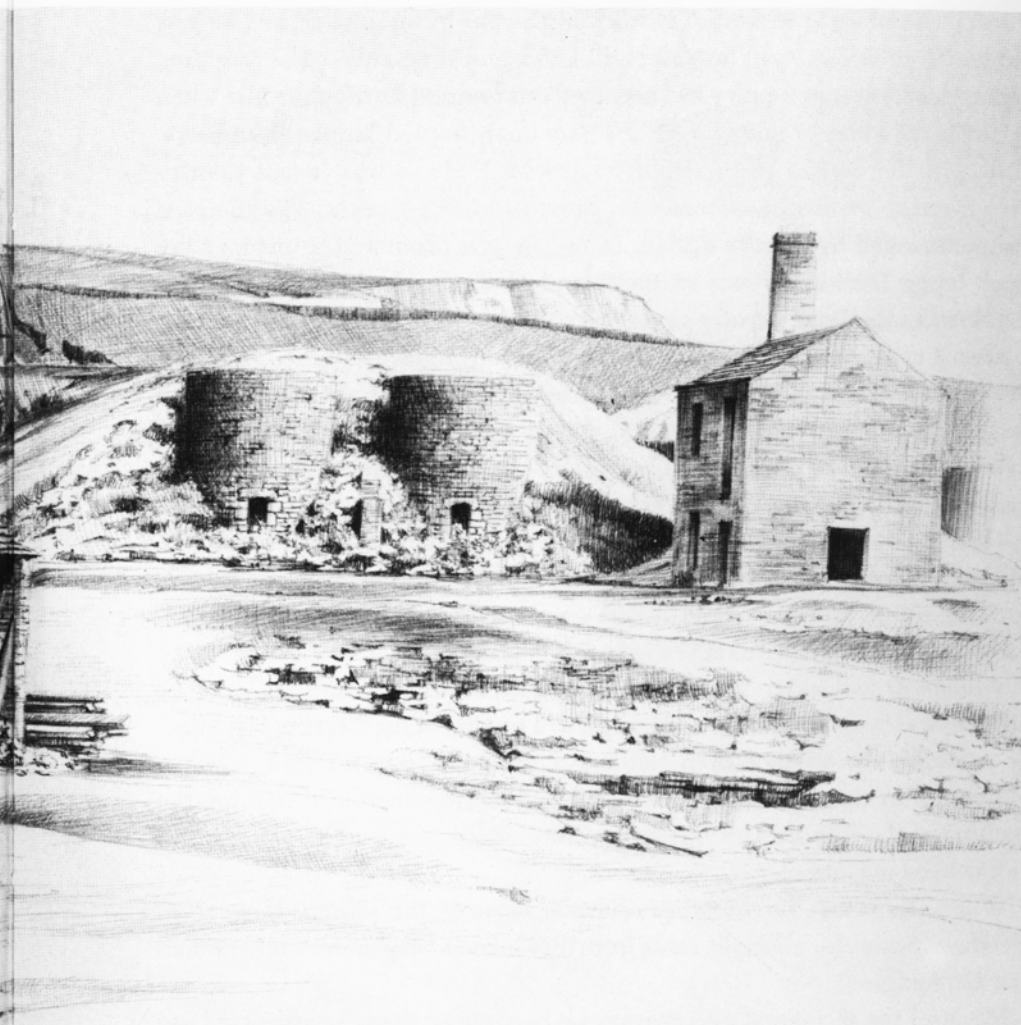


The ruins of Cononley Lead Mine engine house and chimney seen from the south.



A reconstruction, based on photographic evidence, of the Lead Mine as it might have appeared at the time of its closure.

staff of the mine had extensive experience in other mining operations, and that they continued to have involvement elsewhere whilst they were developing the Cononley Mine. Eddy lived at Grassington and only moved nearer to Cononley towards the end of his life. His home, Carleton Grange, to which he moved, in about 1856, had been specially built for him. Eddy was an acknowledged expert who submitted papers to the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall.



When Stephen Eddy died in 1861 he was succeeded by his son, James Ray Eddy. James had been born near Mold in North Wales in 1833. Like his father he had diverse mining interests in several counties. His account of the geology of the mine is an important source of information on its development.<sup>4</sup> In later life he was involved in many aspects of life in his home village of Carleton. He was on the management Committee of Leeds Music Festival and a member of his church choir and Skipton Choral Society. He died in 1918.



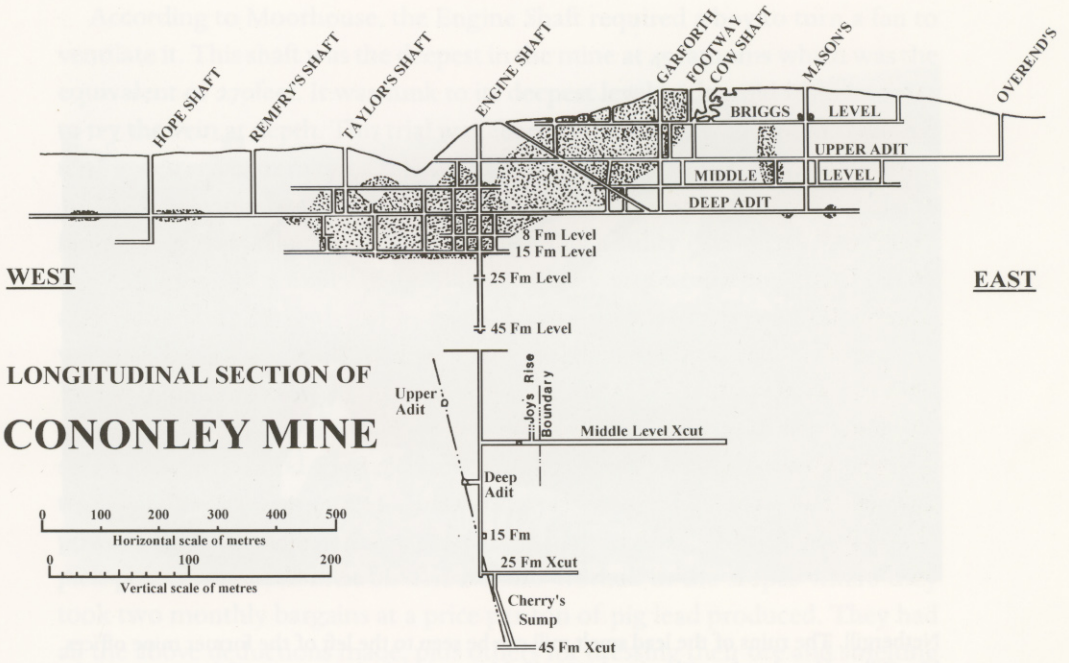
Josiah Remfry came from Tavistock in Devon. In the 1851 census he was living at Hadfield House, in Nethergill Lane, and is described as Lead Mine Agent. It is likely that Remfry had occupied this position since about 1842 when he succeeded the previous agent, a Scotsman named James Shummers. Although the overall responsibility lay with Eddy, it was Josiah Remfry who managed the mine during its most productive years. His name is commemorated by Remfry's Shaft. In 1853 he was promoted to manage the much larger Derwent Mines at Blanchland on the border between Durham and Northumberland. Remfry's eventual replacement was Thomas Ward from St Austell in Cornwall. He married a woman from Kildwick named Ann, and they too lived at Hadfield House. Ward continued to work at Cononley until the mine was in serious decline at the end of the 1860s and he had the house known as 'Brooklyn' on Cross Hills Road built for him. 'Brooklyn' was offered for sale at an auction on the 13th February 1874, it being stated then that Ward was leaving the country.<sup>5</sup> Thomas Ward had had a watch chain made from the minute amount of silver, which was also recovered during assays of the ore from the mine. Sadly the chain and its owner, Thomas's son Johnny Ward, a sea captain, were to be lost at sea near San Francisco.

William Brown, as has been noted already, lived with his family at Cononley Hall. He was born at Hebden and trained as a smelter at the Grassington Mine. He managed the Smelt Mill in Nethergill, probably from the time it began production in 1839. Around 1854 he returned to Grassington to manage the smelting at the Cupola Mill. After his death, which occurred before 1861, his widow lived in Cononley.

When the mines expanded production most of the miners came from elsewhere. Some, for example, came from the Duke of Devonshire's other mines near Grassington.

Much of the incidental information we have about these personalities and the surviving anecdotes about the miners were recorded by John William Moorhouse. Although Moorhouse can be unreliable on details, we have good reason to believe that his tales are the authentic memories of both some old miners and of James Ray Eddy himself. Moorhouse tells us that his grandfather was a miner from Grassington who died young and that his father was therefore befriended by 'Capt. Eddy'. Both the Mineral Agent and the Lead Mine Agent were known as 'Captain', a traditional title of Cornish mining agents. Of the miners' lives Moorhouse tells us:

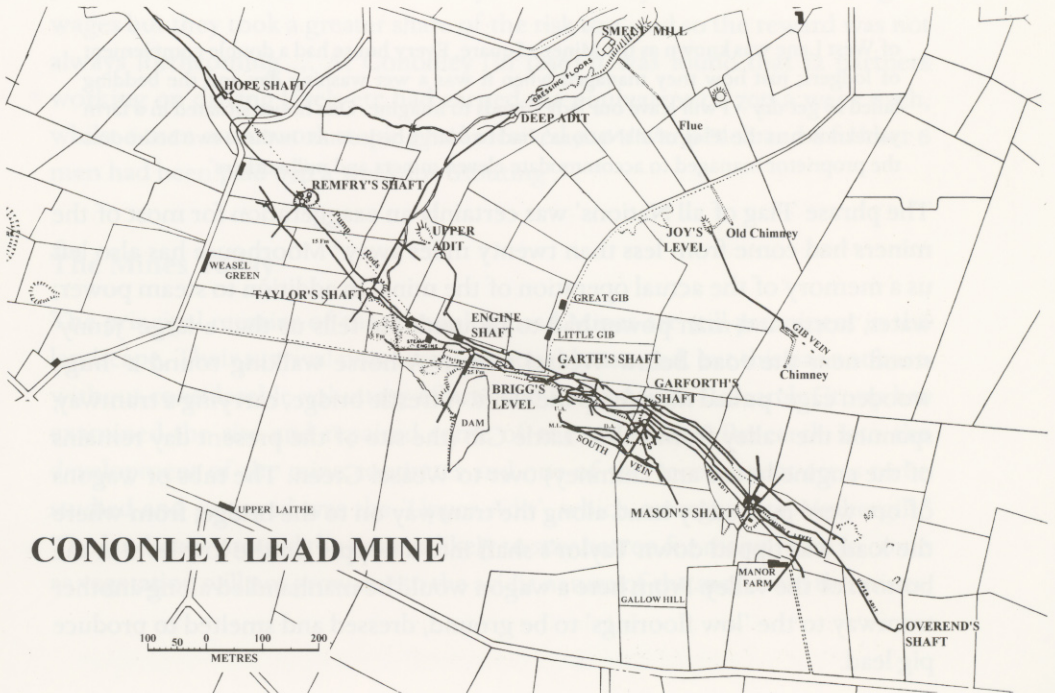
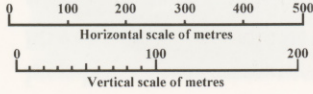
'During the boom years every house had lodgers ... The miners worked two shifts, many of the houses worked two shifts as well, and in fact the beds were never cold. The bottom



WEST

EAST

### LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF CONONLEY MINE



### CONONLEY LEAD MINE





Nethergill. The ruins of the lead smelt mill can be seen to the left of the former mine offices. Mrs Gill and her daughter Elise lived at Hadfield Cottage which is just out of the picture on the right. (Photo. early 20th c.)

of West Lane was known as the Miner's Square. Every house had a double complement of lodgers; just how they managed when it was a wet washing day and the bedding failed to get dry – I will leave our lady friends to imagine. One house situated in a farm yard known as the 'Flag of all Nations', had two large bedrooms. In these two bedrooms the proprietor managed to accommodate eleven miners and millworkers'

The phrase 'Flag of all Nations' was certainly an exaggeration for most of the miners had come from less than twenty miles away.<sup>6</sup> Moorhouse has also left us a memory of the actual operation of the mine. In addition to steam power; water, horse and man power had to be used. He tells us that a large 'jenny' stood near the road below Weasel Green. A horse walking round a 'huge wooden cage' pulled the ore up the shaft. A trestle bridge, carrying a tramway, spanned the valley from below Little Gib (the site of the present day remains of the engine house and chimney) over to Weasel Green. The tubs or wagons of ore were pushed by hand along the tramway on to the bridge, from where the load was tipped down Taylor's shaft into a hopper on the low level at the bottom of the valley. From here a wagon would be manhandled along another tramway to the 'low floorings' to be ground, dressed and smelted to produce pig lead.

According to Moorhouse, the Engine Shaft required a boy to turn a fan to ventilate it. This shaft was the deepest in the mine at 45 fathoms which was the equivalent of 270feet. It was sunk to its deepest level in the mid 1850s in order to try the vein at depth. This trial was abandoned in 1857 when interest moved to the western extremity of the mine.<sup>7</sup>

The following details of the way in which miners operated and were paid for their work is taken directly from Mike Gill's study of the mine. 'Just like other metalliferous mines of the day, Cononley was worked on the Tutwork and Tribute system, with some salaried staff and a few surface workers on day wages. The smelters were paid by the tonnage of pig lead that they produced. The men engaged on Tutwork took a task, usually driving levels, sinking shafts or rising, at a fixed rate per fathom, although another use of tutwork was for stoping richer ground. Here the miners were paid by the fathom of advance in the stope. From this, they would have deducted the cost of their candles, blasting powder, fuse, pick shafts, drawing and the smith's charges for sharpening their pick points ... Those men on Tribute also worked in the stopes where they took two monthly bargains at a price per ton of pig lead produced. They had all the above deductions made, plus others for dressing their ore and smelting it. The tributers worked in the poorer parts of the vein where they took bargains [contracts] at enhanced rates. In theory therefore they were able to earn higher wages but they took a greater share of the risk too, and so the reward was not always forthcoming ... At Cononley [in 1856] it was found that 12 partners working on driving levels etc had earned the equivalent of 70p a week each, whilst 6 men on tutwork stoping had received 92p a week each and a further 6 men had been paid 69p a week for tributing'.<sup>8</sup>

### The Mines Today

The principal remains of the Cononley Lead Mines are still prominent in the landscape. Their survival now seems reasonably assured, but this has not been without considerable voluntary effort. The Earby Mines Research Group has examined the site and repaired some of the structures. Research into the development of the mine continues and one of the more recent areas to be studied and surveyed was the 'Upper Adit', which emerges into Nethergill.<sup>9</sup> The landscape around the mine is likely to stay barren for many years to come as vegetation will not grow due to the acidic nature of the spoil from the mines.



## CHAPTER 8

### A VILLAGE OF SHOPKEEPERS

**T**HE people of Cononley were virtually self sufficient for their basic needs until well into the 20th century. Even one hundred years ago it would have been possible to buy almost all one needed within the village. In this chapter the craftsmen and shopkeepers who provided these services will be described. There is an emphasis on the hundred years after 1840 when our knowledge of the diversity of trades is greatest. However, it should not be forgotten that many of these occupations would have been undertaken in the village long before then.

It is not possible to say with any degree of certainty what trades were carried on in the village prior to the mid 18th century. Only in the year 1718 did the entries in Kildwick Parish Registers begin to mention a person's trade or profession. During the 18th century some 36 different occupations are recorded for Cononley people. In addition to farming and textile work, these include at least one baker, blacksmith, butcher, carpenter, cooper, glover, grocer, hatter, mason, miller, potter, shoemaker, skinner (furrier), slater, tailor and tanner.<sup>1</sup>

By the mid 19th century trades and business directories and the Registrar General's ten yearly census returns reveal an exceptionally wide variety of trades and businesses and enable a reasonably clear picture to be built up of these activities.<sup>2</sup> Slaters Directory 1855, for instance, lists eleven 'Grocers & Dealers in Sundries' all trading at that time in Cononley. Because the same premises were used for more than one trade the rest of this chapter takes the form of a tour around the village. Where dates are not mentioned, the reader may assume that the details are memories of the period just before and after the First World War.

Almost all the sites of shops in the village were on Cross Hills Road, along the length of Main Street and in Skipton Road. One exception was Mrs Smith's sweet shop, over on the other side of the river at Aireside.

#### **Cross Hills Road**

A shop formerly situated at 10 Aire View was the home of a family of hatmakers, the Overends. In the 1841 census Robert Overend is recorded as a hatter. This was a time when men of all social classes wore hats, almost without exception.

The Overend family could rightly be described as a model of family industry and enterprise. John Overend, the father, was a hand loom weaver, grocer and farmer (although he had only four acres). He was also a 'putter-out' as he employed other weavers to weave material from wool supplied by him. His wife made shirts and the elder son, Robert, made gentlemen's hats in a brick building on the opposite side of the road. The younger son, James, helped with the hats and in the shop, and also, as a sideline, gave turkish baths in the building where the hats were steam treated. James was also the last holder of the ancient office of Parish Constable, which until the Parish Constables Act of 1872 was to some extent controlled by, as well as paid by, the ancient form of local government known as the Vestry.

The Overends' shop had a semi-octagonal window with a headboard above, on which were depicted the various types of hat which could be supplied: a 'lordly' stove pipe, black bowlers, brown bowlers, boys neb caps and a scotch cap known as a 'Glengarry Bonnett'.

John Overend travelled the dales and attended fairs and feasts with his hats and caps. He also sold ties and the shirts made up by the family during the winter months. John was one of the founder members and a trustee of the Cononley Club Row Building Society, which was established on 14th February 1822. It appears that the hatmaking part of the business ceased before 1880, but Robert Overend still continued in business as a grocer until at least 1884. The *Craven Household Almanacks* of 1901 to 1911 confirm that Albert Stansfield was the grocer during that decade. By 1917 Hannah Stansfield, 'Old Hannah', was the sole shopkeeper and she continued right up to her death on 15th September 1936. The shop, which was in front of the house, has now been removed.

A grocer's shop once existed at St. John's Cross, or Billy's Lane Top as it was once known. In 1822 it was owned by Robert Smith, who by the time of the census of 1841, was joint proprietor with his wife Charlotte. She was still running the business at the age of 83, when the 1861 census was taken. Ten years later the grocer was her grandson, Joshua Smith. Soon after this it would appear to have closed down, because between 1880 and 1888 Joshua is recorded as an 'Estate Agent'. At a later date King's House, on the opposite side of the road, was occupied by Harry Hargreaves, a coal merchant, who used the former milk house on the side of the old farmhouse for storing the coal. Harry kept his horse and cart in the building which has now been converted into the 'Coach House' on Meadow Lane.

Daniel Carpenter, aged 70, had a grocer's shop in King Street in 1841. He was still alive in 1851 but no longer in business. It could not have been a very profitable



enterprise, for he is listed as a 'pauper' with the added information that he was a retired butler and was born at Exeter. The village's present day Post Office at King Street is described later in the section on Post Offices.

### Main Street

The eastern end of Main Street, nearest the railway, was variously referred to as Mill Lane, Grandage Houses, Chapel Street or Station Road in the 19th century. Early in the 20th century the first shop, which one reached on leaving the station, was the Post Office situated at 6 Main Street. This shop also sold newspapers and carried an advertisement for Altham's Teas. It was kept by Peter Nelson and his wife Dinah. The postal history of Cononley is a topic in its own right and is referred to again later. There were two retailers of beer listed in the 1841 census - William Morville and John Baxter. The latter was still landlord of the 'Beer House' in 1851 and 1861. Only later, in 1880, when Robert Smith was landlord, does the name Railway Inn appear. In 1841 John Watson, living in Chapel Street, was described as a hatter. Ten years later he had become a 'master hatter', no doubt to distinguish him from his son Christopher who was merely a 'hatter'. John Watson appears to have carried on his business from premises in Moorfoot Lane. The firm later became John Watson & Son, Hatters, of 2 Newmarket Street, Skipton. Nearby at the bottom of Back Lane (now known as Meadow Lane) there was later a barber's known by the name of Johnny Lee's hair cutting shop.

The house, now 54 Main Street, was in 1854, a grocer's shop owned by a Mr. John Coates. His widow, Mary Jane Coates appears to have continued as a grocer and confectioner until 1891 or later. Early in the 20th century the shop was taken over by Mr. Emmett Metcalfe who continued the grocery business. Later the proprietors were the Misses Ball (1916) then Mrs Eliza Clayton (1922-27) and finally George Cyril Bingham, who still styled himself Butcher and Grocer (1928-32). This tiny shop, and the one on Aire View, had a reputation for carrying an enormous range of goods. Catherine Moscrop, whose memories of Cononley before the First World War are used on several occasions in this chapter, recollected that:

'Besides ordinary groceries you could get picture post-cards, headache powders, corn-plasters, shoe polish, soaps, hair-pins and curlers, babies' dummies, shoe-laces, and a host of small items that even the best housewife sometimes needed in a hurry'.<sup>3</sup>

The Smithy was built as a single storey building, probably in the 1850s. As early as 1838 the blacksmith, William Greenwood, appears to have had premises



Main Street. The Smithy. Mr. & Mrs. Hodgson. Mr. Hodgson stands at the door of his blacksmith's workshop. (Photo. 1920s)

at the cottage which now forms part of 1 Tillotson's Court. From 1880 to 1901 the *Craven Household Almanack* gives the blacksmith as Thomas Cherry. Early in the 20th century the blacksmith is remembered as Walter Cherry, but Kelly's Directory for 1904 states the blacksmith to be William Hodgson. These ambiguities are quite common in the sources used in this chapter and are not necessarily errors. People moved between premises, and indeed occupations, and perhaps had business relationships which we cannot know about. A blacksmith not only shod horses but also did repairs to farm machinery and implements. William Hodgson was the blacksmith until about 1930. He had been succeeded by 1936 by Charlie Bulcock and in the 1940s by Milton Briden, Agricultural Engineer, and in 1950 by Bernard Pell, Motor Mechanic. These changes in title mark the demise of the horse in agricultural work. This process accelerated at the time of the Second World War.

The shop at 64 Main Street was one of the early premises used for the business of James Laycock, Joiner and Cabinet Maker, which was established in 1872. From before the First World War this had become Mrs Annie Taylor's shop. She was a baker and confectioner, for a time the only one in the village:





d  
Main Street. The central figure in the group outside his premises is James Laycock. (Photo. early 20th c. prior to James' death in 1907)

'It was a very pleasant-smelling shop with delicious little fruit pies. Many housewives at that time considered it shameful not to make their own bread. Mrs Taylor made teas for chance visitors, and for small parties that the Tetley family gave on their tennis court behind the shop'.<sup>3</sup>

Annie Taylor died on 16th December 1931. In the 1950s the shop was a branch of Riley's Confectioners of Cross Hills, but it opened only on certain days of the week. Its last use was as a hardware shop run by Harry Beck who undertook vacuum cleaner and washing machine repairs. Harry died on 20th July 1980.

Above Milton House, at 74 Main Street, there was a greengrocer's shop, kept by Willie England's wife. The shop is known to have been in existence around 1906-11. William Edward England also sold his goods from his horse and cart:

'They had fruit and vegetables in season, but some times in the winter there was nothing in the window but a few brown locust beans which some children bought instead of sweets'.<sup>4</sup>

In 1918 Willie England sold the premises to the adjoining Co-op which must have been considering expanding its shop. From the time of the Second World



Allan Carver (left) and Harold Lee. (Photo. July 1923)



Main Street. The Englands' shop was adjacent to the Co-op. William England is seen with his horse and cart. (Photo. early 20th c.)



War the shop was used as a hairdressers, firstly by Allan Carver and later by Alfred Gornall who re-located to 126 Main Street when the cottages were demolished in 1967.

Bradley's Farm was the home of the John Hogarth who featured in the chapter on the development of the mills. In the 1841 census, and in Kelly's Directory of 1872, his wife, Martha, is described as a shopkeeper. On another occasion he, himself, is noted as a grocer and dealer in sundries. The history of the farm as the site of a business is closely tied to that of several other houses and so they will be also described at this point. The events are complicated because the Duckworth family moved from their original home, higher up Main Street, to Bradley's Farm and then, many years later, back again.

In 1870 a terrace of four cottages was built over Cononley Beck opposite the New Inn. 'The Secret Drawer' occupies the end one, 79 Main Street, at the time of writing. In 1871 it was in the occupation of, and owned by a David Duckworth, then a youthful 24 year old, who combined the two trades of a butcher and grocer. The grocery side of the business was later dropped, probably as a result of competition from the nearby Cononley Co-operative Society, of which more later. Perhaps he was feeling the pinch a little bit, because for two years, 1882 and 1883, the trade directories list him as butcher and coal dealer, a strange combination if ever there was one, and obviously his customers must have thought so too, because after two years he reverted again to butcher. In the later part of the 19th, and first years of the 20th century, the Duckworth family lived and farmed at Bradley's Farm. David Duckworth was by then 'a pleasant, plump man, with very ruddy cheeks and dark side whiskers'.<sup>5</sup> He had a butcher's shop, open on three days a week, by a footbridge which crossed the Beck immediately in front of Bradley's Farm. There was no refrigeration then and the only means of keeping meat fresh was in a cool larder. William Green, a later occupant of 71 Main Street (Bradley's Farm), was also a butcher and farmer. He died on 19th August 1949.

As far as we know, David Duckworth never actually carried on his butchery business in the house at 79 Main Street. In fact it appears that nos. 79-81 were again occupied as a home by Mrs Duckworth and her daughters around 1914. However, in the late 1940s the house was converted into a butcher's shop by William Green's son in law, Ralph Hudson, who also lived at Bradley's Farm. A series of people then ran the shop as a butcher's:- Alec Boshier, Stephen Leigh, W. M. Stead and N. Belcher. The shop finally closed in 1992.

Further along the terrace of cottages was no. 83, Main Street. This was the home of David Cooper (1847-1921), known as 'Toffee David'. He made his toffee



Main Street. Stephen Leigh stands with his mother outside his butcher's shop. (Photo. c.1970)

and other sweets in a room known locally as the 'Bark Chamber' in Tan Pit Lane (now known as West Lane) which is recorded as his premises in 1884. In the summer he travelled to local village feasts and fairs to sell his wares. On Saturday afternoons he would set up a small stall on the pavement outside his house, selling halfpenny and pennyworths of boiled sweets and humbugs from large jars. He also, of course, sold his famous toffee. By way of contrast he also kept pigs on some land at the top of Windle Lane. These he would sell to Skipton Workhouse.

The New Inn has been a public house for the best part of 200 years. It may well owe its name 'new' to its proximity to an older inn, which occupied nearby Cross House in 1793. The New Inn, which was owned by the Swire family, was also a farm. James Naylor was tenant of the New Inn in 1824 and in 1851. After the disposal of the Swire estate, in 1865, the New Inn was advertised for sale by auction on 31st October 1873.<sup>6</sup> The tenant of the farm at that time was George Jackson whose farm stock had been sold off at an auction, also at the New Inn, one month earlier.<sup>7</sup> However, it appears from Kelly's Directory for 1867 that a Samuel Dixon was the actual landlord of the inn. The New Inn may not have been sold in 1873 for J. Lund of Malsis Hall again offered it for sale on 31st



January 1874.<sup>8</sup> In 1875 the landlord was William Dixon who was involved in a court case resulting from his being caught gambling with cards, although in private, on licensed premises. The case against him was reported in detail in the *Craven Herald* in March that year but was eventually dismissed.<sup>9</sup> Nearly a hundred years ago the New Inn still had its own stables in 'New Inn Fold' and was then kept by the Watkinson family.

In 1906 the house between the New Inn and Cross House, at 80 Main Street housed a branch of the Bank of Liverpool which was open from 11 am. until 2 p.m. on Fridays. From 1919 it was a baker's and confectioner's shop run by Arthur and Lily Chandler. After Mrs Chandler's death on 26th April 1940 the shop became a greengrocery business run by Chris Hudson and later by Harold Brown, who also had a mobile sales van. The shop originally looked very different from the present appearance of the house. There was a tall narrow bay window full of goods.

The first house in the three storey block known as the Foresters' Houses (94 Main Street) was occupied, according to the 1841 census, by William Ayrton, a linen draper, and his wife Ellen but the contemporary Pigot's Directory describes him as a grocer. By the time of the 1851 census William is a draper and grocer, and another William, his nephew, is living with them and also



Main Street. The New Inn. (Photo. early 20th c.)



Main Street. Chandlers' confectionery shop. Later alterations resulted in the house having a very different appearance today. (Photo. c.1930)



Chandlers' delivery van.  
(Photo. 1930s)

working as a draper. The business can be traced in the census returns and through some half dozen contemporary trade directories until it is last recorded in 1872, this time solely under the name of Ellen Ayrton.

The house next door, 96 Main Street, was also used as a draper's shop between 1861 and 1884. The proprietor, Dennis Davy, was described as a milliner and draper in the latter year. Subsequently it appears to have been a confectioner's shop run by Ben Stansfield (known as 'Little Ben' to distinguish him from other Benjamins in that very prolific family). He in turn was succeeded by Enoch Townend, who is recorded as a confectioner or shopkeeper between 1906 and 1922. You could buy 'spanish' (liquorice) there. It was in 'Old Enoch's Shop' in the summer of 1912 that Cononley's first public telephone was installed. It was



# CONONLEY.

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# TO BE SOLD

BY AUCTION, <sup>1846 - 1847</sup> <sub>1846 - 1847</sub>

BY MR. J. THROUP,

On Monday & Tuesday, the 11th & 12th of May, 1846,

*At the House of Mr. Thomas Laycock, Cononley,*

ALL THE VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD

# FURNITURE

Consisting of 1 Chest of Mahogany Drawers; 1 Mahogany Bedstead; Printed Curtains; 1 Mahogany Dressing Table and Close Stool; 1 Wash-Hand-Stand; 1 Mahogany Rocking Chair; 1 Oak Do. Stuffed; 2 Swing Looking Glasses; chimney Ornaments; 4 Tea Trays; 1 Chest of Oak Drawers; 2 Oak Clocks; 9 corner and other chairs; 1 Large Oak corner cupboard; 1 Deal Do. 1 Mahogany Square Breakfast Table; 2 Oak Snap Tables—one nearly New; 1 Mattress; 1 Flock Bed; 2 clothes Horses; 1 Dining Table; 1 Mahogany Sofa; 2 Bookcases, with Drawers; a Large Quantity of Pictures; Seasoning Box; Mahogany Bird Cage; Brass and Iron candlesticks; 2 Brass Italian Irons; Brass Pestle and Mortar; Kettles; Box and Flat Irons; Fenders and Fire Irons; Oven, Pans, Reckons, Range, and other Fire Requisites; 1 Toasting Jack; 1 Dutch Oven; chaffingdish; A Large Quantity of china, Glass, and Pots, necessary for Domestic purposes. Also all the

# SHOP FIXTURES,

Comprising 1 Counter with 7 Drawers; 1 Large and a Quantity of small Tea Cannisters; 1 Nest of 24 Drawers; 1 Do. of 14 Drawers; 1 Ribbon Glass Frame; 1 Large Coffee Mill; 1 Pepper Do. and all the Fixtures in the Shop; 1 Treacle Can and Barrel; 1 Double Flour Chest; 1 Meal Chest; 1 Malt Do. 1 Beam and Scales, for Flour; 3 Small Scales; 1 Patent Do., with Weights for each; 1 Writing Desk; with Drawers and Stool; 1 Gun; 1 Powder Flask; Gun Pocket Screw and Scraper, Pistol and Moulds; 1 Gardener's Watering Engine; Wheelbarrow; a Quantity of Wood Shelving;

**With all the Grocery and Drapery Goods on hand.**

Sale to commence each day at Twelve o'clock at Noon.

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L. CRABTREE, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, AND STATIONER, CHANGE-GATE, KEIGHLEY.

Poster advertising sale. 1846. These premises are believed to have been in Main Street in the vicinity of the Hall. (*Cliffe Castle Museum*)

announced that 'for the sum of 1d or 2d the public may speak to any place in the Bradford district. In the course of the next few weeks it is expected a trunk line will be put in so that the general public will be able to speak to any place in the United Kingdom'.<sup>10</sup>

Set further back from the road, at 100 Main Street, were the premises of Charlie Green, described as a shoemaker and clogger in 1904. In later directory entries, which continue up to 1927, mention of the clogs disappears. Evidently Charlie Green acquired a reputation for supplying the more prosperous villagers.

In fact, the village had supported no less than nine shoemakers and cloggers in the 1880s, although one or two may have operated on a part-time basis. Although the addresses where they carried on their trade are not given, the trade directories of that period list William Hardisty, William Hudson, Richard Moorhouse, Thomas Laycock as boot and shoe makers, and also Henry Tatham, Joseph Nixon, T. Mosley, A. Hey and John Cooper, who were cloggers. John



Overend's Reliable Domestic Washer was manufactured from approximately 1910-20 in the outbuildings of Cononley Hall which appear to have been rebuilt for the purpose. (Modern photo. of a surviving machine)



Cooper (1843-1886) carried out his trade on a part-time basis, alongside farming, in a room in at 1 Skipton Road. On the window seat in this room village lads used to sit waiting in bare feet whilst John Cooper put new irons on their one and only pair of clogs. Early in the 20th century Willie Stansfield is said to have made and repaired clogs in a little wooden hut next to the Co-op.

In 1904 Snowden's Farm, across the road from Cononley Hall, was the premises of John Metcalfe, butcher and farmer. He is recalled as selling fresh meat and 'delicious potted meat and sausages'<sup>11</sup>. Although occasionally when a farmer killed a pig, it would be cut up and sold by one of the village butchers, people generally had to travel to Skipton to buy pork pies and sausages. John Metcalfe's farm was taken over by Robert Greenwood in September 1914. Mrs. Greenwood was the proprietor of 'The Belfast Linen Depot' in Cavendish Street, Keighley. She fitted her house up as a shop and called it 'Branch No. 1' of this business, placing in the window a torso sporting a stylish corset. A disastrous and intense fire entirely gutted the house on Wednesday evening 14th April 1915. A large audience in the Institute was listening to a lecture on the progress of the war when the alarm was given. Villagers helped to dam the Beck whilst the Keighley Fire Brigade was telephoned. Incidentally, the prompt arrival of the Fire brigade, within half an hour after the fire was discovered, is a dramatic illustration of technical progress at that time. Afterwards the house was rebuilt and the business reopened.

Near to Snowden Farm was The Bay Horse Inn. In 1907 The Bay Horse and The Crown Inn in Skipton Road both had their licenses revoked. The Bay Horse was definitely an Inn by 1822 when James Naylor, who later moved to the New Inn, had it. In 1838 the licensee was David Fortune. The first licensees of The Crown Inn that we know about were William Daykin in 1867, and Fred Murgatroyd in 1872. Daykin's family had been lead miners and the inn seems to have been popular with the miners. By the early years of the 20th century the temperance movement was having a considerable influence and it was obviously perceived that Cononley was rather generously provided with public houses. Enoch Whitaker purchased both former inns from Boardmans United Breweries Ltd., in September 1907.

The Laycock family subsequently acquired the former Bay Horse Inn. It was conveniently close to James Laycock's joiner's shop and woodyard, which was immediately behind it in Back Lane. James Laycock had purchased two cottages in Back Lane in 1884 as premises for the business, the establishment of which, in 1872, has been mentioned earlier. The joiner's shop was extended and a new floor added in 1897. By 1911 a lengthy list of services was available in



Main Street. The Bay Horse Inn. The proprietor's name is John Plummer Kerns. (Photo. early 20th c. prior to the closure of the inn in 1907)



Skipton Road. On the right can be seen the Crown Inn. Fred Cherry is standing on his cart. (Photo. early 20th c. prior to the closure of the inn in 1907)



addition to joinery including:- undertakers and funeral directors, upholstery, interior and exterior decorating, carpet and window cleaning, picture framing, mirror silvering, gilding, fitting new rollers on wringing machines, lock fitting and the supply of a host of goods from deckchairs to bedsteads. James had two sons who carried on the business, Frank who lived at Mount Pleasant and Jonas who actually lived at Bay House, which was used for the funeral teas. In 1963 the firm became a limited company under the name James Laycock & Sons (Cononley) Ltd., and continued in business until 1986. Shortly before his death in 1999 Jim Laycock recalled that, in his youth, the timber used by the business came by train and was brought up from the goods yard by Fred Cherry using his lovely shire horses.

Two tailors appear to have been in business in Cononley during the 1880s. One was Thomas Briden of 2 Skipton Road, a legendary character, a well known breeder of poultry and a cricketer, who is on record as taking part in a cricket match in Cononley when he was well over 80 years of age. The other, William Lee, was listed in the 1871 census as a tailor and draper living in Chapel Street. He carried on his business in a small partly brick building near the bottom of Back Lane, no doubt the same one used later as Johnny Lee's hair cutting shop. His obituary notice says he died suddenly on Thursday, 29th July 1897, aged 59, leaving a widow and six sons.

### **James Wilson, Grocer and his successors**

At the top of the village a grocer's shop occupied 1 & 3 Skipton Road. In 1841 James Wilson was the first grocer we know of to have had a shop on this site. He was succeeded, sometime before 1854, by Michael Smith and in turn, before 1884 by Nathan Pickles. From 1885 the grocer was Nathan Coates, who had previously worked for Samuel Dean, the manager of Cononley Co-op. Johnny Catlow took over the business in 1909 and bought the premises outright in 1921. The Catlows were staunch chapelgoers and this ensured him the patronage of fellow Baptists, including the Reddihough family of Farnhill Hall. Catherine Moscrop recalls his shop thus:

'Before the First World War the only other grocery shop besides the Co-op was owned by Johnny Catlow, who for several years had served in the Co-op, so he knew the business. He lived with his mother in Piccadilly, but when he got married he took over Nathan Coates' shop at the top of Kiln Hill, and made a successful business out of it, and launched out a little. He added a small drapery department, which was housed in one side of the shop, and had a window about three feet square, so that there was not much room for display. However he sold good quality things, and my mother bought me my first



Skipton Road. On the left Nathan Coates stands at the door of his grocery shop. (Photo. c.1906)

stockings there, black with white clocks, for a Sunday School Anniversary. His groceries were high-class, and dearer than the Co-op, and his shop smelled very pleasantly of coffee. Coffee was never bought in tins or jars, as it is now, but was always ground from beans... He sold sweets too, of better quality than the Co-op, and you could also get some patent medicines in small packages'.

A major part of the business of a traditional grocer was home delivery. This required a visit to collect the orders and another to deliver them. Johnny acquired his own motor vehicle for this aspect of the business. In the winter of 1928-9 the shop was enlarged and a large plate glass window fitted. In 1947 the shop was sold to Harold Whitaker who had been Johnny Catlow's assistant some thirty years earlier. In 1953 Trevor and Olive Hodgson purchased the shop. By the 1960s all small grocery businesses began to feel the effect of the new supermarkets which were introduced from America. Everywhere a decreasing number of people appreciated the convenience of a local shop, the personal service and the traditional delivery service. Despite these mounting pressures the business was able to adapt and serve the village for another twenty years. The shop finally closed on 12th April 1986.



### Itinerant Tradesmen

Before the advent of the motor vehicle, milk was delivered from churns carried on the type of handcart used by the smaller local farms and known as a 'dandy'. On Friday evenings Walter Thornton came round with his home made butter. He lived at Four Lanes End, on the way to Lothersdale. Another butter seller was Willie Stancliffe from Scarcliffe Farm. There were also the itinerant tradesmen who came from outside the village. In the first half of the 20th century a variety of goods were available, especially fresh produce. There were one or two carts that came round on Friday evenings, selling a few vegetables. There was the grocery cart that belonged to John Arthur Dixon, 'the white horse man'. As late as 10 o'clock on Saturday evenings you could hear George Bradley's cry of 'cut today'. On Saturday afternoons the boy with the fresh garden celery came from Keighley. A butcher also came from Bradley. Arthur Coe's van from Skipton sold bread, iced buns, and oat cakes on Wednesdays. Shuttleworth's horse and cart came from Cross Hills and sold household equipment such as pots, pans and brushes. His cry sounded like 'phots'. The 'towel man' came from Nelson. In the 1920s a motorised fish and chip van parked at the Smithy in Main Street.<sup>12</sup>

### The Cononley Co-operative Society

The Cononley Co-operative Society was formed in 1868. It brought with it the opportunity for cheaper food and goods for many villagers, but inevitably it severely affected the trade of many of the small shopkeepers in the village. The first shop was in the premises at 64 Main Street, which were described earlier. After a few years a site on which a substantial shop could be built was bought in 1871. On 11th January 1873 the *Craven Pioneer* reported on the 8th half-yearly meeting of the Society. There were by then 166 members and the dividend was 1s.8d for members and 10d for non members. The Co-op grew from strength to strength. By 1888 the Society, now with 267 members, had an annual turnover of £5,500, and was paying dividend of 3s.4d in the £ to members and 1s.8d to non-members.

On the second Saturday in February each year the Co-op Tea-Party was held. The *Craven Pioneer* of Saturday, February 17th, 1877, reports one of these events:

'The Co-operative Society on Saturday last held their annual tea party in the National Schools, when about 450 persons partook of an excellent tea. After the tea an entertainment took place, the Chair being occupied by Mr. Amiss, President of the Society. The Cowling Glee Party, Mr. Ball of Carleton and Miss Ackroyd of Shipley entertained.

The latter sang 'Silver Threads amongst the Gold', then followed recitations and dialogues. The meeting was very well attended, many being unable to gain admission. It was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem'.

According to John William Moorhouse whose father was a founder member the shop was open from 7.30am to 9.00pm, including Saturdays, with no half day. Many people were dreadfully poor and many were in debt to village tradesmen. Some village tradesmen resented the Co-op and did what they could to hinder the young society, which initially had a hard struggle to survive. In the early days Committee members, mostly millworkers, took turns at serving behind the counter in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons. J. Wilson, John Watson and Enoch Whitaker went in on evenings and Saturdays to help out.

One day a 'bill' appeared at the station advertising a trip to Morecambe. The Co-op people and their wives went on the excursion and suspicion, whipped up by an elderly woman, fell on them as they were known to have little money of their own. Moorhouse tells how a young 'blood' of the society fought back against the rumours. 'Seeing a crowd of women, fetching water, all listening to this old dame he went over to see the fun and found them busy gossiping about the shop and the Morecambe trip. He promptly tackled them by saying that for once the once the truth had been told. The Co-op Brass right enough had said to him that had there been no 'divi' there would have been no Morecambe trip. The older woman was, of course, nonplussed.' The younger women told their husbands who began to sit up and take notice. Membership grew and the committee met in joyful mood. A great tea party and concert, the first of many, was planned.<sup>13</sup>

The 80th half yearly meeting of the Cononley Co-operative Society in January 1909 found the organisation to be thriving. Membership was 418 and the dividend to members was 4s. 3d. Catherine Moscrop recalled the Co-op at just that time:

'It had three large windows, two for groceries and one for drapery. However, if the range of goods was smaller than at a Co-op in a town, the 'divi' was larger – 4s.2d in the pound, which made shopping at the Co-op attractive. However, there was no 'divi' on goods other than C.W.S. makes, and if you preferred Rowntree's cocoa or a special kind of biscuit, you had to forego it. A lot of groceries were sold loose that today are packaged ready for sale. Sugar, flour, oatmeal, tea and coffee were weighed while you waited and packed in paper bags. Lyle's Golden Syrup was comparatively expensive, but you could buy cheaper treacle if you took your own jar and had it filled from a barrel. The drapery department wasn't very big, and if you wanted anything from there, a pair of stockings or a reel of cotton, the assistant who had been weighing your flour or cutting your bacon would serve you there. People used to buy flour by the half-stone, to make their own bread'.<sup>14</sup>





Main Street. Cononley Co-op. On the right stands Walter Conyers Thompson, the shop manager. (Photo. 1930s)

Catherine also recalled that the manager at this time was a Mr Ives. He was assisted by Jim Stansfield. Mr Ives lived with his wife and four daughters in the terrace opposite the New Inn. She thought that Mrs Ives was very pretty with 'puffed' dark hair, put up in a popular Edwardian style. Indeed, after she was reputed to have left her family for another man, some Cononley people concluded that she had always been 'too pretty to be good'.

The Cononley Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. continued in business for another half century. As late as 1965 membership was 449, but many of these people must have been doing much of their shopping elsewhere. A growing number of people were able and prepared to travel to the new supermarkets. The home delivery service was abandoned around this time and in December 1965 the shop was converted to self service. Unfortunately the consequence was that sales fell even faster. By 1966 they were less than two thirds of the sales in 1960. The 196th half yearly meeting in December 1966 agreed that the only course of action open to them was to amalgamate with the Keighley and Skipton District Co-operative Society.<sup>15</sup> This, and subsequent amalgamations of Co-operative Societies, would help keep the shop open for

another thirty years. The Shop, known as Food Fair, was latterly managed by Yorkshire Co-operatives Ltd.. It traded at an increasing loss for years but a further fall in sales of over 15% in 1997 made its closure on 4th April 1998 inevitable.

### Post Offices

In 1800 a character known as 'post Betty' undertook the postal deliveries. Betty Harrison (1754-1842) was the wife of Henry Harrison, driver of the mail coach from Colne to Leeds, and it was through him that she became associated with the Post Office. Her round consisted of Cross Hills, Sutton, Glusburn, Cowling, Lothersdale, Cononley, Farnhill, Kildwick, Eastburn and Steeton. She visited the outlying villages once a week, the others twice, often it is said, driving a couple of cows with her to graze on the roadside verges. She carried her bag and collected the postal charges, which in those days were paid by the recipients. On one occasion she was making her regular call at Carr Head, where she was given a meal and a large whisky, when Mr. Wainman was driven to ask her when she washed herself. 'When I have time and money' was the reply.



Main Street. Cononley's Postmaster, Peter Nelson, stands by the Post Office door. Also visible is the end wall and roofline of the mill, which were subsequently altered. (Photo. early 20th c.)



The first Post Office in Cononley was situated at Laburnum Cottage in that part of Main Street known as Kiln Hill. A letter from the Head Postmaster in Leeds, dated 9th January 1857, confirmed the Postmaster General's appointment of William Towers as Sub-Postmaster. The letter gave him permission to open the mail bags at the Railway Station and to commence his deliveries from there.

In the 1880s the mailbag arrived on the train from Leeds at 6.41am and delivery commenced at 7.00am. In the evening the postbox was cleared at 6.15pm and the letters despatched on the 7.15pm train to Leeds. Mr. Towers would be able to lie in bed three quarters of an hour longer on Sunday because the mail train did not arrive until 7.20am and delivery commenced at 7.30am. The delivery of letters on foot continued until the mid 1950s. A public notice in June 1910 announced that 'as from June 15th the Post Office would permit the Public Counter at Cononley Post Office to be closed at 1pm on a Wednesday each week to allow the local Submaster a half day holiday'.<sup>16</sup>

The postal address for the village was 'Cononley, near Leeds' until 1st February 1888. On that date Cononley, along with Bradley and other the South Craven villages, was made subordinate to Keighley Head Post Office instead of that at Leeds. In all some five different types of postmark are known to have been used by the Cononley Sub Office. The Telegraph Service at Cononley was inaugurated on 6th November 1889. A newspaper notice at that time announced that:

'As from Nov 6th telegraph messages will be received for transmission at the Railway Station [Cononley]. This will supply a long felt want for the inhabitants of Cononley, Lothersdale and Bradley, as previously the nearest place for the transmission of telegrams was Cross Hills or Skipton'.

William Towers, a devout Churchman and Schoolmaster (he ran his own private school of some thirty scholars) remained Sub-Postmaster for thirty years. He was succeeded in 1889 by Peter Nelson who was in business as a newsagent at 6 Main Street. The Post Office continued at that address for just over 31 years, until November 1st 1920 when it was taken over by Walter Reynolds and removed to new premises at 116 Main Street, next door to the original site at Laburnum Cottage. His term of office lasted 45 years to the very day. Mr Reynolds, who was wounded in the First World War, was also a member of the Parish Council. It is interesting to note that Cononley's first three Sub-Postmasters served between them for 108 years.

The village's present day Post Office at King Street is a relatively modern shop, at least by the standards of this history. The business was established as a newsagents by Richard Maudsley about 1927. Jack Maudsley succeeded him.



Main Street (outside 131). Standing on the left is Frank Morville, the Lothersdale postman. To the right, wearing the uniform of the Midland Railway, is Alan Beckwick. The approximate date of the photograph is established by the age of the child, Isaac Wright, who was born in 1894.

The premises had no less than ten proprietors during the second half of the 20th century. The first five were Messrs. Robson, Southern, Adcroft, Ashmore and Janes. It was during Denis Janes' time that the shop became Cononley Post Office in November 1965. Since he left in 1972 it has been run successively by E.H. & K.M. Armitage (1972-78), D.W. & G.H. Pearson (1978-84), E. & E. Acomb (1984-90), C. & M. Tower (1990-96) and then by Pam Chesworth and Andy Gregory. The dramatic change in shopping during the last fifty years means that the modern village Post Office can only survive by offering the whole range of services which were once offered by many shops and more besides.





Cononley looking east from the Delph Quarry. (Photo. early 20th c.)

### **John Hogarth and his Pottery**

In the middle of the 19th century, John Hogarth (sometimes spelt Hoggarth) lived at Bradley's Farm which he rented from the Wainmans of Carr Head. His direct ancestor is said to have been a brother of William Hogarth, the painter. John defies classification into the chapters used in this book. He was at some time grocer, farmer, leadminer, woolcomber, brickmaker and potter. As we have already seen in a previous chapter he was the joint owner (together with Thomas Peel junior) of the 'Weaving Shop', built in 1837, which occupied the site of what is now Station Mills.

Mrs. Ethel Stirk, the great-granddaughter of John Hogarth died in the early 1980s, at the age of 94. Mrs. Stirk recalled that her father used to say that John was a 'dabbler' in many different trades. Like John Overend he was one of the original Trustees of the Cononley Club Row Building Society and in a deed of 11th August, 1832, is described as a worsted manufacturer. At one point he

employed his own woolcombers who worked in the buildings between Bradleys Farm and the Beck, which are now demolished, although the blocked up remains of several windows can still be seen in the existing Beck side wall.

The site of John Hogarth's brickworks and pottery was a field in Moorfoot Lane. It is quite likely that he was not the first Cononley potter to use the local claypits. In 1750, Kildwick Parish Registers record a William Smithson of Cononley, Potter. John Hogarth had two brick kilns situated in Moorfoot Lane where he made a coarse kind of earthenware in the form of milk bowls, bread pots and flower vases from about 1830. The kilns were closed down during the 1860s and about 20 years after that the clay pits were filled in. It was Hogarth's great ambition to produce a better kind of pottery with a glazed surface and Mrs. Stirk remembers it being said that he brought in a potter from Staffordshire, named Matthew Smith, to help him with his experiments. The potter employed by Hogarth worked with a wooden wheel operated by a treadle. After many attempts he managed to produce a pot with a beautiful dark green glaze which became known as 'Cononley Ware'. However his attempts to establish a profitable business were not successful and in the end lost him a great deal of money. A specimen of Cononley Pottery given to the Craven Museum was in the form of a dark green glazed vase but other products had a brown glaze. Although very few authenticated pieces of Hogarth's pottery survive, his bricks have been used in many parts of the village.<sup>17</sup>



## CHAPTER 9

### CHURCHES, CHAPELS AND SCHOOLS

**K**ILDWICK Church was, for most of the last millennium, the parish church for the people of Cononley. It was where they were baptised, married and buried. In its churchyard many of the surnames, mentioned in previous chapters, are still to be seen, recorded on the gravestones. Inside the Church, the imposing monuments of the Swire and Bradley Wainman families are proudly placed on the walls. The story of Kildwick Church has been told elsewhere and space does not permit it to be repeated here.<sup>1</sup>

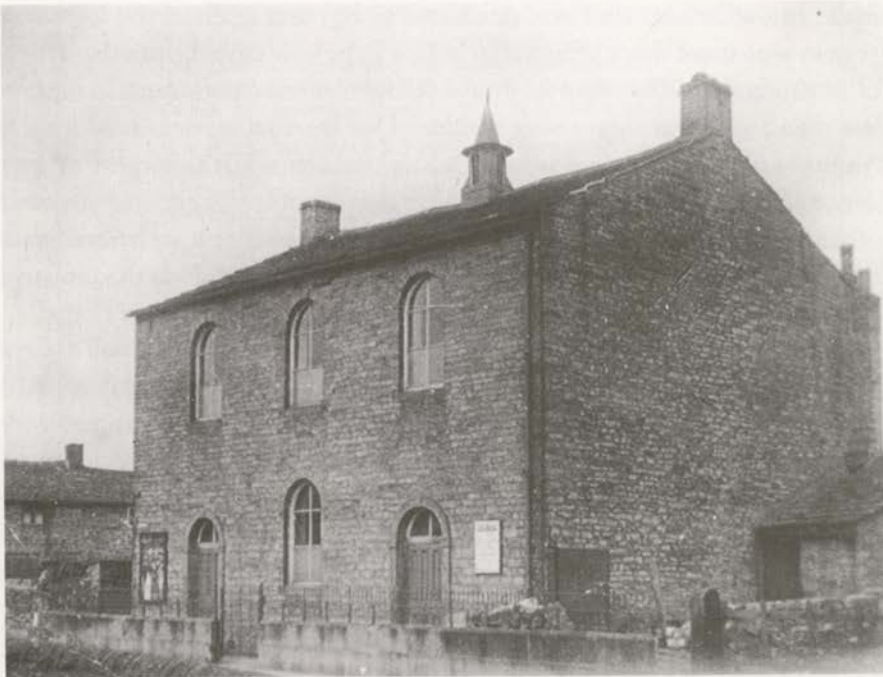
In the 18th century, attendance at Kildwick Church was rather low. According to the curate, Benjamin Wainman, replying to the Archbishop in 1743, no more than fifty people in total received communion on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This was, he estimated, from a possible total of at least 300 communicants drawn from 760 families. The parish was, of course, extensive and stretched from Steeton and Silsden to Cowling, Cononley and Bradley. There were two Baptist Meeting Houses in the Parish where some 200 people attended the fortnightly meetings. The single Quaker Meeting House was attended by about 50 people.<sup>2</sup> In fact, there were Quakers established at Cononley by 1668. They attended a meeting at Bradley. It is possible that the Thomas Sawley listed as a member in that year was one of the Cononley Sawleys discussed in chapter three.<sup>3</sup> The burials at Skipton Friends' Meeting House include a number of 17th and 18th century Cononley people. Familiar surnames include those of Margaret Laycock, Laurence Roberts, Christopher Shackleton, Mary Smith and Elizabeth Wilson. Cononley Woodside was the home of Joseph and Isabel Binns, Quakers who travelled extensively in the middle of the 18th century.<sup>4</sup> In 1762 Joseph Binns was a tenant of Samuel and then Roger Swire, which fact is further evidence of the latter family's tolerance towards dissent.<sup>5</sup>

Some twenty years later in 1764 another Archbishop asked for very similar information, allowing a comparison to be made. In twenty years the number of families in the parish had increased to 873, of which one was Roman Catholic, 20 were Baptist, and 26 were Quaker. The number who received Communion in the Parish Church at Easter remained a mere 93.<sup>6</sup> It would appear that not only was the Established Church fairly insignificant in terms of active members, but that the older Non-Conformist groups were losing ground too. The situation was therefore ripe for the Methodist movement of John and Charles Wesley,

although it is perhaps surprising that even that revival appears to have reached Cononley rather later than in some other parts of the West Riding.

### The Methodists in Cononley

The story of how Methodism came to Cononley was handed down to later generations.<sup>7</sup> About the year 1798 or 1799 one of Wesley's followers preached at Glusburn. One of the listeners was a weaver named Thomas Townend who, with his wife Isabel, baked and sold confectionery from their house in Main Street. Although they were poor they decided, amongst other things, that they had been wrong to open the shop on Sundays, even though Sunday was their most profitable day. They gathered around them a Methodist community, which met in their house on Sundays. Of their twelve children, one son became a 'city missionary', another a local preacher and two entered the Free Church ministry. In 1801 the members of the Cononley Society are listed as: 'John Thompson, John Emmott, John Wright, Elijah Townend, Thomas Townend,



Main Street. The Wesleyan Chapel. A photograph taken in the 1930s shortly before the chapel was demolished. The Church Centre now stands on the site.



Richard Wilson, Tibby Townend and Mary Emmott'.<sup>8</sup> Their attention soon turned to building a chapel. With great difficulty, 'beseeching the Lord to remove the hinderance to the progress of His cause', they persuaded a local landowner to sell a small plot of land. The community mainly consisted of hand loom weavers and woolcombers who borrowed the money to build the chapel and who struggled to pay the interest. The new chapel was opened on Shrove Tuesday 1808. Apparently most of the building work was done by the community itself. Some of the stone, which they quarried, has been re-used in the Church Centre in Main Street, the grounds of which now include the site of the earlier chapel.

Shortly afterwards they established a Sunday School which taught reading and writing. Previously young people had had to go to either the Friends' school in Lothersdale or to the Kildwick Church School. The opening of the Lead mines brought an influx of workers, including many Methodists, to the village. As a result the chapel could be filled to overflowing. The average Sunday afternoon congregation in summer, recorded in 1851, was 180.<sup>9</sup> The idea of enlarging the building must have been frequently thought about; plans were made and additional land was purchased in 1871 and again in the following year. In 1896 there was a proposal to build a large new chapel, with the option of retaining the old building solely as a school room and entrance.<sup>10</sup> In 1907 no less than 700 hymn sheets were produced for the two services held for the Anniversary Sunday. The Sunday School, which was the largest of any denomination had 80 children attending in 1880 (Another 191 children attended other Sunday Schools in the village). In the early 20th century efforts were made to raise money to build a separate school building and it was this initiative which would indirectly lead to the eventual replacement of the old chapel.

The Wesleyan Chapel is still remembered as a very plain, small square building, with a narrow path in front and railings. On the ground floor were six blocks of pews at the back. These had the highest 'pew rents' and in front of these, and to the side, were wooden benches which could be removed. In front of these was the communion rail and table and behind this the pulpit, the choir and the organ. The choir faced a tiered gallery which was situated above the enclosed pews and formed five sides of an octagon. The Chapel was heated by a somewhat smoky stove.<sup>11</sup>

Unfortunately, during the 19th century divisions were created within the Methodist Church. The original Methodists were known as Wesleyan Methodists. The Primitive Methodists, who belonged to a movement which had its origins in 1807, were in many ways similar to Townend and his friends



## An Appreciation.

COME, kind friends and neighbours, both near and far,  
Please do not forget 'tis our 'Centenary' Bazaar,  
Which is going to be held in a place at Aireside,  
And teas and refreshments we there shall provide.

And all who at Cononley, Wesleyan scholars have been,  
We want you especially to appear on the scene ;  
So to help our Bazaar your willingness show,  
By giving to us as God giveth to you.

Upon Easter Monday, and Tuesday as well,  
And following Saturday, grand things we shall sell,  
Of plain, useful and fancy, there's also a pile,  
So please come and buy them—'tis well worth your while,

Then come all ye Baptists and Church-people, come  
One God is our Father, one heaven our home ;  
And all kinds of Methodists who live far and near  
Come, celebrate the Centenary of Methodism here.

For it was on Shrove Tuesday, eighteen hundred and eight  
That our Chapel was opened, not quite out of debt,  
And very soon after the gallery was made,  
And a Sunday School started by friends long since dead.

'Twas the first place of worship in Cononley built,  
And hundreds have there been convinced of their guilt,  
Found pardon and peace, and for heaven made a start,  
So though it is old, it is dear to our heart.

As Sunday School also it is serving us now,  
And doing good duty for Chapel also ;  
The good here accomplished by patience and prayer,  
The great Day of Judgment alone will declare.

But all the proceeds of the Cononley Bazaar, .  
After paying expense, for a Sunday School are ;  
So do all you can to help us we pray,  
And God will reward you at no distant day.

Cononley.

M. A. SHARPE.





in that they tended to be drawn from the poorest in society. The Primitive Methodists or 'Ranters' as others called them, were meeting in Cononley by 1822. In the first decade there were between six and fifteen members, and the number is not known to have exceeded twenty in a period of fifty years. In 1830 they had services, probably in a member's home, each Sunday afternoon and also on two Tuesday evenings each month.<sup>12</sup> A Sunday School was established about 1851 when it was attended by 7 boys and 19 girls, but curiously had 13 male and one female teachers. By the 1860s they were using the 'Bark Chamber' at the old tannery in West Lane as a preaching room. The Loyal Airedale Lodge of Odd Fellows built a row of houses with a meeting room above in Cross Hills Road in 1850. The Primitive Methodists were using the Odd Fellows Hall on the top floor of this building by 1883 and continued to meet there for nearly thirty years.

The Primitive Methodists had a tradition of open air meetings called camp meetings. On Sunday 7th September 1862 they held their Annual Camp Meeting in a field lent by Mr Teal on what they called Moseley Hill. Some half a dozen different preachers gave short sermons. There were, apparently, many non church members in the field during the afternoon.<sup>13</sup>

The 'Protestant Methodists' were a new group who split away from the Wesleyan Methodists in 1827 ostensibly because of the authoritarian stance taken by the latter church over the erection of an organ at Brunswick Chapel in Leeds. A Cononley weaver named John Holgate was one of ten local preachers expelled from the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1830. A group of Protestant Methodists was meeting, in 1842, in a room which still forms part of 1-3 Napier Street.<sup>14</sup> William Holgate, who was John's father, then owned this house, and the street was then known as Holgate's Fold. This group was one of those which later came together in the 1850s to form 'The United Methodist Free Church'. When the latter Church built the Mount Zion Chapel on Back Lane (Meadow Lane) in 1869, John Holgate was one of the trustees. The Chapel's site, next to the school, is now occupied by a short terrace of modern houses which echoes the shape of the original building and preserves its date stone in the gable. Mount Zion Chapel was subsequently purchased by the Primitive Methodists in 1911 and they moved there from the Odd Fellows Hall.<sup>15</sup>

The various groups of Methodists were united again in 1932. The following years saw the formation of a single Methodist Church in the village and the decision to build a new Chapel and Sunday School. Various designs were considered, all similar to the one which was finally chosen. An alternative site, just above the park on the other side of Main Street, was considered but the

## PARISH OF KILDWICK, --1849.

A STATEMENT of the Number of Marriages, Births, Baptisms, Deaths, and Burials, of Parishioners for the Year ending 30th. June, 1849, ascertained from the following Sources. The Number of Births and Deaths communicated by Mr. Jonathan Hindle, and by him obtained from the District Registrars of Keighley and Kildwick. The Number of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, taken from the Register Books of the Parish Church, the Church of St. James, Silsden, and Trinity Church, Cowling.

Township.	Population. 1841.	Marriages.	Births.	Baptisms.	Deaths.	Burials.	Proportion per Cent of Illegitimate Births, in each Township, omitting Fractions.
COWLING . . .	2,460	12*	97	17*	56	26*	12 or 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent.
SILSDEN . . .	2,346	8†	82	93†	46	47†	8 — 10 do.
SUTTON . . .	1,291	5	54	19	33	14	4 — 7 do.
CONONLEY . .	1,159	8	30	79	18	15	3 — 10 do.
GLUSBURN . .	1,052	4	35	11	28	17	2 — 6 do.
STEETON . . .	963	4	34	16	26	18	3 — 9 do.
BRADLEY . . .	557	3	11	6	17	9	none.
FARNHILL . . .	459	2	18	10	11	9	none.
KILDWICK . . .	189	2	7	6	5	3	none.
<b>TOTAL . . .</b>	<b>10,476</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>32 — 9 <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> Cent</b>

\* Of these,  
10 were performed  
in Cowling  
Church.

\* Of these,  
15 were performed  
in Cowling  
Church.

\* Of these,  
10 were performed  
in Cowling  
Church.

† All per-  
formed in Silsden  
Church.

† Of these,  
23 were performed  
in Silsden  
Church.

† Of these,  
20 were performed  
in Silsden  
Church.

The following is nearly an exact Account of the different Places of Worship in the Parish of Kildwick, whether of the Church or of the various Dissenting Congregations, the date of their Erection, and the number of sittings in each where ascertained; also of such Schools as are held in the buildings themselves, or others contiguous to them.

It is to be understood that in this Notice the word 'Sitting' has no precise signification except in the case of Cowling Church, where it means 21 inches.

Any information that will make this Statement more complete or correct will be thankfully received.

Those printed in *Italics* are Rooms appropriated to the purpose.

THE PARISH CHURCH, date of Erection Unknown; a Church was here in the Eleventh Century; 1000 Sittings  
ST. JAMES' CHURCH, SILSDEN, Consecrated 1712, Re-built 1816, 450 Sittings.

TRINITY CHURCH, COWLING, Consecrated 5th. September, 1845, 500 Sittings.

The National School in Cononley built 1846, is licensed by the Bishop for Divine Service, and accommodates about 40 Adults, besides the Children.

### DISSENTING MEETING HOUSES.

TOWNSHIPS.	DENOMINATION.	WHEN BUILT.	NO. OF SITTINGS	SCHOOLS &c.
COWLING . . .	Baptists, Cowling Hill . . . . .	1777	350	Sunday School and Burying Ground.
	Do. Middleton . . . . .	1822		
	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .	1813	200	Sunday School.
SUTTON . . .	Protestant Methodists . . . . .	1832	300	Sunday and Day School.
	Baptists . . . . .	enlarged 1825	650	Sunday and Day School, and Burying Ground.
BRADLEY . .	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .	1814	270	Sunday and Day School.
	Primitive Methodists . . . . .	1835	150	Sunday School.
GLUSBURN . .	Protestant Methodists . . . . .	1831	190	Sunday School.
	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .	1805	550	Sunday School and Burying Ground.
CONONLEY . .	Baptists . . . . .		100	Sunday School.
	Primitive Methodists . . . . .			
	Protestant Methodists . . . . .			
SILSDEN . . .	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .	1807	230	Sunday School.
	Primitive Methodists . . . . .	1813 1821 re-built 1846	250 330	Sunday School. Sunday School.
FARNHILL . .	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .			
STEETON . . .	Primitive Methodists . . . . .			
	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .	1826	350	Sunday School and Burying Ground.

There are also three Sunday Schools unconnected with any place of Worship, two in Sutton, one of which is called the Chartist, or Democratic Sunday School; and a third of the same description in Farnhill, held in a building called the Odd Fellows' Hall.

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**JOHN T. C. FAWCETT, M. A.,**

VICAR OF KILDWICK.

TASKER, PRINTER, & STATIONER, SKIPTON.



building was eventually built adjacent to the site of the old Wesleyan Chapel of 1808.<sup>16</sup> The old Chapel was last used for a valedictory service in September 1938, after which the united congregation used Mount Zion for several years. The foundation stones for the new Chapel were laid on 24th August 1940, but although the building was roofed, wartime restrictions prevented its completion and official opening until November 1952. The Church Centre is a good example of a mid 20th century building and will, no doubt, become more appreciated with the passage of time.

### The Baptists

There were Baptists in the Parish of Kildwick from the latter part of the 17th century. At that time they were often referred to as 'Anabaptists'. David Crossley, a Baptist minister, lived for some time in the vicinity of St. John's Cross in the early 18th century, and as was noted in chapter three, it is quite likely that the Bradley family were originally of that persuasion. A reference in the Kildwick Parish Register for 15th December 1771 suggests that 'Hannah Hudson of Cononley, Spinster' has been brought up as a Baptist but is now receiving baptism into the Anglican Church.<sup>17</sup> The Baptists of Cononley always considered Sutton to be their mother church.



Cononley Baptist Chapel. (Photo. late 19th c.)



Cononley Baptist Chapel. A chapel cleaning party. The seated young woman and the girl are both wearing clogs. (Photo. early 20th c. prior to 1908)

The Cononley Baptist Church, which had begun meeting in a private room for worship, was formally constituted as a separate congregation by the Rev. W.E. Archer of Sutton on Christmas Eve 1861. They appear to have used the room known as the 'Bark Chamber', at the former tannery, at the same time as the Primitive Methodists. It was not until 1874 that the building of a chapel was decided upon. The site was purchased in December 1875 from James Marshall Laycock of Milton House, who was at that time in the course of disposing of the land formerly belonging to St. John's Cross Farm, and including the sites now occupied by Holgate House and St. John's Street. The foundation stone was laid on Good Friday 1876 and it was a year later on Good Friday, 30th March 1877, that the new chapel was opened. The architect was Mr. Thomas Riddiough of Cross Hills and, although a simple building was sought, the cost at £1,100 was nearly as much as St. John's Church had cost 13 years earlier. The initial membership was only 22. Clearly the members of this church never managed to achieve all their aspirations, for the building debt had eventually to be paid by the Sutton Church. The chapel was on the first floor, the ground floor being used, principally, as a school room.<sup>18</sup>



The Baptist Tea Party was a major village event for many years and nearly 300 people were said to have attended the event on 7th December 1889. These large attendances were achieved because members of different Non-Conformist denominations attended each other's special events. The Baptist Schoolroom was used for meetings of the Temperance and Band of Hope Society. A branch of the Temperance Society was first formed in the village during the 1840s. In 1894 a new organ was installed for use at the services which were always taken by lay preachers. In its later years, after 1933, Jonathan Herbert Reddihough (a different spelling from that of the architect) was a trustee and benefactor of the Chapel. Reddihough was one of the village's most important landowners with an estate which was essentially that once owned by the Swire family. He was a Bradford wool merchant and on Sundays he would walk, wearing clogs, from his home at Farnhill Hall to Cononley Baptist Chapel. His chauffeur would collect him after the service for the journey home. Just over a hundred years after it was built, the last service was held at the Chapel on 20th May 1979. The Chapel was subsequently converted into a private house.

### **The 'Willanites'**

The *Craven Household Almanack* for the years 1880 to 1895 mentions a Brethren's Meeting House at 11 Skipton Road. Willanites was apparently a local name for them. The meetings were held upstairs and the lower floor was occupied by Miss Ann Stansfield who acted as a caretaker. Local people recall the group as being Quakers, and including people from Lothersdale, but this may have been incorrect and they probably will have belonged to an independent group of brethren.

### **The Church of England in Cononley**

The growing strength of the Non-Conformist Churches was one factor which spurred the Established Church into action. The middle years of the 19th century saw a great revival in church building and the creation of many new parishes. In the Spring of 1846 a National School was opened in New Inn Fold, built on land given for that purpose by the Rev. John Swire.<sup>19</sup> The building was also used as a church and on 26th April 1846 the Curate of Kildwick took the first service to be held there. The Rev. John Dale Wawn was the first curate to live in Cononley. He was evidently both popular and successful in developing the church during his period at Cononley, which lasted from 1854 to 1865.



St. John's Church. (Photo. early 20th c.)

Throughout that time he lived with Mr and Mrs William Towers at Laburnum Cottage (opposite the Village Institute). Mr Towers was during that time both Cononley's first Postmaster and, as we will see later, the Schoolmaster at his own private school.

Plans for a new church must have been made before the death of the Rev. John Swire in 1860 as he had indicated that he would give the site free of charge. However when he died his executors required the site to be purchased. The cost was met by grants and subscriptions of which the largest personal donation was that made by the Duke of Devonshire. The new Church of St. John the Evangelist, was an example of the best practice in Victorian Gothic small church architecture, and was consecrated on 25th July 1864.<sup>20</sup> The interior of the new Church appears to have had a considerable amount of decorative paintwork. So its present appearance is quite different and much plainer. The fine oak chancel screen in the Church was placed there in 1893 by Mrs Wawn as a memorial to her husband who had died the previous year.

In March 1871 a new parish was formed under the title 'The District Chapelry of Saint John the Evangelist, Cononley-with-Bradley'.<sup>21</sup> The Cononley section of the new ecclesiastical parish did not share the same boundaries as the civil





Young ladies Sunday School class with the vicar's wife, Mrs. Ina Whitaker. L to R. *Back row:* Amy Hollis, Clara Stansfield, Edith Stansfield, Ida Nixon, Emily Town, Maggie Mosley, Mary Ann Wright, Alice Town, Fanny Hargreaves, Minnie Laycock, Hannah Joy, Lucy Watson, Maggie Hudson. *Middle Row-kneeling:* Hannah Stansfield, Polina Wilson, Mrs Ina Whitaker, Ethel Hargreaves, Ethel Nixon, Julia Weston. *Front Row:* Polly Mosley, Annie Mosley, Edith Wright, Carletta Parker, Janie Simpson. (Photo. early 1890s)

Township of Cononley. This was because the area west of Nethergill Bridge had already been incorporated into the Parish of Lothersdale. The first vicar of the new parish of Cononley-with-Bradley was the Rev James Wynn who stayed until his death in 1886. The problem of a vicarage was solved by the availability of the office of the ailing lead mine. The building, known as 'Netherghyll House', was converted into Cononley's first vicarage and afterwards enlarged when the vicar's family grew to include nine children. However its position, outside the village was seen as very unsatisfactory and another site was found on Cross Hills Road. The new vicarage built there was completed in 1890. It is now a private house appropriately known as St. John's House.

The number of 83 communicants who attended the Easter services in 1909 was said, at the time, to be a record.<sup>22</sup> Just before the First World War a proposal was made to extend the Parish Church by moving the east wall, the screen and chancel some 15 feet to form an apse. The scheme, which would have created seats for an extra 60 people, was approved at the Annual Vestry Meeting on April 14th 1914 but could not proceed due to the war and was never revived. The burial ground originally only extended a short distance to the west of the Church. It was enlarged to its present size in 1919. The Church was originally lit by candles and oil lamps and then by gas after 1883. The Church School was wired for electricity in September 1934 and the Church itself was fitted with electric lighting in June 1941. Among the many other routine expenses recorded in the Church's accounts is one particularly intriguing item: '17th June 1950. Smelling salts 1s. 11d., Glass 3d., Brandy 3s. 9d.'

On Monday afternoon, 25th November 1946 the Church was severely damaged by fire. Three quarters of the roof was destroyed, the organ was lost and the vestry gutted. More remarkable was the fact that many of the Church's possessions were saved by villagers who carried them from the burning building. Despite the heat the stained glass windows, the war memorial and the altar were virtually undamaged. The actual cause of the fire was the subject of speculation, and some thought that it had been started maliciously. The Vicar, the Rev. Norman Stocks, was certainly not convinced by the fire brigade's explanation that it was due to an overheated pipe.<sup>23</sup> For the next three years the Church used the redundant Mount Zion Chapel in Back Lane for its services.

### Cononley United Church

There is a long but intermittent history of church unity and co-operation in Cononley. 'Some talk' of a reunion of the three Methodist Churches was reported in the December 1887 issue of the Cross Hills Wesleyan Circuit Magazine. Special choral services at St. John's Church in December 1889 involved choir members from the other Churches in the village. During and after the First World War there were occasional united services and meetings, but church unity was not the concern it was to become in the second half of the 20th century. The use of Mount Zion Chapel by several denominations at successive times may have sown the seeds of greater unity. In May 1964 the Cononley Council of Churches was formed involving the Anglican, Baptist and Methodist Churches. The abortive national debate about uniting the Anglican Church with the Methodist Church did have a good result in Cononley,





Main Street. Church furnishings being carried to safety during the fire at St. John's Church in 1946.



The ladies of St. John's Church were involved in a variety of activities including the Mothers Union, which was founded in 1927. In this photograph of a Church coach excursion Miss Tetley is the figure sitting in the centre with the check dress. (Photo. 1930s)

where discussions took place over the sharing of their buildings. In August 1974 the Methodist and Anglican Churches began to worship together on an irregular basis. A United Church Council was formed from members of both Churches and met for the first time on 21st March 1975. The following year a weekly joint Parish Communion was established. The constitutional basis for the Cononley United Church was finally established in 1991. Although there have been suggestions that only one building is needed, no decision about this has, fortunately, been necessary and St. John's Church and the Church Centre continue to be used alternately by the joint congregation. In the year 2000 it is surprising that the ecumenical arrangement at Cononley is still considered unusual.

### Schools

During the 19th century education was frequently associated with, and developed by, the various churches. There was, however, a tradition of small scale local schools.

Entries in Kildwick Parish Registers record the names of several early schoolmasters in Cononley e.g. August 1755 – Thomas Johnson; 1810 – Thomas Townley (who is also listed in Baines' Trade Directory in 1821); March 1828 – Benjamin Bartrim. In the early 19th century some Cononley children attended Kildwick Parish Church School. Mr Bartrim (or Bartram) was still remembered by the oldest villagers in 1910.

The 1851 census lists William Holgate, schoolmaster, aged 70 and no doubt his pupils were drawn from the children of the group, described above, who formed the Protestant Methodists. A number of 'Dame' schools also existed at various times where a small number of children, often girls, were taught by an elderly lady the rudiments of reading, writing, arithmetic, and sometimes needlework. One of these establishments was known as 'Old Tippetts and Sleeves'. Miss Polly Balme of Milton House provided materials, which the girls made into garments for themselves and for the needy people of the village.

On two apparently different occasions in the 19th century, Cononley Hall was used as a school, at one time for boys and at another for girls. We must assume that these were boarding schools, and that they used the Hall when it was otherwise unoccupied. Tradition has it that the girls used a bath house towards the top of the Gib, above the Hall. This, no doubt, ensured that the survivors kept in good health.



### William Tower's School

The largest and most long-lasting of these private schools was the one kept by William Towers from 1839 to 1889. As has been noted already, he lived at Laburnum Cottage in Main Street. The schoolroom was in the upper room of a farm building opposite Kiln Hill Farm. The blocked-up doorway, with a stone canopy above, can still be seen in the upper part of the gable end.

School hours were 9am to 1.30pm and a charge of four pence per pupil per week was made (some sources say two-pence a week). The *Craven Household Almanack* reported that in 1880 there were 30 scholars on the register while five years later the number had dropped to 20. Apparently Mr. Towers specialised in turning out scholars with good handwriting. William Towers retired in 1889 after 50 years as school master and 32 years as Postmaster and as many years as Churchwarden and churchworker. He was presented with a public testimonial and a purse of gold. A year later he died and was buried in a grave on the right of the main path to St. John's Church, not far from his school.

### Cononley National School

It was in January 1844 that the Rev. John Fawcett, Vicar of Kildwick, realising the urgent need for schools in his large parish, applied to the Privy Council Committee on Education for grants to build schools at Bradley, Steeton, Glusburn, Sutton, Cowling and Cononley. Cononley was the first to be built with an additional grant made by The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church. No doubt this context was one reason why there was some opposition, including some from a Non-Conformist blacksmith who occupied the old Tithe Barn which stood on part of the site in New Inn Fold.<sup>24</sup> The original building consisted of a large schoolroom to which was attached the schoolmaster's house. In 1873, an Infant School was added, and the original buildings were refurbished and extended. This enlargement was considerable and increased the capacity of the school from 90 children to 240. The original buildings were demolished in 1976 but part of the 1873 extension survives as a private house.

In 1868 the school was attended by 56 boys and 40 girls but by 1880 the number of scholars had risen to 135. In 1880 Alfred Hoyle was the Headmaster, Mrs Hoyle was the Sewing Mistress and Miss Smith taught the infants. Evidently the appointment of Joseph Holmes as Head in 1889 marked a transformation in the school. The same year H. M. Inspector's report said that 'The Master has improved the discipline and attainment of this school during the short time he



Cononley National School class. The Headmaster, John Holdsworth, stands right. The Vicar, Rev. T.H. Lowe, stands left. (Photo. 1902)

has had charge of it'. The 1893 report stated that 'The children have passed a highly satisfactory examination in the elementary work. The papers were neat and carefully written, and the arithmetic was generally accurate. The tone was good, and the children appear interested in their work. The oral answering was also good, and needlework is soundly taught'.

The school log book records the names of ten girls who won various types of scholarship between 1903 and 1909. The last of these, in 1909, was Catherine Pickles. Her memories, written down nearly seventy years later (when she was Mrs. Moscrop), are a useful source of information about growing up in the village before the First World War. Catherine tells us that no boy ever competed for the scholarships 'as most boys were farmers' sons it was considered that further education was unnecessary'.<sup>25</sup> She also recalled that many of the girls and boys worked half time in the mill, as well as attending school, before leaving to work full time at the age of 13. Catherine returned to Cononley Council School in 1915-16 as a student teacher. Later she went to university and subsequently became a missionary.



Conditions were often appalling as the school log recounts. On 21st November 1904 the boiler burst. The gas lights were left on all day which slightly lifted the temperature in the infants classroom from a rather chilly 40° F. On 21st December 1906 the log entry read: 'Caretaker drunk again. School cold again, 44° F, and not half cleaned'. In February 1908 the children were complaining about headaches and feeling sick. The cause was eventually traced to waste from the stables opposite collecting under the school floors and sewer gas seeping into the classrooms. Fortunately the County Council and H.M.I. were concerned enough to force action to be taken.

### Cononley County Primary School

In 1907 the West Riding County Council proposed the building of a new school. Opposition in the village resulted in a public meeting of ratepayers being held on 16th December 1907 at the Foresters' Hall. The motion against the building of a new school was lost by two votes. The Cononley New Council School, on the other side of Back Lane from the old school, received its first pupils on Monday 10th January 1910, two days after the official opening.<sup>26</sup> The Headmaster of the new school was John Holdsworth who held the post, first at the National School and then at the new school, from 1895 up until his death in 1923. His home was 'Madge Bank' (after the field name) on Cross Hills Road, the contemporary house which he had had built in 1906 and which was widely admired.

The building of the new school could not solve every problem. One, which continually disrupted education, was illness. Mumps, measles, whooping cough, colds and influenza removed many children from school and resulted from time to time in the complete closure of the school, usually for three weeks. Even worse were occasional cases of life-threatening diseases such as diphtheria in December 1912 and scarlet fever in October 1934. One week in January 1937 only 41% of the children were at school; 'The village overrun with 'flu'.

There were many happier days though. School trips were often quite adventurous and no doubt an exciting change from everyday lessons. Some children went to Cross Hills to visit 'Bostock and Wombwells Menagerie' in September 1912 and a year later to see 'Ivanhoe' at the Picture House in Cross Hills. Two months later a party toured the principal buildings of Leeds as a practical lesson in Geography and Citizenship. The outbreak of war in 1914 brought a Belgian refugee teacher, Mlle. Jeanne Delafaille to the village with her father. They stayed until 1919 and she was invited to teach. One more entry

gives a flavour of the very different world, which existed then. It is the record of what happened on Empire Day:

'24th May 1922. The timetable was not strictly adhered to today. In the morning I talked to the 1st class about the Empire and the duties of its citizens as did also the members of the staff in their respective classes. In the afternoon the boys painted or crayoned the Union Jack and the time from 3pm to 4pm was spent in singing songs (patriotic mostly), dancing and cheering'.

The imminence of war resulted in the children being fitted with gas masks in October 1938. When the war came there were occasional disruptions due to air raid warnings. Even though Cononley was away from the main targets, there was always the danger that enemy aircraft would unload bombs or even mistake their location. Concern was expressed about the effect on the children of a raid on 16th September 1940 when high explosive bombs were dropped on Elslack Moor and incendiary bombs near Woodside. On 1st April 1941 the sirens sounded at 3.30pm. The children took up 'safer positions' in the school. There was another hardship, as due to transport restrictions, the children had to walk to and from Glusburn Baths throughout the war.

The fifty years after the end of the Second World War saw considerable improvements and extensions made to the school. Indoor toilets were provided for girls in 1962 but the boys had to wait another two years before they came in from the cold. In 1971 a major extension to the school was constructed. The number of pupils has varied considerably over the years. The roll was as low as 64 in 1948 but the arrival of the post war 'baby boom' children increased the number to 86 in 1952. After the 1960s the numbers fell again to a low of 61 in 1982 but lately the increasing population of Cononley and the popularity of the school have brought the number up to more than 100. This is not the first occasion on which this has happened – there were 114 pupils in 1929. In 1992 plans were made for a new school library which was achieved through the support of Sir John Swire.

## Public Libraries

The old National School housed a School and Parochial Library in the 1880s, which had a stock of 450 volumes. It was open every Friday evening to villagers who paid a penny a month or one shilling and six pence a year. Annual subscribers did not pay fines. A parochial library would probably have had an emphasis on novels with an acceptable moral tone, literature, history, biography, and religious works. Each of the Non-Conformist Churches also had libraries



of between one and two hundred books. The Institute also had a library, which perhaps would have had a more practical and contemporary emphasis. Such libraries tended to reflect the interests of their principal benefactors.

After the First World War there was national support for the provision of libraries in rural areas. In September 1922 the West Riding County Library organised a library centre which was open on Friday evenings. John William Moorhouse acted as the library assistant. In 1964 the centre moved to the Village Institute. In October 1971 a mobile library service was substituted. For a brief period the village had a very much improved service. The provision of the mobile library was transferred to the North Yorkshire County Council when the West Riding County Council was abolished in 1974. The following years saw the beginning of the erosion of public services throughout Britain. A reduction in the frequency of visits took place in 1977 and more followed. Many local politicians, librarians and members of the community once shared a visionary idealism, which sought universal free access to the best books and information. Individualism coupled with an indifference to the improvement of society was a feature of the last quarter of the 20th century. Such a climate is completely alien to the concept of a public library. The service is likely to continue to fade gradually away unless there is a remarkable reversal of the present national climate of opinion.

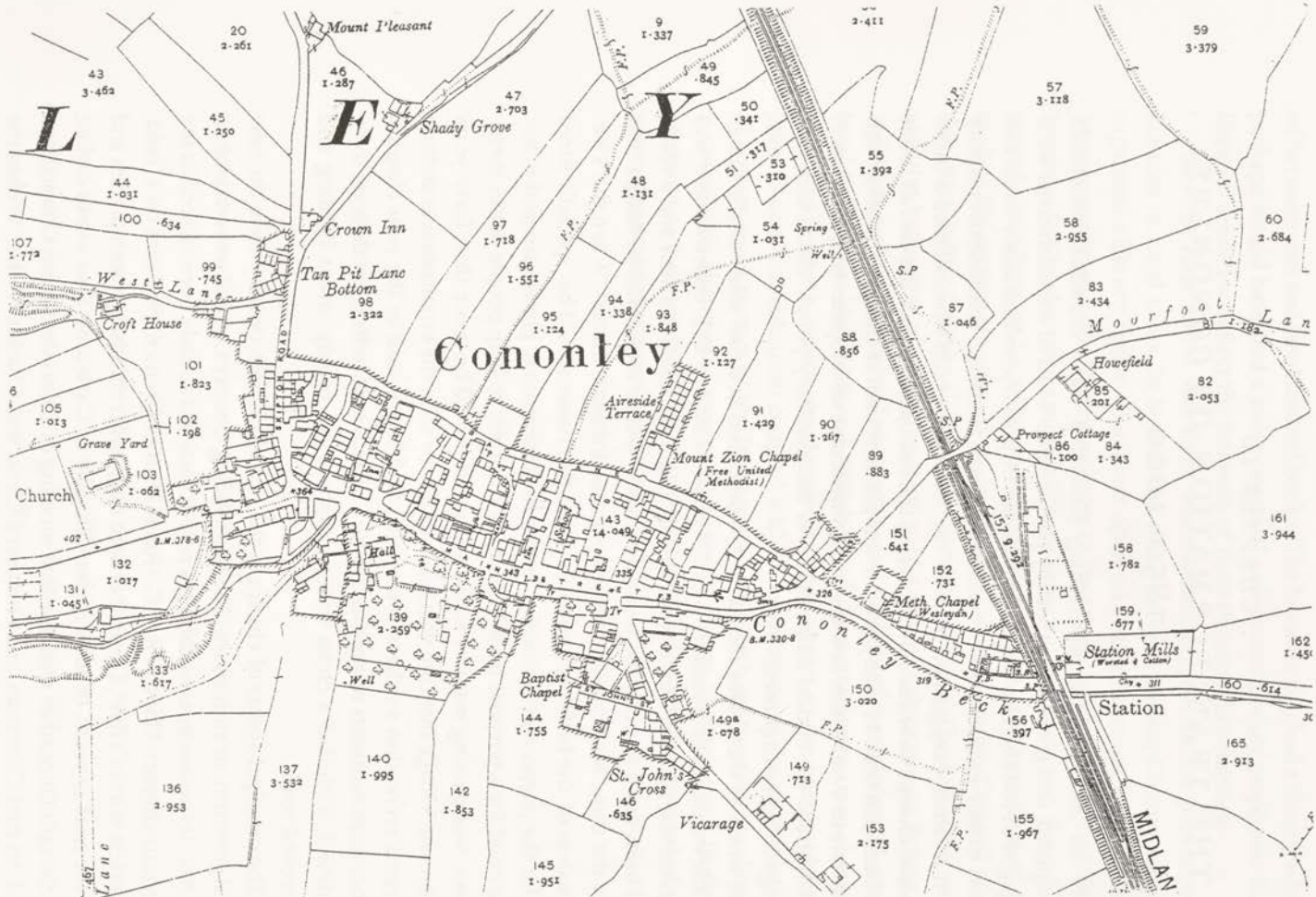
CHAPTER 10  
THE TRANSFORMATION OF CONONLEY  
1850-2000

IN the middle of the 19th century Cononley was a crowded, sometimes squalid, and generally unhealthy place to live. Most of its inhabitants were engaged in toil and lived in, or on the edge of poverty; indeed many could not afford to buy even the milk produced by local farmers.<sup>1</sup> Transformation may seem a rather exaggerated term to use for what would have seemed a more gradual change to anyone living during the last 150 years, but the overall result has been just that. In many ways it was the first half of the period, before the First World War, which saw the most important developments. The change, which made the critical difference, was that ordinary people discovered that things could be improved.

A writer in the *Craven Herald* in 1876 described in detail some of the things which would make Cononley a better place to live in.<sup>2</sup> Self improvement was high on the agenda. There were already evening classes for men and a room had been hired recently for women's classes, where they could be taught 'not only the three R's, but also needlework and domestic duties'. When the Vice-President of the Institute announced that this room would be 'specially fitted up for the purpose of *embracing females*' his unfortunate phrase amused many. The need for a purpose built Mechanics Institute, to help people better themselves, was gaining support in the village. It would be more than forty years before the Village Institute was finally built. By then the emphasis was shifting towards recreation so the story of that building is told in the next chapter. Other improvements recognised by the *Craven Herald* writer, but then yet to be achieved, included a clean water supply, a gas supply, street lighting and improved roads.

The principal agents of change at the end of the 19th century were the new local government authorities. The West Riding County Council was established in 1888. Its action in establishing a new school has already been related in the previous chapter. Skipton R.D.C. (Rural District Council) first met on a 'cold, cheerless winter's day', December 29th 1894 under the chairmanship, then and for the next 47 years, of John Arthur Slingsby of Carleton.<sup>3</sup> Two weeks earlier, on the 14th December 1894, the first meeting of Cononley Parish Council was held. Its first Chairman, and Honorary Clerk, was Charles Walker. Within the





Reproduced from the 25 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey Map. Published 1909. (reduced)

first 12 months the Council had discussed the need for allotments, a recreation ground, street lighting, the naming and numbering of streets and a sewerage system.<sup>4</sup> The latter concerned a request for a system made to Skipton R. D. C. One of the major advances of the 19th century was the recognition of the importance of public health.

### **Public Health and the Water Supply**

In 1873 the newly appointed 'Nuisance Inspector' of the Skipton Board of Guardians reported that he had visited Cononley, Cross Hills, Kildwick, Barnoldswick, Addingham and Embsay. He found 'a great want of privy and ash-pit accommodation' and that 'pig styes, manure heaps and privvies' often adjoined houses. In the worst cases people threw out their slops, house refuse, broken pots, excreta and decayed vegetable matter into the road in front of their houses. Evidently the inspector also thought that a water works and supply would be desirable and would help to improve health.<sup>5</sup> In the early 19th century many Cononley people were dependent on the Beck for their water. Milton House had a well with a pump, which the public was allowed to use. This particular well was rediscovered while this book was being written. When the wall was erected alongside the Beck many 'snickets' were left to allow people to get down to the water. However, by the mid 19th century the Beck had become contaminated, not only with human and animal waste, but by the lead mine and its smelt mill. The Duke of Devonshire was obliged to provide an alternative supply of water free from lead pollution to various points in the village. Although he did this, the actual stone troughs, known as 'dole wells' were set up by public subscription. The name dole well originated because they were erected by the unemployed. The 'Mally and Billy Wells' in Billy Lane (now known as Cross Hills Road) had the two troughs, which can still be seen, installed in 1852. The upper trough was covered and supplied drinking water; the lower one was open and was intended for horses. Some people carried their water home in a 'peggy tub' mounted on a wheeled trolley. There was a serious problem if the wells ran dry and on at least one occasion the baptistery at the Baptist Chapel was used to supply villagers.

In 1888 the Cononley Water Company was formed to build a small reservoir on the Gib and pipe water to much of the village. The annual meeting in 1910, presided over by Peter Nelson, heard that due to increasing demand, an additional spring had been connected to the supply. In 1890 the Cononley Club Row Water Company was formed. This company existed only to supply 36



houses, 34 of them in Aire View, and obtained its water from springs on the hillside behind the houses. One of the most colourful characters in Cononley's history, Enoch Whitaker, presided over the twentieth annual meeting of the Company in 1910.<sup>6</sup> In the early 1920s there was considerable concern that the water supply was inadequate and negotiations were undertaken with the Duke of Devonshire to obtain additional supplies from the lead mine. Water from the lead mine levels was actually quite pure and uncontaminated. In 1939 the assets of the Cononley Water Company were purchased by Skipton R.D.C. for £5000 but the Club Row Water Company continued to operate until well into the second half of the 20th century.

Later in the 20th century much of Cononley's water came from the West Lane borehole which was 8 inches in diameter and 187 feet deep. It was capable of producing five million gallons of water annually, which was then pumped to a storage tank above Nethergill Lane. This source became redundant after the laying of the Airedale Trunk Main to which Cononley's water supply was eventually connected. The borehole was then sealed and the pumphouse demolished.

In 1908 the installation of a foul water drainage and sewerage system was commenced by Skipton R.D.C. By March 1910 the main sewer had been completed and the village became far healthier.

Today Yorkshire Water is responsible for all these services. In the 19th century, no connection was perceived between the many aspects of water management, but this is a convenient place to mention the early drainage works. The Airedale Drainage Act was passed in 1861 and in the following three years extensive work was undertaken in an area which extended from Bingley to beyond Skipton. The most dramatic changes resulted in the removal of two large bends in the River Aire at Cononley and the deepening of its channel.

## Roads

In 1876 the road from Lothersdale was thought to be one of the roughest in the district. It was used by the horse drawn waggons bringing lime from the kilns there, which belonged to Peter William Spencer.<sup>7</sup> The brakes of the horse drawn lime carts squealed as they descended the hill and this could often be clearly heard in the village. It is recalled that at least one lime cart horse would automatically stop at the New Inn. After passing over Moorfoot Lane railway bridge the load was discharged into railway waggons at the (still visible) loading bay. The waggons returned to Lothersdale with coal which had been brought



Main Street looking east from the New Inn. Note the neatly turned out children and the new gas lamps. (Photo. early 20th c.)

in by rail. By 1909 a traction engine was in use to pull the products of the Raygill Lime Works from Lothersdale to Cononley Station. Spencer's 'Motor Engine men' caused disputes by filling their engines' tanks from the water troughs in the village at a time when water was short in the middle of summer.<sup>8</sup> The steep hill at Nethergill must have proved quite an obstacle for the 'steam carts' as they were also known. There were a number of proposals between 1895 and 1923 to build a new road through the valley between Nethergill and Pismire Bridges. These schemes would have reduced the gradient and made Cononley Station more accessible for Lothersdale people. A similar scheme, suggested in 1903, would have created a new road from Aire View along the hillside to a point half way up the hill known as Cononley Brow.

One or two motor cars were seen in the village even before 1900. A new one was seen by Elizabeth Greenwood of Hadfield House, being delivered to Mr. Spencer of Raygill, Lothersdale, on March 30th 1899. She saw another one which had broken down at the top of Nethergill on August 30th, the same year. The first locally owned motor car was Frank Laycock's. He lived at the house called Mount Pleasant on Skipton Road. On a memorable Saturday, before



the First World War, the Laycock family set off for London in this vehicle but had got no further than the Crown Inn, at the bottom of the slope from their house, before it broke down.

The steady increase in the number of motor vehicles passing through the village and the speed at which they travelled brought repeated protests from members of the public. In April 1913 the Parish Council was asked to make a request to the Skipton R. D. C. 'that notices be erected restricting the speed of motor vehicles passing through the village to 10 miles per hour'. It is worth noting that 87 years later, in the year 2000, the Parish Council was seeking a 20 mph limit for the same reason.

In 1909 the *Keighley News* described Back Lane (now known as Meadow Lane) thus: 'The road is about wide enough for one cart and has no footpath, and as a mild description, we may say it is a mass of filth'.<sup>9</sup> Even the principal roads were still being described as being in a deplorable condition in May 1916. An exceptionally dry Spring had resulted in an accumulation of dust. Within two months, however, the roads had been 'treated with tar macadam'.

After the roads had been surfaced, attention was centred on the dangerous and narrow sections of the village highways. In the summer of 1924 improvements were made at the Lane Top (Cononley Lane End), chiefly by the rounding of the corners. 1928 saw the widening of the long narrow roadway along the length of Aire View. A year later one of the most unfortunate changes to accommodate the motor vehicle was made. Monk House, one of Cononley's oldest houses, was demolished, apparently because its frontage jutted into the roadway on Kiln Hill, creating a narrow and dangerous twist for traffic to negotiate.

Most of the folds were used as short cuts between Main Street and Back Lane but in 1924 the only public right of way between these roads was said to be Napier Street. Skipton R.D.C. was prepared to take it over and resurface it at the expense of the inhabitants at large. The Parish Council, however, thought that New Inn Fold was a much more convenient thoroughfare, but at that time it was privately owned and in a bad state of repair. In 1929 the four owners: Timothy Taylor & Co., Cononley Co-op, Cononley Church School and Mr J.H. Reddihough all agreed to hand over their respective sections. The Church School gave up part of the school yard so that the junction with Back Lane could be rounded off; the Co-op contributed £5 and the other two parties, £10 each.

Another major improvement, which took place in 1929, was the replacement of the bridge over the River Aire, which had stood since 1784. As far back as 1905 the Kildwick Parish Gas Company, whose main passed over the bridge,

reported that the bridge was subsiding and the joints in the pipes were being 'drawn'. A plan was drawn up for a replacement bridge in 1907 but was defeated by legal difficulties. The condition of the bridge worsened after a heavy flood in 1909. Photographs of the old, three arched bridge show how obvious the subsidence became. Eventually work on a new bridge, a short distance upstream from the old one, began on 1st August 1928. It was constructed by Holst & Co. entirely out of ferro-concrete and has a single span of 68 feet. The retaining walls were built by Messrs. Enoch Harrison & Son from local stone supplied from Mr. Dixon's quarry and topped by stones from the old bridge. Many hundreds of people watched Mrs Slingsby, the wife of the Chairman of Skipton R.D.C., open the new bridge by cutting the silk ribbon stretched across it with a pair of silver handled scissors. The estimated cost of the whole project was £5713. More than 70 years later fragments of tarmac, amongst the grass, still mark out the course of the original approach road to the bridge from Farnhill.



Monk House was demolished in 1929. *(copied from a photograph)*



## Public Transport

On 20th October 1924 Messrs Chadwick J. Smith & Son of Lothersdale started the first public motor bus service between Cross Hills and Skipton, operating a 14 seater motor charabanc every day except Sunday. Within a few weeks such was the demand that a second (Fiat) bus was brought into operation. Eventually a total of seven buses made up the fleet, which operated under the name of Skiptonian Motors.

The fare from Cross Hills to Skipton was 6d single and 9d return with penny stages at Kildwick, Cononley Lane End, Bradley Lane End, Snaygill and Walton Houses. In 1925 the business moved to Skipton to share premises with Nicholas Smith. The following year the two branches of the operation amalgamated to form Nicholas Smith Garages Ltd.. In 1926 the service was extended to serve the village of Cononley and it also began to operate on Sundays. From 22nd April 1927 the bus service was taken over by the Premier Transport Company (Keighley) Ltd.

In May 1927 it was reported at the Cononley Parish Council Meeting that the bus service had deteriorated since Skiptonian Motors had given up and



Aireside. The terrace must be almost new in this view although the two houses furthest from the camera are somewhat older. The visible part of the mill was also occupied as a house by its manager. (Photo. early 20th c.)



Main Street. Dial House. The sundial, which gave the house its name, was still to be seen above the right hand door at this time. The house was probably built around the middle of the 18th century. (Photo. early 20th c.)

that another company was interested in providing daily services. The *Craven Pioneer* of 24th June 1927 reported that H. W. Ratcliffe, who already operated a Skipton to Carleton service, had taken over the Skipton - Cononley route from Premier Transport. In addition to the normal service via the main road, Horace Ratcliffe operated 'specials' via Woodside. On one of these, in November 1929, a bus making a special journey to Carleton to pick up members of the Cononley Football Team was involved in an accident with a vehicle belonging to Dennis Laycock of Mount Pleasant. The normal service was not particularly frequent. In 1932, for example, on Tuesdays to Thursdays there were buses to Skipton at 6.40 and 8.10 a.m. and 1.10, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00 and 9.15 p.m. The first bus of the day continued to Broughton Road to take workers to the Mills there. The busiest day was Saturday when there were more than twice as many buses, including a return service from Skipton at 11.20 p.m.

Horace Ratcliffe owned two buses, a 14 seater and a 20 seater. One he drove himself and George Town drove the other. On his own admission he was regularly summonsed by the police for carrying too many passengers. There

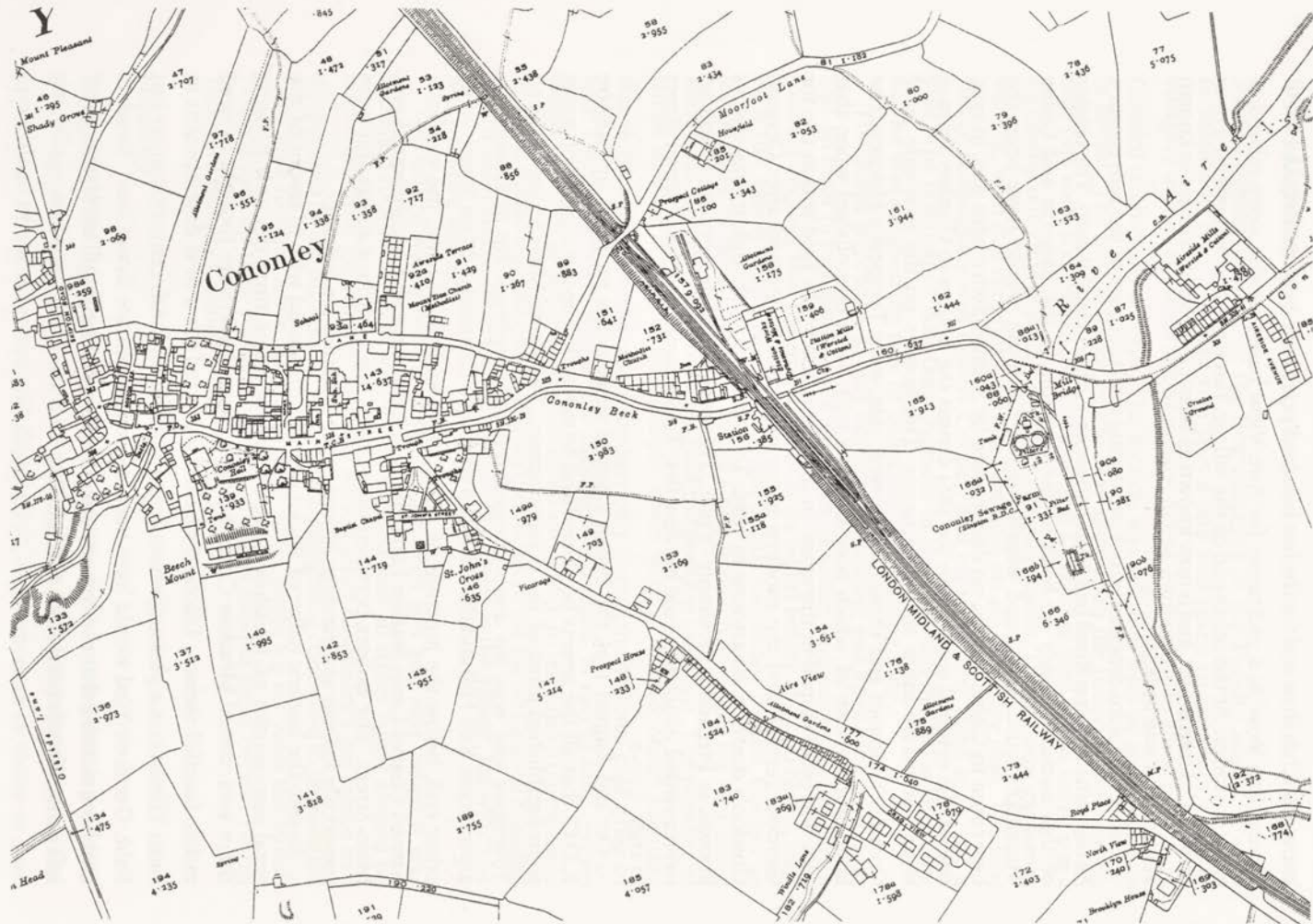


was a great deal of unemployment in Cononley and men had to sign on in Skipton. He was once caught with 57 people in his 20 seater bus, and claims to have even had 47 people in his 14 seater. In 1932 the threat of having his prices undercut forced him to sell his service to the West Yorkshire Road Car Company. The latter's fares and 'old and smelly' buses were to be the cause of many complaints in subsequent years. The Second World War brought a reduction in services to the extent that at one stage there were no buses operating into or out of Cononley from 1 p.m. on Saturdays until the following Monday morning. In 1946 the Parish Council had to complain to the Regional Traffic Commissioner before a late bus was put on to enable Cononley people to get back home after the last film at the cinema in Skipton. The Sunday service was not re-introduced until 1949.

Public transport reached a low ebb in the 1960s following the publication of the infamous Beeching Report on the railway system. The report recommended the closure of all passenger rail services serving the Aire valley. In this climate the closure of Cononley station was fairly inevitable. Following the closure which took effect after the last service on 20th March 1965 the frequency of buses was increased on the route through Cononley. The bus service continued to be a source of complaints but the trains, which could have been an alternative service, passed through the village without stopping. After a campaign lasting more than five years Cononley Station was reopened on 20th April 1988. The introduction of electric trains to Leeds and Bradford in 1995 has given Cononley an exceptional advantage over most comparable villages.

### Street Names

Almost every street name in the village has changed since 1850, and some names have changed more than once. In the 19th century there was no name for the road to Cross Hills. Around 1800 it had been referred to, in the Wainman estate maps, as the 'Road to Glusburn' or the 'Road from Cononley to the White Bear' (the inn at Cross Hills).<sup>10</sup> That part of the road where the St John's Cross houses are was at the upper end of Billy Lane so it was called 'Billy's Lane Top' in 1851. Windle Lane has sometimes been called 'Windy Lane'. The present form undoubtedly refers to the surname Windle but it is possible that both forms of the name have a common origin. In the medieval Bolton Priory Charters there are references to the place name 'Wydhedales' and the personal name 'Henrici de Windhill'.<sup>11</sup> 'Union Row was the first official name of the long row of weavers' cottages, built shortly before 1832. By 1861 they were



Reproduced from the 25 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey Map. Published 1934. (reduced)



known as Club Row and for the last hundred years have been named Aire View. 'Frying Pan Row' is a nickname for Aire View based on the story related in chapter twelve. At the other end of the village Tan Pits Lane was referred to as Oakheads Lane in 1851, and is now known as West Lane. Shady Lane was known as Greaves Lane in 1842.

Other old forms dropped out of use during the latter part of the 19th century. At one time Skipton Road had been known as 'Colne Loine' (Lane). The origins of this name probably go back to the creation of the Skipton and Colne Turnpike Trust. This road which ran via Carleton would have been the best route to Colne. It was, no doubt, used by Samuel Swire who was, in 1755, one of the original trustees. In the 1861 census the houses in Gordon Terrace were known by more than one name. The houses on the east side were Crossley's Houses and those on the west side were Tempest's Houses. The latter houses, one of which bore the date 1752, were demolished when that area was redeveloped in the 1970s. In 1871 the name Peel's Fold was in use for Gordon Terrace and the modern name no doubt originated after General Gordon's death at Khartoum in 1885. To local people though it was always known as Piccadilly or simply 't'pic'. This was probably because it was so overcrowded. Holgate's Fold became first Tudor Street and then Napier Street in 1897.

On 2nd August 1895 the Parish Council agreed to a proposal by Skipton R.D.C. that all the streets be named and numbered. The installation of street signs established most of the present names. The name Main Street replaced Towngate and was, no doubt, considered more appropriate to Cononley's aspirations. Kiln Hill and Kiln Hill Top were also included in Main Street. At its other end, below the junction of Main Street with Back Lane, the variously named Chapel Lane, Station Lane and Mill Lane were also incorporated into Main Street. The houses between the railway line and the Railway Inn were previously known as Grandage Houses after a former landowner.

In 1950 the historic name of Back Lane was dispensed with in favour of the rural associations of Meadow Lane and at the same time the new housing there was named Meadow Croft. Modern house buyers are thought to need rather fanciful names. Tillotson's Court was used for a new development in 1994. Tillotson is a pleasing reminder of the 17th and 18th century owners but Fold, Garth or Yard would have been more appropriate than Court. Readers will have noticed that the romanticised spelling of Nethergill as 'Netherghyll' has generally not been used in this book.

## Street Lighting

Street Lighting was one of the first concerns of the Parish Council after its formation in 1894. On May 11th 1895 a poll was taken to ascertain whether villagers wished to adopt the necessary Act of Parliament to allow the Parish Council to erect street lights. The motion was defeated with 96 against and 92 in favour. The next attempt was in May 1897 when the proposal was lost by only one vote. It needed a third poll on 27th December 1898 before there was a successful outcome in favour of this progressive move. The ten new gas lamps were lit, with due ceremony, for the first time on 4th February 1899. The first village lamplighter was Robert Cooper, and his salary was fixed at £3. 10s. a year. The position of Assistant Overseer of the Poor still existed at that time and he was assigned the task of collecting the Lighting Rate.

The lamps were to be lit only between September and April each year, from half an hour before sunset until 10.30 p.m. In order to economise, the Parish Council decided 'that the lamps be not lit six nights before and two nights after each full moon unless necessary'. John Smith succeeded Robert Cooper as lamplighter, in 1902. John lived at Gill Cottage which accounts for him being known as 'John in't Beck 'oile'. He held the position until 1931. The number of lamps steadily increased, for example, there were 23 in 1906. Street Lighting was restricted to Saturdays and Sundays only during the national coal strike of 1912. During the First World War lighting was limited, in 1915 to only certain lamps, and then in 1916 it was discontinued altogether. In response to complaints from the public regarding safety during the black-out the Parish Council engaged Enoch Townend to whitewash all the street corners in the village, for which he was paid five shillings.

The village was wired for electricity between 1931 and 1934, when it was extended to Aire View. In 1948 it was decided that all street lamps should be converted from gas to electricity and almost all of Cononley's gas lamps had disappeared by the summer of 1951. Additional lighting continued to be installed from time to time. After maintaining the street lamps for 101 years the Parish Council paid for their further improvement and handed them over to North Yorkshire County Council in the year 2000.

## Housing

Even after 1850 Club Row remained the largest single housing development in the village and something like one tenth of the population lived there. The upper floor of these houses was designed to accommodate as many as four



looms, the backs of which fitted into recesses, so allowing the weaver to sit close to a window. The beds, therefore, had to go in the centre of the room.

Several other housing schemes, some of which never became a reality, are worth noting. Aireside Terrace was built in 1870 as a terrace of 16 back to back houses. Its construction was associated with that of Mount Zion Chapel in the same field only a year earlier. The Whittingham family owned Aireside Terrace. This, together with the fact that James Whittingham was the manager of Aireside Mill in 1870, suggests that the Terrace was built for workers at the Aireside Mill.

In 1875 an area of farmland in the centre of the village, which had formerly belonged to St. John's Cross Farm, was sold. Within a few years St. John's Street was laid out, and the Baptist Chapel and Spring Bank houses were erected. It is very likely that a more elaborate housing development running across towards the Hall grounds was anticipated but never happened.

Another scheme was planned in 1897 for part of the area lying between Main Street, Cross Hills Road and the railway line. If built this would have entirely changed the character of the village and led to further developments of a suburban character. The scheme included no less than four new bridges over the Beck. The first, opposite the Railway Inn, was to take traffic over to a proposed road, 36 feet wide, to be named Hinde Street. A similar road, named Bryer Street would have run from a point on Cross Hills Road, immediately behind Bradley's Farm, across the development to make a junction with Hinde Street. The vendors were the trustees of the Hinde Trust, a body set up to administer the estate of Mrs. Edith Hinde, the widow of the Rev. Thomas Bryer Hinde and a descendant of the Bradley family who featured in chapter three. A total of 25 building plots were to be available, but although an auction was advertised to be held at the New Inn on 2nd June 1897, there was evidently not enough interest. One must suspect that the Playing Fields would never have been created had there still been a realistic hope of selling this land for housing in the 1930s.

Beech Mount was developed behind the Hall just before the First World War when the four houses at the east end were built. After the war there was government encouragement to create new homes and then the terrace was extended to its present length. Although there was a great deal of house building elsewhere between the two World Wars very little building occurred in Cononley. The housing development at Crag View is believed to have been originally conceived by the Midland Railway as part of a development of railway workers' homes. Crag View could well be on the line of the proposed road of



1903, referred to above, and it is known that the erection of eight cottages in the vicinity of Aire View was proposed as early as 1910. The Parish Council recorded the need for 15 homes for 'the working classes' in January 1919. An acre and a half of land was acquired adjoining Windle Lane for this purpose but government cutbacks prevented anything happening for several years. Skipton R.D.C. finally commenced the construction of the houses at Crag View in October 1925 using locally quarried stone from Dixon's Quarry adjoining the Delph. Thomas Stell bought three acres of land opposite Aireside Mill in 1920 where Aireside Avenue was subsequently built in 1927. The final three houses at Beech Mount were completed in the summer of 1920. In the 1930s a considerable amount of private semi-detached housing was built throughout Britain. The relatively few houses built in Cononley included those erected in Windle Lane and Skipton Road in 1933. Fortunately for the historian some of these continue the tradition of houses displaying datestones.

As the Second World War drew to a close further council housing was planned. The first houses to be built were on Cross Hills Road and were constructed in 1946-7. It is believed that Italian prisoners of war were employed on this project and, incidentally, a German prisoner was employed to work at the New Inn and another at Pear Tree Farm during the same period. The 1946 scheme also involved the widening of Cross Hills Road and no doubt there was an intention to widen the whole road down to the bridge over the Beck. Another road scheme would have created a broad curving road which would have joined Skipton Road to Meadow Lane. In the event Meadow Croft was built in 1950 with its approach from the existing Meadow Lane.

A few houses have been demolished in the second half of the 20th century. These include cottages in Napier Street, Moorfoot Lane and between Skipton Road and Gordon Terrace. It was rightly feared that the latter clearance could have led to the destruction of the village character and encouraged further unsatisfactory developments. After a hard fought campaign some of the original houses were retained and an award winning group of new and old houses created in 1978. They make an interesting contrast to those on Meadow Close, built in 1976-7, the bungalows completed behind the Railway Inn during 1978, and the seven houses built on the site of the former National School in 1979.

Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, the planning framework goes a long way towards ensuring that development is limited and in character with the traditional building materials used in most of Cononley's buildings. Provided there is continued awareness it is also unlikely that the village will be subjected to large scale developments of an industrial character, such as the tip and refuse



pulverisation plant which could have occupied 15 fields down Moorfoot Lane in 1968 were it not for local opposition at the time. On the other hand the evident failure of a number of industrial and housing schemes over more than a century has led to a state of stagnation which, while pleasing to the eye, offers relatively little local employment. The majority of new housing is now in the upper price range and there are only limited opportunities for this prosperity to benefit the whole village economy.

### Farming

One of the greatest revolutions in Britain in the 20th century was that in farming methods. Before the Second World War the techniques used in local farming would have been familiar to Cononley people of the 18th century and perhaps even the 13th century. After 1870 much of Britain's agriculture was in the grip of a recession caused by the arrival of imported meat and grain from outside



A Cononley farmer and his family. Joseph and Elizabeth Snowden with their children Henry and Annie photographed behind their Pear Tree Farm. (Photo. c. 1905)



Haymaking in fields now occupied by Meadowcroft. Left to right: Enoch Townend, David Cooper, Harry Hargreaves and Utley Midgley. (Photo. early 20th c.)



Haymaking. To modern eyes some of these women are surprisingly well dressed for work in the fields but this smartness features in other photographs of haymaking. It was a special occasion. (Photo. 1914 or earlier)



Europe. The incentive to grow arable crops around Cononley, which might have existed still in the prosperous 1860s was gone for good. The price of oats fell by about a third.<sup>12</sup> However we know that at the end of the century there was still a local market for many animal products.<sup>13</sup> Milk was dispatched to Leeds and Bradford. In summer Irish labourers were hired for haytime. Some Cononley farmers had other occupations or could rely on the earnings of other members of the family. The farms were not mechanised and continued to rely on the horse as the main source of everyday power. In lowland Britain the steam plough engine and threshing machine had been used for decades and the motor tractor was introduced after the First World War. This equipment was less essential in Cononley where the farms were relatively small and arable crops almost unknown. The Second World War changed this. Ministry of Agriculture officials insisted, often in the face of local advice, on the ploughing of land to try arable crops again. Tractors were brought in by the Ministry to achieve their objectives and the days of the horse were numbered.

In 1950 there were still about 30 farms in Cononley but some of these were very small. Some had only two or three cows for example. This type of farming operation soon became unviable as new regulations were introduced on the refrigeration and sale of milk. This made local sales impractical. This period of change coincided, in the 1960s, with the final disposal of the two large estates, which had dominated land ownership in the village for the previous two centuries. One of these estates consisted of the properties of Jonathan Herbert Reddihough of Farnhill Hall, who died in March 1964 and whose properties derived originally from the Swire family lands. The other was that of Audrey Edith Hinde whose estate was inherited from her ancestors, the Bradley and Wainman families. An indirect consequence of these sales has been the conversion of a number of farms and farm buildings in the centre of the village to wholly residential use. At the same time the number of farms has reduced steadily until it is now only about a third of the number of 50 years ago. During much of the second half of the 20th century, Government and subsequently European policies ensured that a living could be made from the land. Unfortunately in the year 2000 the farming industry is facing a crisis as serious as any in living memory. The outlook for farming in the 21st century seems at present to be bleak and at best unpredictable.

## CHAPTER II

### SOCIAL LIFE AND SPORTS

THERE is no evidence of the social life of the village before the middle of the 19th century. We can imagine that there always had been a great diversity of activities, which would vary according to the inclination, and social status of the individual. Those who worked in the mills and attended chapels on Sunday had no time for leisure in the modern sense of the word. However, it was to be the Churches and Chapels which would provide almost all the social activities which some people, especially women, would be involved in. This chapter needs, therefore, to be read with church life, recorded in chapter nine, very much in mind.

On 14th March 1863, to celebrate the marriage of Edward, later King Edward VII, and Alexandra, a grand ball was held at Cononley Hall. Most of the gentry of Kildwick Parish attended.<sup>1</sup> This was a world which was inaccessible to most Cononley people. In those days some working men simply sat around during their brief non-working hours. One favourite place was the parapet of the 'Low Bridge' (in front of the present Post Office) where they played draughts or 'cropicrown' as it was known. Some visited the pubs of Skipton, returning on the last train on Saturday evening which therefore became known as the 'Drukken train'.<sup>2</sup> Later sections of this chapter will concentrate on more purposive leisure activities. This will take the form of several 'snapshots' of relatively short periods. The most active period of all these was the time before the First World War which saw the creation of the Village Institute.

The Annual Feast once formed an important feature in the social life of all Craven villages. It was the time when families whose members lived widely apart were for a brief space united once more. Cononley's Annual Feast took place on the first Sunday after August 22nd. It seems to have been a rather rowdy and intemperate affair. As an alternative in 1861 a 'Gospel Feast' was arranged at the Odd Fellows' Hall in the afternoon and a 'Temperance Feast' in the evening.<sup>3</sup> Later on the feast became a time for day trips to the seaside, such as that arranged by Middleton and Answorth of Aireside Mill on 23rd August 1875. A Grand Gala was held on the Tuesday 24th August 1875 arranged by the Cricket Club and the 'Good Templars' (a temperance society). The Farnhill Band played. Such 'old-time' galas were recalled with nostalgia many years later.<sup>4</sup>



On 24th December 1861 the Lead Miners of Cononley had their Annual Club Gathering. This started with a church service in the schoolroom followed by a dinner at the Crown Inn, a public house which was popular with the miners. In the afternoon James Eddy was one of several speakers and the group continued into the evening after which they 'separated in great good humour'. We might hesitate to call such a meeting, in the company of one's employer, a leisure activity, but it would have been a welcome respite from work at the time.<sup>5</sup>

Cononley Church Choir held its annual party on 16th January 1862 in the schoolroom 'tastefully decorated' with beadwork and evergreens. There were about 120 people at this event. 'After tea the young people for whose amusement the party was given joined in games, glees and part songs etc'. They did not finish until 11.30 p.m.<sup>6</sup>

By the early years of the 20th century the different churches were providing a wealth of leisure opportunities. Besides special services with anthems sung by the choirs, there were concerts and a considerable number of other events frequented also by non-members. The staple fare of chapel teas, Sunday School prize givings and parties included part-songs, other songs of every kind imaginable, duets, pianoforte solos, recitations and sketches. These events were concentrated around Christmas. The Wesleyan Chapel tea and entertainment actually took place on Christmas Day. In January 1909 the annual tea and distribution of prizes for the Church Sunday School took place in the National School. One of the sketches was entitled 'Over the Garden Wall' and was reported in the *Keighley News* to have been 'screamingly funny'.<sup>7</sup> The Mount Zion Choir tea, the Primitive Methodist Sunday School annual tea and the Baptist Sunday School prize giving and social all took place in January as well. The round of events continued with the St John's Church Sunday School Shrovetide social with dancing to a local band.

The National School was the venue in January 1909 for the Conservative Club's annual ball, a rather grand title for an event attended by fifty or so people. Mr R. D Smith's Quadrille Band played. The band, and some of the members, came from Carleton.<sup>8</sup>

An audience in January 1909 heard a lecture by William Clough, the Liberal MP for Skipton, which included lantern slides of the Houses of Parliament and portraits of the leaders of the party. A note of discord was evident as 'Mr Charles Weatherall, in moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Clough, remarked that he (Mr. Clough) was quite a stranger in their midst, seeing that his previous appearance before a Cononley audience was at the last general election'. Being

an adept politician Clough was able, in response, to call up 'a vivid recollection of his last visit when his horses bolted and were badly injured leaping on top of an out-house'.<sup>9</sup>

Young people accompanied their parents to those activities which were suitable for them. The Scouting movement was one of the first that provided activities designed for young people. A troop was formed in Cononley in November 1909.<sup>10</sup> One of the first things that they did was hold a social and dance at the National School the following January which the troop attended. Much later, in the 1950s and 60s, there was a national movement to provide youth clubs for teenagers and in Cononley the United Church Youth Group was created.

Before the Second World War, for those who were then old enough, the many village dances and balls created enduring memories. As well as attending those in Cononley, groups of young people would go to other villages, often walking home together in the middle of the night.

A respectable game of cards outside the home would have been a novelty early in the 20th century. The first whist drive to take place in the village was held at the National School in November 1909. The event, which was followed by dancing, was evidently a great success as it was repeated a month later. In the meantime whist drive fever had taken root in the village. Three weeks after the first one a whist drive and social, arranged by the Airedale Lodge of Odd Fellows, took place in their hall.<sup>11</sup> When William Clough was returned as the local MP in February 1910 local Liberals celebrated with an entertainment in the National School which included a tea for nearly 200, a whist drive and a ball. There were so many people there that the dancing was 'carried on with difficulty'.

### **The Brass Band**

Carleton Brass Band was the oldest in Craven, being founded in 1866, and other villages followed suit. The appearance of bands from neighbouring villages at Cononley events must have spurred the young men of the village into action. Early in 1910 efforts were underway to form a Brass Band. A committee was formed and a social arranged to raise money for the purchase of instruments.<sup>12</sup> Their first band instructor was Jack Marston who was still with them as conductor twenty years later. The band, still without uniforms, led the village procession at the time of the Coronation of King George V on June 22nd 1911. In 1922 Higson Simpson, from Carleton, was appointed conductor. In 1924, the





Cononley Brass Band. This photograph appears to have been taken soon after the band was founded.

band travelled to London and won a prize at the Crystal Palace, playing the Unity March composed by the then famous Henry Hall. Fred Brown conducted the band on that occasion. On returning to Cononley from another competition in London the triumphant band played as they marched up the village from the station in the dark. The band continued to play at village events during the next three decades. Between the wars it was in great demand throughout the district and able to ask for reasonable fees to support its expenses. Even so it struggled to keep going in the later 1920s and 1930s. The band was briefly revived after the Second World War but the cost of re-equipping the band was too much for the remaining members.

### **The Village Institute**

The building of an institute had been in the air for at least forty years but the first serious progress was made in 1906. The first meeting of the Village Institute Committee took place on August 17th of that year, and Albert Stansfield was elected chairman. The imminent closure of two of the village pubs offered an opportunity to encourage some of the village's young men to use their time

more profitably. In November of the same year a temporary arrangement was made to provide a reading room in Craven Bank House at 80, Main Street. The most ambitious event held in support of the Institute funds was a four day 'Grand Bazaar' held on the top floor of Aireside Mill at Easter 1907:

'There was a lot of decoration with coloured paper and bunting, and the whole set-up looked very attractive. The stalls sold the usual variety of bazaar goods, bought from wholesalers for the purpose, plus a lot of home made produce, and there was a bran-tub, and also a galvanic battery, which resulted in squeals and giggles when the girls and young men put their hands into a bowl of charged water. There were also choir items and contributions by a brass band'.<sup>13</sup>

Early in 1908 the Lund family of Malsis Hall (the owners of the former Swire Estate) offered the site at Kiln Hill on which the Institute would be built. The local press reported in February 1909 that the project was coming within sight of realisation. It was noted that some nearby places, notably Glusburn, had had a generous donor to assist them. The residents of Cononley were, on the other hand, 'not so over burdened with wealth that they can launch out into even moderate philanthropic ventures'. The building was made possible by a loan from the Lund family. At a public meeting that month Charles



Cononley Village Institute was opened on a wet day like this one. (Photo. possibly on opening day 11th December 1909)



# The Cononley Village Institute

AMATEUR

## Dramatic Society.

The above Society have pleasure in announcing that they will give a GRAND

# Entertainment

IN THE

NATIONAL SCHOOL, CONONLEY,

On SATURDAY, Nov. 14th,

To consist of a Play, entitled—

# 'ORPHEUS'

(By kind permission of Mr. Gilbert Taskard.)

### Dramatis Personæ :-

Michael Angelo Magill	Mr. C. Metcalfe
Peter Paul Beabone Badger	Mr. C. R. Brown
Professor Fudric	Mr. J. W. Stanfield
Mr. Lat Honey	Mr. J. W. Parkinson
The O'Flaughan	Mr. J. H. Shields
Orpheus	Mr. T. H. Gooze
Titus Skinner	Mr. F. Duckley
Hughes McSplesh	Mr. C. Hudson
Jerome Draxton	Mr. A. J. Clayton
Pompey	Master W. H. Newbould
Miss Penelope Pelm	Miss A. Hay
Miss Selina Sift	Miss E. Brown
Mrs. Rosset Stobbery	Miss H. Dean
Mary	Miss M. S. Metcalfe

To be preceded by

## SONGS and RECITATIONS

By the following Artists :-

Miss F. SUGDEN, Soprano; Mr. J. W. MIDGLEY, Tenor;  
Miss E. DEAN, Elocutionist.

Accompanists - Miss A. CLAYTON and Mr. J. E. COOPER.

Doors open at 7.0 p.m., to commence at 7.30.

Admission - Front Seats, 9d.; Back Seats, 6d.

- "Two Hours of continued Laughter." -

## The Society's Orchestra

Will play selections during the intervals.

Thos. A. Wilson, Printer, Kighly Wood, Ilkley.

Weatherall revealed that: 'The real intention was to get a home for the young men of the village where they could spend their spare time improving themselves and for honest recreation'. It was also seen as important that the Institute would be non-sectarian and free of alcoholic drinks and gambling.<sup>14</sup>

The four foundation stones were laid on 31st July 1909. The same day there was a Gala and Sports event on the football field and a 'Meat Tea' at the National School priced at 9d. for adults and 4d for children. With the building well on the way to completion the Committee yielded to pressure and passed a resolution on 6th September 1909 'That we allow ladies to become members of the Institute'. Lady Holland, daughter of James Lund of Malsis Hall, opened the new Institute, on Saturday, 11th December 1909. The ceremony was presided over by Sir John Horsfall and the speakers included Sir Swire Smith. There was persistent rain all day.

Immediately the Institute was the focus of events in the village. In December there were two 'at homes', hosted by prominent families from the district, which took the form of concerts.<sup>15</sup> Immediately after Christmas the Cononley Village Institute Amateur Dramatic Society presented 'East Lynne' on two nights.<sup>16</sup> It was a performance which reduced the audience to tears. Three months later a large audience saw their production of a comedy 'The Country Squire'.<sup>17</sup> A performance of the Messiah saw Cononley's Mary Alice Dean singing alongside principals from Cononley and Skipton. Her white evening dress had a memorably low neck, 'the first the village had ever seen'. This proved to be the most exceptional feature of the evening for some of the audience, perhaps especially those whose chapel discouraged them from visiting the theatre or music hall.<sup>18</sup>

The Village Institute also provided facilities for other leisure activities. The billiard table was immediately very popular and used for several organised events. An additional room built especially for billiards was opened on 5th Nov 1910. The Village Institute also provided a venue for the Choral Society. The Rev. J. J. Turner who became vicar in 1914 trained this group. Handel's Messiah was sung at the Institute in January 1915. Frank Laycock was one of the soloists on that occasion. In 1927 he conducted the Cononley choir which won second prize at the Summerscales Music Festival at Keighley.

The ownership of the Institute was transferred to the Parish Council in 1921. The entire Institute was seen as a fitting memorial to the men who had died in the First World War. A small clock tower was added and a Roll of Honour replaced one of the windows. These were dedicated on 8th October 1921. By that time war memorials had already been placed in the Council School and St.



John's Church. At first the war memorial clock kept only local Cononley time but the coming of the wireless emphasised the difference. So, on 19th October 1931, the Parish Council decided to adjust it to keep to Greenwich time.

Following the First World War and the establishment of the League of Nations there was a national expression of hope for future peace. At Cononley there was a branch of the League of Nations Union. The Annual Public Meeting of the branch which took place in the Village Institute on the 12th December 1929 was well attended. On similar occasions in the years 1932-36 children from Cononley School performed short plays at the Institute for the League of Nations Union. Sadly by then the hope was fading as Hitler had come to power in Germany.

In September 1960 there were complaints to the Parish Council about the noise and trouble associated with Rock and Roll sessions in the Institute. Unfortunately by then the facilities at the Village Institute were becoming outdated and it was to become under used. The outlook for its survival was not good. Fortunately there were sufficient people willing to work to ensure that it survived. The resulting momentum led to its refurbishment in 1983 and extension in 1997.



Mementoes of some of the many dances held at Cononley. The cards opened to list the dances and allowed space for partners to be inserted.

## Sport and Games

The earliest recollections of sporting activities that we have date back to the middle of the 19th century. One place frequented by the rougher sports enthusiasts was the very top of the Gib. Here the pollution from the lead smelt chimney removed every scrap of vegetation creating an area which became a sort of playing field. Knurr and Spell matches were frequently held there. There was also rabbit coursing, pigeon shoots and even cock fighting. Several schools of gamblers met there, at least one member of which had a two-headed coin.

Most celebrated of all were the prize-fights, which took place with famous 'bruisers' from Bradford, Leeds and Lancashire towns. The attraction was gambling on the result. There were frequent 'rows and fisticuffs' amongst the spectators, particularly when the suspicion arose that the result had been fixed. It appears that it was the easy access by the newly built railway from Leeds to Colne that made Cononley the scene of this illegal activity. On one occasion in January 1866 so many people arrived at Cononley Station that the police were alerted. The two men had been fighting for an hour and were in about their 19th round when several policemen arrived from Skipton. The fighters and spectators all took to their heels and crossed the moor in different directions leaving the police in charge of the ropes and stakes.<sup>19</sup>

John William Moorhouse also tells us that a steeplechase was run in the Ings, near the river. The two horses were 'Single Peeper' and 'Long Lacer'. There was a crowd to see the event and much money changed hands. Single Peeper won.

On a rather more wholesome note the young men of the village formed a Gymnasium Club in the early years of the 20th century. The club is known to have met in the National School from 1902-5.

## Cricket

According to John Willie Moorhouse, when the future 8th Duke of Devonshire, Spencer Compton Cavendish, the Marquis of Hartington, came of age in July 1854, one of the events associated with the celebration was a cricket match held at Grassington and played between the Cononley and Wharfedale lead miners. Henry Lewis and Tom Peel were members of the Cononley Team for this match, which was followed by a dinner for the men at the Devonshire Arms.<sup>20</sup>

A year later the *Craven Herald* for August 1855 carried the following report:



'On Saturday last eleven of the Cononley Club met eleven of the Sutton & Sutton Mill Amateur Cricket Club on the ground of the former (Cononley) for a friendly game of cricket. There was some fine play on both sides, particularly the bowling of W. Lace Esq. and the batting of Messrs. Simpson and Newbould for the Cononley Club, and the bowling of Mr. J. Overend and the batting of Messrs. Spencer and Heaton for the Sutton Club. The following was the score, leaving Sutton Club three wickets to fall – Cononley Club 1st innings 44, 2nd innings 29, total 73; Sutton Club 1st innings 34, 2nd innings 40'.

Perhaps the Club ceased to exist for a time because Cononley Cricket Club was later thought to have been founded in the early 1870s. On 16th May 1874 the Cononley Team was beaten by a visiting team from Gargrave. The Cononley Team scored 44 against Gargrave's 93. The Cononley Team was Weston, Lewis, Briden, Coates, Bracewell, Kemp, Whittingham, Wiseman, Birtwhistle, Barker and Ridley.<sup>21</sup> Things soon improved and in 1875 the team won 12 out of the 16 matches which they played. At the same time they paid for their field to be re-laid.<sup>22</sup> Although the cricket field was elsewhere in the village at various times, the earliest photograph of the team is taken on the present Sports Club ground. In 1885 they were using a field in Terriden Lane (now known as Cononley Lane) near the Aireside Mill.<sup>23</sup> In 1909 they were using a field at the corner of Back



Cononley Cricket Team 1874-6. The players are actually standing on the present day cricket ground with the station and the buildings of Turner's Mill in the background. (An article about the cricketers in this photograph appeared in the West Yorkshire Pioneer on 20th March 1914)

Lane and Skipton Road, there being, at that time, a proposal to create a refuse tip on the old cricket field.<sup>24</sup>

The Cricket Club evidently fell on hard times in the first years of the 20th century. A special meeting was held at the Foresters' Hall in January 1909 to consider the future of the Club and the 'advisability or otherwise of continuing it'. A timeless solution was decided upon and a sub-committee was formed to plan an entertainment to raise money. This turned out to be a successful dance, six weeks later, with music supplied by Messrs. Barker and Firth's band. Incidentally, there was plenty of opportunity to dance for only a week later the band played again, this time at the Sunday School Social in the National School. The fact that the team was ageing was evidently at the root of things. When the teams played in April 1909 the *Keighley News* was able to note that: 'There are a lot of promising youngsters ... and indeed the outlook is much more promising for the juniors than the seniors'.

In fact both teams did quite well during the rest of the season. The Seniors won 8 of their 18 matches and the Juniors 7 out of their 12 matches. The *Keighley News* did not hold out much hope at the beginning of the 1910 season either, 'Cononley cannot look forward with any degree of confidence to a good season, for one or two of the old players have dropped out, and no new ones have been secured'. The reporter's enthusiasm, at the same time, for the Cowling Team appears a little suspect. Two months later, in June, the reporter recorded that Cononley had won its first match and that 'Cowling continues to win matches in the easiest possible manner'. When Cononley won another match two weeks later it was with the splendid bowling of Roberts 'the ex-Kildwick Parish player'.<sup>25</sup> Not all sporting activities were so serious though. In May 1907 the committee of the Village Institute arranged a cricket match 'between Ladies and Gentlemen'.

The Cononley Team was playing in the Craven Cricket League in 1930 and, on the social side, held a Cricket Club Ball in December.

## Football

The *Craven Pioneer* on 8th December 1905 reported 'With the object of forming an Association Football Club in the village, a meeting was held in the Foresters' Hall. The matter was thoroughly discussed after which it was unanimously decided that the club be formed. Officers were elected and a sub-committee appointed with the object of approaching one or more landowners for the provision of a field'. In fact it seems unlikely that there had not been some





Cononley Amateur Football Club. (Photo. early 20th c.)

form of team at an earlier date than this. In May 1906 a meeting was held in the New Inn at which the formation of the Skipton & District Junior Association Football League was proposed for clubs which were not then in a league.<sup>26</sup> In 1930 the club was a member of the South Craven Football Combination.

1909 was a difficult year not only for the Cricket Team but for the Football Team as well. During the 1908-9 season they only played six matches, partly due to the inability to raise a team. In the 1909-10 season they had 'moderate success', with 7 matches won and 3 drawn out of the 20 played. It was announced at the annual meeting of Cononley Association Football Club in April 1910 that the balance sheet showed that it had only two shillings in hand.

The club evidently had problems finding a suitable field. In 1919 they were playing on a field a short way down Shady Lane. In the 1920s the team played in a field off Nethergill Lane. The then captain, Jimmy Laycock, recounted in 1999 how the team had to change in the stone floored 'Monks House' which then still stood just below St. John's Church at the top of Main Street. By 1930 they were using the field of which a part was to become the present Playing Field.

## Tennis

Between the two world wars tennis was the fashionable sport for young people. The Cononley (Private) Tennis Club held its inaugural meeting in the Village Institute on 25th June 1923. Within a fortnight it had had to decide to limit its membership to 30. The court was in a field rented from John Charles Thompson, which was situated where the Meadow Croft houses now stand. In September of the same year some of the members were thinking of other activities for the winter. Eight of them decided to form an equally fashionable Pierrot Troupe. Mrs E. Walker was considered to be best equipped to choose a suitable sketch for them to perform and the meeting was held in her house. In 1924 they sought, evidently without success, to have a hard court. We know little of their actual tennis and one suspects that this was always incidental to their social life.

On Friday 23rd October 1925 they held their first Ball in the Church School from 8pm until 2pm. Admission was two shillings and The Virginian Dance Band played. John Willie Moorhouse and Willie Weston were doorkeepers. The dances were profitable and were repeated in the following two years. The club appears to have ceased to exist formally in the early 1930s.

Miss Tetley, who lived at 'Brooklyn' on Cross Hills Road, had her own tennis court. The site of this still exists between Pear Tree Farm and Garth House. Miss Tetley (nobody called her Margaret Tetley) was the granddaughter of Peter Teal and his wife Mary Ann (Balme) who had lived at Garth House. Miss Tetley had an exceptional position and status in the village. Through Peter Teal (1821-1888), Miss Tetley could trace her ancestors back to William Laycock (1641-1711) who is referred to in chapter three and an appendix. As well as being a keen tennis player, Margaret Balme Tetley was an active and devoted member of St. John's Church and also promoted many social activities in the village. She died, aged 87, in 1975.

## Cononley Playing Field

As early as 1895 the newly formed Parish Council was enquiring about possible sites but neither of the village's principal landowners was prepared to assist. There was a renewed interest in 1919 when there was a suggestion that a recreation ground would be a fitting war memorial. The terms offered by Miss Hinde unfortunately were unacceptable. For a few years in the early 1920s villagers were able to use the site allocated for the Crag View housing as a recreation ground. In 1928 a further unsuccessful attempt was made to negotiate



with the trustees of the Hinde Estate. In 1932 a variety of new sites were considered even including the Hall grounds.

At a special public meeting on 8th April 1935 it was announced that an offer of land had been made. This land was owned by Miss Hinde and after its valuation she gave £50 towards the purchase price. Mr and Mrs Horace Green paid the remaining £250 and the legal costs. The ownership passed to the Parish Council and it was solely to be used as 'a public playing field recreation or park ground'.<sup>27</sup> The West Riding Playing Fields Association made a grant of £100 and a further £208 was raised in the village. This paid for the essential work of laying the grounds and creating the paddling pool. Gifts of equipment included 'The Ocean Wave'; one of those wonderful teeth shattering rides familiar to older readers. At the official opening on Saturday 26th June 1937 it was announced that Mr and Mrs Thomas Stell intended to present a shelter.<sup>28</sup> A year later on 30th July 1938 the tennis court was opened by Miss Tetley of Brooklyn. A further addition was made in April 1939 when the bowling green was completed. The events at the Sports and Gala which took place on that day would not have been unfamiliar to those who attended the 60th Sports and Gala in 1997. The Playing Field was refurbished with new equipment and a new shelter in the year 2000.

### **The Sports Club**

The Cononley Sports Club was formed in 1961 when the Cononley Amateur Football Club and Cononley Cricket Club joined together. A level playing field was created. The Grand Opening of the Coulthurst Memorial Sports Field by Mrs J. B. Coulthurst of Gargrave took place on 6th August 1966. The Club still operates under the auspices of the Coulthurst Trust. For a time there were two annual Galas as one was held by the new club but then they amalgamated in 1974, when that year's Gala was described as a joint Sports Club and Parish Council Event. The years 1975 and 1976 were particularly memorable ones for sport in the village. The Cricket Team completed the 1975 season with achievement of three honours: the Premier Championship, the Stanley Barker Memorial Trophy and the Wynn Cup. The following May saw the Football Team winning the Premier Division Cup and the reserves winning the Division Two Cup.

## CHAPTER 12

### PEOPLE AND FOLKLORE

**I**N the first half of the 20th century John William Moorhouse (referred to as John Willie) recounted many stories from Cononley's history. He gave lectures on the history of Cononley. The substance of these survives in his notebooks and in other people's versions.<sup>1</sup> Much of his history is derived from the tales he heard from his father, Richard Moorhouse, and from Enoch Whitaker. In the first part of this chapter we will look at the lives of these men and at the stories told about them. Where possible we have retold them in John Willie Moorhouse's own words.

#### **Enoch Whitaker (1831-1922) 'Ockey'**

Enoch Whitaker, known as 'Ockey', was born in Lothersdale. He was said to have been at various times in his long life: a weaver at John Turner's mill, a poacher or 'river netter', a Chartist, a temperance reformer and latterly a water bailiff. He was one of the founder members of the Cononley Co-operative Society and a well-known local philanthropist.

In his youth Ockey was part of a group of Cononley people, including the Overends of Club Row, who became Chartists. Together they walked to an outdoor political meeting held near Huddersfield. Unfortunately we have only a limited knowledge about the uncompromisingly radical position which the Cononley hand loom weavers would have taken in the 1830s and 1840s. John Willie's story of this event focuses on the problem of getting a meal there, rather than the politics. One suspects that this is because those who later recounted the event had been very young at the time and not very politically minded.

The Cononley Chartists marched to the great meeting at Scapegoat Hill, near Huddersfield. Nearing the place, they called at an eating house as they could have a 'belly measure' for fivepence. They ate five Yorkshire teacakes each then climbed the hill and joined the multitude. Speeches were long and no food was provided but the journey home produced a new problem. Returning for another meal they found that teacakes were now twopence each and rationed to one each. They hastened on to the nearest inn, where for three ha'pence they got a pint of home brewed ale and two hard oatcakes with a





The core of the original settlement of Cononley. This view taken in the year 2000 reveals very little development dating from the last 50 years. The Hall is prominent in the centre of the photograph.

slice of pig-head brawn in-between. The roads were crowded with the hungry Chartists making their way back to their various homes. The poachers amongst them caught rabbits. They begged bread and oatcakes on their way and farmers gave them a bucket or two of 'blue' (skimmed) milk. So by the kindness of cottagers and farmers on the way they returned 'heavier' than they went.

Ockey was a member of a notorious local poaching gang, and was said to have taken part in a famous raid at the Broughton Hall Estate in the 1850s. John Willie Moorhouse thought that this event occurred in September 1851, that a gamekeeper was killed and several people injured. Ockey always denied being present on this occasion, though he admitted to being a member of the gang. Despite his protestations of innocence he said that he had been sentenced to ten months in York prison. Other accounts tell only of a raid on 19th February 1859, which must have been a less dramatic affair as those charged were subsequently acquitted. Further research could well provide us with the facts of the matter but we might run the risk of losing a good story in the process.

Ockey's nocturnal river-netting activities provided many a poor hand loom weaver on Club Row (Aire View) with a cheap meal. It was his purchase of a

frying pan, which the people could pass from house to house, which gave rise to the name 'Frying Pan Row'. The pan was kept at the end of the row nearest to the village and, when it had been used, a knock on the wall told the next door neighbour that the pan was ready to be passed on. Of course they needed the pan to fry the fish which Ockey's gang had poached. Said he: 'nobody need be short o' fish – plenty more for fochin'. The fish were hawked around the village on a hand cart. The trout and the pick of the haul were bought by the 'better-to-do' members of the community. Ockey was an astute businessman who would buy and sell just about anything. He bought a brass jam pan at a sale for 3s.6d. and would lend it out for 6d. to be returned the same day. When he found out that two of his customers were sharing the pan he demanded a pot of jam as well as the 6d.

It takes a poacher to catch a poacher, so the saying goes. One day Ockey received a letter from Mr. Tennant, the local magistrate. Ockey had evidently been up before him as a poacher but now he was offered the opportunity to work on the right side of the law. Unable to read anything but the largest print, Ockey brought the letter to John Willie's father. 'Na whats that meean?' he asked. Richard Moorhouse replied 'Well it mud seem that if tha put in tha wod get t'job'. Despite his reservations Ockey did apply for the job and before long Mr Tennant came to see him at the Co-op. This was the period, already referred to in chapter eight, when the Co-op committee worked at the mills and served in the shop in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons.

Ockey worked behind the counter at the Co-op but there was one particular commodity that he would not sell. This was pepper. All the girls in the village knew this and coaxed their mothers to let them go to the Co-op to buy some pepper. One Saturday afternoon the shop was full and so Ockey was obliged to weigh the pepper. As soon as the box lid was opened he began to sneeze. One young imp spilled her pepper all over the counter. A duster was brought but Ockey was in no fit state to use it. The girl dusted the counter but shook the duster in doing so and Ockey was sneezing his head off. Suddenly Ben Town put his head round the door and in a loud voice shouted 'Aynock! Aynock! There's Mr Tennant to see tha!'. The shop was silent. Mr. Tennant of Kildwick Hall was Chairman of the Bench and able to send folks to prison. In no time the girls had cleared the counter and disappeared outside.

In the backyard a very different scene was being enacted as Mr. Tennant and John Willie's father waited. Ockey with superb effort managed to control his sneezing and appeared. Having no hat to lift he grabbed his 'topping' and made a mighty bow and spluttered 'Good afternoon'. Tennant, who was not above



using a bit of broad Yorkshire, said 'Whats to do with tha'. Ockey replied 'Its them damned lasses'. Tennant returned to the business in hand. 'Well on thou's Ockey - lets see thi walk around t'yard - tha looks a tha mud do for a fish watcher!'. Ockey replied 'So tha thinks. Na then what soort o' brass are yer barn to talk about?'. A sum was named. Tennant broached the subject of holidays to which Ockey replied 'What holidays do I need wi' all t'fields to roam in, sun ta shine on me an all t'birds to sing to me - in't that enough'. Tennant concluded 'Ah think tha'll do then. There'll be fouk wanting bait and hobblins o'various sorts. Ah think tha'll be able to manage. When will ta be able ta start?'. Ockey replied 'When owd 'Doggie' will let me off' ('owd Doggie' must be John Turner). Tennant, a man of influence, replied that he would have a word with him. The discussion turned to the actual working hours. Tennant enquired 'What time did tha go nettin?'. Ockey replied that this had been at various times. So Tennant instructed him 'Then go on duty at various times and get the devils copped and let us hev some fish'.

Thus it was that Enoch Whitaker became water bailiff and fish watcher for the Saltaire Angling Club, protecting their stock against the very same poachers that he himself had been numbered amongst. He was provided with a cottage



Enoch Whitaker is the central figure in this rather poor image. He is seen at Great Gib Farm with his daughter and her husband. (Photo. early 20th c.)

at Carleton and bred fish in fishponds near Heslaker Lane. Ockey became a well known figure in his grey uniform, neb cap with ear flaps and cloth leggings. He and George Hudson, a keeper at Bolton Abbey, tamed an otter. The otter wore a collar which was used to record its travels. They found that it took only 24 hours to make the journey from Airedale to Wharfedale.

Ockey's involvement in the Cononley Co-operative Society was one of the reasons for the animosity of other shopkeepers towards this new shop. He would check poor people's bills for wrong prices and as a result the accounts were often reduced by half. Another way in which the Co-op helped people was by buying the pigs which many people in the village kept. Every house on Club Row was said to have had a wooden pig cote. Pigs were the workers standby against hard winters. 'With half a pig hung up and two and a half to sell they got through'. The members of Co-op Committee salted the hams in the cellar. Some of the meat was sold from the 'back shop' and some sold on to a trader in Skipton.

The Co-op tea party was a great annual event. On Monday morning of the week preceding the second Saturday in February Ockey was astir early. Five of the biggest and choicest hams had been selected for the feast. His task was to boil them in the New Inn 'copper'. The villagers of that day lived mainly on soup, porridge, hot peas and fatty cake. During that week the Co-op members could have soup for the fetching, likewise a basin of fat.

When John Turner bought the Aireside Mill many villagers moved to Nelson. The key workers of the former owners, Middleton and Answorth had been picked up by what had been their keenest competitors. All these folk returned to visit their relatives and attend this tea party and to rejoice at the success of the Co-operative Society, which they had helped to found. What a gathering of the clans it was. Tables ran the whole length of both sides of the Church School and a double row of desks up the centre seated a second sitting. Between these and the eaters a third lot waited and yet others were forced to wait outside. Ockey wore a white 'kyle' and boiled the water. Officials and children were busy carrying out teas to Ockey's guests whom age and health kept house-bound. There was always a large dishful of ham bits which could not be made into presentable sandwiches. This Ockey claimed in return for his services. 'Just reight for t'owd uns at es noa teeth' and this he distributed amongst his old friends. (It is interesting to compare the newspaper report quoted in chapter eight with this entirely different memory of the same, or a similar, occasion).

As Enoch Whitaker's circumstances improved he even went into the property market. As was noted in chapter eight, he bought the Bay Horse and Crown



Inns when their licences were revoked in 1907 for the not inconsiderable sum of £405. He was a supporter of the temperance movement and even established a temperance public house at the 'Red Hall' in Skipton Road. This building, which no longer exists, subsequently became Cononley Conservative Club. Each of the five places of worship in Cononley held an annual tea party. As Ockey claimed to be 'non-sectarian' he was able to patronise them all. He would buy twenty or more tickets to a tea party and distribute them to the elderly and the poor.

In his later years he moved from Carleton to Great Gib and then finally to the top house in King Street. It was there that he died, a few days after his 91st birthday, in February 1922.

### **Richard Moorhouse (1849-1934)**

Richard Moorhouse's father, also named Richard, was a lead miner from Grassington. The family moved to Cononley when Richard's father was called upon to superintend the sinking of a new shaft and the installation of steam power. The family was living near to the mine at Little Gib when Richard was born but later they were accommodated in the Hall. Richard began work in the mine at the age of ten. After the early death of his father, Captain Eddy the Mineral Agent befriended him. His job was to accompany Captain Ward on his daily walk around the workings, carrying his books and equipment. He worked at the mine for about eight years by which time there was very little work being done there.

With the mine failing Moorhouse went to work for several years in one of the local mills as a weaver. After that he turned to boot and shoe making. Finally around the time when people now begin to collect their pensions he became a farmer. His home was Hall Croft Farm which he ran with his son and son-in-law.

Richard Moorhouse was a member of Cononley Baptist Chapel where he was senior deacon, treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent for nearly 50 years. He was a local preacher remembered for his fluency and wit.

In 1894 he was elected to the new Parish Council becoming its treasurer. He was one of the last people to occupy the ancient position of Overseer of the Poor. As one of the founders of the Cononley Co-operative Society, he became chairman of the committee while still in his teens, and for 47 years acted as the society's treasurer. Richard Moorhouse was one of the founding trustees of the Village Institute. He was also a senior trustee of the Foresters' Friendly Society and a director of the Cononley Water Company.

His obituary, on which this brief biography is substantially based, concluded by saying that his knowledge of the lead mines had been of 'inestimable value' to many who sought his help. No doubt most of the surviving anecdotes about the lead miners are his. He still enables us to imagine the miners, their candles burning on the front of their hats in the pitch-black depths, looking for the tell-tale gleam of the lead vein. The stories about the early days of the Co-op will be the ones which he used to tell. Richard Moorhouse died on 23rd June 1934.<sup>2</sup>

### **John William Moorhouse (1878-1959)**

John Willie Moorhouse was not what we would think of as an educated man as he left school at the age of 10. In later life he was Clerk of Works to the Airedale Drainage Commissioners. He turns up in a variety of other part-time clerical capacities ranging from the public library to the Yorkshire Penny Bank. We do not know when his interest in local history arose but he was giving talks in the 1920s. His lectures are difficult to reconstruct from his somewhat chaotic notes. His talk on the lead mines began with the recollection that 'we who are older and have lived most of our lives in the village, played about the mines when the buildings were intact'. He recalled that the mines had stopped work so suddenly that in his youth he had been able to see the workings exactly as they had been when the last miners walked out of them.

All of John Willie's facts were his own memories, and those of his father, of men like Enoch Whitaker and of other amateur historians. When he tells of King Canute's holidays in Cononley we are entitled to be a little sceptical. Although he recounts the story, even John Willie does not seem convinced that the village was named after Saxon members of the Lee family or that the members of that family thought they had arrived at 'paradise'. But when he wonders if the old pronunciation of the village's name as 'Cunla' could have survived from Saxon times there could be a grain of truth in it. Moorhouse's actual memories of 19th century Cononley are often much more vivid than the facts gleaned from documentary sources. Sometimes he is our only source. For example, he tells us what became of the old 17th century Tillotson Farm in Main Street. 'It was found impossible to keep it up any longer; it was quite unsafe. The owner had no option in the matter'. This conveys a sense of regret about the loss of the old farmhouse which probably explains why parts of it were incorporated into the rear of the 19th century house, on its site, known as 'Sunny Bank'.<sup>3</sup> The next of his stories gives a real flavour of life around a hundred and fifty years ago.



### Club Row democracy

James Overend was not easily intimidated and John Willie Moorhouse's story illustrates this. By the middle of the 19th century, house owners such as the Overends were able participate in elections but the votes were still cast in public. The Wainman family expected the votes to be cast for their candidate and they sent their agent over from Carr Head to ensure this happened. For their part the residents of Club Row were seeking a footpath in front of their houses as an outcome of the election.

One afternoon some women came full speed up the road to tell James Overend, the village constable, that Tom Fisher was coming to Cononley to demand their votes. He was threatening to take their gardens away from them and divert their water supply. He was a notorious bully who had his office at the Wainman's home at Carr Head, Cowling. Indeed many people thought he was also employed as a hangman for he had been seen travelling to Armley Jail in Leeds with a rope in his bag. He was over six feet tall and weighed nearly twenty stone. Overend came out to meet him and was addressed by the formidable man 'Are you Overend?'. The reply came 'I am James Overend, Constable of Cononley, and who are you? Who authorised you to come here threatening people and disturbing the peace? What do you want – and no impudence! Hurry up or I'll throw you over the wall'. James returned to his house, put on his armband and took up his truncheon. 'I've the majesty of the law behind me and we have a gang of poachers here as has a crow to pull wi' thee! A'll put thi in mi cellar if it taks ivery man and woman in t' Parish. Tha'll be good enough to deعال wi' when tha' comes out!'. James demanded to know what had happened to the letter that 'a sent thi ower t'footpath'.

Fisher replied that that it had gone up the chimney with everything else that they sent. James told him to 'get thisen back up Windle loin if tha wants to see Cowin 'ead ageean'. The bully had to return to tell his master that he had failed to make an arrangement over the votes. A few days later Mr Wainman himself came to Cononley and sought out James Overend. They talked about the votes and they talked about the letter, which Overend had sent to Fisher. It was agreed that in return for the votes Wainman would provide a footpath along the length of Club Row. When election day came James Overend marched with 'his army' to Kildwick where they voted as agreed and were suitably entertained by William Bradley Wainman.

### Haunted Cononley

The world our ancestors lived in was haunted by vivid and seemingly real supernatural phenomena. Some people recalled seeing 'Will o' the Wisp' and 'Peggy with the Lantern' down in the fields near the river. The more knowledgeable amongst them could tell which was which. Unfortunately there is a natural explanation for what they saw. A flame-like phosphorescence flitting over marshy ground can be caused by the spontaneous combustion of decaying vegetation.

In the vicinity of Cross House, between the New Inn and Napier Street, stood 'The Haunted Castle'. Unfortunately we cannot tell readers more about this because even 'naming the matter would bring on some dreadful catastrophe'. At the Hall an old lady with white hair, dressed all in white, said her prayers as she walked round the Oak Room.

On Cross Hills Road a 'boggart' haunted Turner Cote, the small barn between St. John's House and Madge Bank. This character was said to attack unaccompanied ladies. However a man or even a male baby was enough to scare it off. The flirtatious girls living on Aire View persuaded their mothers that it was essential that they were accompanied by a young man to remove this risk. Some young ladies who thought that even this course of action might have its risks were reputed to give boys a halfpenny to accompany them past 't' boggart 'oil'. The erection of a gas lamp opposite Turner's Cote in 1900 reduced the risk from boggarts, real or imagined.

### Dragging t'cow out o' t'river

One fine summer afternoon a man came running up into the village quite breathless. A cow was drowning in the Seggy Sikes. Would anyone go there with ropes, he asked? He had left another chap looking after it. Away went a mixed crowd with ropes, ladders, spades and axes to get the beast out. On arrival there it was not to be found. They were assured that the beast had gone down so they set to work all that long summer afternoon dragging the river. For some hours they toiled till one man with more wit than most asked if anyone actually had lost a cow. They could not tell. So he asked who saw it go down. One man saw it. He was positive for it went down legs up. However he had been so intent watching the image in the water that he had failed to notice a cow grazing on the bank opposite! In Cowling there was a similar story of the men who tried to get the moon out of the dam.



## Cononley Verse Writers

There is a remarkable tradition of story telling in verse in Cononley and in neighbouring areas. A number of poems exist which were written by Joseph Brown (1751-1803). As well as his prose eulogy to Roger Swire, which was quoted at length in chapter four, he also remembered him in a verse elegy. Another of Joseph Brown's verses was an 'Epitaph' written about a fallen bridge. Pismire Bridge, on the road from Cononley to Lothersdale, is so called because of its ant-like shape. 'Pissmire' is the old name for an ant and owes its origin to the smell given off by an anthill. The bridge was erected in 1768 at the time of the enclosure of Cononley Moor but was demolished by a great flood on 24th July in the same year. It was rebuilt only to collapse again in 1772 due to earth being piled upon it in an attempt to overcome the steep approaches to it from either side.

Weep passengers, weep o'er the place  
 Where Pissmire used to dwell,  
 For where her scattered limbs all are  
 No man can justly tell.  
 Within this vale she strangled lies  
 In a most odious plight  
 Then drop a tear, weep with a sneer  
 But laugh when out of sight.

Perhaps the best known of Cononley verse writers was Mary Ann Sharpe (1856-1934) whose poem 'Cononley Past and Present' runs to 52 verses. It was printed as an eight-page booklet and must have had a wide circulation. A particularly evocative section describing the village in the first half of the 19th century is reproduced here:

The people then were very poor,  
 And food extremely dear,  
 And many people's working-clothes  
 Were all they had to wear.

Ungodliness, in many forms,  
 Was rampant in this place;  
 One grocer said his greatest trade  
 Was done on Sabbath days.

Hand-combing, or hand-weaving then,  
 Appeared the staple trade,  
 And the houses that we live in now  
 To suit such work were made.

Bedrooms were open to the roof,  
 The walls were limewashed clean;  
 No carpets, curtains, or papered walls,  
 In workmen's homes were seen.

The floors downstairs were washed quite clean  
 Then thinly strewn with sand;  
 And if white-brick was on the hearth,  
 They thought it very grand.

When people wished to take a house,  
 Their calculation was –  
 How many beds and pairs of looms  
 Would go into the place?

For comb-pots, bobbin engines, wheels,  
 They also room desired,  
 And many other lumbering things,  
 They for their trade required.

Miss Sharp was born at Cowling and learned to read and write at Ickornshaw Methodist Sunday School. In later years she lived in Cononley, immediately beside the railway, in the same terrace, which includes the Railway Inn. Like other Cononley people she travelled to Glusburn to work. In her 'Lines on Mr. William Duty's Jubilee' printed in 1903 she recalls that 'From Cononley to Hayfield Mills, I've come near twenty years ...'. Over the years she wrote a number of hymns. For the coronation of George V in 1911 she wrote three hymns which were published in sheet form. One was entitled 'God of Sovereigns and Empires'.

Dead Eye once formed part of the course of the River Aire. Although it must be of great age, having been known by the same name since the Middle Ages, it has never silted up. The pool used to be carefully avoided by the residents of Cononley because of a legend which told how a long time ago the waters had swallowed up a man, his son, and his horse and cart. The man, named Ingram, had surreptitiously moved a boundary stone in order to enlarge his share of the rich hay meadows in the Ings. The legend aroused the poetic imagination of George Dobson who recorded it magnificently in 1858. The last verse runs:

A deep and dismal pool now stands  
 On farmer Ingram's stolen lands  
 And oft – times the old folks say  
 A human groan, a horses' neigh  
 Are heard across this lake of doom  
 That covers Ingram's living tomb.



### Cononley's Enigmatic Past

This history of Cononley began with chapters based largely on credible documentary evidence. It ends with the chilling legend of a man who vanished where Dead Eye now lies. A story, which, in one form or another, may well be as old as any history recorded in these pages. Despite the substantial length of this book, it contains only a few glimpses of the everyday lives of the thousands of people who have lived in Cononley in past ages. Where these glimpses occur they tend to relate to the recent past. The surviving evidence from the distant past is fragmentary. At Chatsworth the 16th century leases relating to Cononley farms are as clear as if they were written yesterday but hardly any actual physical remains of those buildings mentioned in the leases are to be seen in Cononley today. It is almost certain that further documentary evidence will come to light.

The authors' attention has been drawn to a variety of artefacts found in and around the village. These include finds within Cononley of Neolithic and Bronze Age microliths and other flint tools to add to those recorded in chapter one. A spearhead and a possible fragment of armour have been found in Milton House. Shards of pottery from the 16th to the 19th centuries have been found at Bradley's Farm and excavations in other village gardens may well produce similar finds. Buckles, coins and musket balls have recently been picked up in fields adjoining the village. A worn Scottish Bawbee, a coin of the reign of Charles II, was recently found set into the back of the fireplace of the 17th century Shady Grove Farm. The potential for further discoveries must be considerable. The tantalising evidence of past ages is all around us.

## APPENDIX I

### 'Gordon Terrace', the history of one Cononley farm and its adjoining land

*The ownership of this land can be traced back to 1473. The rent of 17 shillings is significant as this is the only occurrence of this particular sum in the early rentals. This specific amount assists us in linking all the references to this property.*

- 1473 Richard Brown holds 1 mes[suage] at 8s yearly and other parcels of demesne land at 9s yearly, altogether ... 17s. [*He is a tenant of Bolton Priory*]<sup>1</sup>
- 1537 16th March. Lease for lives to William Young and Janet his wife, and James Young their son, of a messuage in Cononley with lands now in the holding of Peter Jenkinson, which was sometime in the holding of Richard Brown grandfather to Janet Young. To hold to William, Janet and James for the life of the longest lived. Covenant that the lessees not to interrupt Peter Jenkinson in his possession during his natural life. Rent 17s. [*Tenants of Bolton Priory*]<sup>2</sup>
- 1538-39 17s for the farm of 1 ten[ement] with appurt[enances] there...demised to James Yonke this year. [*He is a tenant of Bolton Priory*]<sup>3</sup>
- 1579 John Yonge son of James Yonge deceased haithe taken ut prius one messuage or tenement together with certain arrable land medow & pasture thereunto belonging with th' appurtunances of the rent of 17s lait in the Tenure of the said James his father & hertofore demised & letten by the lait Abbott and Co[n]vent of Bolton ... [*He is a tenant of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland*]<sup>4</sup>
- 1603 Thomas Barker for one tenem[ent] late John Yonge['s] - 17s. [*He is a tenant of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland*]<sup>5</sup>
- 1615/6, 9th January. Thomas Barker ... for the fine of threescore and eightene poundes agreed to be paid to his lordship [i.e. Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland] ... a grant shalbe made unto him of the messuage & tenement with appurtanances now in his possession ... yeilding ... 17s. [*Sale to Thomas Barker*]<sup>6</sup>

A connection between the above documents and the later history is made possible because deeds associated with Gordon Terrace include an agreement of 1st January 1818 which includes a reference to the grant of a lease for 3000 years:-



- Whereas by indenture of lease bearing date on or about 20th June 1616 between the Rt. Hon. Frances, Earl of Cumberland ... and Thomas Barker of Cononley ... under the yearly rent of seventeen shillings...  
*[another reference to the sale to Thomas Barker]*
- 1785** 6th December. Thomas Barker, son of Jonathan Barker of Cononley, Tanner dies. His son, another Jonathan Barker, lives at a house facing on to Main Street at Kiln Hill. (Gordon House and Laburnum Cottage both occupy this site). Behind the house is the Croft which is the subject of a sale to a Stephen Hargreaves. *[Confirmation of continued ownership by the Barker Family]*
- c.1850** About the middle of the 19th century [between 1848 and 1859], six back to back cottages, now nos. 4,6 & 8 Gordon Terrace, are built on part of the land formerly known as the Croft. *[An agreement of 8th June 1870 and subsequent deeds take the story of ownership up into the 20th century]*

## APPENDIX 2

### The development of Nos. 80-98 Main Street and Napier Street.

This is a speculative reconstruction of the history of these houses based on examination of the surviving evidence.

- Circa* A free-standing farmhouse stood on either side of what is now Napier Street.
- 1750** One house (now 90 & 92 Main Street) probably had a two-storey porch at the eastern end. Over the porch door there was a date stone 'TL:WSL 1663'. The house appears to have been the home of William Laycock (1641-1711) and so for convenience only we will call it 'the Laycock house'. On the other side of the fold was a house, which could have been built somewhat later, perhaps in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (Cross House, 84 Main Street).
- 1793** The Laycock house is owned by trustees who include William Shackleton and another William Laycock. It is occupied by John Simpson who actually owns the gardens behind and to the west of the house. On the other side of the fold Cross House is an Inn run by John's son, another John Simpson.
- 1802** Stephen Holgate buys the garden behind the Laycock house which is owned, until her death the following year, by Mary Simpson.
- 1803** Thomas Townley, a schoolmaster lives in the Laycock house.
- 1806** The Laycock house is purchased by John Overend. Thomas Townley continues to live in the part that is now 92 Main Street and Thomas Townend lives at what is now number 90.
- 1807** John Overend buys the garden at the west end of the Laycock house from the younger John Simpson. Soon after Overend builds a three storey block of houses (94, 96 & 98 Main St.). He lives at number 94 and, no doubt, rents the others out to hand loom weavers.
- 1812** John Overend buys Cross House from Charles Simpson. About this time Overend begins to build on the fold between his properties. In stages he builds three cottages which now are later known as 1, 2 & 3 Napier Street. Fragments of the porch of the adjoining Laycock house are incorporated.
- 1827** John Overend and his wife Isabella are short of money and all the houses are mortgaged.
- 1828** The mortgagees, Richard Robinson and George Hartley force the sale of all the houses. The buyer is William Berry.
- 1832** The houses are sold again. John Shuttleworth buys 90 & 92 Main Street and, perhaps, 1 Napier Street. John Clough buys 94, 96 & 98.  
William Holgate owns the adjoining Protestant Methodist Meeting House. At this time Napier Street is known as Holgate's Fold. On the other side of the fold Cross House is occupied by William Smith. (*A revision of the text in the printed book*).
- 1853** Joseph Smith buys John Clough's properties.
- 1867** Numbers 94, 96 & 98 Main Street are sold to the Trustees of the Ancient Order of Foresters for £375. About this time Wilkinson Overend builds 80 & 82 Main Street which intrude on to the frontage of Cross House. Eleven houses now occupy the site of the original two farms.



## APPENDIX 3

### Principal features of the 17th century Cononley House

There are some two dozen houses in Cononley showing at least some features which are associated with buildings erected in the 17th century. At that time the layout of houses had evolved to a point where some simple generalisations are possible about them and about the way in which their original occupants would have used them.

It is evident that wherever possible the older houses in Cononley were south facing. Approaching such a house from the south one might find four principal windows, two on each floor. The earliest of these houses have a long stone moulding over the windows to prevent rainwater dripping on to the windows. Also the vertical stone mullions of the windows have concave faces narrowing to the front edge. These features can be seen at Milton House which carries a datestone for 1635. Later houses lack the drip mouldings and have mullions, which have flat faces on the chamfers thus: \/. It is quite likely that some of the so-called '17th century' windows in fact date from the first few decades of the 18th century. King's House on Cross Hills Road is an example and this early 18th century date tends to be confirmed by its elaborately arched chimney. Occasionally a more elaborate mullion with a convex curved face, known as an 'ovolu' section, is found. A window with this feature can be seen from the road on the side of Cononley Hall. This probably dates from about 1680.

The 17th century Cononley house was typically entered through the eastern gable end where there might be a small porch like the one at Shady Grove on Skipton Road. The visitor then entered the main room, known simply as the 'house', through a door immediately beside the fireplace. Instead of the present stone fireplaces, the fire was enclosed by a huge timber fire hood, which extended into the roof like an upturned rectangular funnel. This is where the family cooked and to make this activity easier a small window was usually placed in the wall to light the fireplace. There was little conception of privacy, as we know it. Many family members, servants and farm workers frequented the room. Contemporary inventories list the items which were found in this, and other, rooms. The inventory quoted here was made in 1711, after the death of William Laycock, and may refer to 90-92 Main Street or, alternatively, the original Garth House.' William's 'house' contained a table with two forms (benches), a little table with four chairs and a cupboard. Amongst other items he had 'one baking stone & other Iron things'.

It should be remembered that all the Cononley houses that survive from the 17th century were built for the most affluent members of the community. The cottages of the poor have long since disappeared. What privacy there was would be found in the parlour at the west end of the house. Although this was on the ground floor it also served as the principal bedroom. A wealthy owner might have more than one parlour and additional fireplaces. William Laycock had in his parlour a bed with its furnishings, a table with two forms, two chests and two coffers. Upstairs, in lime-washed rooms open to the rafters, children and servants slept. Here, too, substantial stocks of grain and meat would be preserved. William had 'one Arke with Meale in it'. The first floor might be reached by a stone circular staircase of which a few examples have survived 20th century modernisation. One, for example, survives in Bay Cottage, which is in fact the western end of a large house, known in the 19th century, as the Bay Horse Inn. At Bay Cottage, and elsewhere, the quarter curve of masonry, which encased these stairs, can be seen as part of an outside wall. The staircase was often situated in, or near to, the parlour and led directly up to the Parlour Chamber which was the most important upstairs room. The other upstairs room was defined by its location as the Chamber over the House.

Some larger houses had small rooms to the rear, which included a buttery, pantry and a kitchen. Another of these rooms would be used as a milkhouse, with stone slabs for the butter and cheese making utensils. When a room of this kind was attached to the rear of a house and given a sloping lean to roof it was known as an 'outshut'. An example can be seen from Cross Hills Road at King's House.

There are exceptions to these generalisations. Bradley's Farm, despite a drastic rebuilding in the 18th century, seems to preserve signs of an earlier form with an entrance passage right across the house behind the main fireplace. The New Inn and Pear Tree Farm have cross wings and may be amongst the oldest surviving houses in the village. In the 18th and early 19th centuries some houses appear to have been extended at the east end, perhaps replacing the earlier porch. The upper room of this extension, reached by a ladder, may have been used for looms. First floor rooms used for weaving often had an outside door, sometimes reached by outside stone stairs.

By the end of the 17th century a significant change occurred in the houses. The fire hoods came out and were replaced by stone fireplaces. To make this alteration the two main beams were extended with new (or reused timber) which was joined on to the original with a diagonal scarf joint. An example can be seen in the bar of the New Inn. This feature is missing in houses which



were newly built with stone fireplaces, such as the late 17th century part of Cononley Hall and King's House. Both of these houses have splendid arched fireplaces made up of individual stones. During the early 18th century these arches came to be formed of one or two large stones with lines engraved on them to imitate separate stones. Later in the 18th century the stone across the fireplace became a single straight piece. About 1700 the entrance moved from the gable end to the front of the house to give access directly to the main room. Sometime after 1700 the chamfered mullions were abandoned in favour of square ones, although for a time the chamfer was retained on the inside. By the middle of the 18th century an entirely new form of house was being built which was derived, albeit distantly, from the fashionable classical architecture of the time. The best early example in the village of this style is Hall Croft Cottage, opposite Cononley Hall on Main Street.

## APPENDIX 4

### Early Field Names

Those names whose location can be suggested with reasonable certainty also appear on the map.

Circa 13th century	1842 Tithe Award	20th century
Aldefeld	Oldfield	Hadfield
Barskelbec	Ba[re]shaw Beck ( <i>Partly boundary with Carleton</i> )	Local 20th c. form is 'Bar-sha-beck'
Birkheved	Possibly Birkheads	Nr. Moorfoot Lane
Blakeker		Possibly nr. Woodside
Bradeng		Possibly in the Ings
Braithuait		Possibly nr. Woodside
Brigeholme	Brigholm	Above Aire bridge
Clayflatt	Clayflat	By Skipton Road
Collingstubbying	One of the 'Stubblings'	Possibly nr. Woodside
Crokedland, Crocketflatt	Crook Lands	North of Shady Lane
Dedehee, Dedeheved, Dedheridding	Dead Eye Lands, Diddy Lands	Local 20th c. form is 'De-dee-hay'
Fall, le Fall	Fall	Above Skipton Road
Feldgart, Feldegard		Boundary to west of fields in valley bottom?
Flekebrige, Flekebriggeland	Possibly Flacket Redding	Nr. Northolme
Foulesike, Fulesike /r, Fulsikegate, Sulsike?	Foulsike	North of Shady Lane, nr. River Aire
[Green] Viride assart	Greens	Above Cross Hills Road
Glerschache, Helerschacke		Possibly part of Oldfield
Godtestubbying	One of the 'Stubblings'	Possibly nr. Woodside
Grunpelthwait, Grimpelthwait		
Hawercroft, le Houflatt	Hah Hill, High & Low Hah	Howefield
Hengebutt		Possibly nr. Threap Ridding
Henrihavercroft		Possibly nr. Village
le Heptrees		
Kerridding, le Ker	Carr Redding	Nr. Moorfoot Lane
Kildehome, Quikildeh'ome, Quikildbotham, Kildelothem		Possibly south of township-towards Kildwick
Langflatt /t, Langeflath,	Flat bottom, Low Flat	South of the Aire bridge
Langarithuic		
Linthuait[e], Lingethwait[e]sike	High & Low Linfitt Carrs	Nr. Woodside Lane
Losterwat		
Mor[e]thwaite, Morthuait, Le Morethawitgate, Morhait	Moorfoot, Moorfoot Lane	Moorfoot Lane
Meretlohe		Nr. Boundary with Carleton
Mikelmungen, Littlemungen	Possibly Munyers	Above Skipton Road



Noutekyriding, Nau/ntheridding Nau/nkerridding		Perhaps nr. Shady Lane
Northolme, Norththolm	Northolme	Nr. Dead Eye
le Rane	Fox Raine	Nr. Cross Hills Road
Rakebutts	Rakebutts	Above the Delph Quarry
Sandiland		Nr. Northolme
le Segisyke	Seggysike	Nr. Moorfoot Lane
Stainbridgeland	Perhaps Stonybutts ( <i>suggested by context</i> )	Above Skipton Road
Strikefald, Strykeflatt		Nr. Threap Ridding
Swinewath, Swynewat, Quinwath		Whole area south of Aire bridge
Trepperiding	Threap Ridding	North of Shady Lane, nr. River Aire
Ungethwaysike		Towards Carleton
le Walnethwaite		
le Waterbank	Perhaps Bancroft	Perhaps nr. Aire Bridge
Westbrerland		Possibly part of Oldfield
Wolrewatht		Possibly nr. Woodside
Wydhedales	Possibly Windle Lane	Locally remembered as
Charters refer to Henrici de Windhill (Coucher book Ff109v-110)		Windy hills. May have become a surname in form 'Windle' by 16th c.

Some names are only known from use later than the 13th century e.g. four 'Rhoysds' around Spring Head Farm, and the (nearby) numerous 'intakes' on the hillside above Rakebutts, the Fall (Faw) & Woodside Lane, also Coppice, Low & High Copy. There are frequent references to woodland or coppice in this area in the 13th c. charters e.g. 'medium bosci de Cononley'.

Land at 'Dedehee' (now known as Dead Eye) appears to be referred to in the charters of Bolton Priory as 'terre que iacet ad caput mortue aqua iuxta Norththolm' (Coucher Book f.109v).

A number of fields e.g. Dobs, Dales, Fards, Woofats which appear to have no 13th century usage, lie in the flood plain north of the lower part of Bareshaw Beck and may not have been considered part of Cononley then.

Some names appear in the 17th century documents but not elsewhere e.g. 'Millholme' and 'Old Millnerstead' which is probably beside the River Aire bridge. 'Black Hill or Woosot Close' is not recorded later but its position is still known to older Cononley people and recalled as the site of the Civil War skirmish. Wolrewatht appears in a 17th century form but not later.

The authors are indebted to Katrina Legg at The Borthwick Institute for the medieval forms of the names, which are taken from an early draft of a forthcoming edition of the charters of Bolton Priory.

## REFERENCES AND NOTES

### Abbreviations used:

BA	Bradford Antiquary
Bolton Abbey	Archive held at Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire.
CH	<i>Craven Herald</i>
CP	<i>Craven Pioneer</i> ; <i>Craven Weekly Pioneer</i> .
Chatsworth	Archive held at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire.
Keighley CC	Keighley, Cliffe Castle Museum
Keighley PL	Keighley Public Library
KPR	<i>The Parish Registers of St. Andrews, Kildwick in Craven, Parts 1-4</i> , YPRS (1913-32).
NH	Northern History
Skipton PL	Skipton Public Library.
WYAS	West Yorkshire Archive Service
WYMCC	West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council
YAS	Yorkshire Archaeological Society

The use of the traditional Latin abbreviations has been dispensed with. Wherever a book or periodical article is referred to in a shortened form e.g. Kershaw (1973) then a full reference has already appeared in the list. As most references are specific to a particular period a separate bibliography has not been provided.

### Chapter 1

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15. D.M. Palliser, 'Domesday Book and the Harrying of the North', *NH*, XXIX (1993) pp1-23.



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19. Wilfrid Robertshaw, Notes on Adwalton Fair, BA, Part 22 (1927) pp51-70. Seep65.
20. Account of the Vale of Skipton, in a letter from a gentleman in that neighbourhood, Nov. 9th 1793, in [G.B.] Rennie, [Robert] Brown and [J.] Shirreff, *General View of the Agriculture of the West Riding of Yorkshire... London, W. Bulmer (1794) pp80-82*; also in Robert Brown, *General View of the Agriculture of the West Riding of Yorkshire, London, Richard Phillips (1799) pp50-53*.
21. Fairless Barber, ed., West Riding Quarter Sessions Rolls, *YAS Journal*, V (1879) pp362-405 See p397.
22. Indenture of 20th January 1608/9, Bradford WYAS 15D74/3/11/2; Indenture of 20th March 1610/11, Bradford WYAS 15D74/3/11/3.
23. Cononley Tithe Award 1842. Copy held by Cononley Parish Council.
24. Leeds YAS DD121/29/8.
25. Brereton (1909). Brereton's source subsequently appeared in KPR.
26. Keighley CC. Mss notes by W. A. Brigg. Transcript of an Inquisition of 14th January 1614/5 'one mill 'decass'.
27. Hoyle (1989) pp111-137. See p125.
28. Kershaw (1970) p46.
29. R.T. Spence, 'Mining and Smelting in Yorkshire by the Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland, in the Tudor and Stuart Period', *YAS Journal*, LXIV (1992) pp157-183.
30. Spence (1992).
31. Alec Wood, ed., *Sutton-in-Craven: The Old Community* (1973) p34.
32. Indenture of 20th January 1608/9, Bradford WYAS 15D74/3/11/2; Indenture of 20th March 1610/11, Bradford WYAS 15D74/3/11/3.
33. KPR.

34. J.T. Swain, 'Capital Formation by Clothiers in North-East Lancashire, c. 1550- 1640', *Northern History*, XXX (1997) pp54-72.
35. R.T. Spence, *Skipton Castle in the Great Civil War, 1642-45*, Skipton Castle (1991).
36. Nellie K. Blissett, *Kildwick Grange a legend of the Civil War*, London, S.Straker (1932) [poem, 11p].

### Chapter 3

1. The Hearth Tax List for Staincliffe and Ewcros Wapentakes, 1672, Ripon Historical Society (1992).
2. Keighley CC. Mss notes by W. A. Brigg on Bradley family deeds. Townley house was probably a farm occupied by William Townley in 1672 but was subsequently owned by the Bradley family who apparently farmed it from St. John Cross.
3. R. Hoyle, ed., *Early Tudor Craven: Subsidies and Assessments*, YAS, Record Series, 145 (1987).
4. Hoyle (1987).
5. Hoyle (1987).
6. Leeds YAS DD121/15/1.
7. Bradford WYAS 15D74/2/5 etc.; 15D74/3/11 etc.; Keighley CC. Indenture of 14th February 1681/2; Keighley PL. Bk 10/551 Mss transcription of a marriage settlement of '1688' (i.e. 1588) transcribed by W. A. Brigg; Borthwick Institute, York, various wills 1653-85.
8. Bolton Abbey Additional Series 1 e.g. 1652 Rental: BAS 47/9.
9. Kershaw (1970); Chatsworth L/28/15.
10. Kershaw (1970).
11. Chatsworth leases, rental at YAS.
12. Bradford WYAS 15 D 74 2/5/5.
13. *The Laycocks of the Parish of Kildwick*, compiled by Dr. Laycock of Sabden near Blackburn, BA, NS Pt. 12 (July 1908) pp 115-20.
14. Bradford WYAS 15D74/2/5 etc.; 15D74/3/11 etc. These deeds were formerly in the possession of the Parkinson family and, incidentally, we owe the survival of a (later) copy of the 1608 enclosure agreement discussed in Chapter 2 (15D74/3/11/2) to its preservation with them.
15. Bolton Abbey Additional Series 1, BAS 47/9.
16. Bolton Abbey Additional Series 1, BAS 57/2.
17. Deeds of Milton House confirm this. Provided, along with much other information by Gill and John Craven.
18. Skipton PL. Moorhouse mss.
19. Hoyle (1987).
20. Leeds YAS DD 121/36/C/1.
21. Bradford WYAS Heaton A52.
22. Keighley CC. Mss notes on Bradley Deeds by W. A. Brigg. These notes form the basis of this section and the earlier part of the family tree. A marginal note signed 'R.W.' transcribed by Brigg confirms that the Thomas Bradley who married in 1606/7 was the ancestor of Richard Wainman's wife.
23. As 22.
24. Ruth Strong, *The Making of a West Riding Clothing Village: Pudsey to 1780*, Wakefield Historical Publications (1999) p90.
25. Keighley PL. Bk 157/1. Carr Head Estate Account Book.
26. Bradford WYAS 14D95/6/26.
27. An Act for authorizing the Trustees under the Will of William Wainman Esquire, deceased, to grant Leases, and to make Sales, Exchanges, and Partition of the Real Estates devised by or subject to the Trusts of the same Will; and for other Purposes. 23rd June 1856.



## Chapter 4

1. Hoyle (1987).
2. Farnhill, Cononley and Cowling Court Baron 1627, Chatsworth, L/45/7; Farnhill Manor Court 1628, Bradford WYAS 94D85/9/4/4.
3. KPR. [Marriage 7.10.1634]. Cononley Swire family births, deaths and some marriages appear in the printed registers from 1628 to 1773.
4. John William Clay, ed., *Yorkshire Royalist Composition Papers or the proceedings of the committee for compounding with delinquents during the Commonwealth*, Vol 2, YAS, Record Series, 18 (1895) p53.
5. Wakefield WYAS S454/5 p620.
6. The Hearth Tax List ...1672 (1992). Swire references in Skipton on pp 48-9 with nos. of hearths: Samll Squire [6], Roger Swire [4], Robt. Squire [3] Robert Squire [3] Willm Squire [2].
7. *Paver's Marriage Licences*, Vol 2, YAS, Record Series, 43(1911) p101. 1666 marriage 'at St Cuthberts or Harwood'.
8. Chatsworth L/45/7.
9. York, Borthwick Institute V71 S246V.
10. Leeds YAS DD81/1/2.
11. KPR. burial 4.10.1741.
12. Return of Endowed Charities, Yorkshire(West Riding) (5th August 1897).
13. Wakefield WYAS S454/5 [620].
14. Wakefield WYAS V198/9/200 [253 & 254].
15. Hey (1986) p157.
16. Bolton Abbey Additional Series e.g. BAS/36/3.
17. Chatsworth L/27/8 [24.3.1762]. This free rent might possibly be an indication that a property at Woodside was held by the Knights of St. John. Clay Farm on Woodside Lane is know to have been a property of the Knights of St. John.
18. Chatsworth L/27/8 [24.3.1762].
19. Bradford, WYAS DB 19/7/4.
20. Roger Swire's will. Chatsworth L/27/8 [26.11.1774].
21. Material about Joseph Brown provided by Michael Walmsley.
22. Chatsworth L/27/8 [2.1793 agreements].
23. Leeds Intelligencer quotation provided by Sir Adrian Swire.
24. Chatsworth L/27/8 [11.1788 lease].
25. Maps by Samuel Swire: -The earliest one was produced in 1813 and carries the legend 'Sam. Swire Junior; Land Surveyor'. Private collection; the later one accompanies the Cononley Tithe Award, 1842. Copy held by Cononley Parish Council.
26. Anne Ashley Cooper, *Yorke Country*, Heston Nr. Hitchin, Privately Published by the author (1988) p207. [cites Leeds WYAS Yorke Records 1063].
27. Information on Samuel's absences from Coleshill is derived from the registers there and was provided by M. Walmsley; The presentation documents of Rev. Samuel Swire D.D. to the living of Melsonby are at Leeds, WYAS CD/PB6.
28. Text provided by Sir Adrian Swire.
29. Deed of sale, 12.1.1837. Provided by George Green.
30. W. Page, *Chantry Certificates in the County of York*, Surtees Society, 92 (1895) 11, pp250-251.
31. Keighley CC. Cononley with Farnhill, assessment in June 1658. Transcribed by W.A. Brigg.
32. The Hearth Tax List ...1672 (1992).
33. Keighley CC. Mss notes by W.A. Brigg.
34. Deed of sale, 12.1.1837. Provided by George Green.

35. Ditto 9.10.1852.
36. Ditto 5.1.1875.
37. Agreement, 2.6.1876. Provided by George Green.
38. Deed of sale, 29.1.1878. Provided by George Green.

### Chapter 5

1. Chatsworth. L/45/7; L/45/65. Later in the 18th century and in the 19th century the business of the Manor of Cononley was conducted by Carleton Manor Court. This Court met for the last time in 1873. See Bolton Abbey C5/2.
2. Hey (1986) p190.
3. A Royal Society paper quoted indirectly in M.L. Baumber, *A Pennine Community on the eve of the Industrial Revolution: Keighley and Haworth between 1660 and 1740*, The author (n.d.) p30.
4. Bradford WYAS 14D95/3/8/11.
5. Hey (1986) p191.
6. Hey (1986) p191.
7. An Act for Dividing and inclosing the Common and Waste Ground within the Township and Manor of Cononley ... 1768.
8. Bradford WYAS 14D95/6/26; Notes from a Wainman Estate Rental, current whereabouts unknown.
9. Baumber (n.d.) p42.
10. Skipton PL. Moorhouse mss.
11. Bradford WYAS 14D95/6/26.
12. Baumber (n.d.) p30.
13. Account of the Vale of Skipton ... (1794); Brown (1799).
14. A and S.E Raistrick, *Skipton: a study in site value*, Newtown, Montgomeryshire Express (1930).
15. Oxford, Christ Church viii.b.147.
16. Oxford, Christ Church viii.b.148.
17. A book of the tythe of wool and lamb gathered within the Parish of Kildwicke ...1662. WYAS Bradford 68D82/21/11.
18. Account of the Vale of Skipton ... (1794); Brown (1799).
19. Oxford, Christ Church viii.b.149.
20. Cononley Tithe Award, 1842. Copy held by Cononley Parish Council.
21. Geoffrey N. Wright, *Roads and trackways of the Yorkshire Dales*, Ashbourne, Moorland (1985).
22. Keighley CC. Moorhouse mss.
23. Skipton PL. Moorhouse mss.
24. George Ingle, *Yorkshire Cotton: the Yorkshire Cotton Industry, 1780-1835*, Carnegie (1997) p7.
25. Bradford WYAS 14D95/6/26.
26. Account of the Vale of Skipton ... (1794); Brown (1799).
27. Notes from a Wainman Estate Rental, current whereabouts unknown.
28. Ingle (1997) p242.
29. Leeds Intelligencer, 29.1.1810.
30. *The Craven Muster Roll 1803*, North Yorkshire County Record Office Publications No. 9. Cononley and Farnhill, but it is a reasonable assumption that the cotton workers were associated with the Cononley Cotton Mill.
31. *History, Directory & Gazetteer of the County of York. Vol. 1, West Riding. Leeds*, Edward Baines 1st ed (1822).



32. Extract from Kildwick Churchwarden's Account book 1st Jan 1701/2.
33. The baptism of 'John Son of Thomas Parkinson of Cononley Shalloon maker and Mary his wife'. KPR, p199.
34. Keighley CC. Mss notes by W. A. Brigg on Bradley family deeds.
35. Baumber (n.d.).
36. R.C.N. Thornes, *West Yorkshire: A Noble Scene of Industry, the development of the County 1500 to 1830*, WYMCC (1981).
37. *The Craven Muster Roll 1803*, North Yorkshire County Record Office Publications No. 9.
38. Michael Gill, 'Cononley: the anatomy of a mining village', *British Mining*, No.63 (1999) pp34-47.
39. Skipton PL. Moorhouse mss.
40. Account book of the Overseer of the Poor for Cononley 1819-27. Private collection.
41. Chatsworth L/45/65.
42. Cononley Enclosure Award 1768. Copy held by Cononley Parish Council.
43. John J. Brigg, *The King's Highway in Craven*, Cross Hills, Dixon and Stell (1927) .
44. Chatsworth L/45/7.
45. Tom Bradley, *The Old Coaching Days in Yorkshire*, Leeds (1889).
46. *Royal National Commercial Directory of Yorkshire*, J. Pigot & Co. (1841).
47. As 46.
48. *Slater's Directory of the Northern Counties ...* (1855).
49. Mike Clarke, *The Leeds and Liverpool: a history and guide*, Preston, Carnegie (1994); The significance of the influence of the canal on the industrial revolution rather than it being a result of the latter is a view put forward by Gary Firth.
50. See standard railway histories and 'Bradford Observer'(for the opening); Deeds held by Horace Green & Co. have also been used e.g. sale by Rev. J. Swire.
51. Tasker and Son's Railway Time Table for February, 1854.
52. Kenneth Wilson and others, *The History of Lothersdale*, The Parish Council of Lothersdale (1972) p198.
53. We have been cautious about using exact figures, as the original census enumerator was often ambiguous in his use of ditto marks, particular for wives and daughters.
54. KN 6.2.1909.
55. Loyal Airedale Lodge, Centenary Celebrations Souvenir Programme Saturday 21st April 1934; CH 27.4.1934.
56. Inferred from KN 19.2.1910.

## Chapter 6

1. This chapter is based primarily on a study of Deeds and other records still in the possession of Messrs. Horace Green and Co. Ltd.
2. 1841 census.
3. Cononley Rate Book (c1865). Private collection.
4. James Whittingham's obituary, *Craven Household Almanack 1902*, p196.
5. CH 8.4.1898; 29.4.1898.
6. West Yorkshire Pioneer 14.3.1924.
7. KN 6.11.1926.
8. KN 27.8.1932.
9. South Craven Guide (1950s).
10. KN 2.1.1909. Thomas Stell probably bought the mill after 1905.
11. KN 13.11.1909.

12. Cononley Village Institute Minute Book, Private Collection; Information provided via Alan Parker.
13. CH 7.12.1979; also 16.11.79 & 23.11.79.
14. Information supplied by Tim Wilson.

### Chapter 7

1. M. C. Gill, *The Yorkshire and Lancashire Lead Mines: a study of Lead Mining in the South Craven and Rossendale Districts*, Northern Mine Research Society, British Mining No. 33 (1990).
2. KPR, III, p238.
3. Leeds Mercury 4.5.1839
4. J. Ray Eddy, 'On the Lead Veins in the Neighbourhood of Skipton', *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society, New Series Vol. VIII (1882-84)* pp63-69.
5. CP 7.2.1874; 25.4.1874.
6. Michael Gill, 'Cononley: the anatomy of a mining village', *British Mining*, No.63 (1999) pp34-47.
7. Keighley CC. Moorhouse mss transcribed by J. Ogden in 1948 also a copy transcribed by Robert T. Clough in 1961.
8. Gill (1990) p16.
9. Martin Roe, 'Upper Adit – Cononley Lead Mine, North Yorkshire', *British Mining*, No.63 (1999) pp28-33.

### Chapter 8

1. KPR.
2. The directories used here include: Baines 1822; Pigot 1841; Slater 1849,54,55; White 1838 54,55; Kelly's 1867,72,1904,08, 17,22,27,36; *Craven Household Almanack* 1880-1906, 11,1916,1928-32.
3. Skipton PL, Catherine (Kate) Moscrop (nee Pickles), Mss memories of Cononley.
4. Skipton PL. Moscrop mss.
5. Skipton PL. Moscrop mss.
6. CP 4.10.1873.
7. CP 27.9.1873.
8. CP 31.1.1874.
9. CP 13.3.1875;20.3.1875.
10. Local advertisement source not known.
11. Skipton PL. Moscrop mss.
12. These recollections were provided by Mrs Elsie Laycock.
13. Skipton PL, Moorhouse mss.
14. Skipton PL. Moscrop mss.
15. The Cononley Industrial Co-operative Society published a 'Half-Yearly Balance Sheet and Report' which was reported in the local press during June and December; A Deed shown to the authors by John Craven indicates that the Keighley and Skipton Society immediately proceeded (in April 1967) to sell the adjoining property bought from W.E. England in 1918.
16. KN, 11.6.1910.
17. Chronicles of Ermysted, 63, (Mid-summer 1931); CP 24.7.1931 and a subsequent letter in the paper from G.S. Smith, the potter's son.



**Chapter 9**

1. Brereton (1909).
2. Archbishop Herring's Visitation Returns YAS Record Series 72 (1929) pp108-111.
3. Meetings in Yorkshire 1668, *Journal of Friends Historical Society Vol 2* (1905) p35.
4. Donald A. Rooksby, *The Quakers in North West England, Part 3*, the author (1998).
5. Chatsworth L./27/8.
6. Archbishop Drummond's Visitation Returns 1764 II: Yorkshire H-R ed. by Cressida Annesley and Philippa Hoskin, *Borthwick Texts and Calendars 23* (1998) pp78-81.
7. Rev James Redfearn, A Sketch of Cononley Methodism. Untraced, possibly Methodist Recorder about 1901 but repeated in various sources.
8. Register of Societies in the Keighley Circuit 29th June 1801, Keighley PL Bk 15/1/3/46.
9. Pew Rents Book 1849-1919. Note. WYAS 37 D 84/2/1/4.
10. South Craven Methodist Circuit Archives H3, H4 & H9.
11. South Craven Methodist Circuit Archives H12-13.
12. WYAS 55 D 86 series.
13. CP 13. 9.1862.
14. Cononley Tithe Award, 1842. Copy held by Cononley Parish Council.
15. United Methodist Free Churches. *Ebenezer Chapel, Cross Hills Jubilee Souvenir Being a History of Free Methodism in Cross Hills from its commencement until the present time*. Cross Hills Trustees of Ebenezer Chapel, 1903.
16. South Craven Methodist Circuit Archives H15.
17. KPR, IV, p188.
18. *The Baptists in Yorkshire: Centenary Memorial Volume of the Yorkshire Baptist Association*, Bradford, Wm. Byles & Sons (1912).
19. Christ Church, Oxford Ms Estates 109/193.
20. Christ Church, Oxford Ms Estates 109/253-259.
21. The London Gazette, March 31st 1871, pp1678-9.
22. KN 17.4.1909.
23. Yorkshire Observer 25.11.1946; Yorkshire Post 26.11.1946; KN 30.11.1946.
24. Christ Church, Oxford Ms Estates 109/179.
25. Skipton PL, Moscrop mss, pE4.
26. New Day School at Cononley, KN, 15.1.1910 which also gives some earlier school history.

**Chapter 10**

1. CH 19.2.1876 p2.
2. CH 19.2.1876 p2.
3. *Skipton Rural District Council 1894-1974: a short history*, ed. by R.R. Waterhouse, Skipton R.D.C (1974).
4. Cononley Parish Council. Minute Books, 1894 to date.
5. Report of Nuisance Inspector presented to the Skipton Board of Guardians at their fortnightly Meeting held on Saturday 1st November 1873.
6. KN 5.2.1910.
7. CH 19.2.1876 p2; See also the chapter by Allan Butterfield 'The Raygill Lime Kiln and Barytes Mine', [In] Kenneth Wilson and others, *The History of Lothersdale*, The Parish Council of Lothersdale (1972) pp64-71.
8. KN 31.7.1909 etc.
9. KN 31.7.1909.
10. Bradford WYAS 14D95/6/26.

11. Chatsworth, Coucher Book ff109v-110). Draft transcription by Katrina Legg.
12. Hey (1986) pp289-91.
13. For example from the family diaries started by Mrs. E. Greenwood of Hadfield Farm in 1898.

### Chapter 11

1. CH 19.2.1876 p2.
2. CH 17.7.1875.
3. CP 31.8.1861.
4. CH 28.10.1875. See also the West Yorkshire Pioneer 29.8.1924 which describes the revival of the gala by the Brass Band.
5. CP 28.12.1861.
6. CP 25.1.1862.
7. KN 9. 1.1909.
8. KN 16.1.1909.
9. KN 30.1.1909.
10. KN 6. 11.1909.
11. KN 13.11; 4.12; 11.12.1909.
12. KN 5.2.1910.
13. Skipton PL. Moscrop mss. The event is more fully detailed in the Cononley Village Institute Committee's minute book. Catherine Moscrop may have recalled memories of more than one event in her childhood. The Methodists held a Centenary Bazaar at Aireside.
14. KN 20.2. 1909.
15. KN 18.12; 25.12.1909.
16. KN 1.1. 1910.
17. KN 26.3.1910.
18. Skipton PL. Moscrop mss.
19. Keighley CC. Moorhouse mss; KN 27.1.1866.
20. Keighley CC. Moorhouse mss.
21. CP 23 .5.1874.
22. CH 19.2.1876 p2.
23. *Craven Household Almanack* 1885/6.
24. KN 3.7.1909.
25. KN 9.1; 20.2; 16.4; 2.10.1909.
26. CH 25.5.1906.
27. Cononley Parish Council. Deeds of the Playing Field.
28. CH 2.7.1937.

### Chapter 12

1. Frank Clifford Robson, *The History of Cononley*, Cononley (1961) is largely based on Moorhouse. In writing this chapter we have made use of all the known versions of Moorhouse's writings.
2. CH 29.6.1934.
3. Skipton PL, Moorhouse mss.; Johnnie Gray (pseud. of Harry Speight), *Through Airedale from Goole to Malham, Leeds etc.* (1891) p221. Speight's credible account implies that the original house with the datestone TT 1632 was not demolished until the 1890s. The present house has the datestone 1664 set into the rear wall.



**Appendix 1**

1. Kershaw (1970) p8.
2. Hoyle (1989) p125.
3. Kershaw (1970) p46.
4. Leeds, YAS DD121/36/C/1.
5. Leeds, YAS DD121/29/23.
6. Leeds, YAS DD121/24/3.

**Appendix 2**

1. The evidence is based on Deeds provided by David Lee and present or past evidence on the ground. The date stone is believed lost. The deeds include the will of William Laycock who features in Appendix 3 and elsewhere in the book.

**Appendix 3**

1. York, Borthwick Institute. Probate inventory made on 30th January 1710/11 of the property of William Laycock of Cononley who was buried on 29th January 1710/11. A third possibility for the house described in this inventory is Pear Tree Farm which may also have been owned by the Laycock family.

## INDEX OF LOCAL SUBJECTS

This selective index includes very few entries for individual people. Some surnames are covered by general entries. Other individuals should be sought in the chapters covering the appropriate period or subject. Similarly place names are limited to those used during the last one hundred years, or so. Earlier forms of names and obsolete names are used in the earlier chapters and in the appendices.

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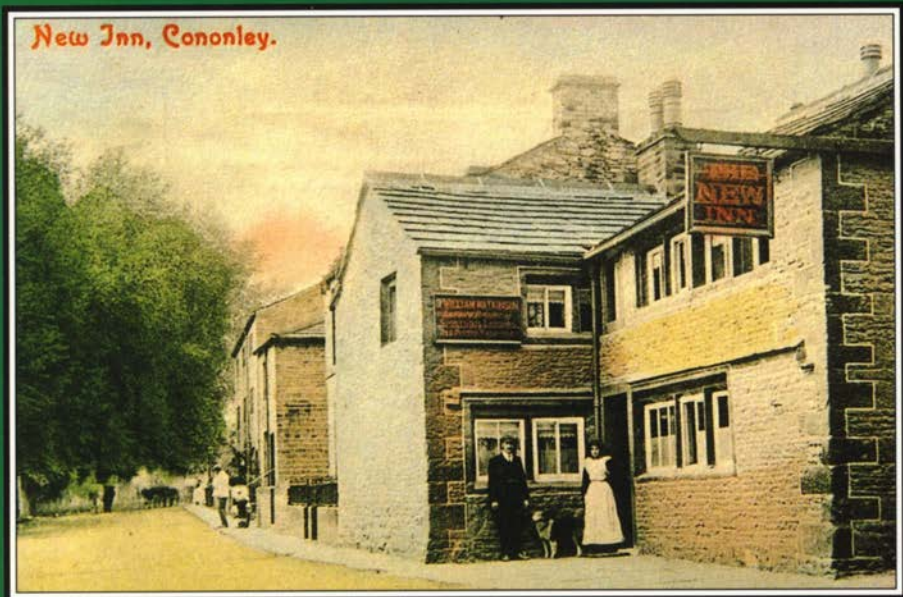
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