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The History of the King-Wilkinson Family and the Slaidburn Estate



by
Chris Spencer

A new and substantial hardback book describing the formation of the Slaidburn Estate and containing approximately 480 pages and 225 illustrations

To be published in June/July 2018

A much anticipated, new history of Slaidburn, which will complement the 'Short History of the Parish of Slaidburn' by Alice Peel published in the 1920s, Chris Spencer's forthcoming book will be substantial and will detail all the purchases of property made by the Wilkinson (later King-Wilkinson) family in and around Slaidburn over a period of several hundred years. It has been possible to trace almost every conveyance of every farm and every cottage in the district.

Leonard Wilkinson came from Aysgarth to live at Swinshaw farm in Dale Head in the 1730s and thereafter began buying up nearby lands. His sons bought more nearby farms (Bridge House, Cocklick, Hesbert Hall, Eggberry House and Black House). By the late 1790s, Leonard's grandson, another Leonard Wilkinson, began buying up farms, cottages and lands in and around Slaidburn village, and also in Lower Easington and Newton in Bowland. By 1927, the King-Wilkinson family owned almost 6000 acres in and around Slaidburn, scattered over 40 farms.

Large parts of the outlying Estate were disposed of in 1927. Procter's farm, one of many Slaidburn Estate farms until 1927, had been bought for £7000 in 1883. With a reserve of just £2500 at auction in 1927, it and many other estate farms failed to sell. Why? The big sale of 1927 is covered in detail in Chris Spencer's book and the aftermath is chronicled via a Northallerton property speculator and All Souls' College, Oxford, into the modern era.

About the Author

Chris Spencer is a graduate of Imperial College, London and has been researching the Slaidburn area for over 40 years. Recently retired from teaching at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, he has now catalogued the 400 boxes of King-Wilkinson family deeds and papers in the Lancashire Archives and this family estate collection has provided the bulk of the material for his forthcoming book.

Where in Slaidburn village is Parker House (built in 1707)? Place Houses? Bannister's? Bait Hall? Bond's? All are still standing but their former names are long forgotten in the mists of time.

Which well-known architect designed Croasdale Bank near the War Memorial in Slaidburn? Which other house in Slaidburn did he design?

Ingbreak, Barcroft and Raw Moor were once well-known, large areas of agricultural land around Slaidburn but their names have vanished from the maps? Where were they?

What did 'Bounty' look like? The Reverend Henry Wiglesworth's favourite hunting hound and after which the village inn is named.

Why did Sir Thomas Spencer Wells, Queen Victoria's surgeon, visit Slaidburn twice in 1883? Why did the Wilkinson family take the additional name of King later that same year?

What is the true story of Dunnow Hall? Why was it built and why did the King-Wilkinson family never live there?

How much did the Wilkinsons pay for the Town Head Estate in 1855?

What was the family's connection with the composer Edward Elgar?

What did Whiteholme look like before the present house was built in the 1850s? The old Slaidburn rectory built in the 1600s was demolished in early 1863 to make way for a grand Victorian replacement. What did the original building from the 1600s look like?

Where was 'The Huntsman' in the 1700s, Slaidburn's third inn?

Where was the Hare and Hounds Inn in Newton in Bowland?

All the answers will be found in Chris Spencer's forthcoming book.

Index of Farms & Places in 'The History of the King-Wilkinson Family & The Slaidburn Estate'

A

Agnes Land, Champion

B

Back Lane, Newton

Bael Grove, Slaidburn

Bannister's or Howson's tenement (Field Head)

Barcroft

Bate/Bait Hall, Slaidburn

Battersby Copies (Ingbreak), Slaidburn

Battersby Hall

Battersby's cottages, Slaidburn

Bawgreaves (now called Horns)

Beatrix

Beck Side, Slaidburn

Bell Sykes

Birkett, Newton

Black Bull Inn, Slaidburn

Black House, Easington

Bleazard's cottages, Slaidburn

Bleazard's farm, Easington

Blue Butts (with Beckenshaw)

Boarsden

Bond's cottages, Slaidburn

Brabin Field, Slaidburn

Brennand's Endowed School, Slaidburn

Bridge/Brigg House, Easington

Broadhead, Easington

Brock Thorn, Easington

Brooklets, Slaidburn

Brown Hills, Newton

Browsholme/Browsholme Hall

Brunghill Moor (Turner's farm), Newton

Burn (Mountain of)

Burn End (Rudd's farm)

Burn House

Burn Moor

Burn Side

Butterfield House or Standridge

Butterfield Tenement, Easington

C

Carr House, Slaidburn

Champion

Chapel House (Spencer House), Slaidburn

Church Stile, Slaidburn

Clarke Laithe

Cloo/Clough farm, Woodhouse

Clough barn, Woodhouse

Clough farm, Raw Moor

Cocklake/Cocklick House, Easington

Cockshutt's cottages, Slaidburn

Cockshutt's Part, Easington

College Close cottages, Newton

Collyholme

Cragg House, Newton

Cragg's farm, Newton

Crawshaw

Croasdale Bank, Slaidburn

Croasdale Fell farm

Croasdale House

Croasdale Moor

Cross Bank, Raw Moor

D

Dale Head Church (St James) & Vicarage

Dale Head school

Dale Head, Easington

Dale House, Slaidburn

Davison's farm, Woodhouse

Dog Inn, Slaidburn (Hark to Bounty)

Duckmire

House in Croasdale

Huntington's farm (part of Laytham's)

Huntington House, Slaidburn

Huntsman Inn, Slaidburn

Hyde's farm, Newton

I

Ingbreak, Slaidburn

Ivy Cottage, Slaidburn

K

Kendall Moss, Champion

King's House, Slaidburn

Knott Gate, Slaidburn

Knott, Slaidburn

Knowlmere

L

Lamb Hill

Lane Ends near Harrop

Lane Ends, Easington

Lane Side (Sandbeds)

Langcliffe Cross, Champion

Langden Holme

Lanshaw's farm

Laytham's farm

Livingstone House, Slaidburn

Long Stripes, Newton

Lower Edge

Lower Highfield

Lower Moor, Newton

Lower Stony Bank, Easington

Lowlands, Newton

M

Manor House, Easington

Meanley

Mellows, Slaidburn

Merrybent Hill

Mill Hill, Dale Head

Mitton's farm

Moss House, Dale Head

Mount Pleasant, Slaidburn

N

New Bridge, Slaidburn

New Close

New Laithe

Newton

Newton Chapel, Newton CE School

Newton Hall

Newton post office

O

Oddie's farm

Old Bridge End, Slaidburn

Oxengill House

P

Page's farm

Pain Hill

Parker House (Ivy Cottage), Slaidburn

Parker's Arms, Newton

Parrock Head (Bank's farm)

Peart Copies

Phynis

Place Houses, Slaidburn

Poor's Land, Slaidburn

Procter's farm, Woodhouse

Q

Quaker School, Newton

Dugdale's farm, Easington
Dunnow (Dunnow Hall)
Dunnow Lodge
Dunsop farm, Woodhouse

E

Easington (Lower), Lordship of
Easington Fell
Easington, p. Slaidburn
Eggberry House, Easington
Ellerbeck Hall (Woodhouse Hall/Smithson's)
Elm Tree Croft, Slaidburn

F

Far Laithe, Easington
Fell Moss, Easington
Fell Side
Field Head
Flatts, Slaidburn
Foher Barn, Newton
Fowlands, Newton

G

Gamble Hole
Gaughey Hills
Gaughey House
Gawcar, Easington
Gillwill, Slaidburn
Glebe House, Slaidburn
Gold Hill farm, Woodhouse
Grange Hall, Easington
Greenwood cottages, Slaidburn

H

Hall Gate, Newton
Hammerton Hall
Hare and Hounds Inn, Newton
Hargreaves Houses, Slaidburn
Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaidburn
Harker's farm, Raw Moor
Harrison's Croft, Slaidburn
Harrison's farm, Woodhouse
Harrop Hall
Hartley's cottages, Slaidburn
Hasgill, Easington
Head of Green (Green Head), Easington
Heaning, Newton
Height, Easington
Hesbert Hall
Hey farm
Higher Birch Hill, Easington
Higher Copy, Newton
Higher Edge
Higher Highfield
Higher House, Newton
Higher Stony Bank, Easington
Higher Underhand, Newton
Highfield
Highfield Quarry
Hill House (Hill Top), Newton
Hindley Head, Gisburn Forest
Hodder Bank, Knowlmere
Holden Clough
Hollings, Easington
Horns/Thorns, Slaidburn

R

Radholme Laund
Raingill, Easington
Ramsclough
Rishton Grange, Easington
Robinson's farm, Easington
Rock House, Slaidburn

S

Salisbury Field, Newton
Salisbury Hall, Newton
Scawbreak, Slaidburn
School Lands, Slaidburn
Sharp's Houses, Slaidburn
Shay House
Simfield
Simpson's Moss
Simpson's Tenement in Easington
Skaithe, Slaidburn
Skelshaw
Slaidburn
Smelfthwaites
Smithson's farm
South View, Slaidburn
Sparrow Hall, Slaidburn
Stabley Banks, Slaidburn
Standridge (or Butterfield House)
Stocks Reservoir
Storth, Newton
Sturzacres, Slaidburn
Sunnyside, Newton
Sutton's farm, Newton
Swinshaw

T

Tan Yard Garden, Slaidburn
Tea Pot Hall, Slaidburn
Tinklers
Tosside
Town End, Slaidburn
Town Head, Slaidburn
Townson's cottages, Slaidburn
Turner Hills, Newton

W

Wainman Houses, Town End, Slaidburn
Wallbank's/Wald Bank, Slaidburn
War Memorial, Slaidburn
Waterloo Buildings, Slaidburn
Weatherhead farm, Slaidburn
Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Slaidburn
White Moss
Whiteholme
Winder's cottages, Slaidburn
Windyates, Newton
Witton's farm, Slaidburn
Woodbine cottage, Slaidburn
Woodhouse
Woodhouse Cottage
Woodhouse Gate

Y

Youlston Wood, Newton
Youth Hostel, Slaidburn