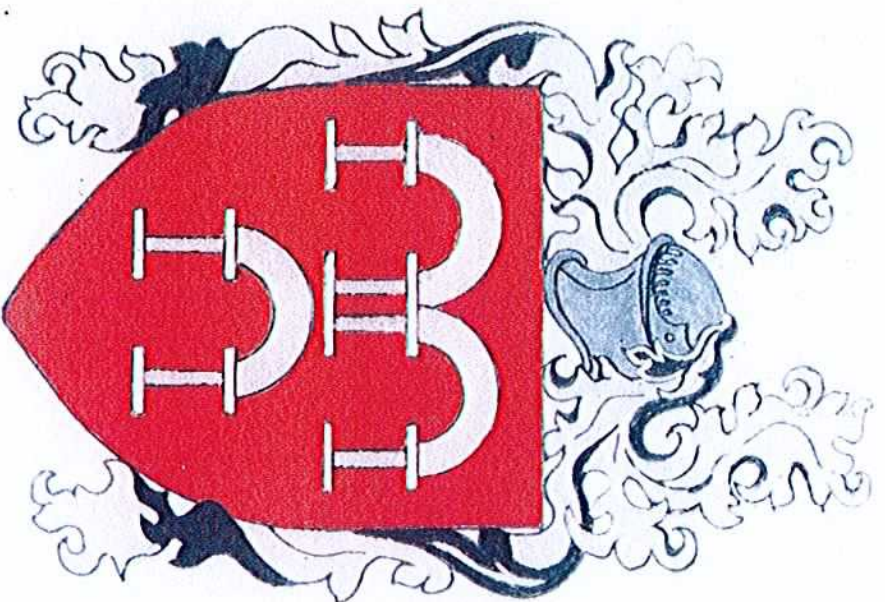


Wiglesworth Hall



George
Wiglesworth

Contents

Facsimile of "Wigglesworth hall" from will of Thomas Duckett, 1673	Front cover
Arms of de Arches de Wigglesworth.....	Front cover
Wigglesworth Hall II (illustration).....	1
Wigglesworth Hall I (illustration)	2
Wigglesworth Hall.....	3
Tree 1, Norman lineage of Wigglesworth	4
de Hammerton.....	6
Tree 2, The early years	6
The later history of Wigglesworth Hall.....	10
Map of Wigglesworth Hall	Centre fold
People associated with Wigglesworth Hall	14
The fabric of Wigglesworth Hall I.....	16
Plan of Wigglesworth Hall I.....	17
Listed Buildings at Wigglesworth Hall	18
Wigglesworth or Wigglesworth	20
Bibliography	Back cover



Wigglesworth Hall II

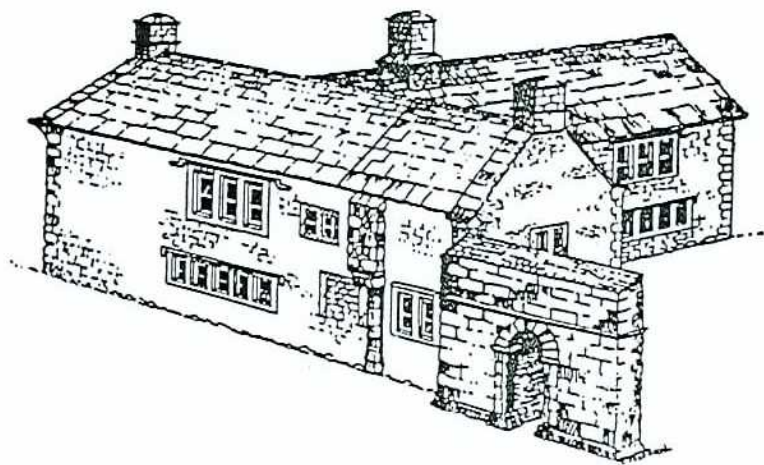
by Judith Hubbard

Wigglesworth Hall by George Wigglesworth.

This booklet is produced in order that as much information as possible about Wigglesworth Hall will be gathered together and in the hope that those that can, will dispute or add to it. The subject seems to have been largely ignored so far.

My efforts owe much to the interest of those with local knowledge like Faith Finnegan and Doreena Roberts, professionals be it librarians or planners; experts such as Angus Watson and David Hool; Judy Hubbard and Colin Kingsbury for the art-work and the kindness of farmers such as the Booth family and the Mellings. Margaret Wigglesworth was very much involved, especially with the early history. Errors and mistakes however remain mine!

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Artist's Impression of Wigglesworth Hall I
in the 18-19th century

Judith Hubbard.

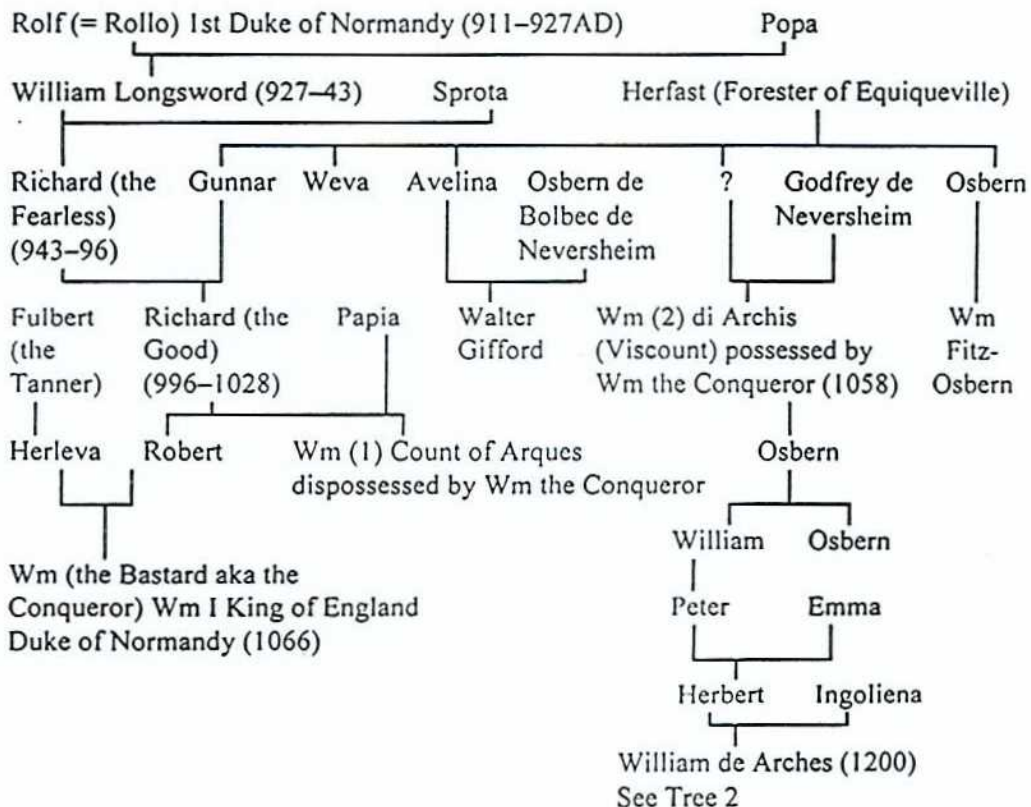
Wigglesworth Hall

The Manor of Wigglesworth is probably the place from which my early ancestors derived their surnames in the 13th/14th century. Some people will be related to the owners or inhabitants of Wigglesworth Hall and styled de Wigglesworth, others will move away from the village and then be called Wigglesworth after their forename to distinguish them from others with the same name. My ancestors are in the latter category as far as I can judge.

There follows an abstract of the early history of the manor since those times. Whitaker suggests the name came from "Dwelling of Wichil" or "Wigil", the name of the first possessor in the general distribution of property after the Saxon Conquest. (but see also my notes 'Wigglesworth or Wrigglesworth', page 20.)

There are two aspects to be considered, who owned the Manor of Wigglesworth and who actually lived there. At the time of Domesday (1086), one caracute (120 acres approximately) of this township was in the Manor of (Long) Preston and ten oxgangs (1¼ caracutes) belonged to Rathmell. In the last decade of the 12th century when Richard I confirmed the possessions of the monks of Fountains Abbey it belonged to them, apparently having been given by William (2), son of Godfrey de Neversheim.

The history of the family, which seems to have acquired the area as a result of the Norman Conquest, starts in about 950 in Normandy, now part of France. According to Freeman the "lucky forester" Herfast had five "beautiful" daughters from whom most of the nobility of Normandy (and therefore England) descended. The fifth daughter, whose name is lost, married Godfrey and his son, William (2), Vicomte de Arques was awarded the castle of Arques by William, Duke of Normandy following a rebellion by his uncle, William (1), who had built it. The son William (3) de Arques fought at Hastings in 1066.



Tree 1 Norman Lineage of Wigglesworth

At one time there were three or even four William de Arches (Anglicised from the French) and it is perhaps at this time the style "de Arches de Wigglesworth" was adopted. There was also however a Gilbert de Arches who was captured and in disgrace (1189) and this may be why the style "de Arches" was dropped in favour of "de Wigglesworth", by a later William for example. Under the monks during the reign of Edward II (1307-27) the occupiers were the de Arches who seem occasionally to have used the style 'de Wigglesworth', for example "Adam and John de Wigglesworth the Lords of this village." (At the time of Whitaker, 1812, a family called Wigglesworth used the Arms of the de Arches, namely three Saxon Arches or Porticos (published in 1630).)

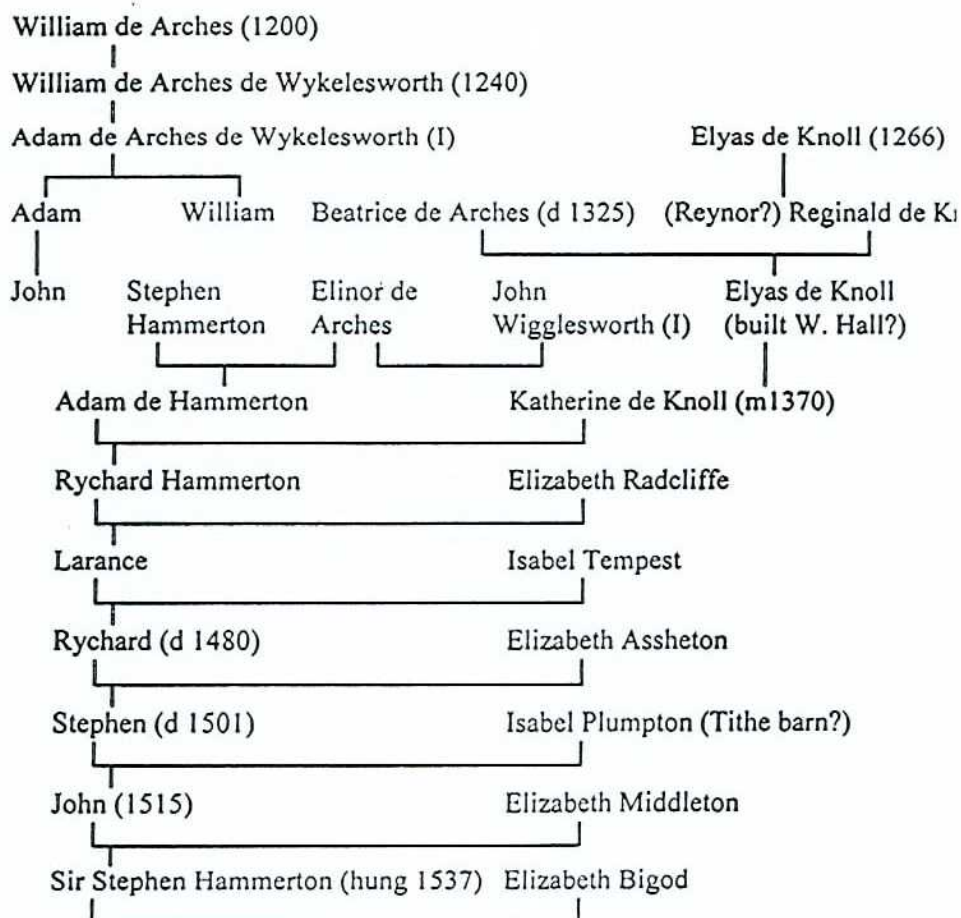
The residents in the early years of Wigglesworth Hall are shown on the second tree. Reyner de Knoll (Reginald) probably between 1290 and 1300 married Beatrice de Arches who brought the manors of Wigglesworth and Starbotten into her husband's family to add to the land it seemingly already held there. Peter de Arches had been at Arnford in the first third of the 12th century, i.e. in the reign of Henry I. Arnford is between Hellifield and the Ribble, opposite Wigglesworth.

The Arches of Arnford and Wigglesworth remained powerful and influential, of high social standing, many of their members attaining knightly rank. However the following demonstrates something of the indiscretions of the Lord of our ancestor's manor, Reyner de Knoll, and a lot about the sense of justice of the times.

In 1307 the register of Archbishop Greenfield of York records "whereas on Alicia de Ribstan for adultery with Lord Reynerus de Knolle, Knight soldier, we have imposed the penance underwritten."

"To wit, that on some Sunday walking in front of a procession round the Parish Church of Preston in Craven, clad only in a smock with bare shoulders, she shall undergo one whipping; and round the market place of Skipton in Craven on some market day, the next following, another whipping. Also on some Sunday or Holy day in front of a procession in our church at York; then walking in like manner a fourth whipping, but round the market place at York; that on the day following that day in the market place she shall receive a fifth whipping, humbly and devoutly with the assistance of the people."

Reyner de Knoll died 29 Jan. 1307/8 childless, according to some sources, and his wife Beatrice survived him until 1325. Reyner was followed by his brother William and the male line of this family failed in the early 15th century.



Tree 2 The early years of inhabitants of Wigglesworth

de Hammerton

Sometime before 1400 Adam of Hammerton married Katherine de Knoll who brought considerable wealth and influence with her to the family when her father Elias, son of Reginald, transferred the manor of Wigglesworth to the Hammertons.

Previously lords of Hammerton, they were now also lords of Knowlesmere, Wigglesworth and Hellifield. They left Hammerton (2 km NE of Slaiddburn) and settled at Wigglesworth Hall where they lived in great style. There is reference to a chapel in Wigglesworth Hall and in 1436 Laurence Hamerton was licensed to keep a chaplain to sing Mass in his manor house at 'Wiklesworth.' An arched doorway to an outbuilding, opposite the entrance to the supposed 16th century house, remains today. The outbuilding is now used for housing small livestock and may well be the remains of the chapel. It is named as such on the 1924 OS map.

Adam and Katherine had a son Richard and his marriage added the Manor of Langfield near Halifax to the estate, together with a third of the Manors of Rishworth, Bottomley, Barkisland and Scammonden in that area. He founded a chantry in the Church at Long Preston. In 1316 Stephen de Hamerton was benefactor of Kirkstall Abbey and founded a chantry at Hamerton. Some generations later, perhaps in the lordship of another Stephen, the great Tithe barn was built, that is to say in the early 16th century. The family was further linked with the de Radcliffes, the Tempests of Bracewell, the Asshetons later of Downham Hall, the Plumptions and the Middletons, the last as a result of the marriage of John Hammerton to Elizabeth in 1473.

John, the son of a second Stephen, followed Lord Clifford to the battle of Flodden Field in 1513 and died a month later on 3rd Oct. Describing himself as a Knight Soldier of Wiglesworth in a will made before setting out he sought to be buried 'in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, within the church of Preston in Craven, on the south side where the bodies of my ancestors lie.' He bequeathed to his son Stephen 'one alabaster table, a goblet and a missale, together with all other furnishings, etc., of the chapel within my manor house at Wigglesworth.' One witness of the will was Robert Sevyll, Priest, perhaps his personal Chaplain.

This wealthy and honourable family was approaching a massive change of fortune. John's son, a third Stephen, became involved in a tragic revolution which was to end the family's connection with Wigglesworth.

In 1536 Sir Stephen Hammerton revolted and joined the Pilgrimage of Grace. He was pardoned by the King. "He returned to his home at Wigglesworth Hall, prepared to live the life of a country gentleman, at peace with all the world."

"The dissolution of the monasteries had however caused very serious discontent among the common people. They had received many benefits at the hands of the monks, and strongly resented their suppression."

"Towards the close of 1536 the peasantry in North Craven rose in revolt, demanding the re-instatement of the monks at Sawley Abbey. They marched to Wigglesworth Hall hoping to induce Sir Stephen to lead them. He refused time and again, but the rebels became so violent and destructive, that he was practically forced to accede to their demands. He went with them to Monibent [a farmhouse between Halton West and Bolton by Bowland], where he found 300 – 400 men and Nicholas Tempest of Bracewell who had been induced to come in like manner to himself."

Receiving a hostile response from the Earl of Cumberland, no support from the townspeople of Burnley and Colne and finally a cool response from the Abbot of Walley Abbey, they set off home. They met a weaker force of Lord Derby's who made promises of attention to their grievances and pardon. Some time later Sir Stephen and Nicholas Tempest were ordered to appear at York. Despite the assurances they were tried and found guilty of treason. They were executed at Smithfield 25 May 1537. Sir Stephen, being a Knight, was not drawn and quartered as were the four others who were hung with him. The Abbots of 'Salley' and Whalley were hanged in chains near their abbeys.

The Wigglesworth Manor was within the major part of the estate which was forfeited to the king, Henry VIII. In 1544 he granted the Manor, its desmesnes and park, including a mill, to Sir Thomas Holcroft of Lancs in return for Knightly duties and leased him the remainder for a yearly rent of £21 13s 8d. About this time a licence was obtained to transfer it to Sir Richard Sherburn of Stonyhurst, Lancs. In 1587 it was occupied by the owner Richard Sherburn when 'much wheat and barley was

grown'. (The mill, a soke mill, that is to say a communal one, was worked with water from Wigglesworth Tarn and was in ruins in Whitaker's time. Two tarns are shown on the 1924 OS map, west of the Rathmell road.)

From Dr Winifred Haward we learn her view that it was from the Hammertons the hall was bought by the Sherburns of Stonyhurst in 1575. It was used by them as a dower house for the elderly, widowed and unmarried women. The ladies of the house were recusants, that is to say refused to conform to the requirements of regular, public Protestant worship. The men of such families usually conformed, thus avoiding swingeing financial penalties on their estates. The house was almost certainly a Mass centre, a location for secret illegal celebrations. The extensive alterations the Sherburns made would have allowed the secret construction of a priest hole. However this Tudor house was largely pulled down to build the Georgian replacement and such relics, if any, have disappeared. A large stone with now defaced incised markings may have been the grave stone of a priest; they were denied churchyard burial. Dr Haward shares my sceptical view of rumours of a secret tunnel under the River Ribble to Hellifield Pele tower. However near the hall, a small part of a flagged passage was discovered 4' below the surface, going SE. The stone found was used for a wall.

Wigglesworth was noted for its superb Tithe Barn. On 18 September 1694 Thoresby records in his diary that he saw at Mr Sherburn's seat, 200 yards from the Hall 'the finest barn, possibly in England, measured by our servant 22 yards wide and 46 long, of stone.' (Vol. i, 265.) On Sunday 24 August 1958 the barn was seriously damaged by fire and now retains only the impressive end walls and some charred beams with a modern roof in place of the golden roofing flagstones it had. It has been confidently asserted it was the Tithe Barn for Long Preston Parish. It is possible it was built in the early sixteenth century for the barn is of a medieval form. This was a time when the Hammerton family was at its zenith, a time when Sir Stephen made considerable extensions to the earlier house. (It was claimed one could ride from Slaidburn to York without ever leaving their property!)

The later history of Wigglesworth Hall

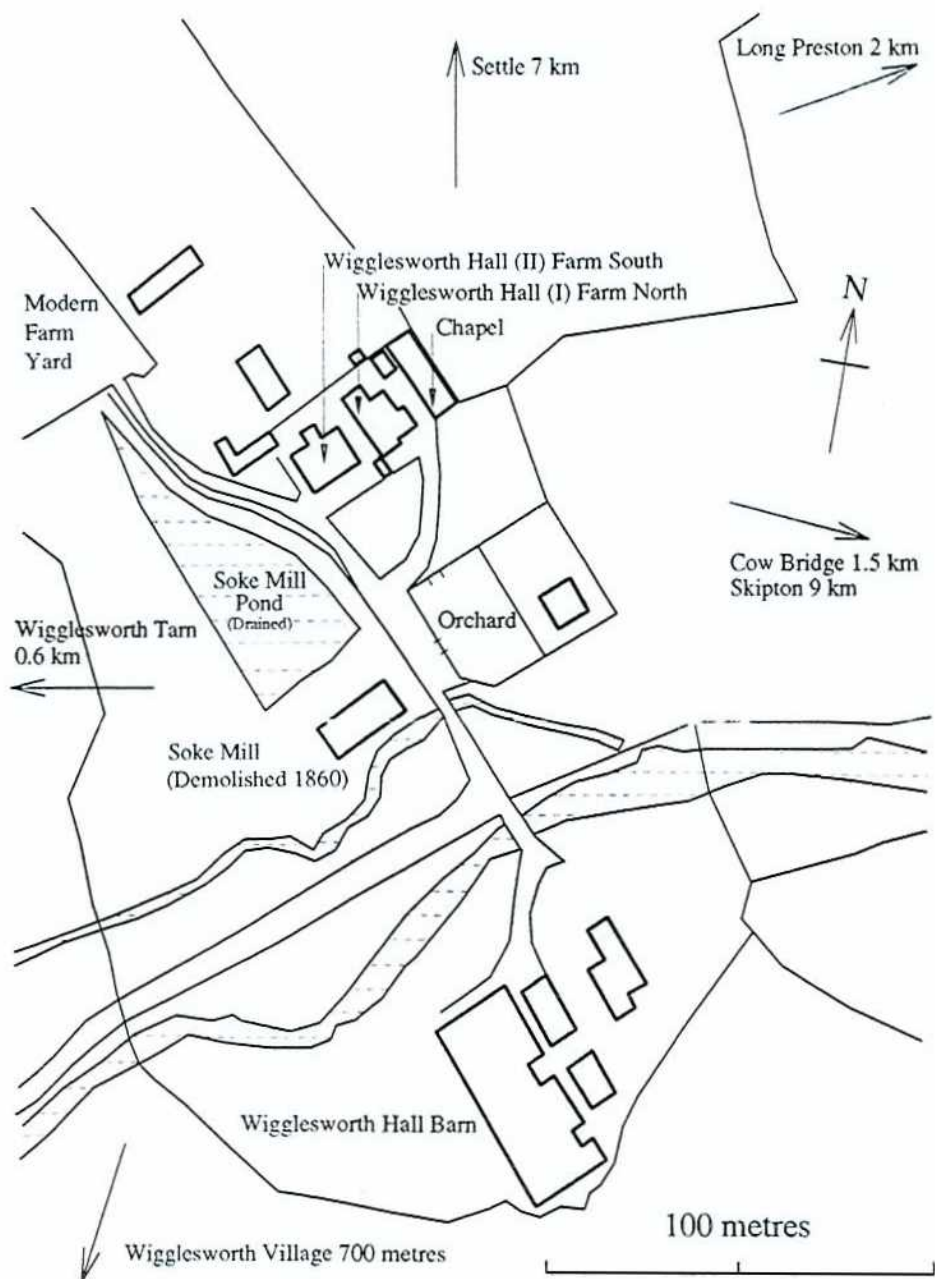
Wigglesworth Hall had remained in the Sherburn family for well over 100 years until, upon the marriage of Mary, daughter and heiress of Sir Nicholas Sherburn, to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, it was sold to Sir John Statham of Derby. He sold it to John Harding of the Inner Temple from whom it was purchased in 1726 by Thomas Weddell of Erswick. William Weddell died in 1792 and the estate was managed by his widow Elizabeth during the minority of his cousin Thomas Phillip Robinson (his heir) later to become Lord Grantham and eventually Lord Grey. Lord Grantham was proprietor at the time when Whitaker (in the early 19th century) records that the barn was the property of the Countess Cowper, in use and good repair.

The last Lord of the Manor was Lord Lucas who sold the Estate in 1924, but this owner, as had been the case for so long, had not lived there. From at least the 17th to the 20th Century the dwellings were occupied by farmers. The Clarke and Duckett families, including Wigglesworth ancestors, as well as a few bearing the family name, lived there. In 1688/9 the wills of John Clarke and Elizabeth his widow state them to be of Wigglesworth Hall (so spelt). The inventories suggest they were small farmers.

The livestock included:

4 kine	4 oxen
6 steers	7 stirks
6 bullocks	2 calves
13 sheeps	5 hoggs
1 horse	2 mares

The horses were worth £10 in total, the oxen £4 or £5 each and a sheep about 30p in today's money. Two stone of wool was listed at 65p. Together with domestic items such as baxton (i.e. baking stone), longsettles and stools, beef, bacon, meal and malt: the summe total for John Clarke was £218/10/9d.



MAP OF WIGGLESWORTH HALL

The Abbotsons are associated with Wigglesworth Hall for many years during the 18th and 19th centuries. The site is now the basis of two farms. In 1990 one, the two storey house in an 18th century style (II), was glimpsed in the documentary television series 'The Doctor' about a Settle GP who attended an elderly farmer Mr Wm. Morphet of Wigglesworth Hall in his terminal illness. He was succeeded by his grandson, John Mellin. The Booth family lives at the second farm, (I) the oldest surviving dwelling, with 16/17th century mullioned windows, arched doorway and a massive chimney almost entirely enclosed in more recent extensions. There is a carved stone by the house (known to some as a well cover). This was used for pressing cheese having grooves cut to take away the whey pressed out by a granite block which is now perhaps in the wall by the back door of Wigglesworth Hall I.

One particular tree nearby is still called the 'bell tree'. It was used in living memory to support a bell to call German prisoners of war from their work reclaiming the flood plain of the Ribble for food production. Whether the custom or the bell, (but certainly not the sycamore tree) dates back to those early times of monasterial ownership is not established.

The history is a lengthy one about a place and its inhabitants, traced in documents and linked to historical events we learned about at school. Identifiable ancestors of perhaps a dozen generations before ours take us back just a few centuries. Even the buildings, old and impressive as they are, take us back but a part of the way. I hope, even so, those with a particular connection to the Hall, can, with the help of their imagination visualise the happenings and populate them with people. One wonders about the following generations of ours who live by this river and look at these hills and cast their minds back in turn to their ancestors.

People Associated with Wigglesworth Hall

The following list includes owners and occupiers, categories not always distinguished or distinguishable from each other.

- Saxon times, speculatively, 'Wichil' (from whom the name derives)
- 1086 The Manors of (Long) Preston and Rathmell
- 1284 Elyas de Knoll, Lord of the Manor of Hellifield, 1 caracute
- 1290 Possessed by William, son of Godfrey of Neversheim, who gave it to Fountains Abbey
- 1290 Beatrice de Arches brought Wigglesworth on m to Reyner de Knoll
- 1307 Stated to be occupied by the de Arches
- 1308 Wm de Knoll
- 1399 Elias de Knoll
- 1400 Adam de Hammerton m Katherine de Knoll whose father Elias transferred it to him about then
- 1450 About time two arched doorways were built
- 1500 Stephen de Hammerton
- 1513 John de Hammerton
- 1536 Stephen de Hammerton
- 1537 Ownership reverted to King Henry VIII
- 1544 Sir Thomas Holcroft
- 1557 Richard Sherburn
- 1621 John s of John and Elizabeth Clarke of Wigglesworth Hall
- 1650 About time Wigglesworth Hall I was built
- 1657 Mary d of – Wigglesworth of Wigglesworth Hall
- 1657 John s of ffrancis and Isabel Duckett buried 5 7 1657
- 1659 ffrancis and Isabel Duckett
- 1659 Leonard Wigglesworth, Lease
- 1662 Wm Wigglesworth and Jenette Clarke both of Wigglesworth Hall married 25 May 1662
- 1664 Ann d of ffrancis and Isabel Duckett buried 1 12 1644
- 1667 John and Alice Clarke (latter died 1667)
- 1668 Thomas Clark and Ellen
- 1668 John Duckett of Wigglesworth married Jane Buck 21 6 1668
- 1668 Margaret d of Thomas Clark and Ellen

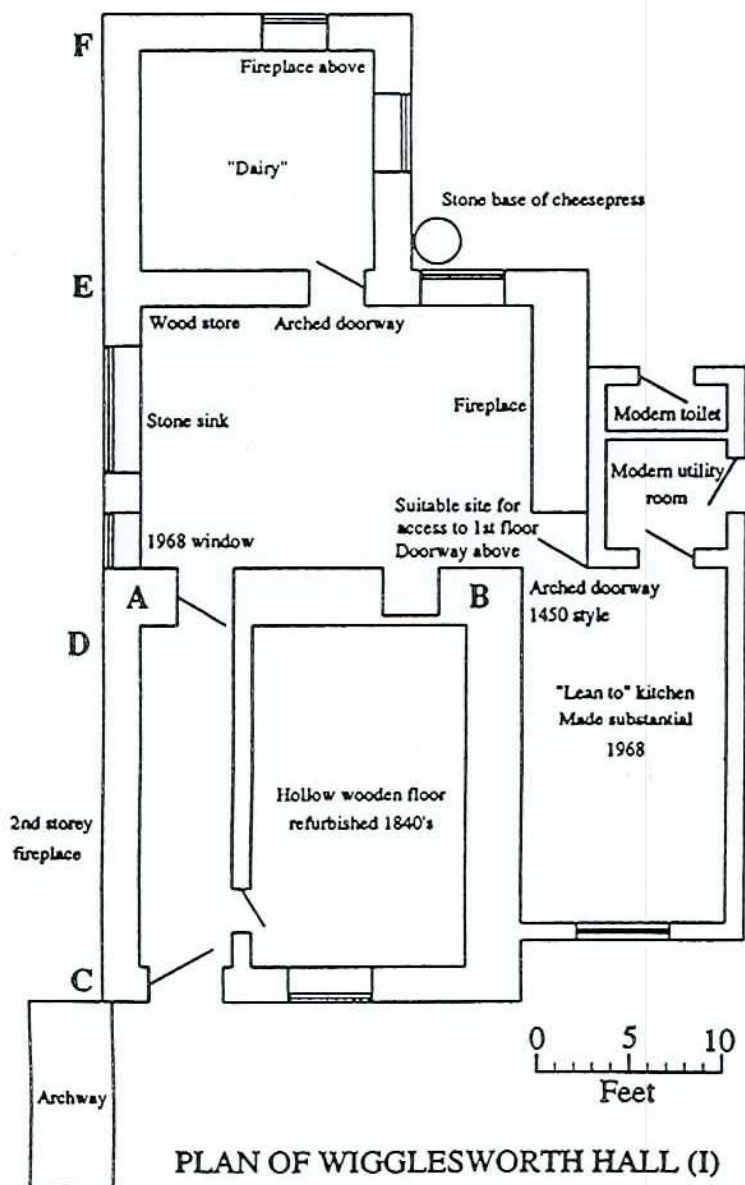
- 1671 John s of John and Elizabeth Clarke
- 1671 Wm and Ellen Clarke, 1671-6
- 1672 Stephen Harrison taxed on 3 Hearths. Recusant with wife Elizabeth and d. Jenitta
- 1672 John and Ann Clark - 1673
- 1672 John s of Thomas Clark and Ann of Wigglesworth Hall
- 1673 Leonard s of John Clarke and Elizabeth baptised 2 2 1673
- 1677 Michael s of John Clarke of Wigglesworth Hall baptised 25 10 1677
- 1677 Stephen Harrison died
- 1680 Ann d of John Clarke of Wigglesworth baptised 27 Jan. 1680
- 1689 John and Elizabeth Clark of Wigglesworth Hall wills
- 1694 Mr Sherburn's Seat
- 1700 About time Wigglesworth Hall II was built
- 1710 Thomas Clarke
- ?? Sir John Statham of Derby
John Harding of Inner Temple
- 1726 Thomas Weddell of Earswick
- 1735 Leonard Wigglesworth m 5 7 1735
- 1744 James Blakey and Margaret Hartley until 1747
- 1750 John and Ann Abbotson in I
- 1751 Sarah, d of John & Ann baptised
- 1777 Wm Weddel of Newby, Yorks, Lord of the Manor
- 1777 Hargreaves lived at Wigglesworth Hall
- 1786 Richard and Christopher Abbotson in I & II,
Wm Weddell proprietor
- 1792 Wm Weddell died, Mrs Weddell prop. for T P Robinson
- 1793 Isabel d Richard Hargreaves and Ann Moon baptised 4 6 1793
- 1795 Richard and Jane (Jenet) Abbotson in I & II to 1801 together,
after which separately
- 1800 Lord Grantham descendant of Weddel and Countess Cowper
- 1805 Mrs Eliz Weddell, prop; Richard and Jennet Abbotson
(separately), occupiers
- 1835 John Abbotson was occupier of I
- 1841 John and Betty Bradley, Christopher Turner farm servant
- 1841 Wm and Betty Burton
- 1851 Thomas & Elizabeth Lancaster

- 1851 Stephen & Peggy Oldfield
- 185? Henry Morphet in II
- 1854 Wm Wolfenden at I
- 1861 Wm Wolfenden & John Snowden in census
- 1864 Ann Wolfenden (widow of Wm) to 1881
- 1881 John Wolfenden at I, Henry Morphet at II, Ann Morphet widow at census
- 1891 John Wolfenden ends stay at I
- 1924 End of Lord Lucas family connection
- 1930 Maurice & Dolly Wooler at I
- 1948 Wm Morphet, Wigglesworth Hall II
- 1950 Mr & Mrs Butterworth at I
- 1968 Mr Edgar & Annie Booth at I
- 1975 Mr Eric & Catherine Booth at I
- 1990 Wm Morphet dies
- 1993 John Mellin, Wigglesworth Hall II
- 1995 Mr Eric & Catherine Booth, Wigglesworth Hall I

The fabric of Wigglesworth Hall I

The history of this building is confused and much has been rebuilt but the following tells something of present thinking. Three things must be borne in mind, Wigglesworth Hall II was built later (circa 1700) alongside Wigglesworth Hall I, Wigglesworth Hall (if built by the Hammertons) was then a big and impressive building, Wigglesworth Hall I replaced the original building and incorporates some parts of it.

The oldest datable surviving structures (mid 15th century) are the arched doorway to the 'Chapel' and the cross passage doorway. It does not follow however that they serve the original purpose or are in the original place, the latter now being on the NE face of wall AB. The living room of the Long House (circa 1650) could have had a chimney and ladder added later by the doorway and lower and upper mullioned windows in the places we find them. It was 2/5ths longer once.



The wall AB seems the oldest, being 3' thick, extending to the apex of the roof and penetrated on the ground floor by two doorways. Which is the outer leaf is a matter of conjecture. Today's best room may be a rebuilding of the original Wigglesworth Hall (originally built between 1450 and 1650) when it may have had the formal, family rooms upstairs and the servants' workrooms below as was then the pattern. The wall CDEF has three different mortars, and at CD a first floor fireplace (probably added after the wall was built, thus between 1450 and 1620) and a variety of walled-up windows.

The dairy is a little after 1650, designed as a two storey building, with its first floor corbels visible, showing a first floor fireplace, a slightly pointed doorway and mullioned windows (since replaced).

The archway is rather a shallow arch, about 1550, when it might have served as a formal entrance with a second wing under the lawn to the SE.

There may well be other opinions, but until, for example, radio dating of the beams, resistivity measurements around the buildings and mortar removal there will always be doubts.

Listed Building Description signed by M.A.L. Ross,
D of E, 20 11 1987, SD 85 NW, 7/18-22.

20 2 1958, Wigglesworth Hall Farm north,
Mr Butterworth's farmhouse, east side of Jack Lane.

Farmhouse. C17 and C18 with C15 origins and C20 alterations. Rubble, millstone grit ashlar, stone slate roof. L-shaped plan. Projecting C15 archway. Moulded imposts, segmental arch and dripstone. Remains of blocked window above, rest of building now missing. Range to left is butt-jointed and is principally C17; 2 storeys, 3 bays including ground floor 5-light chamfered mullioned window with hoodmould and similar but 2-light window, and on upper floor 3-light with hoodmould and 2-light chamfered mullioned. Projecting gable end

stacks on corbels. Interior contains southern roof with King post trusses and curved braces, and northern roof with Crown post trusses, the Crown post rising to the ridge as a Kings strut, braces to collars, these bays are numbered 3, 4, 5 of a larger building.

20 2 1958, Wigglesworth Hall Farm south, Mr Morfet's farmhouse, east side of Jack Lane.

Farmhouse. c1690 with late C19 and C20 alterations. Squared rubble, millstone grit dressings, stone slate roof. Central staircase plan. 2 storeys, 5 bays. Central entrance has moulded surround, plank door; 2-light chamfered mullioned fanlight. 4 ground floor and 5 upper floor cross windows; C20 casements except central upper floor window which is blocked. Shaped eaves modillions. Gable end kneelers and coping. Ball finial to left-hand gable. Gable end ridge stacks. Left-hand return rebuilt c1890; watershot masonry. Interior: c1890 oak dog-leg staircase; closed string, turned balusters, moulded handrail.

20 2 1958, Wigglesworth Hall Barn, east side of Jack Lane.

Reputedly former tithe barn, now divided into two barns, c1600 with C20 alterations. Squared rubble, stone dressings, corrugated iron roof. 11 bays. Central waggon entrance has chamfered surround; plank doors. Left-hand entrance has chamfered surround and Tudor arch, now blocked. To left is a shippon with a chamfered entrance and 3 C20 openings. To right are 2 chamfered entrances and 7 breathers. Right-hand return contains 7 rows of chamfered breathers totalling 42. Interior: formerly aisled, padstones remain but timbers destroyed by fire in 1959; c1960 King post roof trusses.

20 2 1958, Calf Shed NE of Wigglesworth Hall north, east side of Jack Lane.

Calf shed. Early C20 with C15 origins. Dressed stone, millstone grit dressings, slate roof. 3 bays. All entrances are early C20 except C15 segmental pointed entrance with moulded surround; plank door. Included for group value.

— — — Walled Orchard S of Wigglesworth Hall Farm south, east side of Jack Lane.

Walled orchard. Probably late C17/early C18. Squared stone. Wall c.2 metres high, moulded coping. Blocked north entrance has segmental arch. West entrance now collapsed. Included for group value.

Wigglesworth or Wigglesworth

Laurence Sterne in 1759 writes in 'Tristram Shandy', "Yorick was this parson's name, and, what is very remarkable it had been exactly so spelt without the least variation or transposition of a single letter, for I do not know how long; which is more than I would venture to say of one half of the best surnames in the kingdom; which, in a course of years, have generally undergone as many chops and changes as their owners. a villainous affair it is, and will one day so blend and confound us all together, that no one shall be able to stand up and swear, 'That his own great grandfather was the man who did either this or that.'"

Wigglesworth and Wigglesworth are Yorkshire names commonly confused by the general public; they are however reputedly distinct in their derivation from two different place names.

The hamlet of Wigglesworth on the River Ribble near Settle is recorded in Domesday as 'Winchelesuorde'. The final syllable 'Word' means enclosure. The 'd' here is the letter called 'thorn' (not found on our keyboard) and sounded 'th'. Enclosures are often associated with a person's name, for example Wicel's enclosure, but no person with a suitable name is known. It is thought that the derivation is from 'wincel' meaning a child and one Domesday spelling suggests that a previous form of the place name was 'wincel'. The loss of the n and the conversion from c (or k) to g in such words which would give Wigelsworth, is found quite commonly. Use of spellings recognisable to a layman as resembling today's name are found as early as the twelfth century.

Wrigglesworth is thought to be derived from the place in West Yorkshire near Rothwell and now called Woodlesford. There is a long list of alternative spellings over time. It was recorded in the twelfth century as 'Wridlesford', apparently from Old English 'wridels', a hypothetical adjective from 'wrid' – bush or thicket, together with 'ford', (the ford presumably being the one carrying the Wakefield – Tadcaster road across the Aire, now superseded by Swillington Bridge). The gradual change can be traced with a 'g' being used in place of 'd' as early as 1308 until in 1596 when the use of Wriglesworth only requires the change of the final element.

In Rothwell Parish Registers the place names Wrigglesford, Wriglesforth and Wriglesworth are used and even as late as 1722 it is written Wrigglesworth. It is interesting to note that Woodlesford does not feature in the Dictionary of Surnames, suggesting that the surname Wrigglesworth had already become firmly established by the mid thirteenth century when Wodlesford is first recorded for the village. This was, in fact, the time when surnames first became fixed. A document of 1734 in the 'Wakefield Depository of Deeds' specifically links the place name Wriglesworth as a synonym of Woodlesford.

If the surnames are derived from the two place-names this might suggest there should be a geographical separation which might be still be discovered today. The BT 'phone directories give an easily accessible sample from which a relative frequency for each directory of each name, say, per 200,000 subscribers may be calculated. By counting the two names in 35 directories in the northern half of the country in which there were over 5 million subscribers 450 named Wigglesworth and 360 Wrigglesworth were found. Analysis shows that the Wigglesworths are most common in the areas covered by Wakefield, Leeds and Bradford. The place Wigglesworth is just on the NW margin of these three areas, in fact in the Bradford area of the phone books.

The name Wrigglesworth by contrast is most commonly found in the areas York, Wakefield and Leeds. Woodlesford lies between York and Wakefield although in the Leeds Directory area.

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1995, 1st Edition,

Published Privately.

Hatters Mill, Lea Bridge, Matlock. DE4 5AA

A very simple statistical appraisal of the data supports the view that the two populations are discrete but a more sophisticated one would be necessary to establish that this distribution was in fact significant, for the actual totals for individual areas are under a hundred. Visual inspection of the data shows the expected variation in many of the neighbouring telephone areas. A few areas have an unexpectedly large population. Are the concentrations on the East Coast, most noticeable among the Wigglesworths, retired folk? Was there a significant tendency to migrate southwards and if so when did that occur?

There is also the matter of the evolution of different spellings of the surname to be considered. In our own family the second 'g' was acquired in the early nineteenth century, but there were no other later variations. The spelling with a single 'g' seems to be reduced to about 1 in 50 now. Similar variations in the spelling of Wrigglesworth with one 'g' seem more common, about 1 in 10, with a marked predominance in York.

Footnote about access

There have been many thefts from farms in the Dales and animal disease has been a very serious problem. Places referred to can usually be seen from a footpath or other public right of way. For example Wigglesworth Halls can be seen on foot from 'The Ribble Way,' a public footpath going from Cow Bridge. Any visitors *who must use* vehicles, such as the disabled, are asked to phone the occupier e.g. in the case referred to: Mr and Mrs Booth on 01729 840275.