

## The History of the King-Wilkinson Family & the Slaidburn Estate

By Chris Spencer

Leonard Wilkinson came from Aysgarth to live at Swinshaw farm in Dale Head, Slaidburn, in the 1730s and thereafter began buying up nearby lands. His sons bought more nearby farms (Bridge House, Cocklick House, Hesbert Hall, Eggberry House and Black House). From the late 1790s onwards, 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.

The Wilkinson family purchased the Dunnaw Hall estate in 1814 and the Town Head estate in 1855. In 1883, William Wilkinson inherited the Whiteholme estate on the death of his cousin Mary King Birchall and he took the additional name of King. By 1900, the family were known by the surname of 'King-Wilkinson'. By 1927, the King-Wilkinson family owned almost 6000 acres in and around Slaidburn, scattered over 40 farms, and almost all of the houses and cottages in Slaidburn village.

Large parts of the outlying estate were disposed of in 1927. 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.

Chris Spencer's book describes all the purchases of farms and cottages in detail and is a valuable resource for anyone researching the Slaidburn area and its former inhabitants.

This book contains 400 pages and over 200 illustrations. The original print run of 200 hardback copies is now sold out. A digital copy (in PDF format) may be purchased from Slaidburn Archive and sent by email.