

### **Introduction to Book on Croft Family**

Having researched the history of my wife's and my own families, I turned my attention to the history of the village we live in. It was at this stage that I came across the Croft family of Stillington and found them so interesting that I decided to research that family in detail. Being retired I can now devote my time to my hobbies and enjoyment.

I have visited many libraries and Record Offices in Yorkshire, viz: Leyburn, Knaresborough, Harrogate, Beverley and York (including York Minster Library and York City Archives and the Borthwick Institute part of York University. Information and documents have also been obtained from Keele University and the National Archives at Kew and Lambeth Palace Library.

It has taken some twenty years to produce.

The Crofts have been connected with many churches in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire and the church booklets, in many cases produced by local people have been of great help.

Andrew Jones, who specialises in writing and broadcasting on the subject of wine and the history of those people involved in its production has been of assistance. He is writing a book on the Crofts', which goes into much detail about their time in Portugal and I am sure that it will make excellent reading. (Unfortunately, I have since gathered from him that this will not be published).

A neighbour of mine, Brian Cobb whose family were involved in the Port trade in Oporto, let me have sight of a book printed in 1899 by Howard and Jones, written by C. Sellers, called Oporto, Old and New. This book contains quite a large amount of information regarding both the Croft and Thompson families and I have used this information extensively.

John Clarke of Great Ouseburn, kindly loaned me a copy of the typewritten Life Story of Lady Meysey-Thompson.

The portrait of Stephen Croft Snr & Jnr were obtained from the National Portrait Gallery and that of John Croft from York Library, also of Thomas Hutton Croft.

I have over the years had the pleasure of meeting a number of descendants of the Croft family, all of whom have freely given me photographs and information regarding their line, both in England and Portugal. These friends are, Laurie Davies, Catherine Croft Yeo, both of whom live in the USA, Wanley Simpson of New Zealand, also Sir Tom Croft, John Elverson, Glennys Dalby, and Kiloran McGrigor all of the U.K.

This document is essentially research and not for sale, only a handful of copies will be printed. It has taken some 20 years to prepare, as no sooner do I run off a final copy, I find more information.

Grahame Richardson  
Stillington

April 2014

## CROFT

### of Croft Castle Herefordshire

It is believed that the Croft family came over to England from Normandy in the reign of Edward the Confessor (1031-1066). There was considerable contact between England and Normandy in that era, (Edward's mother was Emma of Normandy). By the time of the Domesday Book (1068) a Bernard de Croft held the land of Croft Castle – at Croft Ambrey, Herefordshire.

Members of the de Croft family who have been mentioned in old records, are:

1100 Jasper de Croft fought in the first Crusade and was knighted.

1103 Bernard de Croft endowed the Cluniac monastery at Thetford in Norfolk and became a monk there.

1243 Hugh de Croft helped the Captured Prince of Wales (later Edward 1<sup>st</sup>) to escape from imprisonment by Simon de Montfort, to Croft.

Circa 1403 John de Croft married a daughter of Owen Glendower, Prince of Wales.

1462 Sir Richard Croft fought for King Edward IV at Mortimer's Cross, which was on Croft land.

1471 Richard Croft (who had changed sides) captured Prince Edward at the Battle of Tewksbury and was made a Knight Banneret upon the field of Stoke by Henry VI.

Circa 1485 Sir Richard Croft became Treasurer of King Henry VII household and later steward to his first son Prince Arthur.

Circa 1555 Queen Elizabeth appointed James Croft as Governor of Berwick.

In the Civil War, (1642-1649) the Crofts fought for King Charles and Croft Castle was dismantled by the Royalists to prevent its use by the Parliamentarians. Sir James Croft was killed in battle in 1645.

Sir Archer Croft (1683-1753) was appointed governor of New York in 1739.

In 1746 the Castle was sold to repay debts but returned to the Crofts in 1923 when it was bought back by the Trustees of Sir James Croft. He was killed in action with the Commandos in 1941.

Some members of the Croft family still (2008) live in the castle.

The above is a brief summary of the book "House of Croft" by O.G.S.Croft 1949.

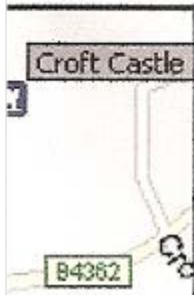
On page 20 of this book –quote–"I think there can be little doubt that the Lancashire Crofts were a branch of the Crofts of Croft Castle; the contemporary Christian names –Gilbert, Hugh, Roger

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and John are persistently repeated; further more they are all described as de CROFT and a member of the family is twice described as John de Croft de Dalton in 1338.”

A very useful summary of this family can be found on the internet, see [www.ukheritage.net/castles/croft.htm](http://www.ukheritage.net/castles/croft.htm)

The object of this book is to research other branches of the Croft family, particularly the branch which made Stillington near York its main base for so many years.



Croft Castle is located north of Kingsland, off the B4362. 9 miles south of Ludlow, on the B4361-B4362.

**CROFT FAMILY**  
**Lancashire and the Yorkshire Dales**



**Coat of arms on house in Main Street, Stillington, taken before I had it repainted in its correct colours**



Esse Quam Videri = To be rather than to seem.

Left hand side is the coat of arms of Harry Croft

Right hand side is coat of arms of his wife Elizabeth Charlton of Apsley Castle in Shropshire.

They married in 1822

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First, mention must be made of the **Crofts of Hereford**. A very useful summary of this family can be found on the internet. [www.ukheritage.net/castles/croft.htm](http://www.ukheritage.net/castles/croft.htm). This Croft family goes back to pre conquest days when the Normans were coming into the country peacefully. It has been conjectured that the **Crofts of Claughton**, Lancashire stemmed from this family and in turn the Claughton branch are linked to the **Crofts of East Witton and also of East Appleton and Catterick (Kirklington)**, all of which are in close proximity in the Yorkshire Dales.

The **Crofts of Stillington** most definitely stemmed from East Witton. The above coat of arms depicting Croft and Charlton families' arms is now on the wall of a house in Main Street, Stillington. Previously, it was on the entrance of the Hall. *Elizabeth Charlton was wife of Harry Croft (1775-1853)*. Since this was photographed I have had it painted in its correct colours.

The **Crofts of Kirklington** (Catterick) are mainly known because of Edward Croft, 1604-1678/79, who held Knaresborough Castle for King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> in August 1645. *See separate family tree, page 7.*

As mentioned later Roger Croft of Kirklington appears on the administration Bond for Anthony Baynbridge of Coverham who died in **1622**. Similarly in **1622** Roger Croft of Kirklington, and, Christopher Croft of Cotescue Park (Coverham) entered into a Bond with Peter Atkinson of Temple Dowsker. *(These last two bits of information were supplied to me by Marion Moverley of Richmond)*

I have collected a large amount of information about the **Crofts of Claughton, Yealands and Dalton**. This goes back to 1170 with mention of a Roger de Croft in the Records of Kendale but, it finishes about 1678 with the mention of a Gabriel Croft who in 1678 was Patron of Claughton Church. *See page 4 and separate family tree, page 5.*

#### **CROFTS - PLUMBERS & GLAZIERS**

Whilst researching the Croft Family of Cottescue, Patrick Brompton, York, Stillington, etc. I kept coming across a family called Croft who were Plumbers and Glaziers. Around the 1550 -1650 period both families were in York and were being baptised, married and buried at St Denys in Walmgate. A number of them were stated as being from East Witton. This caused me much confusion, hopefully I have been able to separate them.

#### **Crofts of Claughton**

(Richmondshire some 5 miles North of Lancaster on the A683)

There was a Croft family in Claughton in Lancashire (now part of Cumbria, previously part of Richmondshire, Yorkshire) and I have been given a photograph of their coat of arms carved on the church tower at that village. Family graves are in the churchyard.



Mention of a Roger de Croft is made in the *Records of Kendale* in 1170. According to the book "*Three Days of Wenslydale*" A Roger Croft, of Dalton, county of Lancaster, died in 1254, in the 39 year of the reign of Henry III. The book goes on to say "From him descended John Croft of Dalton, who died in 1346, and Henry. The great grandson of Henry, William Croft, married Isolda, daughter and co-heiress of Robert de Conyers, by Alice, sole heir of Adam de Yealand, which Robert's mother was heiress of Adam de Redmayne, by his wife Ellen, daughter and sole heir of Adam de Avranches, Lord of Leighton in Lonsdale, in Lancashire, by which means the united estates of these families passed to Croft". "William Croft was succeeded by his younger son, John, whose eldest son Adam predeceased him, so the estates devolved on the latter's son John, who was at that time an infant. His great-grandson, James Croft, of Dalton, Esq, married the co-heiress of – Butler, of Frekleton, and by her had issue, two daughters, Mabel and Alison-the first married Piers Legh, of Lyne, in Cheshire-the second to John Middleton of Middleton in Westmoreland; thus terminated the senior line of the Crofts of Dalton and Yealands, towards the close of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Of the junior branches, one had become seated in the adjacent North Riding of York. William Croft of East Witton, died 1536, leaving William who died in 1590. His son, Henry Croft of East Witton died in 1613, leaving several sons. From him derive in lineal succession, the Crofts of East Witton, who still reside there, as substantial yeomen. Christopher Croft of Cottescue Park, was father of Sir Christopher, who being Lord Mayor of York who received King Charles I, during the rebellion, and was knighted by him for his services. He was progenitor of the Crofts of Stillington ....."

Of the **East Appleton branch**, was Captain Edward Croft another cavalier, who, in 1644, defended Knaresborough castle for the King, and lies buried at Catterick, together with his wife, a Stanley, of Cumberland.

From the Croft family of Wood Hall descend George Croft of Richmond who had three sons, George (b. 1789), John (b. 1791) and Christopher (b. 1793). Christopher (1793) was a Richmond, wine merchant. The Rev John Croft (born 1791) was Vicar of Catterick. Finally George (b. 1789) who had sons - John Godfrey Croft, (born 1835) Magistrate, and Alderman of Richmond and Importer of Wines and Spirits. Christopher George Croft, (born 1841) Solicitor, who has thrice filled the post of Mayor of Richmond (North Yorks), and Thomas Charles Henry. Croft (born 1831) also a clergyman.

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(In the *History of Richmondshire (History of Lonsdale- Cloughton)*. there is mention of Roger son of Henry de Croft of Dalton in Kendale in 1306. Also of a Sir John Croft (1298-1364) marrying a Margaret circa 1330 at Cloughton. They had a daughter in about 1360 also called Margaret.

See also pages 303 to 305 of the above *History of Richmondshire* as this lists the Croft family of Dalton and Yealands. I have endeavoured to put this down in "tree" format, (also see attached) but it is not easy as the narrative is difficult to follow.

Nicholas Crofte, Died about 1457. He was Patron of Cloughton from 1427 to 1437. (*As was Edward Croft in 1628 and Gabriel Croft in 1678*). Nicholas (of Dalton) in turn married Ellen and they had a son, James Croft (of Dalton) who married Ellen le Botiller of Marton in 1435 a daughter of.....Boteiller (Butler) of Frekleton. James and Ellen had two daughters Mabel and Alison. Mabel Croft married Piers Legh of Lyme in Cheshire and Alison Croft married Geoffrey Middleton of Middleton Hall, Kirby Lonsdale, in 1438. Patronage of the Chantry Chapel of St, Marys founded by the Crofts in 15<sup>th</sup> century went to the Middleton family along with Leighton Hall, by the marriage of Alison Croft with Geoffrey Middleton.

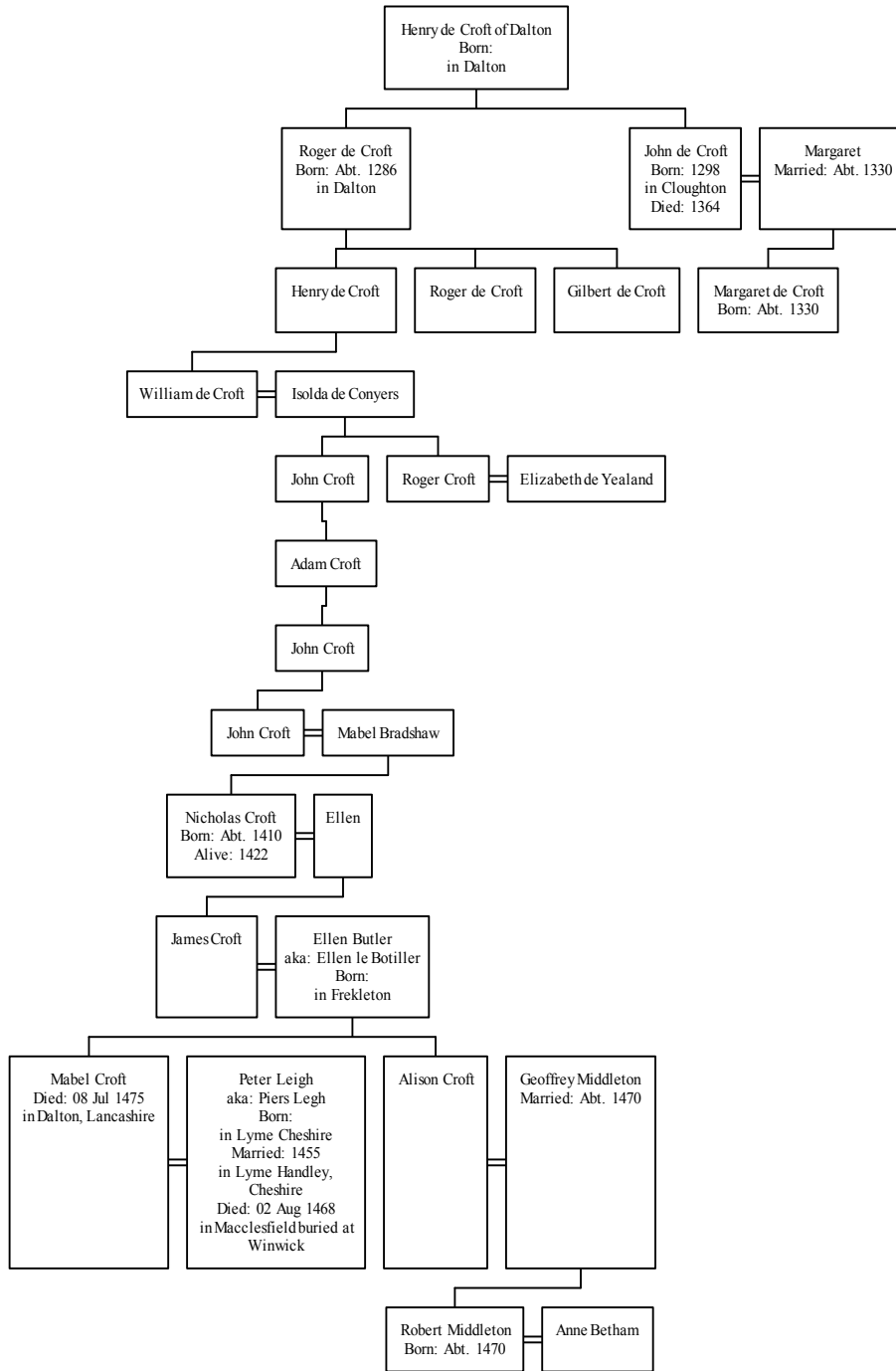
In 1489, Sir Robert Middleton (son of Alison and Geoffrey), was assigned Yealand Conyers following his father's marriage into the family of the then owners, the Crofts.

I believe that Piers Legh is also Peeter Lee – see below.

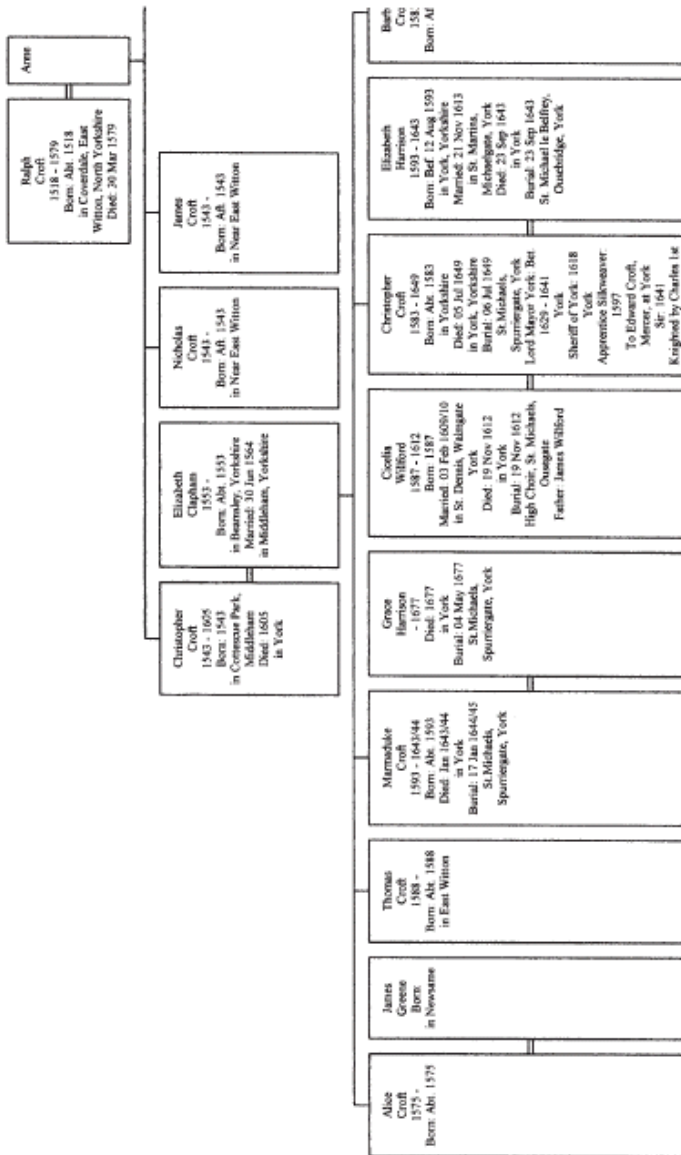
Mention is made of "Peeter Lee, Esq. maryed Mabel, one of the daughters of James Crofts, Kt. (of Cloughton) By whom he had inheritance of the Manor of Dalton, and ye presentation of ye parsonage of Cloughton alternis vicibus. He dyed at Maccesfield ye second of August 1468, and was buried at Winwick. His wife Mabel dyed after him at Dalton. Ano' Dom. 1475. (*Whitaker's History of Richmondshire pps 244 to 246 and pps 303 to 305*).

On page 53 of Dugdales Visitation of Yorkshire, Maud Wastneys married a John Mountney of Rotherham, he died in 1573. And she later married Ralph Croft of Ecclesfield. He was buried at Macclesfield on 31.3.1599.

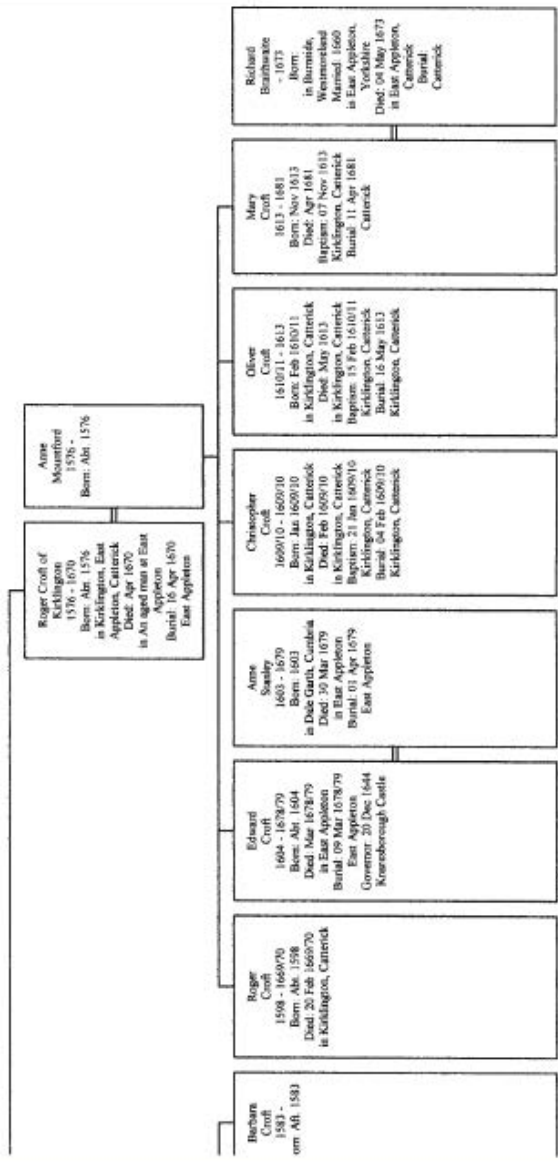
*Descendants of Henry de Croft of Dalton*



*Descendants of*



*of Ralph Croft (see page 11)*



In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries the Crofts were lords of a third part of the manor of Claughton (St. Chad), some seven miles from Lancaster on the road to Hornby, and in the reign of Henry V 1411.: Simon Croft appears to have held the whole manor. Claughton Hall was in possession of Sir W. Croft at the time of Charles 1, of whose cause he was a firm supporter. (*British History, Online*) In Dugdales Visitation of Yorkshire, page 100, John Gascoigne married a Maude Arthington at Adwick on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1554, they had a daughter born circa 1556 called Mary who married a William Crofts of Claughton.

An Edward Croft was Patron in 1628 of Claughton Church and Gabriel Croft was Patron in 1678. Gabriell (born 30.10.1642? son of Henry Croft, (Henry born about 1614) who married Isabell Townson in 1675 at Caton (*Claughton*) is recorded as being father of Henry Croft, Henry being Christened on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1680. I have the will of William Croft of Claughton 1657. A Mary Croft is recorded as being baptised at Claughton on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1710. She was daughter of Henry Croft and Martha Chunoke who were married in 1698 (Claughton).

*Note made 29<sup>th</sup> August 2007- Since I wrote the above there has been published on the Web, Parish Registers for Caton, part of Claughton. This records many Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the Croft Family, for the period 1596 to 1715*

About 1587. In A History of Yorkshire North Riding P 173, when discussing Danby Wiske, near Northallerton –"In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the families of Conyers and Croft shared an estate here sometimes called a manor or half manor".

I accept that I cannot prove that the Crofts of Claughton and Cottescue near Middleham are related but it is believed to be. Also if one looks at the family tree of the Crofts of Kirklington (East Appleton near Catterick) drawn up by Beckwith one will see the connection between Cumbria and North Yorkshire viz; Mary Croft who died 11<sup>th</sup> April 1681, buried at Caterick (*see tree, page 7*) married Richard Braithwaite of Burnshide in Westmorland and Edward Croft of East Appleton, her brother, who died 9<sup>th</sup> March 1679 aged 85 married Ann, eldest daughter of Stanley of Dale Garth, Co. Cumb(erland), she died shortly after her husband on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1679 aged 76. Thomas Croft was witness to the Will of Edward Stanley, Lord Monteagle (born circa 1460) Will proved 25.8.1524.

In the Minster Library York there is a book called, Memoirs of Croft Family, London 1841 by Nicholas Carlisle. On page 30. when discussing Thomas Croft (bapt'd 22.12.1619 at St. Michael's Ousebridge –married 26.5.1640...) son of (Sir) Christopher Croft, Lord Mayor of York, Carlisle tries to prove a link with the Crofts of Claughton Lancashire and those of Yorkshire. Carlisle states "that in an Inquisition taken in 1598 that William Crofte and Richard Assheton, (*see reference below to Richard Assheton*) claiming by purchase from Lord Mounteagle, were defendants in a suit, concerning the Capital Messuage called Clayton Hall and Lynne Water in Lancashire.

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(Sir) Christopher Croft married (in 1610) Cecily daughter of Sir James Willford (Prebendary of Stillington born circa 1561). This James Willford had married Elizabeth Ashenden, daughter of the above Richard Assheton.

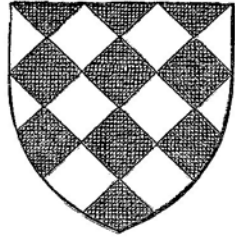
**Crofts of Cottescue Park, (near Middleham)** ( also East Appleton, East Witton and their connection with York)

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>, Roger Croft of Appleton was bow-bearer of the Royal Forest of Wensleydale, a singular office as that the holder cannot hunt himself, but has power either to authorise or prohibit, according to his pleasure, all others.

In Dugdales Visitation of Yorkshire (pages 53,100,269,335,448), mention is made of the Crofts e.g on page 448, Margery Topham of Agglethorpe (par Coverham) married Christopher Croft of Coverham. She might have been born around **1585-90** (*mention of this is made below*), her two brothers Henry and Francis dying/killed during the civil war in 1644. She was daughter of Edmund or Edward Topham and Ann Scroop. Margery was, in **1640**, a recusant (Quarter Sessions).

In 1593, in an indenture between the Earl of Essex, Master of the Horse, and others, respecting a grant of Cotescue Park, there is a reservation of summer and winter pastureage, and pasture gates of the said Park for “all Deer and wild Beasts”, kept by Christopher, Thomas and Ralph Croft, at the yearly rent of 66s.8d. according to their letters patent, dated 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1585.

The ancient arms are Lozengy (*Diamond*) (sometimes fusilly, *elongated diamonds*) argent (*silver or white*) and sable (*black*); as they once appeared in the Croft Chapel of Claughton Church, and in Walton Church, both in Lancashire and likewise in Catterick Church. The Stillington family have, however, since the time of Charles 11. adopted quarterly, indented, erminois (*black fur tails on gold*) and gules (*red*), in the first quarter, a lion rampant, sable. The crest (*three dimensional device mounted on the helmet*) is usually borne alike by all -a wyvern (*large scaly monster like a dragon*), vulned (*wounded*) in the side proper-being a memorial of Isolda de Conyers, and the worm or fiery serpent which the champion Conyers slew.



CROFT,  
Bowbearer of Wensleydale Forest.  
Temp. Eliz.

The church registers for Coverham that have been retained only start around 1700 and do not list any Crofts. Those buried at Middleham came from East Witton. In the Church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda, at Middleham, the Chancel Clerestory Windows commemorate members of the Croft Family of **Herefordshire**, once standard bearers to King Richard 111.

About the time of Charles 1, the Croft Family appears to have possessed no fewer than seven manor houses in this immediate district, viz., Cottescue Park, the King's Audit House, Middleham, Agglethorpe Hall, East Appleton, Arrathorne, the mansion at Coverham, and Croft Wood Hall, besides two mansions at the two Wittons, East and West. (*History and Topography of York, Whellan Voll page 417*).

### **Croft Coat of Arms in Church window at Coverham**



A Ralph Croft senior appraised the inventory of William Croft of East Witton in 1590, but this may be a completely different person to the **1603** Ralph Croft who appeared on a Manor Court Roll for Carlton. He was also a tenant at Bradley, leased the two mills at Ulshaw and Middleham and the Audit's House in Middleham for 6s 8d p.a.

In **December 1622** there was a bond made between Peter Atkinson of Temple Dowskarr and Christopher Croft of Cotescue Park and Roger Croft of Kirklington. Also in **1622** Roger Croft of Kirklington appears on the Administration Bond for Anthony Baynbrigge of Coverham who died in that year.

In the registers of the church at the adjacent village of East Witton there is mention on many occasions of Crofts baptisms, marriages and burials. Christian names of Thomas, Christopher, Marmaduke appear from 1664 onwards. However where an occupation is given it is fairly menial such as shoemaker or farmer. Even more evidence is given of the Crofts of Coverdale and the surrounding area, below.

It is interesting to note that in the late 1600's the name of Croft (of East Witton) appears in the church registers of St.Dennis in Walmgate York. A number of the Crofts of Stillington were baptised at St. Dennis in Walmgate.

### Croft of Masham

Whilst accompanying Andrew Jones (author of Croft, researcher for Croft Wines) to the Brynwen Jones Library of the University of Hull, in 2005, he showed me an interesting entry in the Account ledger of 1663 for the Thompson family of York and Oporto, Portugal, referring to the

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sale of wines to *Mr. Chris Croft of Massam* . This covered a period of six months between May and November 1663 when the Henry Thompson wine business sold Chris. Croft 250 gallons of French Wine. Andrew Jones felt that this Christopher Croft was a member of the Croft family who went into the wine business with the Thompsons, the two families inter marrying. He maybe right. I have researched the Crofts of Massam (Masham) and whilst I have found a Christopher Croft in the Massam Parish Church Registers, I have been unable to prove a family connection to those of Cottesque Park, East Witton nearby nor of York.

John Croft was Baron Croft of Doddington Kent and Cowling Hall near Bedale, Yorks ( see 1881 Census). The history of this man is given later in this article, but it shows that the Crofts retained their family links (in this case to the Dodsworth family of Bedale) in that area of the Dales.

I have been given an article from a book called "The House of Croft" which concludes that the Hereford and Dalton (Claughton) families could be connected as are the Crofts of Doddington and the Suffolk Crofts. These last two families, definitely stemming from the Stillington Crofts. As can be seen from the family tree that I have made, the Crofts of Aldborough, Yorkshire also stemmed from the Stillington family, The Rev. Robert Nicholas Croft lived there.

The Crofts of Hereford, Stillington in Yorkshire, Doddington in Kent and Aldborough Yorkshire all share the same Motto *Esse Quam Videre – (to be, rather than to seem)*.

*It is at this stage that I wish to make my (Grahame Richardson) guess as to the connection between the Herefordshire and the Stillington Crofts. According to "A history of Yorkshire North Riding, page 218 when commenting on Cotescue Park "The office of Keeper was committed to Henry Pudsey in 1486 and to Ambrose his son with the forestership of half Coverdale Forest in 1520, when two of the king's grooms of the pantry and livery were appointed, no doubt as purveyors for the royal table, palers of Cotescue and other parks and bow-bearers of Bishopsdale and Coverdale. Ambrose Pudsey was succeeded in 1522 by Sir John Neville, whose offices were granted in 1526 to George Lawson for the maintenance of the garrison at Berwick, and assigned in 1536-37 to Ralph Croft.*

*If one then studies Burke's Peerage for Croft, Bt. of Croft Castle, page 714 one sees that "Sir James Croft of Croft Herefordshire became Governor of Berwick in 1560 and that both James in particular and his father Edward were very powerful and influential persons. Could it be that they influenced King Henry viii to have this assignment to a junior member of the family viz: Ralph Croft.*

**Now back to the Crofts of Yorkshire (East Witton/York/Stillington)**

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**Ralph(e) Croft circa 1518-30.3. 1579 and wife Anne of East Witton**

The earliest record that I can find of the Crofts of Stillington is of Ralph Croft (circa 1518-1579) of East Witton (*see Yorkshire Life December 1964 also photo of the Coat of Arms of the Croft Family in Coverdale church nearby*).

In **1536-37** when the forestership of half of the forest of Coverdale was assigned to him. (See Herefordshire Crofts). Then in **1539** at West Witton – Penhill Park "a moiety of this park was leased by the Crown to Ralph Croft" (*A History of North Riding of Yorkshire Page 287*).

He and Anne had four children (Christopher 1543, Nicholas, James, and Roger (of Kirklington) born about 1576).

In **1547** Ralph leased 190 acres of land previously owned by the monks at Coverham. (*see later*).

In **1563** Ralph Crofte and Anne his wife paid an entry fine for 2 messuages, a water mill with land and free fishing on the Cover from Humphrey and Cecelia Orme (YAS RS vol XLV111). In **1563** James Croft was beneficiary in the will of James Clapham of East Witton. On 30<sup>th</sup> June **1564** Christopher Croft of Cotescue Park married Elizabeth Clapham at Middleham. In **1565** (Yorkshire Fines) James Croft had transferred to him by Humphrey Orme and his wife Cecilia, 20 messuages and 10 cottages with lands and a fishery in the Cour in Couham, Cawberge, Barthwaite, Aglethorpe and Midleham. In **1597** (Easter Term Yorkshire Fines) Edward Croft had transferred to him, messuage and lands at West Witton by Thomas Preston & his wife Margery Croft and others. In **1579** probate admin was granted in respect of Ralphe Crofte of Cotescue Park.

In **1545** Ralph was granted the grange at Hunton (Patrick Brompton) near to Coverdale and Ralph in turn settled it on his son **Christopher in 1570** (*all these references to Ralph have been obtained from "A History of Yorkshire North Riding"*) Christopher Croft and Elizabeth his wife and Thomas Crofte gent and his wife Jane conveyed it to Marmaduke Wylde of Hunton in **1621**.

*(Yorkshire Stuart Fines 1617 Michaelmas Term, 15 JAS 1 Page 92, Yorkshire Archeological Society)*

**Ralph** Croft, Francis Bainbridge and others were said in **1575** to be the owners of Coverham. **Ralph Croft being succeeded by a son Christopher**, who had a **son Thomas**, owner of the mill in **1610**. Another Christopher died seized of the "site", precincts and mill in January **1630-31**, leaving a son and heir Thomas, but Thomas had livery of only one third of the site (*In 1597 and 1602 Henry Horner and others conveyed tenements here to Christopher Croft with warrant against the heirs of Thomas Ripley. Ripley having obtained them from Robert Beckwith.*)

In **1583/84** the manor of Melmerby (in Coverdale) had been granted by **Christopher Croft, his wife Elizabeth and Nicholas Croft his younger brother** to Edward Topham of Agglethorpe. (As stated all the above taken from A History of Yorkshire North Riding). (*It will be recalled that mention is made on page 16 of an Edward Topham marrying a Margery Croft around this time*). (See family tree for Christopher, Elizabeth, Nicholas, and James Croft).

In **1624-1626** Elizabeth, wife of Christopher Croft of "Scotescue", a gentleman, was listed at the Quarter Session as a recusant (Catholic). As mentioned above a Mr. Christopher Croft of Coverham married the Margery, daughter of Edward or Edmund Topham and Ann Scoop who had Agglethorpe. There is not a date for the marriage but by **1640** Margery wife of Christopher Croft, gent of Coverham was at the Quarter Sessions noted as a recusant.

Before leaving East Witton, I give below an extract from “Three Days of Wensleydale” written by W.G.M.Jones Barker Esq. in 1854, pages 120/121. “Formerly was a market town, having in the 35<sup>th</sup> (reign) of Edward 1 (1306) received a charter for a market every Monday, and a fair on Martinmas Day (11<sup>th</sup> November). There were also hirings for servants. All have long fallen into desuetude, but two fairs annually are still maintained. The **existing church** is quite modern, having been built by the late Earl of Ailesbury, in 1809, in honour of George 111, entering on the fiftieth year of his reign. . . . . The commodious **old church, (of St. Martin’s down a small lane off the Green)**, of earlier date than Jerveaux Abbey itself, was ruthlessly levelled. The churchyard of St.Martin’s, is, however, still used by the old families as a burial place, as it has been for at least seven hundred years (ie since about 1150). It is sadly neglected, and the remaining tombs are frequently broken and defaced. Trees cover the spot where the church stood. **Several of the ancient lines of CROFT, Errington, Purchas, Ayscough, and Barker lie here-stone coffins have often been found.** There now a hamlet called Lowthorpe leads from East Witton to St. Martin’s”

### **Christopher (1543 to 1605).**

Christopher was son of Raphe (1518-1579) and Anne above. On 30th June 1564 at Middleham this Christopher married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. (William) Clapham of Beamsley, whose family goes back to about 1100. As far as I can ascertain they had five children (Alice 1575, Thomas 1588, Marmaduke 1593, Christopher 1583, Barbara 1585, all these dates are approximate). That Christopher in turn was father of (Sir) Christopher see below (*According to Sandra Wood, in her book Swaledale No3 ISBN 09512626 3 7 2 "Margaret, daughter of John Fitz Randolph (b.1474) of Spennithorne married John **Burgh**. Their son was Peter of Hawkswell. A later **Francis de Burgh** (will 1601) mentioned sisters Anne, Margaret Durham (and son Robert) and Dorothy and also a brother William, a cousin Christopher Crofte of Coteskew Park and a goddaughter, Barbara Crofte. Henry Scrope of Danby and Sir Thomas Plewes were also mentioned."*).

In the History and Topography of York by Whellan page 415 it is said "In **1547** such of the lands (of Coverham Abbey) as had been occupied by the monks, amounting to 190 and a half acres, was leased to Ralph Croft for £13.19s.10d. In 1557 (reign of Philip and Mary) the Royal Commission sold these possessions to Humphrey Orme for £419.15s., being thirty years purchase, at the rent of £13.19s.10d. Since that time the property of the site of the Abbey has been divided amongst different owners. The site and adjoining lands became the property of the Bainbridge family, from whom it passed to the Atkinsons, originally of Newstead in the parish of East Witton, and who were connected with the Bainbridges by both having married into the family of Askwith of Newstead. From the Atkinsons it passed to the Listers, the present possessor (*note by GR. See Edward Croft's Will of 1612, later in this book- he was Alderman of York, Sherff in 1609 and cousin of Christopher Croft of Cottescue Park- in which he mentions Richard Atkinson of Patrick*

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*Brompton, Roger Croft of Kirklington and Christopher Croft of Cottescue Park. The latter two he identifies as cousins).*

In the North Riding Quarter Session Records –Bridge Accounts- page 20 when reporting on Owsay bridge on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1588 the persons reporting were Miles Fawcett, Fr. Burgh, Chr. Crofte, Rob. Loftus. And again on page 21 regarding the same bridge the report was from Fr. Scrope, gent., Chr. Croft, Fr. Topham, and Charles Atkinson Surv'rs.

Wills and Quarter Session Records can be profitable sources of research.

According to Yorkshire Surveys for **1605** page 88 Crofer Crofts, gent. holdeth Cottescue parke (in the parish of Coverham) and payeth yearly rent

£3.6.8d

It containeth 112 acres and is worth yearly £16.16.0d

M(*aintaine*)d. that he held it from Q. Eliz. For 3 lives and afterwards in fee ferme at ye rent

£6.13.4d

(note then says his son Christopher was Lord Mayor of York 1629 and 1641 and was knighted at York by the King on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1641, on which day he entertained His Majesty at dinner NB He was Sheriff in 1618 and was a Mercer). According to the Quarter Sessions Records of Richmond, **January 16, 1626/7** (86) ORDERS made &c. "All matters in dispute between Emott Husband, widow and Ann Spence, both of Middleham, to be referred to the arbitrament of Math. Jobson, Esq., and Chr. Crofte of Scotescue, gent. (*Note by GR "A Thomas Husband-cousin-is mentioned in Edward Croft's will of 1612).*

### **Whenby and Skewsby (just north of Stillington)**

These Manors were inherited in 1569 by Edward Barton at the age of 21 (when he became of age) from the Trustees of his deceased father, Thomas Barton. In 1599 of the Manors of Whenbie and Skewsbye and 3 messuages and 15 cottages with lands in the same, were purchased by Thomas Lassells, esq, Thomas Lamploughe, gent, Christopher Croft, gent and John Wildon, gent. They were purchased from Edward Barton, esq and Thomas Barton, gent, his son and heir apparent. (*see next sheet, from Court Rolls Elizabeth 1*)

Some of these names are interesting in that Christopher Croft married an Elizabeth Barton of Whenby on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1564 (*Family Search web site*). Elizabeth's parents were Thomas Barton (of Whenby) and Barbara Lascelles. (*Family Search web site*)

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In 1639-40 Thomas Crofts (1619-54, son of Christopher) was patron of the church of St. Martin  
(see *North Riding of Yorkshire, Whenby, pages 211-214*)

Above relates to 1599, Court Rolls, Elizabeth 1—purchase of Manors of Whenbye and Skewsby and 3 messuages and 15 cottages with lands in the same, from Edward Barton and his son Thomas Barton. (The Barton family lived in Whenby for some generations both before and after this date).

Thomas Crofts was patron of the church of St. Martin in 1639-1640 (North Riding of Yorkshire, Whenby, pages 211-214)

### The Crofts and the Civil War

Charles 1<sup>st</sup> ruled England for 11 years without calling parliament. This had one drawback. He needed Parliament to pass laws to raise taxes. He had certain income from Customs duties, but these were not adequate. Consequently he fell back onto an ancient right of the King to summon all knights and persons with the qualification of knighthood, to come and meet him, Normally this was used at Coronations and other major events. Fines were levied for those not attending. In the case of Yorkshire he issued a summons on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1626 for them to attend him in London, **before 31<sup>st</sup> January 1626**, which was of course impossible for them to comply with in such a short time.

It took until 29 May 1628 for fines to be assessed. They were set at a low level so that people would pay rather than go to the cost of appealing (Mr. Mauleverer, who did was fined £2000 for his impudence).

A list was made of the people "fined" and the sums due. In Coverham Xpofer Croft was fined £10 and in York Xpofer Croft, Alderman was fined £20.

About the time of Charles 1<sup>st</sup>., the Croft family appears to have possessed no fewer than seven properties in this immediate district viz: Cottescue Park, The King's Audit House, Middleham, Agglethorpe Hall, East Appleton, Arrathorne, the mansion at Coverham and Croft Wood Hall, mansions at the two Wittons, East and West. *The Three Days of Wensleydale by W G M Jones Barker*). The Grange at Hunton, held by the Hospital of St. Leonard, York, since 1240 and was, in 1547, at the time of the dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry V 11<sup>th</sup> granted to Ralph Croft who settled it on his son Christopher in 1570. In 1621, Christopher Croft later conveyed it to Marmaduke Wylde of Hunton. (see-*Victoria History of Yorkshire*)

By 1670 Thomas, Christopher and Edward Croft had sold Coverham Abbey to a William Holdsworth, (*Marion Moverley of Richmond, North Yorkshire*)

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It is appropriate to insert here the contents of documents that I read in York Minster Library regarding the Civil War. I read these in an endeavour to find out which side the Crofts supported. I came to the conclusion that if anything they did not wholeheartedly support the King.

According to *W.Hargrove & Co. Printers, Herald Office, York:-*

“In 1642, he (Sir Christopher Croft), deserted the royal cause, and was appointed under the ordinance of Parliament, for raising forces against the King, and his son Thomas signed the petition at the Deanry, York against his Majesty’s having a guard of horse, as appears by the parliamentary history, vol ??”.

Therefore reverting back to the book by Nicholas Carlisle (added to by my inspection of the "Presentations from Charles to the people and to him from them)

Charles the 1<sup>st</sup> came to York (where he felt safe) in March 1642, from London and issued a Summons to Yorkshire Gentry to meet him at York on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1642 –there assembled 4000- He was proposing to raise a Guard of Horse in the Country and asked for their support. He received a number of replies.

One party considered to be Republicans met the High Sheriff, Sir Richard Hutton of Goldsborough at the Dean's House. They recommended Charles to throw himself entirely on his Parliament. They said that "he be secure in the general fidelity of your subjects of this County (*note they did not use the word Country*) without any extraordinary Guard”.

The first signature to this was Sir Thomas Fairfax but was also signed by **Thomas Croft, son of “Sir” Christopher.**

The King was none too pleased and replied that "His majestie expects the like affection from you that he doth from the Other Gentlemen and that he hath the same confidence in you that he hath in others.

The other party the "Loyal" party met a day later on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1642 and supported the King wholeheartedly and immediately two hundred young gentlemen of the County of York, voluntarily enlisted themselves in a Troop under the command of the Prince of Wales, his Lieut Col. being Sir Francis Wortley. (*Carlisle says that Thomas Croft signed the Loyal party's response, I think he is mistaken, Thomas Crofts signature is on **the first (Republican)** reply. The Library has a copy of the Loyal reply but the list of signatures is absent*).

**Nowhere is there any mention of Sir Christopher Croft’s views.** However Carlisle describes Thomas Croft as "of Stillington, Head of the Family" This is odd as Sir Christopher Croft was still alive at that time. Although it maybe that Thomas had adopted Stillington as his base and Sir Christopher used York as his.

Thomas Croft was not a supporter of the King. Also I have seen two references to the **effect that Sir Christopher, in 1642, deserted the Royal Cause** (see Pavers Marriage Licences of Yorkshire. Also in The Minster Library – Pedigree of Croft and by Hargrove, it is stated (I have combined the two) "knighted 20<sup>th</sup> November (1641), but in the year 1642, he deserted the Royal cause and was appointed under the ordinance of Parliament, for raising forces against the King. Sir Christopher in fact, died 5<sup>th</sup> July 1649, having just received (7.6.1649) his Coat of Arms from William Ryley, who was an appointee of the Roundheads. He would have been well into his 60's by 1644 and unlikely to have been "a member of a trained band".

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In an obituary of 1910 in the York Herald, to Lucy Mesey-Thompson it is stated that the Crofts were at "attainted" at the Restoration of the Monarchy for aligning themselves with the Commonwealth under Cromwell and lost their title and coat of arms, also the right to the Cross of St. George and the privilege to use the Royal Liveries, granted to Sir Christopher Croft by Charles 1<sup>st</sup>., on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1641. These were regranted in the 1820's to John (Jack) Croft when he was granted his knighthood for his work in the Peninsular wars and were confirmed by William IV. in the 1830's. Not however the use of the Royal Liveries. This was restricted to Crimson.

### **Royalist Composition papers 11 YAA (1649-1650) No.281 Page 209**

Christopher Crofts of COTSKEW (Cotecue) *near Middleham* in PAR. of Coverham Gent.

G212 p673 Report – his delinquency (is) that he adhered to the forces raised against Parliament.

He is seized for his life of lands in Coverham being his wife's jointure of the yearly value of 28li

2 June 1649- Jo Readinge

D. Watkins

Fine a sixth 56li 2 June 1649 (G6. P.86)

G212 p 675 3 May 1649 Petition that in 1644 your petitioner being a Captain of one of the trained bands of the County was by command of the gentry unfortunately engaged with the late King's party against Parliament.

G212, p 677 Particular of Estate (as in the Report)

G8, p113 6<sup>th</sup> June 1650 Discharge signed.

*Note: This Christopher is described as gent not as Sir.*

*I believe that this Christopher Croft to be a cousin of Sir Christopher the Lord Mayor of York (see page 8 which shows that the Crofts were still at Witton. However I have to admit that it is confusing and they could be one and the same).*

In regard to the coat of arms used at Stillington and Dodington, Nicholas Carlisle, on page 61 says "Sir Christopher Croft (knighted in 1641) obtained in 1649 an allowance and confirmation of certain arms and crest to him and his descendants under hand and seal of William Ryley, calling himself Norray King of Arms. Immediately after the restitution of King Charles 11, Ryley was called usurper and all his Grants declared null and void. However for many generations the arms had been constantly used by the family but did not appear on record in the College of Arms by reason of Ryley's Grants being null and void. In 1803 certain armorial Ensigns were duly assigned to John Croft of the City of York (great uncle of Sir John Croft of Cowling Hall). Then John Croft of Dodington on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1836 successfully obtained grant of those from the principal King of Arms, Sir William Woods, for use of himself and any descendants of Sir Christopher Croft.

### **Croft of York and Stillington also their entry into the Port trade**

#### **(Sir) Christopher Croft c. 1583 to 1649 and wives Cecilia Willford and Elizabeth Harrison**

This Christopher was son of Christopher Croft, of Cottescue Park Co. York by Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Clapham of Beamsley. Apprenticed to Edward Croft (*his uncle*) about 1597, admitted a Freeman in 1604/5 and into the Merchants Company in the same year (according to Brit Mus. Addit Mss 24473. (Sir) Christopher married Cecelia Willford, daughter of Sir John (or James) Welford. (*Prebendary of Stillington and vicar of Sutton on Forest, nearby.*) at St. Dennis, Walmgate, York on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (or February 1610). The church register is very difficult to read. I believe it to read February, William Paver who wrote his "*Paver's Marriage Licences*" circa 1842 says it was June. Christopher and Cecilia are believed to have had three children, Anne and Elizabeth and Sicily; Cecilia died in 1612. Sir James Willford, Prebendary of Stillington (died in 1605 and is buried under a blue stone in the central aisle of Stillington church). Following Cecilia's death (Sir) Christopher remarried Elizabeth Harrison at St. Martin's Micklegate, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1613. She was daughter of Robert Harrison, Alderman

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of York. From her he had three sons, John, Thomas and Christopher and a daughter named Elizabeth. His wife Elizabeth was buried 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1643, St. Michael's, Ousebridge". (*According to Brit. Mus. Addit Mss 24473*). John, Christopher and Elizabeth died young. Sir Christopher, Knt, was (dealer in foreign silks, velvets etc., Chamberlain 1616, Sheriff 1618-9. Elected alderman 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1625. Vice (taking the place of) Robert Myers dec'd, (22 Sept 1625) then Christopher became Lord Mayor 1629 and 1641. Knighted at York, by King Charles 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1641. On which day he entertained his majesty to dinner at his own house in Ousegate. As mentioned above, in the year 1642 he deserted the Royal cause and was appointed under the ordinance of Parliament, for raising forces against the King. In the same year, Thomas his son, see below, signed a petition at the Deanry, York, against his Majesty's having a guard of horse, as appears by the parliamentary history. He (Sir Christopher) died 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1649, and was buried at St. Michael's, Spurriergate, July 6<sup>th</sup>. In his old age he was afflicted by gout.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 1653, his son Thomas Croft Esq, was granted administration of Sir Christopher's effects (*in fact Thomas failed to as he died soon afterwards in 1654 and it was left to Olive (Dyneley) Croft Thomas' wife to do so*).

Christopher (circa 1543-1605)+ was according to Torr buried under the blue stone in the Chancel aisle of Stillington Church. However he is incorrect as I remembered seeing the following note in the Stillington church register: (one or two words of which cannot now be read)

**STILLINGTON CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS DEANRY OF BULMER**

**TESTAMENTARY BURIALS AT WIGHTON OR WEETON NEAR BEVERLEY (*now known as Rowley Church where Robert Nicholas Croft was minister in 1787-1831 and was Prebendary of Stillington 1801-1831 It may well be he who was instrumental in having the following written in the church register*)**

**On the Inscription Plate on the large Grey Marble in the Chancel.**

**John\*/James Willford Pre: of Stillington ..... Worshipful Place applied himself with like zeal to the Study & Profession of Divine Wisdom, in which being enriched with great Maturity of Knowledge he imparted the same to the People by such Assiduities in preaching, and exemplified in himself is ..... Holiness of it, that he merited in the Highest World the Promised Reward and Glory. Here rests his Body, his Soul was translated hence 26th March, 1605 in the 52nd year of his Age, leaving behind him his sorrowful Wife Elizabeth, Daughter of Richard Ashenden Esq, and five children by her, John & James and Jane & Cicely\*\* & Catharine.**

\*The entry in the Register says John but the York Minster list of Prebendaries of Stillington gives the name James and the same date of death.

\*\* Sir Chistopher Croft (1583-1649) married Cicely Willforde on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1610 at St. Dennis, Walmgate, York

+This said Christopher was in turn father of Sir Christopher Croft (1583-5<sup>th</sup> July 1649). I now believe that Christopher Croft (circa 1543-1605) to be buried at Coverdale Church, a few hundred yards from his home at Cottescue Park, but have no means of proving it.

**Croft, Marmaduke (1593-1644)**

Mercer. Chamberlain 1626, Sheriff 1638-39. Buried at St. Michael's, Spurriergate 17<sup>th</sup> January 1643/44. Son of Christopher Croft 1543-1605, thereby making him brother of Sir Christopher Croft 1583-1649) Admitted a Freeman in 1621 and into the Merchants Company the following

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year. Married Grace (*Harrison*), sister of the above mentioned Lady Elizabeth Croft. She was buried at St. Michaels 4<sup>th</sup> May 1677.

### **Thomas Croft (1619-1654)**

May have been the first Croft to be based in Stillington rather than York but it is interesting to note that Sir Christopher Croft his father had married Cicelia Willford in York on 3.6.1610. Cecelia died 1612, having only produced daughters and on 21.11.1613 Christopher married again to Elizabeth Harrison in York. Thomas, born 1619 was their son. In 1649 This Thomas was granted Administration of (his father's estate) ie Sir Christopher. He did nothing until June 1653 when he again was granted Administration of Sir Christopher's Estate. Thomas was then described as **son**. Unfortunately Thomas died in 1654 and it was left to Olive (Dyneley) relict of Thomas to apply for Administration of Sir Christopher Crofts estate in 1655. "Olive Crofte, the mother of Faithe and Elizabeth who were the grandchildren of Sir Christopher. The effects being unadministered by Thomas Crofte Esquire, deceased, son of Christopher".

Olive was sole daughter of John Dyneley, Esq. of Bramhope, by Olave his wife, daughter of John Ackeroyd, Esq. of Foggathorpe, East Yorkshire. She was an heiress and a ward in Chancery, as appears by letters patent 4<sup>th</sup> Charles 1, for Olave sole daughter and heir of John Dyneley, Esq. to marry Thomas, sole heir of Sir Christopher Croft, Knt. (N.B. This was the last grant, when the court of wards was abolished, vide Thorseby's Leeds, page 554). It seems it was a match of alliance, by the articles of marriage, agreed on by Sir Christopher Croft, and Sir Thomas Proctor, Esq., of Newall, her guardian, signed the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1640, as they were both under age; the estate at Stillington, houses, lands, &c. with her own estates at Duggleby, Ribston, Kirk Deighton, &c. were settled as her jointure: he (Thomas) survived his father, Sir Christopher, seven years, and was buried near his parents, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1654, at St. Michael's Ousebridge end, in the high choir. His widow survived him 17 years, and was buried at St. Michael's aforesaid, near her husband; she resided in St. Saviourgate, York, as appears by the book of parish rates, and her payment of the tax of hearth money. She carried on a chancery suit with her uncle Robert Dyneley and his wife Olave, for many years, till at length the cause was put to arbitration, and in consequence of the award Robert Dyneley had Bramhope.

This Olive seems to have been a tough old bird as I have seen (and have a photocopy of ) an other ancient locally written book which implies that she took control of and had written down all the lands and rights of the Crofts at Stillington.

Thomas and Olive had five children Faith, Elizabeth, 1641, John, 1642, Thomas, 1643 and Christopher, 1645-1648.

**1650 April 18 Thirsk** Vol V Page 51, Tho. Croft, Esq., of Stillington, being much money in arrear to Wm. Fletcher, late Constable, for assis, and refusing to pay, if he refuses to make payment upon demand the next J.P. to take him bound etc.,

**1650. July Malton** Vol V Page 55. A warrant to attach the person of Thos. Croft, Esq of Stillington to carry him before the next J.P. to be bound etc., for refusing to pay arrears of assis due to Wm Fletcher for the tyme he was Constable; (207). No further mention so Thomas must have paid up.

### **Croft ownership of Property at Stillington**

In a deposition dated Easter 1649 (5<sup>th</sup> April 1649) addressed to the Commissioners for keeping the Great Seal of England, (*High Court of Chancery*), Thomas Croft stated that:

**On 2-(27<sup>th</sup>?) April 1625, the then Prebendary of Stillington, one Philip Ford, the owner of the freehold of Stillington Manor and Rectory, granted a lease of that property to Christopher Croft, mercer and in 1641 –knight. The lease was for a period of years equal to the longest liver of him,**

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**viz:-Thomas Croft and Christopher Croft son of Raiph Croft of Leeds and James Loftus son of James of East Witton (near Middleham) for a yearly rent. (probably £52 p.a. as mentioned in a later deed and Act of Parliament of 1753)**

Sir Christopher Croft then (*in all probability in 1646*) according to Thomas Croft's deposition, appointed Robert Hemsworth, Thomas Proctor and Raiph Croft trustees of the lease for a period of years equal to the longest liver of Thomas Croft, Christopher Croft son of Raiph Croft of Leeds and James Loftus the younger, to the use of Thomas Croft son of him Sir Christopher.

Thomas Croft states that the Lease is free from paying any tithes.

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George Leake, the vicar of Stillington (*appointed vicar by the House of Lords on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1646*) states in his deposition also dated Easter 1649 (20<sup>th</sup> April 1649):

**That** for many years Tythes have been paid to the vicar of the day, by then Alderman (*later Sir*) Christopher Croft. The vicars being Stephen Berrier, Robert Hod(g)son and Francis Beaumont.

**That** on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1632(1631), the then Vicar, Stephen Berrier granted to John Pepper and Marmaduke Croft (Uncles to Thomas Croft), his Tythes of Wool and Lamb etc within the Manor of Stillington, which was then in the occupation of Sir Christopher Croft, for an annual rent of £6..6s..8d. George Leake said that such tythes had been payable since the time of Prebend Thomas Corbridge and Vicar Thomas Burton (*note by GR. This must be wrong as Corbridge lived in 1280 and Thomas Burton in 1520*)

**That** Sir Christopher Croft had in 1631 compounded with Vicar Stephen Berrier to pay £5 in lieu of paying the tythes in kind.

**That** Thomas Croft has not paid the tithe for years 1646 and 1647.

**That** on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1644 and again on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1647, two Justices of the Peace ordered Thomas Croft to pay £10 being the commuted amount of two years tythes plus 20 shillings costs. Finally signed by Magistrates Sir Richard Darley and Mr. George Marwood on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1648.

Thomas Croft did pay into Court the £11 albeit after the due date.

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The above depositions were submitted as a result of Thomas Croft applying to the Commissioners on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1648/9. This document of application is repeated almost word for word by his above Deposition. The Commissioners (in a document written in Latin) then appointed 4 named men to adjudicate within a fortnight after Easter.

The above information was garnered from National Archives Kew Document Ref C 10/1/23

### **PROBABLE OUTCOME**

I have been unable to find the "Judgement" However a Terrier (*list of physical assets*) for the church of Stillington dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1778 lists:

"A composition of £5 a year payable from Stephen Croft Esq at Michaelmas in lieu of small tythes from the Prebend Lands". Therefore one can assume that as the Vicar was still receiving this sum 129 years later.

So George Leake must have won his case.

#### **Later**

**On 4<sup>th</sup> June 1753 the Crofts finally obtained ownership of the Freehold of the Manor from the Prebendary of the time, the Rev Richard Lovett (excluding the Vicarage). This was by Act of Parliament. See detail later in this Book,**

### **John Croft (1641/42-1677)**

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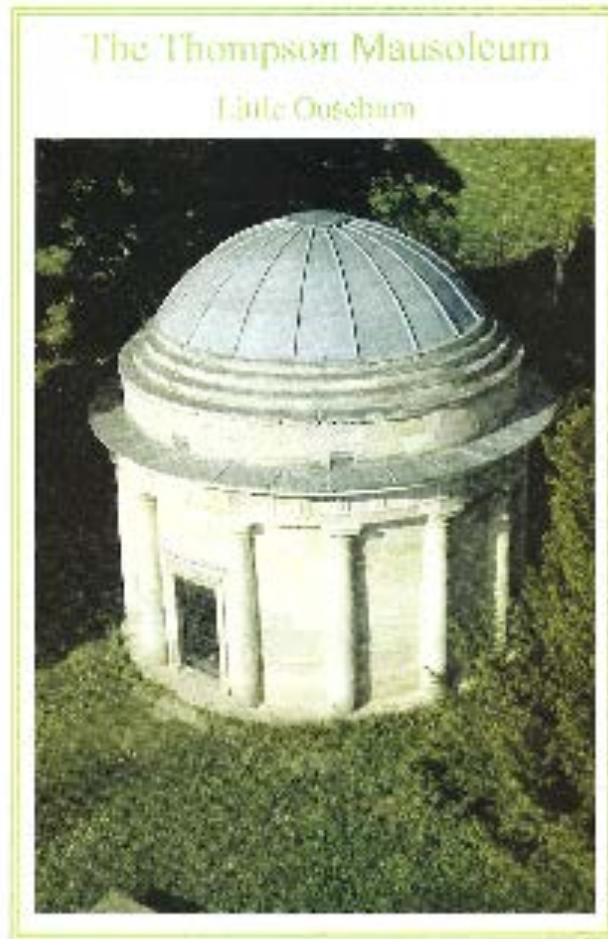
John, the 2nd son of Thomas and Olive, succeeded his father; he married Ann, the 2nd daughter of Lionel Copley, Esq of Wadsworth, Yorkshire, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1672/73. By the marriage articles drawn up her dower was fifteen hundred pounds, to be paid in 3 equal payments of £500 each, the last at the end of 3 years, provided she or any issue of her body was alive at the time. The estate at Stillington with the houses in Upper Ousegate, and at Monk Bar, &c. were settled as her jointure+. Sir Godfrey Copley, Bart. and his father, Thomas Croft, were sponsors to the contract; the issue of the marriage was Olave, a daughter, only, who died at the end of 2 years, in June 1675. (as per *W. Hargrove and Co.*). + A provision for a wife after the death of her husband.

### **Thomas Croft (1643-1711), brother of the above John**

Thomas who succeeded to his brother's estate, was educated and brought up as a merchant at Hull, in 1681 he married Frances, the 2nd daughter of Sir Stephen Thompson of York. Her dower was £2000, and by her marriage articles, both Stillington and Duggleby were settled as her jointure. Her father Henry Thompson settled half the manor of Kir(k)by Hall and numerous properties there. (*Meysay Thompson Munuments Keele University Nos 1142-1143 in 1682-1685*). The issue of this marriage were 6 sons and 4 daughters. (Mary 1682, Stephen 1683, Olive 1684, Thomas 1686, Christopher 1687, Frances 1689, Nancy 1692, Charles 1693, John 1694, Edward 1696). He immediately began to purchase land, increasing his estate around Stillington but also purchasing 12 Messuages (houses) and 323 Acres in Purston Jackling, Featherstone and Darrington in 3 acquisitions costing £3040. (East Riding Archives ref DDSE (2) 38/5. Thomas died suddenly in 1711, of gout in the stomach\* and his widow retired to York, and dwelt in Micklegate. She survived her husband some 27 years, and was buried near to him in the chancel of the church at Stillington. (*Hargrove*). This marriage into the Thompson family greatly strengthened the fortunes of the Croft family, giving them an entrée into the Portuguese wine trade, in which many succeeding generations of Crofts had their living from as will be seen later in this article. There were 8 intermarriages between the Thompsons and Crofts and a number of the Croft family were buried in the Thompson family Mausoleum in Little Ouseburn, near Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire.

Thomas had made a will on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1705. By this, he requested that he be buried in the church at Stillington and then gave his son, Stephen, (sole executor), the Manor of Stillington, Nawton, Wombleton and Langtoft also his property at Crake and Easingwold, property at Wharram le Street, his house at Pontefract and Land at Purston Jackling (near Pontefract), also all household goods in Stillington and half his silver plate. He gave his two sons John and Edward £600 each with an income each of £20 until they became 23 years. When they became 16 years they could choose their own jobs. His daughter Nancy was to have £1000 upon her (approved) marriage, with £20 p.a. until she became 16 yrs and then £10 p.a. more until marriage. He gave his wife, for life, his house at Swineland and the land belonging to it ( At Featherstone or Pontefract) and his house in Pontefract. She also was given all household goods at his house in Monkbar, York, half his silver plate and his coach and horses and gold watch. On 13<sup>th</sup> February 1710, shortly before his death, Thomas wrote a codicil to the will, whereby he said that he had, since the writing of his will, made gifts to his two sons Thomas and Christopher of their share of his estate, but then gave Thomas £100 and Christopher £10. He gave Nancy a further £200 upon her marriage. Finally he gave Olive, his daughter, £40 p.a. to when she married and then the sum of £700. \*Possibly a blocked prostrate + East Riding Archives DDHB/24/75

Buried here are :-  
Elizabeth Croft 1714-1753  
Thomas Croft 1717-1783  
Elizabeth Anne Croft 1818-1910





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## Elizabeth Anderson

### Stephen Croft (1683-1733)

Stephen (born 14.11.1683) was the eldest son of the above Thomas and succeeded him. Stephen married Elizabeth Anderson (born about 1685), daughter of Sir Edmund Anderson Bart. of Bedford-row, London at the Savoy about 1711; her dowry was five thousand pounds, and four hundred pounds per annum settled as her jointure by the marriage articles. As she was in the entail of the Anderson estate, and her brother, Sir Edmund was not in good health, there was a great chance of her being heiress to it. It was some time before Stephen obtained her mother, Lady Anderson's consent. Details of property transferred by Sir Edmund to Stephen as part of the dowry were substantial. (see East Riding Archives DDAN/168 et al) Anderson Family of Burnby. They owned a large acreage of land as far as the East Yorkshire coast and also in Lincolnshire. This pattern of planned or arranged marriages to improve the finances and social prestige of the family can be seen running through many generations.

After the marriage in London he set off in a high style, and in the country kept racehorses, hounds, &c. and unluckily embarked in the South Sea scheme, as did many landed gentry, whereby the estate was very much involved. There was very little provision for younger children. He died of a pleurisy, after being overheated with walking. He had studied law at Cambridge, and after was admitted at Grey's Inn, to qualify him for a justice of the peace, as was usual for gentlemen formerly, from whence he married. He was a patriot and a staunch Whig. On the contested election of Kay Wentworth, &c. he had nearly been killed by the mob, and narrowly escaped, in Castlegate, York, into the Robin Hood Inn there. (*Hargrove*).

In a very brief will dated 15.1.1733 he left £3000 in total to his five younger children Thomas, Christopher, John, Elizabeth and Margaret, to be paid for out of his Property at Stillington, which he left to his eldest son Stephen. He must have retained or transferred to his son Stephen (1712/1798) some of the properties as that son was still entering into Deeds relating to them in 1794 and by his son Stephen (1744/1813) in 1811

After his death, Elizabeth his widow and Stephen his son entered into an Indenture, whereby for 5 shillings each they "sold" for a term of **one year** all his property, except the Manor and Prebend of Stillington and its appurtenances to a Thomas Newsome of Southampton Buildings in London and William Bigge of Chancery Lane, London. The list of property covered 12 pages and included, the Manor of Duggelby, land at Little Ribston (both near Malton). Property at Winksley Woodhouse (near Pontefract), Kirk Deighton, near York, Monk Bar and Audwarke, in the City of York. Land at Craike, Wharram le Street, Featherstone, Pontefract and Purston Jacklin near Pontefract. This, according to Christopher Webb, senior archivist of the Borthwick Institute, was a device to break the entail (succession) of the property. It was drawn up on 21.10.1735 but not finalised until 25.10.1752. (*See East Riding Archives at Beverley DDHB 24/76 and later in this book*)

### Thomas (1686-1727)

Thomas, (born 26.8.1686) the second son of the above Thomas and at one time was a merchant at Konisberg Ducal, Prussia and during the plague there, escaping the infection by the use of tobacco. It was presumably he who on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1718 was a co-signature of a petition by the English Merchants at Oporto to the King of Portugal complaining about an Order prohibiting the holding of religious meetings. (*Oporto Old and Newby, page 52 by C. Sellers*) He returned to

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London where he lived in such a style, that reduced his circumstances. He then retired in obscurity to Easingwold, near Stillington, and was unluckily killed by a bull. It is said that he was a man of abilities, with a good person and address, and had such influence at court that after his return from a visit to his uncle, Richard Thompson, at Oporto, he obtained the privilege of a chapel for the factory, at Oporto, of public worship, which before was granted only to the minister at Lisbon, as per treaty (*Hargrove*).

### **Christopher Croft (1687-1737)**

Christopher, the third son, (born 28.10.1687), of Thomas and Frances was brought up an attorney, and dwelt at Malton. He married (17.10.1710) Mary, second daughter of Nathaniel Harrison of Malton, whose dowry was £3000. The only issue of the marriage was a son named Nathaniel Harrison Croft, he died aged 7 years. Had he lived to 21 years he would have inherited the Harrison's estate and had it been inserted heirs in the will, instead of heir, the estate would have descended to the Croft family. Christopher retired to Stillington, and lived on his estate, where he built a house, which some time later became an inn, the White Bear, and died there on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1737. When he and his wife were at variance, one day, he gave her his shirt to air, she sewed up the neck and wristband, and when he attempted to put it on, she flogged him with a horse whip; on which they parted, and she returned to Malton where she died. (*Hargrove*). *He made his nephew Stephen Croft 1712-1798 his executor and sole heir.*

### **John Croft (1694-1762)**

John, the fourth son, (born 10<sup>th</sup> October 1694) of Thomas and Frances was sent as a youth to Oporto and his uncle R. Thompson settled him in the wine trade, at Viana (to the North of Oporto, on the coast), where he acquired a fortune, the principal of which he left to his nephew Stephen, the eldest son of his brother Stephen. (*Hargrove*). In 1736, Richard Thompson made him a Partner in the Thompson wine firm.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Andrew Jones e-mailed me to say "Last Thursday in the Archives of the Real Companhia Velha (Old Royal Company) a surprise hit me in the eye. It was a written record of John Croft 1 paying customs duty for Port wine in 1717 "

**Charles Croft (1693-97)** Charles the fifth son lived for only a few years.

**Edward Croft (1696-1721)** Edward, the sixth son of Thomas (1643-1711) and Frances, married Elizabeth Brewton and that is all that I know about him.

### **Stephen Croft (1712-1798)**

Stephen, the first son of Stephen Croft (1683-1733) was also sent over to Viana to work for his uncle, John. He acquitted himself with such propriety that his other uncle, Richard Thompson, settled (*see end of this section on Stephen Croft*) him in his house of trade at Oporto. Stephen married (c1733) Henrietta, (1712-1772) the niece of Richard Thompson. They had six children, all bar the last born in Oporto. (Henrietta 1738, Lucy 1741, Frances 1743, Stephen 1744, John Richard 1746, Robert Nicholas – born York 1754). As he was assiduous, with success in trade, he acquired a fortune, and retired to England in 1745, some seven years later with his family. He lived at Stillington until his eldest son, Stephen was married in 1764, when he retired to York and died there in 1798. (*Hargrove*)

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 1753 By Act of Parliament he exchanged lands at Duggleby for the Prebend of Stillington (excluding the Vicarage, the Prebend house in the precincts of York Minster and Nawton, Wombleton and Langton)

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*Extract from Laurence Sterne, The Early and Middle Years. By Arthur H. Cash, published by Methuen*

“At Stillington Sterne had two gentry families to consort with or to deal with. There was William Stainforth, Esq., of obscure history, presumably the brother and heir of a well-to-do widow, Frances Faceby. *(He helped Stephen Croft change the course of the town road to avoid it being too close to the Hall)* *(In Stillington Church there is a wall tablet to Jane, wife of William Stainforth, died 23.11.1775, age 56. She was Eldest daughter of John Hamilton Esq and Jane, Co-heiress of Sir William Banaster, Knight. William Stainforth died 11<sup>th</sup> June 1782 aged 78 years)*. Far more important to Sterne was the squire, Stephen Croft. "At Stillington the family of the Crofts shewed us every kindness", he commented in the "Memoirs". " 'Twas most truly agreeable to be within a mile and a half of an amiable family, who were ever cordial friends." Stephen Croft had returned to his estates only shortly before Sterne got the Stillington living (1745) . He had been abroad learning the family wine-importing business, established a century

before. Sir Christopher Croft, the ancestor who had purchased the Stillington estate, was Lord Mayor of York 1629 and 1641, had been a contemporary of Sterne's ancestor, Sir Roger Jaques, and like Sir Roger he had been knighted by Charles 1. Stephen from the age of twenty-one, was the sixth Croft squire at Stillington. *( In 1649 the Parliamentary Trustees for the sale of the lands belonging to the Dean and Chapter of York sold the manor to George Gill of Leeds; he in the same year, sold it to Christopher Croft. The rights to the Manor of Stillington were acquired by Mr. John Tatham on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1894 from Harry Croft – They were then transferred to the Ware family (solicitors in York) They are now (April 2012) held by Jeremy J. Ware, a retired solicitor living in Brant Broughton near to Newark, Nottinghamshire.*

Christopher and his ancestors held the lease of the prebendal estates and rectoral rights. He was, of course, a partner in the wine business.

Although Stephen Croft is remembered today primarily as Sterne's friend, he was a man of affairs in his own time, he took an active part in Rockingham's later organisation of northern Whigs and in the Yorkshire Association (for parliamentary reform) organised by the Reverend Christopher Wyville. His son-in-law, Nathaniel Cholmley, jokingly called him "the King's Walking Conversible Confidential Friend". His father, also Stephen, had been one of the founders of the York Assembly rooms, and Stephen was elected a director in 1752, a post which later fell to his son another Stephen.

The Croft Family were considered to be the highest sort of eighteenth century landed gentry – people of taste, prudent, reserved, but kind and hospitable. .... Stephen Croft's mother who lived with him, was the daughter of Sir Edmund Anderson Bart., Broughton, Lincolnshire. Stephen's wife was Henrietta, daughter of Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall. During the years that Sterne was their neighbour, they completely rebuilt Stillington Hall, which stood at the east edge of the village, looking down a gentle slope and across the Foss, turning it into one of the finest Georgian houses in the north, with many luxurious rooms finished with exquisite plasterwork. The plasterwork was done circa 1857, at that time a portico and conservatory were added.

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Stephen Croft with others was instrumental in getting the 1767 Inclosure Act passed for Stillington parish. For the years 1769 to his death he attended the Court of the Manor of Acomb.

A copy of a “Pedigree of Croft, of Stillington Park” was given to me in August 2010 by Glennys Dalby a descendant of Robert Nicholas Croft (1754-1831). In this Tree was written against the name of Stephen Croft (1712-1798) was the following:- “Fine levied in Court of Pleas at Durham 1<sup>st</sup> April 1789, between Stephen Croft and Timothy Mortimer, plaintiffs, Robert Croft and Elizabeth, his wife, deforciant. (Robert Croft would have been Stephen’s son). I have made enquiries at Durham University, Palace Green, Durham and at the National Archives at Kew, quoting reference DURH 12/38/1, court of pleas feet of fines for 1788/89. Unfortunately without hiring the services of a searcher at Kew they have not been able to help. It is very unusual for a dispute between father and son to reach court and it would be interesting to read what it was all about. In 1750 Stephen acquired the Manor of Farlington. (see British History on Line).

I have in my possession a copy of the following:-

*Partnership Agreement Meysey Thompson Muniment, Keele University-Part of Raymond Richards Collection*

*Business in Portugal MT1152 dated 1739- Articles of Agreement*

1. Benjamin Tilden, formerly of Oporto, Portugal, now of London, Merchant
  2. Richard Thompson, now of Oporto, Merchant.
  3. John Thompson of Oporto.
  4. Stephen Croft of Oporto, Merchant
- House and business in Oporto.*

*The business also was involved in shipping- Stephen Thompson having a share in one-eighth in ships “Prince of Wales” and “The Bromley” ref MT 1153-1154 years 1754-56*

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*A Reynolds portrait of Stephen Croft was sold at Christie's, 13 May 1948. & photographed by Christie's in 1948 before sale. See photograph at the NPG: negative No.5074. Later in 1787 it was etched in reverse by C. Carter & published in London, on 1.10.1787. –See Page 33.*

*Next portrait is of Stephen's young son Stephen (1744-1813) held at National Portrait Gallery NSW, Sydney, Australia.*

**Joshua Reynolds**

(England 16 Jul 1723 – 23 Feb 1792)

Title

Stephen Croft, Junior

Other titles:

Lieutenant Stephen Croft

Year

1760

Media category

[Painting](#)

Materials used

oil on canvas

Dimensions

76.2 x 63.5 cm; frame 95.5 x 82.0 x 7 cm

Signature & date

Not signed. Not dated.

Credit

Purchased 1965

Accession number

OB1.1966

Location

[15th–19th c European art](#)

REPRODUCTION REQUESTS





ABOUT THIS PAINTING

# Mrs Elizabeth Thompson, née Croft of Stillington (d.1753)

by **Jacopo Amigoni**



Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 63.5 cm

Collection: York Museums Trust

## Where to see this painting?

Not all paintings are on display. If you want to see a particular painting, please contact the collection

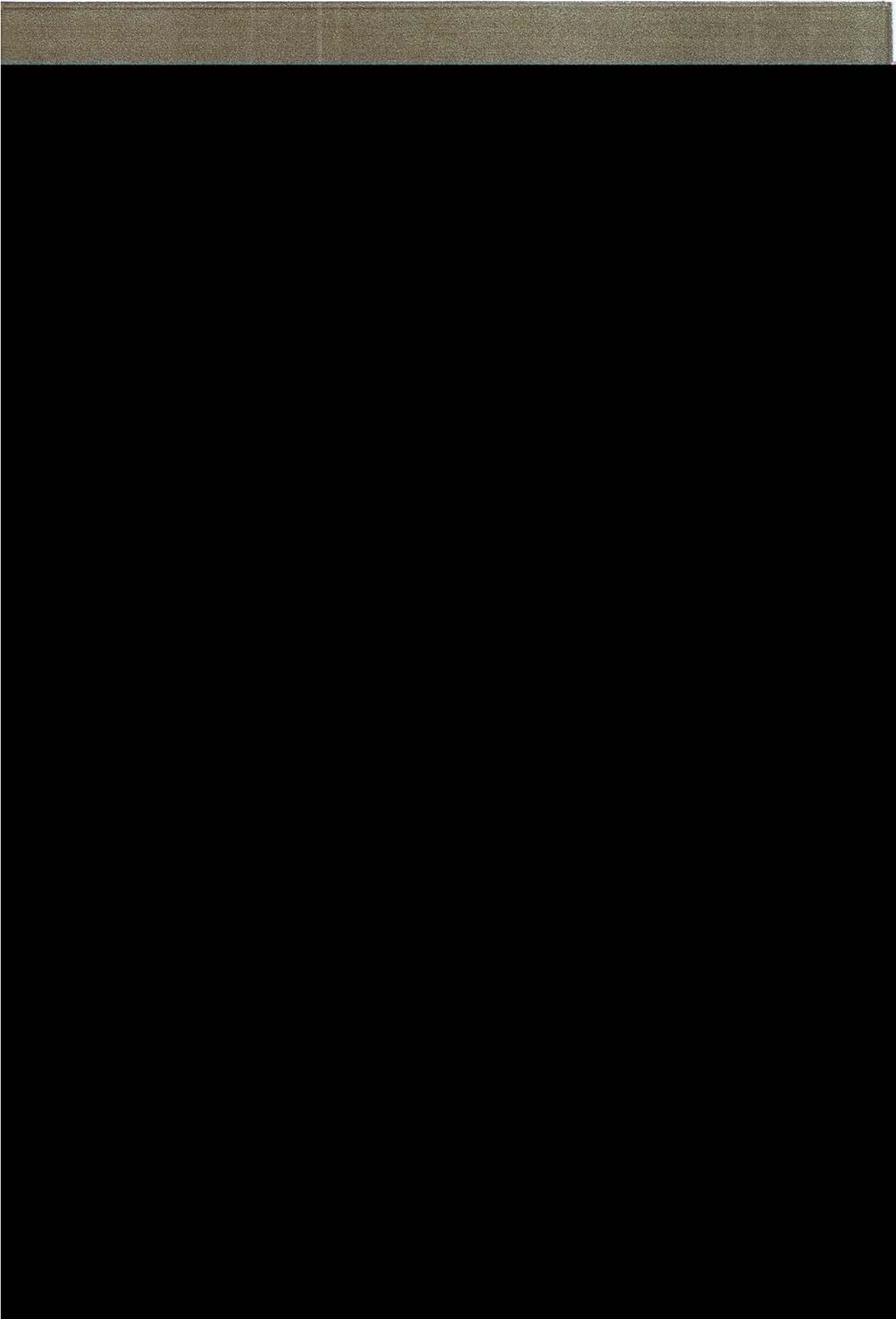
## More on this painting

- > Additional information
- Print a copy of this painting









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**Elizabeth Croft (1714-1753)**

Elizabeth Croft, the eldest daughter, of Stephen (1683-1733) married yet another Thompson, John Thompson (1701-1777) of Kirby Hall. They were married in Oporto in 1737 and there were six children of this marriage, all born there. (Mary 1739, Elizabeth 1740, Catherine 1742, Harriet and Joseph 1744, and Henry 1745). (*Hargrove*)

**William Croft (1715-1716)**

William, the second son of Stephen and Elizabeth lived just less than one year

**Thomas Croft (1717-1783)**

Thomas, the third son of Stephen Croft (1683-1733) and Elizabeth Anderson was a merchant at Oporto. He married\* Lucy Thompson (1725-1757) at St. Helens London in 1749, she being the 11<sup>th</sup> child of Henry and Catherine Thompson of Kirby Hall, Little Ouseburn. He retired to London as agent for the Wine House there; he died at Chester, and his remains were interred in the family vault of the Thompson's at Kirby Hall near his first wife. His second wife was Hariott Dawson (1733-1761). They were married at Oporto in the British Factory Chaplaincy there. They had two children Thomas (1758) who was educated at Eton 1765-73 and Harriett (1759-1808), both of whom were born in Oporto. (*Hargrove*). Harriet married on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1804 at St. Pancras Church, to the Rev Francis Dodsworth, Clerk (in Holy Orders) of Dodington Kent and a Prebendary of York Minster. \* See Settlement upon the marriage of Frances, daughter of Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall, & Thomas Croft of Oporto, Portugal, Merchant, one of the parties being Richard Thompson of Oporto, Merchant. Keele University Meysey Thompson Muniments, Part of Raymond Richards collection. Mt 1151 1749.

**Christopher Croft (1720-1788)**

Christopher, the fourth son of Stephen Croft (1683-1733) was also a merchant in Oporto and was born there. As far as I can ascertain, he did not marry. He left Portugal and went to London, where he commenced as an insurer. Although he won five thousand pounds on a lottery ticket, he lost it by underwriting and died at York, still a bachelor, and was buried at Stillington. (*Hargrove*)

**Margaret Croft (1724-1785)**

Margaret, the second daughter of (Stephen Croft 1683-1733), died at York a spinster at the age of 61 years of smallpox and was buried at Stillington near to her mother. (*Hargrove of York Herald*) *Her Will is included towards the end of this book.*

**John Croft (1732- 1820) of Stillington**

John was the fifth son of Stephen (1683-1733) and Elizabeth. He was an acquaintance of Laurence Sterne and at a young age John was sent out to Portugal to attend the family's Port interests. He wrote a Treatise on the Wines of Portugal, which at one time was regarded as the best guide and this helped to promote the Croft name. He returned to York and busied himself on historical matters particularly relating to Shakespeare and Antiquaries. He is buried in York Minster. I have written in greater detail on John, see later; he was quite a character.

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**John Croft (1752-1805) son of Thomas Croft and Lucy Thompson**

John was born in Portugal, and was said to be a much loved character. Educated at Eton 1763-1764. He was a partner out there in the Croft/Thompson wine business from 1777 to 1800, retiring to England because of bad health. He married Henrietta Maria Tunstall at the Quinta Espirito Santo. The Tunstall family was directly descended from King Edward 1. The service was conducted by Mr. W.E. Page the Chaplin to the Factory, in the presence of John Thompson and Joseph Dixon. The wedding was held at the Quinta because the British were not permitted to have their own church. When John returned to England because of his bad health, Henrietta stayed out there until their younger son Frederick, born in 1781 in Portugal was old enough to take over. In his will, written in Portugal and dated 1799, John Croft made both his sons (John and Frederick) partners of the wine business. John did not take up his share of the partnership and by 1811 Frederick was the sole trading partner. *(Details supplied by Andrew Jones)*

**John Croft (1778-1862), (Son of John Croft 1752-1805 and Grandson of Thomas Croft 1717-1783),**

He was born out in Oporto, he set up a net work of spies in Spain and Portugal, in the years 1810 –1812 to spy on Napoleon's armies. He risked his life to obtain necessary intelligence for the Duke of Wellington. He was later made responsible for the distribution of the British Government Grant of £100,000 for the relief of the Portuguese people. He was made Baronet of Cowling Hall, Yorks and Doddington Place, Sittingbourne, Kent in 1818, also as a Portuguese commoner he was

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made 1st Baron da Serra da Estrella in Portugal, was Hon. Charge d'Affairs Lisbon 1815, Kt. of the Tower and Sword Portugal.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1816 John Croft married Amelia Warre (1783-1819) at St. Georges Church, Hanover Square, London. They went to live in Cowling Hall near Bedale. Francis Dodsworth had married Harriet Croft (she was half-aunt to John Croft) and one of Francis' relatives Dr. Frederick Dodsworth D.D. promised John Croft the Manor of Cowling Hall. However on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1819 Frederick Dodsworth wrote to John Croft withdrawing that promise and substituted the Manor of Doddington in Kent, in its place. On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1819 Amelia died in childbirth at Cowling Hall and was buried at Thornton Watlass. John Croft then had his two daughters (Henrietta born 1817 and Elizabeth, born 1818) baptised at Thornton Watlass on 9<sup>th</sup> November and then that same month returned to Portugal. In 1821, John Croft inherited the estates at Doddington and moved there. In July 1827 he married Anne Knox Ratcliffe and had two further children John Frederick (b.1828) and Marianne (b.1832). John Croft died 5<sup>th</sup> February 1862.

*Andrew Jones has written at considerable length on this man's career.*

Elizabeth Ann Croft (born 1818) married Harry Stephen Thompson (b. Kirby Hall 1822) on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1843. It is remarkable that this is the eighth intermarriage between the Croft and Thompson families. Elizabeth Ann's story of her life is given later in this article and it is an interesting insight into the life of the landed gentry at that time. It will be seen that her marriage to Harry Stephen Thompson was arranged when she was a very young girl and she accepted this.

### **John Frederick Croft (1828-1904)**

He was son of the above Sir John and married Emma Graham, in 1856. She was daughter of John Graham of Skelmorlie, Ayrshire. In 1820, Sir John and his brother William commenced at Oporto the Port business of Graham, which is as well known as that of Croft. John Frederick, pulled down the old house at Doddington, Kent and in the grounds of the old property he built a new mansion, known as Doddington Place. He played the role of a sleeping partner in the Portuguese business. He sired 15 children and was obviously otherwise occupied.

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*The present Sir John Croft, Bart.  
(From a Painting taken when he was at Eton).*

### **John Radcliffe Croft (1857-1903)**

He also was a sleeping partner of the wine business, and fancied himself an inventor, speculating the family money on his inventions.

### **Frederick Leigh Croft (1860-1930)**

The second son of Sir John Frederick Croft. After he left school he went to work for Douglas Graham's in India with his elder brother, John. He became General Manager of the Karachi branch at 32 years of age (1892) and had a great influence over his employee, Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, who greatly admired him. I believe that Croft never married. In due course he returned to England, living in St. Leonard's on Sea, where he died in 1930.

### **Francis Edgar Croft (1861-1910)**

The fourth son of the above Sir John Frederick Croft, was appointed a partner in the House of Croft in Oporto in 1890 and became Croft Porto Managing Director in 1904. Later he returned to London where he was appointed Managing Director, dying at the early age of 49 years. In 1897 when on a visit out to Portugal, Francis and Cecil Page swam ashore from the ship on arrival at Leixoes. (*Oporto older and newer by Gerald Cobb*)

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*Mr. Francis Croft.*

**Percy Hutton Croft (1872-1935)**

He was 5<sup>th</sup> son of Sir John Frederick Croft and also worked in the family business in London until his death in 1935. In 1911 there was a cologne created for him called Douro Eau de Portugal. Sold in 2012 by Penhaligon in King's Rd. S.W.3

**William Graham Croft (1862-1928)**

He was 6<sup>th</sup> son of Sir John Frederick Croft and also worked in the family business in London. He retired in 1911 on the sale of the business to Gilbeys

**Stephen Croft (1744-1813)**

Stephen the eldest son of the above Stephen (1712-1798) was born in Oporto. He married Francis Clarke (1743-1817) of Askham Bryan (near York) in 1764 and they had 12 children (Elizabeth 1765, Henrietta 1766, Sarah 1767, Frances 1770, Maria 1771, Lucy Anne 1773, Stephen 1774, Harry 1775, Frederick 1777, William 1782, Charles 1783, and Samuel 1785). He was educated for the army and at the age of sixteen entered as a cornet in the Scots Greys, he changed to other

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regiments, and was on duty at Minorca and was in great danger on board ship off there. He was a captain in the Queen's 2<sup>nd</sup> regiment of Dragoon Guards, and in 1769 he quitted the army, after nine years service. (*Hargrove*). In 1780 Stephen Croft is listed as liable to pay tax on seven manservants at Stillington.

Francis Clarke brought land at Askham Bryan with her when she married Stephen. At the time of his death in 1813 Stephen's will showed that he held just under 700 acres there.

**Robert Nicholas Croft (1754-1831)** Robert was third son of Stephen Croft (1712-1798). He was born in York and made quite a name for himself in the Church Ministry in York. He was educated at Eton (1764-1772) and then at Peterhouse, Cambridge (1776). He was vicar of Hornsea, Canon Residentary of York. Preb. Of Botevant, York (1784-1801). Prebendary of Stillington (1801-1831). Rector of Rowley, near Beverley and vicar of Hutton Buscell, near Scarborough (1787-1831). He married Elizabeth, daughter of George Wanley Bowes on Aug 28 1778 and died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1831 aged 76 at Canterbury at the house of his son James who was then Archdeacon of Canterbury, James, having married Charlotte Manners Sutton, the daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury (Charles Manners Sutton Archbishop 1805-1828). (*Andrew Jones in his notes mentions that "A Croft Shipping Ledger has an appropriate entry- October 16<sup>th</sup> 1821 one pipe of Superior Old Port £50 on the Harriet, Captain Horswell, to his Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury"*). His (Robert) signature appears on many property Deeds as Prebendary of Stillington (ie an officer of York Minster Cathedral appointed to administer certain areas of Yorkshire, in his case Stillington, Farlington, Nawton, Duggelby etc) see some of these in the back of my printed book.

It would appear that relationships between Robert and his father Stephen (1712-1796) and Stephen's direct descendants, were strained (see above notes on Stephen). This seems to have continued to at least 1824 when Robert was endeavouring to obtain the signature of Harry Croft (1775-1853), the grandson of the above Stephen, on a document which Harry was refusing to do. I have the copy of correspondence between Robert Croft and a George Barlow of May 1824 when Robert was endeavouring to get George Barlow to act as an intermediary.

Robert's wife **Elizabeth Wanley Bowes (1761-1841)** had with her sisters Anne and Margaret, inherited substantial estates in Northumberland and Durham, from their father George Wanley Bowes. Elizabeth's great-uncle Matthew Hutton (1692-1758) was Archbishop of Canterbury. Not many families can claim to have had two Archbishops of Canterbury. The names Hutton, Bowes and Manners are continued as first names within the family up to today.

### **James Croft (1784-1869)**

James was 5<sup>th</sup> child of Robert Nicholas Croft (1754-1831). He was born at the Rectory in Saltwood, Kent on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1784 and educated at Eton. He was ordained Deacon of York in 1809 and priest in 1810. He was Rector of Ingoldsmell, Lincs 1810-1812, Rector of Saltwood, Kent 1812-1819, Rector of Great Chart 1814 ultimately becoming Prebendary of Canterbury in 1822. He married Charlotte Manners-Sutton the daughter of Charles Manners-Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1812 and had 8 children. The first of these was Mary Elizabeth Croft (1813-1836) who married the Rev G.B. Moore, grandson of John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury for the years 1783-1805. The second child was Robert Manners Croft (1814-1860), who was father of

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George Bowes Hutton Croft (1857-1937). There was also Charlotte (b,1816), Georgina (1817), Anna Bella (b, 1819), Percy James (1820-1885). Anna Maria (1821), Cecilia Fanny (1823), Henry Herbert Stephen (1828) and Emily (1830).

**Thomas Hutton Croft (1797-1873)**

Thomas was the 7<sup>th</sup> son of Robert Nicholas Croft (1754-1831). He was born at Rowley near Beverley on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1797 and was Baptised there on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1798. He was educated at Eton. He went on to Trinity College and was Prebendary of Stillington (1822) and of Hutton Buscell 1827. He was Prebendary of York 1831 and Rural Dean of Aldborough Hall. Which he bought in 1859. A Justice of the Peace. He was Canon of York and Chaplain to the High Sheriff. He preached three sermons in York Minster before the Right Honourable judges at the Spring, Summer and Winter Assizes. He married Eliza Mary, daughter of Richard Thompson of Kirby Hall, Little Ouseburn, Yorks in Sept 1828. He died at Scarborough on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1873 and buried at Aldborough. He had one son George Arthur Hutton Croft who was born on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1829 at Aldborough Hall.



Thomas Hutton Croft 1797-1873

**George Arthur Hutton Croft (1829-1889)**

Only son of Thomas Hutton Croft Eliza Mary Thompson. He was a J.P. and a Lieut in the Yorkshire Hussars. He married Catherine Mary Richards on 12,2,1867 and had two children

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Sydney Hilda Hutton Croft (5.1.1873–16.7.1930) and Bernard Thomas Hutton Croft (18.1.1883-post 1957).

**Sydney Hilda Hutton Croft (1873-1930)**

Born 5.1.1873 and died 16.7.1930. Daughter of George Arthur Hutton Croft and Eliza Mary Thompson. She married twice, first to George Philip du Plat Taylor on 23.1.1896. He died 16.7.1926 and she then married Eric Richard Thesiger on 3.10.1929. She did not have any issue.

**Bernard Thomas Hutton Croft (1883- after 1957)**

He was born at Aldborough Hall on 18.1.1883. Son of George Arthur Hutton Croft and Eliza Mary Thompson. He was educated at Eton and was Lt. in the Grenadier Guards. He was a J.P. (1910) in the West Riding of Yorkshire. He married Vera Howard Vincent on 28.1.1928, There were no children.

**Stephen Croft (1774-1788)** Stephen was the eldest son of Stephen (1744-1813) and Frances. He died young and little is known of him.

**Harry Croft (1775-1853)**

Harry Croft was the second son of Stephen (1744-1813) and Frances. He went to Eton School 1787-92. He was a major in the Inniskilling, a regiment of cavalry. He married Elizabeth Charlton of Apsley Castle in Shropshire and they had four children (Elizabeth 1823, Louisa 1824, Harry 1825 and Stephen 1827). When he died his will mentioned that he had made provision for his married daughter Louisa upon her marriage to Ralph Creyke of Rawcliffe, near Goole. He left £2000 to both his daughter, Elizabeth Catherine and his son Stephen, the personal effects in Stillington Hall to his wife together with his carriages and carriage horses and the balance of the estate to his son Harry, provided he lived to age 25 years. I have a copy of his letter, to Lord Milton (Wentworth) dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 1830 thanking him for his services to the country. After his death she went to live in Brighton and I believe died in Montgomery in April 1867.

On the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1846, his home at Stillington was broken into by his ex butler William Hempsall (1809-59) who stole gold to the value of £200, a cheque for £170, an air-gun and other articles. (The Times 15<sup>th</sup> March 1847 Page 7 Issue 19497 Col F)

*Harry Croft (1775-1853)*



Zoom



*Elizabeth (Charlton) Croft*

### **William Croft (1782-1872)**

William was the fourth son of Stephen (1744-1813) and Frances. He had a remarkable career at sea becoming a rear admiral. I have written at some length about him, see later.

### **Samuel Croft (1785-1813)**

Samuel the sixth son of Stephen (1744-1813) and Frances, was sent to India on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1809, to serve in the East India Company's service. He was appointed a cornet in the second regiment of Native Cavalry on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1812. He was killed by a fall from his horse plunging among some cattle, when on parade at Calcutta, opposite his own house on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1813.

By his will made 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1813 Stephen, father of Samuel, gave the boy an annuity of £200 a year provided Samuel continued to reside in India, in the employ of the East India Company and until he became entitled to a pension.. Upon his death his estate should benefit by the sum of £1000 to follow the wishes of Samuel's will. These terms seem harsh, presumably the father felt he had good reason to impose them.

### **Elizabeth Catherine Croft (1823-1897)**

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Elizabeth Catherine never married. She lived in York most of her life. Her father Harry Croft (1775-1853) left her £2000. She must have acquired monies from other sources as she left £10,486 net on her death. She looked after her nephew Stephen (1862-19??) in his younger years when he lived in York, prior to emigrating to California. When she died she owned and lived at Monmouth House, The Mount, York. She left £2000 to her niece Lucy, wife of William Holroyd Mills and £2000 to her other niece Frances Croft, both daughters of her brother Stephen Croft. She left £2000 to Stephen Croft her nephew and £400 to his son Gerald Stephen Goddard Croft. She also gifted Louisa Swetenham £100. She being daughter of her late sister Louisa Frances Creyke.

### **Harry Croft (1825-1854)**

Harry was first son of Harry Croft (1775-1854) and Elizabeth Charlton. He was a Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Dragoons. He was drowned in the storm off Balaclava on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1854, when four steam and ten transports and four freighters were sunk. He was on the troop transporter *Rip van Winkle*. Although he had lived beyond the required age of 25 years, set by his father, he had no issue, died intestate and the estate devolved onto his younger brother Stephen. (1827-1871), see below.

### **Stephen Croft (1827-1871)**

Stephen was second son of Harry Croft (1775-1853) and Elizabeth Charlton. He married Fanny Prior on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1859 at St. Pancras, London and they had five children (Harry 1857, Lucy 1859, Fanny 1860, Minnie 1861, and Stephen 1862). He was a captain in the 68<sup>th</sup> Foot (later the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry). Ensign on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1846, Lieutenant on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1848 and Captain on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1854, in each case by purchase. He served at Inkerman and in the trenches before Sebastopol. On his return from the Crimea, he married Fanny Prior. Until 1859 they lived at No1. New Walk Terrace, Fulford York where the first two of their five children were born and baptised, (Harry 1857 and Lucy 1859). It is interesting to note that Harry and Lucy were both baptised on the same day at Fulford viz: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1859. They then moved into the Hall at Stillington, where their other three children were born and baptised. (Fanny Elizabeth 1860, Minnie 1861 and Stephen 1862). *On 12.9.1872 Fanny certified the Succession Duty Account of her husband Stephen, the real estate passing to Harry, the supposed son of Stephen and herself. I quote from the Certificate "Declaration signed by the said Fanny Croft that was a first and true account of all the succession in real estate and leasehold property of Harry Croft Croft upon the death of the before named Stephen Croft & that the said Harry Croft Croft was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1857 & was a stranger in blood to the said Stephen Croft the Predecessor from whom the said property was derived."* (someone other than I has underlined these words). See later in this book for a more detailed explanation.

When Fanny died on 26.4.1875 she left all she had to Elizabeth Catherine Croft sister of her husband Stephen.

### **Harry Croft 1857-1926**

Harry was the eldest son of Stephen 1827-1871 and Fanny Prior. (But see immediately above).

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On 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 1884 Harry broke the entail of the Stillington Estate by application to the High Court and then became the owner in fee simple of the freehold. This effectively stopped the estate passing to his brother Stephen.

Harry Croft was the last of the line to live in Stillington. Although married, he did not have any children and it may have been this that made him decide to sell the estate in 1888. This consisted of 2,640 Acres of which 593 acres were at Askham Bryan the rest being in or close to Stillington. Only 370 Acres were sold, all being in or around Stillington. The price fetched was £8100 It is interesting to see that he gave his solicitors in York in 1892, power of attorney over all his affairs as he stated in that document that he was to visit India. He sold the estate in 1894 to Rawdon Thornton J.P., who in turn sold it in 1903 to Matthew Liddle.

Harry, married Louisa Gertrude Pallot (b 1873 St. Helier, Jersey) a Blacksmiths daughter, sometime before 1901. In 1901 Harry & Louisa lived in Ilminster Somerset.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1903 Harry vested the ownership of the Village School to 3 Trustees. The village hall had been the village school on the Green which had been built by his grandfather (also Harry Croft). In 1903 Harry was living in Somerset with Louisa & had for some years lived in Jersey. In 1910 he lived at Burton Hall, North Taunton, Devon.

Harry died on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1926 whilst living in Surbiton Surrey and was buried at Stillington. He left £19765 net. After his death Louisa returned to St. Helier, Jersey. She was on the Island when the Germans occupied it in 1940. She made a will in March 1956, leaving all her assets to the Laurie family. (*Testament of Realty for Louisa Gertrude Pallot, Table 467/B, Folio 9 and her Will for Personalty Jersey Ref D/Y/B1/47/13 made 7.3.1956 Probate 13.3.1958*) Percy Douglas Laurie was Centennier for St. Helier in 1941.

### Sale of The Lordship

According to the Court Rolls (at the Borthwick) Harry Croft signed his last document as Lord of the Manor, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1894. The Court was convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1894 and the Lord of the Manor was then John Tatham of 12 George Street, Hanover Square, then of 1 Down Street, Piccadilly, London. Harry Croft having sold him the Lordship on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1894. See below

#### **North Riding of Yorkshire Registry of Deeds Volume 94 Page 97 No. 4**

Copy of an Indenture of Conveyance to be registered on behalf of John Tatham of 1 Dower Street, Piccadilly, London

**Dated** 6<sup>th</sup> July 1894

**Parties** Harry Croft of Stillington Hall in the County of York Esquire of the one part and John Tatham of 12 George Street Hanover Square in the County of London M D of the other part

**Township** Stillington

**Witness** John Tatham Ware Solicitor York *John Tatham*

(Copy Deed)

This Indenture made the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July one thousand eight hundred and ninety four **Between** Harry Croft of Stillington Hall in the County of York Esq of the one part John Tatham of 12 George Street Hanover Square in the County of London MD

Whereas the said Harry Croft being seised of the Manor or Lordship of or reputed Manor or Lordship of Stillington with Nawton and Wumbleton and the Stillington Rectoral Tithes hereinafter described and intended to be assured for all estate of inheritance in fee simple in possession free from incumbrances has contracted and agreed to sell the same to the said John Tatham at the price of eight hundred pounds Now this Indenture witnesseth that in

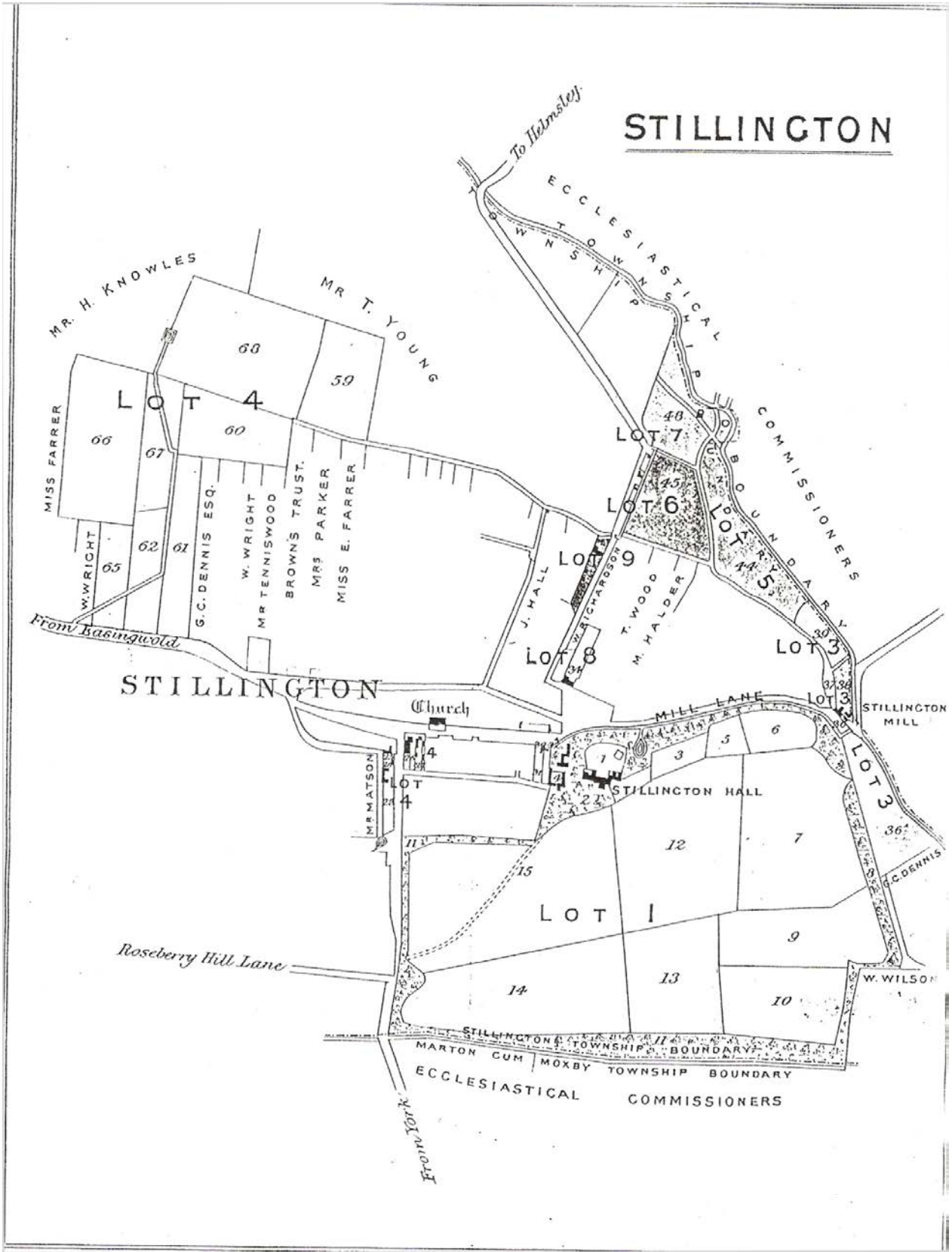
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pursuance of the said agreement and in consideration of the sum of Eight hundred pounds to the said Harry Croft paid by the said John Tatham (the receipt of whereof the said Harry Croft hereby acknowledges) the said Harry Croft as beneficial owner doeth hereby convey unto the said John Tatham and his heirs Firstly All that the Manor or Lordship or reputed Manor or Lordship of Stillington with Nawton and Wombleton situate in the North Riding in the County of York And Secondly all that the Stillington Rectoral Tithe Rent Charge of six pounds per annum made up of the several dwellinghouses closes of land and hereditaments situate in the Parish of Stillington in the North Riding of the County of York Set out in the Schedule to the Stillington Tithe apportionment dated the Twenty Eighth of December One thousand eight hundred and forty one an extract from which is also set out in the first schedule hereto To hold the same unto and to the use of the said John Tatham and his heirs in fee simple And the said Harry Croft hereby acknowledges the right of the said John Tatham to production of the Documents of Title mentioned in the second Schedule hereto and to delivery of copies thereof and hereby undertakes for the safe custody thereof In Witness Whereof the said parties to these present have herewith set their hands and seals the day and year first hereinbefore written.

Schedule 1 Was a copy of the Stillington Tithe Apportionment of 28.12.1841.

Schedule 2 Listed various Deeds relating to the Estate

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**Detailed discussion as to Harry Croft's (1857-1926) parentage** (letter to Laurie Davies in Bovingdon Mass. USA)

08/11/22

Church Farm House  
Stillington  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Dear Laurie and Kathy

First may I ask you if you have family details of your great uncle's family Gerald S. Croft. I have his birth in Jersey (Channel Islands) and his death in California but nothing as to who he married and when, also details of any children.

The other day I was put in contact with a farmer's wife who lives on a farm in the parish of Farlington adjacent to Stillington. She has the Deeds of her farm going back to the mid 1800's when it was owned by the Croft family. The Deeds were of many transactions relating to the farm. Some of Sale and Purchase but mostly of Mortgage transactions as the Crofts borrowed increasingly large sums on the security of the Farm and the rents therefrom. On each occasion the Crofts had to prove their ownership of the Farm so there were copies of Wills, Declarations under Oath and other documents that surprised me that they were considered to be essential but none the less have proved to be of considerable interest.

As my family Tree for the Croft family commenced back in around 1588 and formal State Registration was not necessary until 1834 I recorded the date given by Parish Church Registers for Baptism, Marriage and Burial. In the case of Marriage there was little problem and in most cases parents had their child baptised very promptly as so many died in infancy. Also you do not hang around when burying a person.

The documents I was looking at this week did in a number of cases give date of birth and burial, so I have altered my records accordingly. You may think this a little pedantic but if you can wade through all this you will see that in one or two instances it is important to be accurate.

So first a note of the alterations:-

Marriage of Stephen Croft (1827-1871) and Fanny Prior was **2<sup>nd</sup> March 1859** at St. Pancras London. (not 1856 at Stillington as I had originally) I now have possession of the marriage certificate so the date and place are accurate, even though you may think that I have the wrong year. I had not found their marriage record and had stupidly assumed that they had married **before** the birth of **their** ??? children Harry and Lucy.

See later my comments as to the true parentage of Harry.

Harry was born on **26<sup>th</sup> July 1857 at Fulford York** and Lucy was born **18<sup>th</sup> January 1859 also at York**. Both Baptised on same day at Fulford, York 8<sup>th</sup> May 1859. The surname of both being given as Croft, whereas it should have been Prior as Stephen and Lucy were not married at the time of their birth although they were by the date the children were Baptised.

The father, Stephen, was an officer at the time based at Fulford Army Barracks, a suburb of York and he and Fanny lived in a house close to the Barracks. At that time an officer had to get permission from his Commanding Officer to get married (unless he was over 30 years) so how he managed this I know not. As he was recently returned from the Crimea war he probably had some leave in London prior to returning home to his Regiment's base at York. This is presumably when he and Fanny met and she went to York with him, as his wife, when his leave ceased. Presumably when Lucy was born they decided that they must formalise the position and went down to London where no one knew them and got married. I had a relative who did this, one booked oneself into some lodgings and then went to a church and gave those lodgings as your permanent address, some 3 weeks later you could be married a Church Warden acting as Witness, and then you returned home a married couple.

Stephen Croft your great Grandpa was born 16<sup>th</sup> August and Baptised 29<sup>th</sup> September 1862 at Stillington. Therefore he was born in wedlock

Now for something even more startling. In about document 80 of the 100 or so pages of the Deeds of a Farm at Farlington (Farlington Grange Farm) on the edge of Stillington that the present owner (Margaret Singleton e-mail margaretsingleton-[hightowthorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:hightowthorpe@btinternet.com)) allowed me to photograph was a **Statement dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 1872 being the Stamped Succession Duty Account of that date of the succession in real property (land) of Harry Croft of Stillington Hall in the County of York upon the death of the said Stephen Croft the Predecessor under his will ..... the Succession Duty being paid by Fanny Croft his widow.** This declaration read "**Declaration signed by the said Fanny Croft that that was a first and true account of all the succession in real and leasehold property of Harry Croft Croft upon the death of the before named Stephen Croft that this Harry Croft Croft was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1857 and was a stranger in blood of the said Stephen Croft the Predecessor from whom the said property was derived. The writer at the Stamp Duty office had repeated the word Croft so I have also but it is no doubt Harry Croft as the date of birth is the same and the declaration is by Fanny and Harry Croft did inherit all the property of Stephen. Someone prior**

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**to me did the underlining, in fact they double underlined the bit about “was a stranger” I will endeavour to send you a photo of that part of the document. See end of this letter.**

Fanny lived with Stephen until he died, and by his will she was allowed to stay on at Stillington Hall where she died on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1875. She left her estate to Stephen’s sister Elizabeth Catherine Croft (1823-1897), although nothing to her children. (Mind you she had very little) as the children had received most of Stephen’s money and all she got was £600 and a roof over her head. So there does not seem to have been a rift in the family. Having said which she did not “come clean” until after the death of her husband Stephen about the parentage of Harry and did not make clear who his real father was. Why she felt that she had to make such a public statement at that late stage I know not. She would not have been the first woman to have decided which man would be the “best bet” to marry when becoming pregnant.

**Had the above fact been known earlier then Stephen, your great grand father would have been recognised as the true and rightful heir.**

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1884 Harry applied to the High Court to break the entail of the Stillington estate. I should explain that at that time certain Family property (usually large estates) descended upon death to the next male in line. It could not be sold or given away by the current “owner”. This meant that if the so called male “owner” had no son then the property would pass to an uncle or if he were dead then to his son. In extreme cases it could travel up to a deceased grandfather, down to the next son (and he could also be dead) and then onto the son of that great uncle. Thereby leaving the widow and her daughters destitute and having to leave the family home. The lawyers found a way around this but it meant an expensive application to the High Court and at one time even (earlier than this), an Act of Parliament for each and every case. **Strictly speaking as Harry was not the son of Stephen he had no right to apply to break the entail. But they did not have DNA knowledge, Stephen was well buried and Harry had always been accepted as a son by Stephen all the family and all documentation. Finally Fanny could have been lying. All very mysterious.**

We have not finished with surprises as I am now dealing with Harry Croft (1857-1926).

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 1892 Harry Croft signed a Power of Attorney, authorising the partners of the family firm of solicitors (Ware and Sons of York) to act on his behalf in every respect as he was travelling out to India (presumably on holiday). This was a very lengthy document, as having given them the overall sweeping power the solicitors then spelt out in great detail every transaction you could think of.

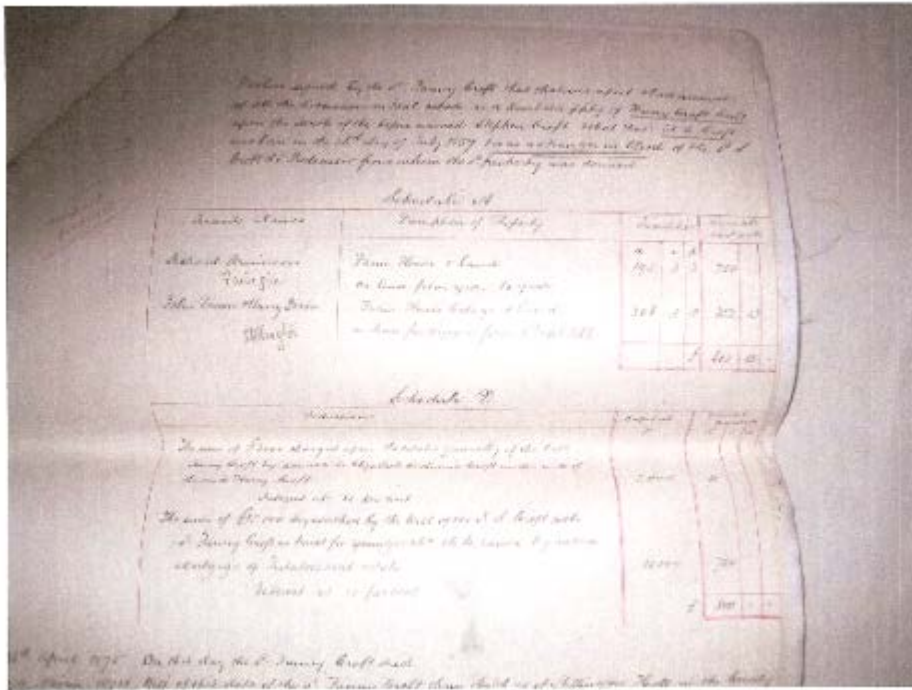
By now my mind was in overdrive thinking of what tricks that this generation could get up to. I have traced Harry and his wife Louisa Gertrude Pallot as living down in Ilminster, Somerset in the 1901 Census (around April). Louisa was born in Jersey, Channel Islands. In the 1891 Census Harry was recorded as a single man living in Stillington. I have been unable to trace the marriage of Harry and Louisa in England. I would not be able to find it easily if they were married in Jersey. *(Some years ago I was able to find the marriage of one of my relatives who went to Jersey to get married, as Jillian and I were on holiday there some 10 years ago and I visited a Family History Centre who sent me off to a church where traditionally English couples went to who wanted to get married. I was fortunate then in being able to sit down and go through the Register, finding the record of their marriage. Had I tried to do this from home here in Yorkshire I would not have known which of the many churches in Jersey they were married nor the date).*

So back to Harry, did he in fact clear off to Jersey to marry Louisa? Never intending to go to India. She was a Blacksmiths daughter and in those class conscious days such a marriage would not go down well in high society. It was a popular holiday resort and he may well have visited there earlier and fallen in love.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1892 having sold all his estate in Stillington, Harry repaid his mortgages from the proceeds and only returned to Stillington upon his death in 1926 when he was buried here in the churchyard alongside many other of the Croft family.

You will see that another Harry Croft (1825-1854) was drowned at Balaclava during the Crimea War. There is yet another interesting declaration in the above mentioned Deeds made by his brother Stephen (1827-1871) the husband of Fanny who was also in the Crimea and saw his brother Harry a few days before Harry was drowned. I will type this separately tomorrow in addition to sending you photos of some of these documents but I am very tired and it is bed time.

Regards to all  
Grahame



Above document is part of the Deeds on the Sale of Farlington Grange in 1892 held by the current owner Mrs. Singleton. It is one of the documents produced at the time to help prove the ownership of the land then being sold by Harry Croft (1857-1926). This sheet lists the Succession Duty payable on the assets of Harry Crofts father (Stephen Croft 1827-1871). It is dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 1872.

Harry Croft (1857-1926) Final Notes as to his legitimacy

Harry’s parents were supposedly Stephen Croft (1827-1871) and Fanny Prior. They were married at St. Pancras, London on 2nd March 1859

Harry was born 26<sup>th</sup> July 1857 at 1<sup>st</sup> St. Edward’s Place Gate Fulford, York and his birth was registered by his father at Walmgate, York on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1857.

His mother’s Name was registered as Fanny Prior, not Fanny Croft formerly Fanny Prior. So Stephen was acknowledging at that time that Harry was born out of wedlock.

Stephen Croft, the father, died in February 1871 and Fanny Croft proved the will at York on 17.4.1871. In the succession Duty Account of 12<sup>th</sup> September 1872 she stated that Harry Croft (correct repetition) “was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1857 and was a stranger in Blood of the said Stephen Croft the predecessor from whom the said property was devised.

One can conjecture why a wife should make such a statement some 15 years later, but one does not know for certain.

Harry Croft (1857-1892) had a brother Stephen born 1862 (parents being the above Stephen and Fanny) so it may be said that he was the true heir

Presumably Stephen (1827-1871) went to his death believing that Harry Croft (1857-1926) was his son. He left Stephen £6000 and this was in due course paid to Stephen (1862-1935), who by that time had moved to California, USA

See extract from other House Deeds and copy of Birth Certificate of Harry Croft (1857-1926)-attached.

His request in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our name as witnesses  
ELLEN DINSERE Rose Cottage North Tawton Married woman  
JAMES LETHEREN Lloyds Bank Winkleigh Bank Agent  
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1925 Probate of this will was granted to Clarence Cecil Lucas the surviving Executor

08/11/22

## Stephen Croft Born 29<sup>th</sup> September 1862 in Stillington

Son of Stephen Croft and Fanny Prior. Younger brother of Harry Croft (1857-1926). Died 14<sup>th</sup> June 1935, Sana Cruz California

In the 1881 Census he is shown as living with his maiden Aunt Elizabeth Catherine Croft (1823-1897) at 7 Park Street, Holy Trinity, Micklegate, York. His father Stephen having died in 1871 and his mother Fanny dying in 1875. His elder brother Harry having married and at that time living in Stillington. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 1892 Elizabeth Catherine wrote her will, leaving Stephen £2000 and his son, her great nephew £400. She died On 19.12.1897  
In Northallerton Record Office there is held the following **Memorial of an Indenture of Release**. Dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 1885 Registered 20<sup>th</sup> July 1888 at 10 forenoon. Volume 20 Page 1146 No.497.

**Parties** Stephen Croft late of Stillington Hall in the County of York but now of Redding in the County of Shasta, California in the United States of America, Esquire of the first part.  
Elizabeth Catherine Croft of 7 The Crescent, Blossom Street in the City of York, Spinster and  
Henry John Ware of the City of York Solicitor of the second part and Harry Croft of Stillington Hall aforesaid Esquire of the third part.

**Description of Lands** All and singulare the real estate of Stephen Croft, late of Stillington Hall in the county of York, Esquire, comprised in his will dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1859 and thereby devised to the use of Fanny Croft since deceased her executors administrators and assigns for the term of one thousand years upon trusts in the said Will mentioned being situate in the Parishes of Stillington, Easingwold, Huby, Craike and Farlington in the North Riding of the County of York.

H.S.Hughes of Redding , Shasta County, California, USA. Rancher

Witness to the execution of the said Stephen Croft

Francis Ware, York, Solicitor Witness to the execution by the said Henry John Ware.

He had been due the sum of £6000 by his father's Will (Stephen) upon reaching the age of 21 years. This was paid to him in 3 trances, the final payment being made on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1885. Hence he signed the document releasing the estate of any claim he may have had against it.

He immigrated in **1890**, according to the 1900 Census of USA.

In **1896**, according to the Great Register of U.S.A. he was living in Shasta County, California in the Township of Redding, carrying on the Occupation of Dentist. He was described as being 5 feet 11 inches, Of Fair Skin, grey eyes, brown hair and was Naturalised at Los Angeles on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1894.

In **1900 (8<sup>th</sup> June)** according to the Census of USA for San Francisco – (*Assembly unit No.37 Block C. Supervisor District No.1 Enumeration District No. 92, Sheet 7*), he was a Widower, although I have been unable to trace details of his marriage. **BUT See below**. He was stated to have been 10 years in the U.S.A. and no occupation was stated. He was a boarder, i.e, a lodger.

In **1930 (2<sup>nd</sup> April)** according to the Census for Santa Cruz, California (*Reg District No.44-6, Supervisor District No.10 Sheet 1B*) he was living Broadway Street (906-31-36 ). He rented the property for a monthly rental of \$25, and declared that he was **first married** at the age of 22 years. He was described as a Salesman, Real Estate. Age 69 His wife was Isobel J. Croft, White, age 45, **first married at age 25 years**. Born in Canada. Her father being born in England and her mother in Canada. Her year of immigration was given as 1888. Her Occupation was also Salesman, Real Estate. *It is interesting to note that the Enumerator for the District was Mrs. Isobel J. Croft. So it is fair to assume that she endeavoured to give the correct facts as she knew them.*

From the above one can gather that they were married in 1909 or 1910 and that he had been first married c 1886/7

**Note 1.7.2011 He married Gertrude Harrow on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1886 in Sacramento California.**

**He died on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1935 at Santa Cruz, California**

08/11/22



On Wed 12 Sept 2007, Laurie Davis e-mailed me and told me – Stephen Goddard Croft was our great-grandfather. He was first in the Sacramento area of California, having gone there to seek adventure. He invested in a gold mine that was alas, a fraud. The mine was “salted” with gold to entice investors. At a dance he met a lovely young teacher, Gertrude Dinwiddie Harrow, who had been born in 1861 in Iowa and came West as an infant with her family.

I believe that they were married in 1886 but have no proof of that yet. Their first child Gerald Stephen Goddard Croft, was born in England on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1887 (St. Helier, Jersey). He was taken back to the USA – Liverpool to New York on the SS Alaska, arriving on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1888. He died on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1966 in California. Because Gerald was so much older than his sister, our grandmother, (Catherine Elizabeth Croft, b. 1897. Los Angeles), and, as will be seen later, lived apart from her, they were not close and really did not know each other well.

Our, above, grandmother, Catherine Elizabeth Croft, was born 1<sup>st</sup> December 1897 in Los Angeles. Her mother (Gertrude Dinwiddie, (Harrow), Croft, died (22<sup>nd</sup> May 1899) after caring for Stephen who had typhoid fever. He survived, but she did not. He survived but she did not. My grandmother’s first memory was of clinging to the leg of the piano as movers took it out of the home. Gertrude (Gertie) had been a wonderful pianist.

Because Stephen was working as a dentist and had an 11 yr. old son, he felt he could not care for the baby girl and so she was placed with her mother’s great aunt in Los Angeles, a widowed former teacher who was 70 at the time. When that lady died, Catherine was placed briefly in an orphanage and then with her mother’s aunt, also a teacher. At least twice (once in Jan 1907) Stephen’s(1862-) sister, Lucy Croft Mills (1859-) married to William Holroyd Mills, travelled from England to try to persuade Stephen to let her take baby Catherine back to England to bring her up alongside her own daughter, Gwendolyne Agnes L. Mills (b. July-Sept 1892), but Stephen refused. Gwendoline married a Mr. Hillie and they had a daughter June Hillie).

In 1910, when Catherine was about 12 years old, her father remarried Isobel (surname unknown) (b 1885) and they asked Catherine to come and live with them, but her Aunt Fanny Harrow persuaded her to remain with her and she would help her become a teacher. I am sure too that Catherine had moved so often that she was reluctant to move once more. Catherine taught in Pico Canyon, met our grandfather (David Alexander Janzen) who was a Mennonite but had served in World War 1 in the ambulance corps in France. They married in July 1920 and had two girls, Catherine Gertrude Janzen (b. 8<sup>th</sup> May 1921, and our mother, Eva Marie Janzen, (b. 12<sup>th</sup> March 1923). Catherine continued teaching in Reedly, California until she retired. She loved teaching. I went bore you with later generations as they become too numerous. My parents (Eva Marie Janzen married a Mr. Yeo) and raised 3 children on the east coast near Boston, & Catherine Gertrude married and raised 4 children in California.

Until the 1950’s our grandmother corresponded with Aunt Fanny Croft, who never married. She spent a lot of time on the Isle of Wight\*, although I am unsure whether she had a home there or simply visited.

08/11/22

Written by Laurie (Yeo) Davis, her sister is called Cathy. Laurie's address is 10 Bay Path Drive, Boylston, MA 01505, USA. Cathy works for Harvard Business School Publishing Company. Laurie has three children ages 30, 33 and 36 with a 2 year old grandson. She is married to a Lawyer Phillips S. Davis.

\* Note by GR- I wonder if Laurie meant Jersey. In the 1891 Census Lucy and Fanny were staying at Wendover in Buckinghamshire. In 1901 Fanny Elisabeth Croft was staying at 3, Rock Stone Terrace, Stopford Rd St. Helier, Jersey.

A mystery remains. I have viewed the passenger list for the Alaska (see copy extract attached). It is easy to identify both Stephen and his son. Two females called Croft accompany them. One called Mrs. S. Croft, which one would expect except for her being given the age of 53. The other was a Miss Croft aged 43. Both were said to be of US citizenship.

What was the compelling reason necessitating the couple to travel from California to New York to England and then to the C.I. for the birth of their son Gerald Stephen Goddard Croft. It must have been important to subject a heavily pregnant woman to such a journey.

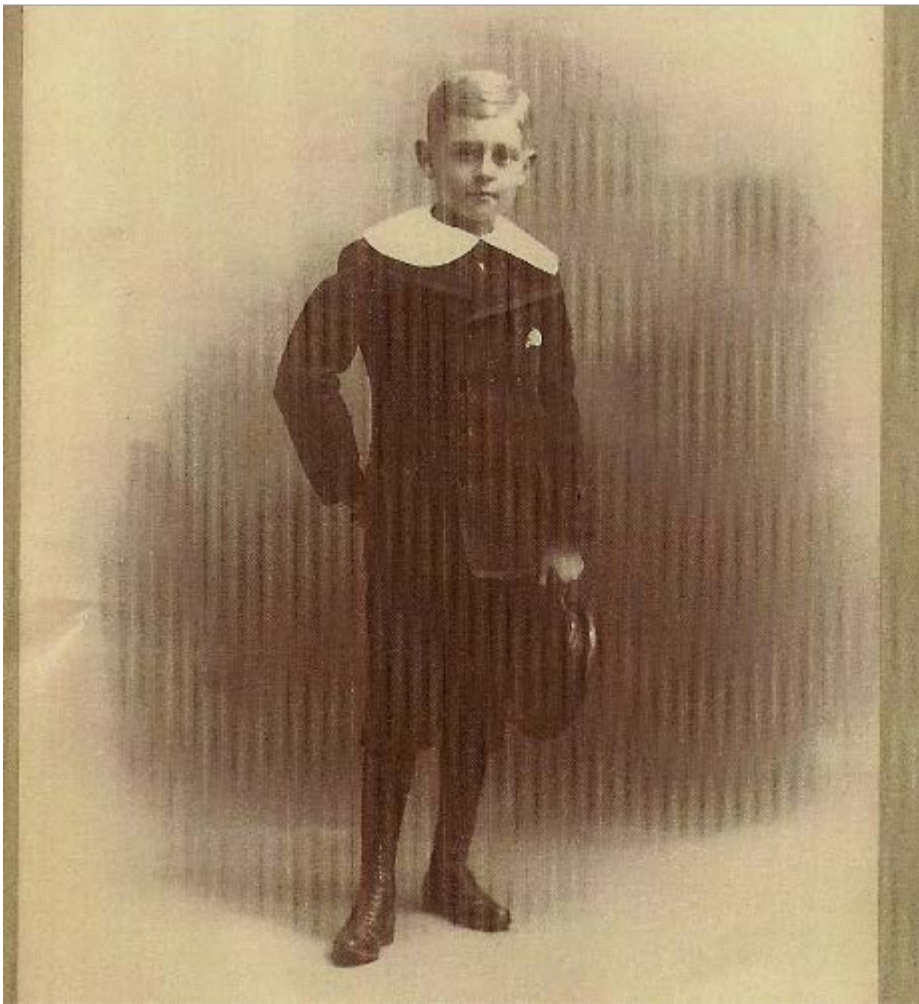
Who were the two Croft ladies who accompanied Stephen and his son back to the US? Is it simply that the man who wrote down the detail got the ages wrong and assumed that the second lady was a relative. She may have been a nurse or a relative of Gertrude.

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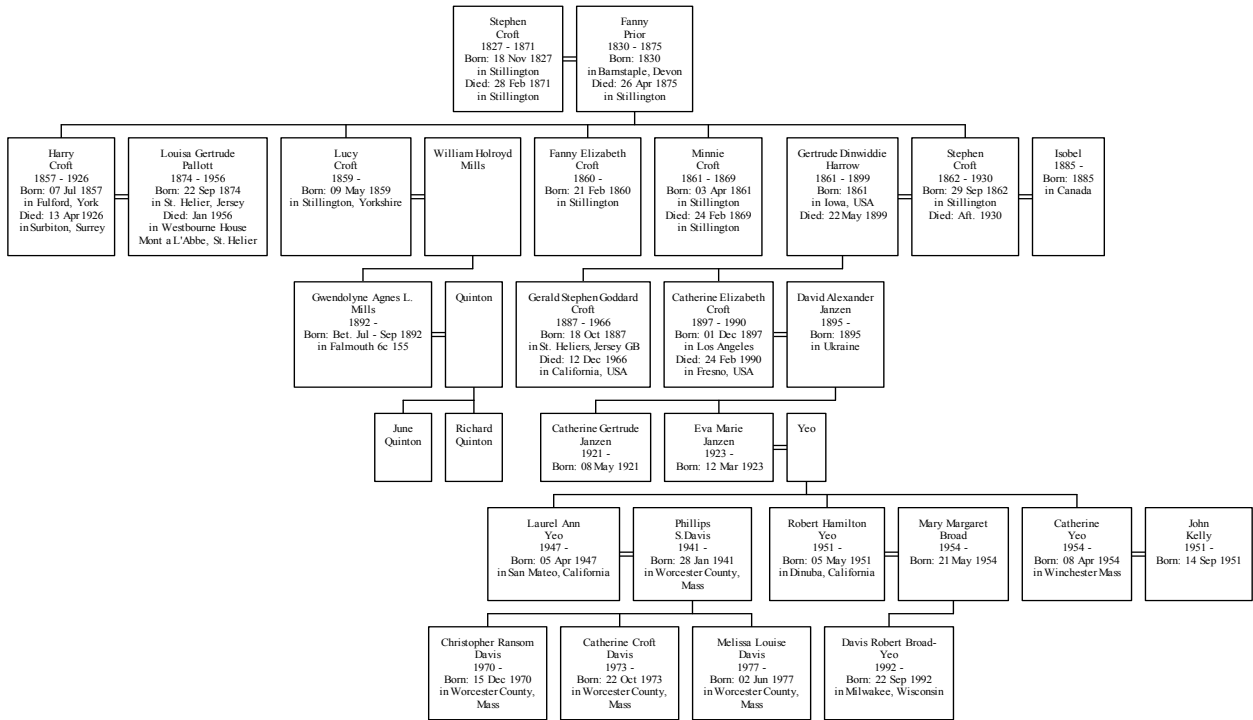
4	Mr. M. Loughlin	29	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
5	Mr. S. P. White	31	Mr.	England	✓	Bo	
6	Mr. C.	21	Mr.		✓	Bo	
7	Mr. S. Croft	27	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
8	Mr. S.	53	Mr.	Lady	✓	Bo	
9	Mr. S.	43	Mr.		✓	Bo	
601	Mr. S. Croft	63	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
1	Mr. S.	54	Mr.	Lady	✓	Bo	
2	Mr. S. Croft	43	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
3	Mr. S.	34	Mr.	Lady	✓	Bo	
4	Mr. S. Croft	48	Mr.	York	✓	Bo	
5	Mr. R. H. Cordia	28	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
6	Mr. S. Croft	43	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
7	Mr. W. Jones	48	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	
8	Mr. Brigham	40	Mr.	Lady	✓	Bo	
9	Mr. S. Croft	24	Mr.	St. Helier	✓	Bo	

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**Gerald Stephen Goddard Croft**



Descendants of Stephen Croft



Catherine Elizabeth Croft Janzen approx 53 yrs, Reedy, California  
Lucy Croft "To Steve and Gertie, July 31st. 1889"

**Harry Edmund Hutton Croft (1886-16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1941)**  
**Born in Sibley, Osceola County, Iowa**

James Croft (1784-1869) the Archdeacon of Canterbury had six daughters and two sons. One of the sons was Robert Manners Croft (1814-1860) and the other was Percy James Croft (1820-1885), Robert Manners Croft had a number of children, one of whom was **George Bowes Croft (1857-1937)**. Percy James Croft also had a number of children, one of whom was **Rosellen Mary Croft (1859-1953)**. George Bowes and Rosellen Mary married in the village of Bridge, near Canterbury, Kent in the September quarter of 1883. George and Rosellan Croft must have emigrated to the USA before the birth of their first child Harry in 1886, as Harry was born in Sibley, Osceola County, Iowa as was his sister Dulcie in 1888. However the family must have returned to England by 1889 as the second son Cecil was born at 13 Bootham Crescent in York on 16<sup>th</sup> March in that year, followed in January 1891 by the third son Robert who was born in Hornsey, London. In the 1891 Census the whole family (George, wife Rosellen Mary, daughter Dulcie and 3 sons Harry, Cecil and Robert) are living in Hornsey, Middlesex, where George is described as a Dairyman. In the 1901 Census, the father, George Bowes Croft is living in Christchurch, Weymouth, employed as a Manager of Coaching Stables and his daughter is at a private school- St. Stephens College, in Clewer, Berkshire. George's two sons Cecil and Robert are at a private school in Melbourne near Cambridge. (In view of the job description for George, the grandfather Robert was presumably paying the school fees). Harry entered the merchant navy and did very well, becoming captain of the ss Oropesa. This was a passenger liner of 14,118 tons, built in Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. In 1921 she was chartered to the Royal Mail for the Southampton-Hamburg-New York service. In 1931 she carried the Prince of Wales and Prince George to South America. In September 1939, the ship was taken over and converted to a troopship and on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1941 while en-route from Mombasa, East Africa to the United Kingdom, she was sunk by 3 torpedoes from the U-96 (Kaptlt. Heinrich Lehmann-Willenbrock) about 100 miles off County Donegal, Ireland. Of the 249 crew and passengers on board, 113 were killed. The U-96 was sunk by US bombers on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1945 at Wilhelmshaven.

**Admiral Croft descendants**

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Admiral William Croft (1782-1872) and his wife Harriet Plummer (1785-1864) had eleven children, one of whom was **Henry Croft (born 22/1/1814)**. He married Margaret Robinson (born 1818), said to be of the Vicarage, Stillington, so presumably she was the vicar's daughter.

Henry was a Captain in the Royal Navy, he and Margaret had six children, the eldest of whom was **Caroline Croft, born in 1858, in Bunbury, Cheshire**. Caroline married **Charles Buswell (born in 1844 at Kibworth, Leicestershire)** his occupation was a Tea Dealer. He was a widower at the time of their marriage (Oct-Dec 1881 Pancras, London. Ref Pancras 1b 124) with one child, a daughter, Emily Florence (born 1878).

Charles and Caroline had four children all born in Richmond, Surrey. (Emily b.1878, Charles b.1885, **Henry Leslie F. Buswell born 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1888** and Rhoda L. born in 1890).

Henry Leslie F. Buswell, tended to use only the Christian name Leslie.

Leslie, travelled to the USA on a number of occasions viz:

29.10.1914 on ss.Lapland, when he described himself as an Actor, giving his first names as Hy Leslie. He gave as a relative in England "Mrs. Buswell of 169 Queen's Gate, London South West. In 1915 on the SS.La Touraine to New York.

4<sup>th</sup> Jan 1919 on ss Belgic

30<sup>th</sup> Jan 1921 on ss Carmania, giving first names of Henry Leslie and a "last permanent address" of Gloucester USA and his father C. Buswell of 169 Gloucester Gate London as a reference. This time however he gave his own occupation as that of Engineer and above written by hand, the word Chemical.

9<sup>th</sup> July 1924 on ss Majestic, giving only one first name of Leslie, Occupation Chemical Engineer, and his father Mr. Charles Boswell of 169 Queen's Gate London SW as a reference. Destination New York. Last address Gloucester Mass.

9<sup>th</sup> April 1927 on ss Aquitania from Southampton, described as Engineer and all information as above and below.

28<sup>th</sup> Dec 1927 on ss Aquitania from Southampton, described as Engineer and all information as above and below.

24<sup>th</sup> Nov 1928 on ss Aquitania, giving amongst other information his town of birth as Richmond, England. And his last permanent address as Gloucester USA.

In all the above he stated he was single.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> Census of the US on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1930 Leslie Buswell is recorded as living with his wife Mary at Quarry Road, Gloucester City, in the Ward of eight and Magnolia, Essex, Massachusetts. He states that his house is worth 80,000 dollars. He is male, white, first married at age 40. Place of Birth England. Mother and father born in England, Year of immigration 1914. Occupation Engineer. For Hammond Corp.

Leslie's wife is called Mary, white, age 30, age at first marriage 28, she and her parents were born in Pennsylvania. No occupation

They have two servants Charles and Louise Ernesto, respectively butler and cook both born in Russia and a chambermaid called Nellie Gur (difficult to read) she was born in Canada . He was at one time president of the Colonial Hotel chain in Florida.

**Peter Croft Buswell was born on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1935 in Massachusetts and died 15<sup>th</sup> July 1996 Cert 038037. His SSN number was 002-30-5129.** I believe it was he who married Marlene Lois Million in Palm Beach Florida on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1988.

There is in the US Divorce Index a record for Peter C. Buswell and his wife Elizabeth Pelen. for Feb 1964 Volume 1066, Cert No. 2029 co.23

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He would appear to have married four times in all. All four wives appear to have come from rich families (more money than sense!) see family tree. In 1953 ,he graduated from the Brooks School in North Andover, Mass. He graduated from the Thayler School of Engineering of Dartmouth College and was scholar of Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration (1957). He served for two years as a lieutenant in the Army. In 1966 he was assistant to the president of Whitehall Laboratories, a division of American Home Products. In 1974 he was an investment banker with Hardy & Co. He left most of his money to Brooks School. He lived in Palm Beach, Florida most of the time.

**The New York Times 14, Oct, 1964**

**Leslie Buswell, Actor, Soldier  
Ex-Commander of Military  
Order is Dead at 76**

Gloucester, Mass, Oct.13-Leslie Buswell, a past commander in chief of the Military Order of the World Wars, died here this morning of a heart attack at his home, Stillington Hall. He was 76 years old.

Mr. Buswell, was born in Richmond, England. He was educated at Winchester School and Caius College, Cambridge University. He came to the United States as an actor.

During World War 1 he was an ambulance driver for the American Field Service. His letters home were published in a book, "Ambulance No 10".

After the war, Mr. Buswell engaged in research in electronics in Gloucester. In the nineteen-twenties he built a home in the style of a 16<sup>th</sup> century English Manor House overlooking Gloucester Harbor, with a 200-seat theatre beside it. *(GR's comments. He used the timbers from an old house built in 1630, called Cromwell House that he had transported from the village green at Stillington in North Yorkshire. It was in the Hall (Manor House) of that village, some 250 yards from the village green that his ancestors had lived in since the early 1600's).*

During World War 11, Mr. Buswell served overseas in the United States Air Force. He became a colonel, and was awarded the Bronze Star and other decorations, including the French Croix de Guerre.

He is survived by his widow, the former Mary Armstrong Robinson; of Pittsburgh; a son Peter Croft Buswell; and a sister, Mrs Basil Huggins, Eastbourne, England.

The New York Times 14 Oct, 1964

## *Miss Pelen Is Bride Of Peter C. Buswell*

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 — The marriage of Mlle. Elizabeth Pelen to Peter Crost Buswell took place here this afternoon in Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. The Rev. Martin Casey performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Pierre Pelen, counselor of the French Embassy, and Mme. Pelen. The bridegroom is the son of Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Leslie Buswell of Miami Beach and Gloucester, Mass.

Mrs. Buswell attended the Ecole de Sainte Marie, Neuilly, Paris; St. John's School, Houston, Tex., and Wellesley College. She made her debut in 1958 in Houston and Washington.

The bridegroom, who graduated from Dartmouth College, is in his last year at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He served for two years as a lieutenant in the Army. \*

**The New York Times**

Published: September 11, 1960

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**Life Story, Written by Dowger Lady Meysey-Thompson**  
**At Holme Priory, Wareham, Dorset**  
**About 1906-1908**

She died at Holme Priory, March 1910  
Comments by Grahame Richardson

Now I will tell you something about my early life.

I Elizabeth Anne Meysey Thompson (nee Croft) was born September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1818, at Cowling Hall, Bedale, where my sister, Henrietta Maria Eleanor Croft was also born, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1817. She was christened after her two Godmothers.

My father – Sir John Croft, Bart., K.T.S., D.C.L., F.R.S., - Barron da Serra d,Estrella in Portugal, was born in Portugal at Oporto, my grandfather being one of an old established firm of wine merchants there. My father was of the family of Crofts of Stillington. His great-aunt, Lucy\* Croft of Stillington having married the owner of Kirby

*.\* (Elizabeth Croft (1714-1753) married John Thompson (1701-1777) of Kirby Hall. Lucy Thompson (1725-1757), (sister of that John Thompson), married Thomas Croft (1717-1783) of Stillington. This Thomas was brother of Elizabeth Croft. Consequently **Elizabeth** was great-aunt to Sir John Croft and **Lucy** was his grand-mother. See family tree attached).*

Sir John's mother was a Miss Henrietta Tunstall , through whom he was descended from John O'Gaunt. He was brought up at Oporto, and educated by a private tutor, and always regretted that he had not been sent to Eton, where I believe that his father was educated.

John came to England with his father in 1800 and visited their cousin, Henry Thompson, at Kirby Hall. They were the first people to inhabit the new wing which he afterwards pulled down.

Sir John had one brother, Frederick (1781- 1824), who married Miss Magdalen Huxley. Soon after Frederick's death, his widow came to stay with my aunt, Mrs. Dodsworth at Dodington

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(Kent), for a long visit. (*Harriet Croft 1759-1808, married Francis Dodsworth 1731-1808*), but according to the fashion of the time all her (*Magdalen*) hair was hidden under her widow's cap. She was quite young, and about two years after she married Colonel Montagu, afterwards Lord Rokeby.

My Father's ardent wish was to enter the army, but his father would not consent. He therefore became a Diplomatist, and during the Peninsular War was secretary to Mr. Canning and Lord Stuart de Rothsay at Lisbon. He was subsequently Charge 'Affaires there.

My father was asked by Lord Wellington to organise the transmission of news concerning the number of the French troops entering Spain by the Passes of the Pyrennes. He did this at the risk of his life by engaging Boatmen on the coast near Fonterabia, (*a town situated on the east shore of Bidosoa river's mouth, in Gipuzkoa, Basque Country, Spain*), who sent scouts to count the numbers of the troops, and report to the boats who regularly took the reports to Lisbon to Lord Wellington (vide Southey's Peninsular War, and some notes I wrote in another paper).

He was afterwards employed to distribute with a Portuguese officer the (*English*) Parliamentary Grant to Portugal after the War, (vide Parliamentary Blue Book) voted for the people who had great losses during the war. A very trying appointment, as it was so difficult to rightly distribute cattle, etc., when there were so many poor and deserving applicants. It sorely tried his nerves and he never really recovered from it.

For these services Wellington wrote to thank him and he received the Order of the Tower and Sword, and was made Baron da Serra d'Estrella, in Portugal, as it was in those mountains that his principal work of distribution was accomplished, and he loved the mountains, so chose that name.

George III made him a Baronet and afterwards granted "supporters" to his arms: a Lion as descendant of John of Gaunt; the Bull was the crest of his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife's family – Radcliffe.

.....

Copy of a letter from my father, Sir John Croft, giving an account of his work in Portugal.

"We travelled most unfrequented roads, carefully avoiding being seen; only entering village to dine and sleep – generally as it grew dark; immediately on arriving at any Inn I went to bed and had my dinner brought to me there, that I might not be seen, which would give rise to questions as to who I was.

Once however we were obliged to go into a village in the middle of the day, too early to go to bed. We were forced to pass through a great crowd. It was a cattle fair.

I went into an Inn, ordered dinner. Presently a man came into the room and sat down some distance from me; in a little while another, who came a little nearer; a third nearer still, and soon I saw very well what they intended to do; that they were going to murder me. However I had no help for it. I had got a pair of pistols and would do what I could. I went on quietly eating my dinner. Soon after another man came in and sat down close to me.

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“How do you do, Mr. Croft.” I did not know him. “Do you not remember Raphael who lived with Mr. Vanzeller?” “ Exactly”. “You may all go. I will take care of him ..... leave him to me.”

As soon as they were gone, he said to me, “You may thank God for your deliverance; those men came in to murder you – had it not been that I saw you, you would have never come out alive. I am a great cattle merchant here, and have a great deal of power. I will go with you a little way out of town. You must ride as hard as you possibly can. If they find out that I have let you go, they will very likely pursue you.”

.....

About 1815 whilst he was Charge’ d’Affairs at Lisbon, and very happy at his post, he received a letter from his Uncle, Dr. Dodsworth, Canon of Windsor and owner of Thornton Hall, near Bedale, begging him to resign his appointment and come to England as he intended to make him his heir and wished him to return and make acquaintance with his tenants; and he would give him Cowling Hall as a residence.

Very reluctantly my father consented, and gave up his diplomatic work. He returned to England, and married in 1816, Amelia Elizabeth, daughter of James Warre, and had two daughters, Henrietta Maria Eleanor (my sister) and Elizabeth Anne, (myself). He was then living at Cowling Hall.

One day in 1819 he received a summons from his uncle, who gave him a sealed letter and desired him not to open it till he got to a particular place on his way home. It was to tell him that his uncle had changed his mind and meant to leave his property to his nephew, Sir Edward Smith (who took the name of Dodsworth) as he thought the son of a younger sister a nearer relative than the grandson of an elder sister; and therefore he should leave Thornton *property* to Sir Edward Smith, Cowling *property* to my father (Sir J.Croft) for life, and his younger brother, the Rev. Francis Dodsworth would leave his small property of Dodington near Sittingbourne in Kent to my Father.

This was a terrible disappointment and made my father ill. My mother was so distressed at his trouble and illness that she was prematurely confined, and had a still-born son and died in 1819. She is buried at Thornton Watlass. Her monument is in the church. His uncle died not long after and by the marriage settlements Cowling Hall was left to him (*Sir John Croft*) for life, and two farms absolutely at Morkee (High Morcker Grange and Middle Morcker) adjoining Fountains Abbey, which on Sir John’s death were sold to the Earl of Ripon for £13,000 and that sum divided between my sister and myself, who married Stephen Thompson in 1843 (*He later changed it to Meysey-Thompson*). This was long before the Married Women’s Bill.

*This paragraph gives a different version of events at Cowling Hall to that given to Andrew Jones who was told that it was the death of his wife Amelia Elizabeth Warre that resulted in Sir John immediately returning to Portugal with the two daughters. In fact it will be seen that he left the two daughters at Cowling and did not go back to Portugal.*

Sir John Croft married, in 1827, Anne Radcliffe, daughter of the Rev. James Radcliffe, Vicar of Dodington, and had a son, the late Sir John Croft Bart., and a daughter, Marianne Radcliffe. He never returned to Portugal but made his headquarters – till he married (Anne Radcliffe)- with his

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Aunt Dodsworth at Dodington. She had the place for her life. After her death it was left, and subsequently pulled down. Sir John was a staunch churchman, a real old Tory. His great ideal statesman was Mr. Pitt. He worked hard for the Conservative cause. But he had bad health which prevented him from taking much part in public affairs.

He was very fond of horses and of shooting. He lived for six years at Ulcombe Place, 8 miles from Maidstone and for more than 20 years at Milgate, 3 Miles. He then went to Queen Anne Street, London where he died in 1862, aged 85.

*Reverting back to her childhood in around 1820.*

Thus, Sir John, suddenly left a widower, it was arranged that the widow of Dr. Dodsworth, his uncle should live at Cowling and take charge of the two children, my father meanwhile travelling about. She (*the widow*) afterwards married Mr. Edward Wyvill, about 1823. I remember seeing my father drive up in his gig. We told him that we were not happy, being very indignant that my sister having been accused of falsehood (she was five years old), and he said we were going to our great-aunt, Mrs. Francis Dodsworth, who lived at Dodington, the daughter of my father's uncle Mr. Croft. She was then a widow, formerly Harriet Croft. We drove all the way to Kent in charge of a kind nurse. On our way we went to Kirby Hall.

Mr. Richard Thompson (1771-1853) was a cousin of my father, and a very great friend. The family consisted of Mr. Richard and Mrs. Elizabeth (Turton) (1772-1840) Thompson, six daughters and three sons. Eliza Mary Thompson, afterwards Mrs. Hutton Croft, and Henrietta Thompson (1807-1872), afterwards Mrs Saye, were grown up; Caroline (b 1810), Charlotte (b 1812), Marianne (b 18??) and Emily (b 1815) were in the schoolroom, which was the Breakfast Room. Emily was eight years old. The three sons were Harry, aged 14 (b 1809); Thomas 12; (1811) and Frank 7.(1816). We had the French Room for our nursery. The schoolroom had a large open fireplace.

I can only remember the children acting a play, written by their cousin, Miss Wigley, who afterwards married Mr. Clive. She was the authoress of Paul Perroll. They acted in the Breakfast Room. A platform was set up between the windows. They had the present schoolroom for their Green Room.

The grown up girls began to teach us to read, and were very kind to us. They settled I was to be Harry's wife, but it was many years before I saw him again.

My sister and I then went to Coulson's Hotel in London, where I was very ill with infantile fever. The hotel is now part of Claridge's.

The aunt who received us at Dodington was kindness itself. But she was a widow growing old, had no children of her own, and I conclude could not bear the idea of a governess. She lived a regular routine, with her old servants, Mr. and Mrs. Chaffy (her old butler and lady's maid), and an old head house-maid who wore a mob cap. The Chaffys had brought up three sons while in service. They were boarded out in the village. One was my father's valet till his death; another, John was the game-keeper, a first rate shot and dog breaker; often mentioned in sporting books of

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that period, as an authority on birds. He was a very smart clever man. He was so distressed when my father pulled down the old house at Dodington that he shot himself when the last chimneys fell. The third son went to America.

These old servants must have equally disliked the innovation of a schoolroom; so it was decided we should go to school at Mrs. Grant's Albion Place, Ramsgate. (She was nearly blind and occupied her leisure in spinning wool, which was made into poplin). I was nearly 6, my sister 7.

My father took us in a postchaise with 4 horses, and afterwards we always drove with our father from Canterbury to Ramsgate with 4 horses and 2 post-boys.

My father made his headquarters at Dodington. He was devoted to shooting, shot over pointers and to watch them working was a great interest. He had a flint and steel gun and was satisfied with very moderate dogs.

Our holidays were six weeks in June and six weeks in December – never at Easter – and we spent them with our kind aunt. She dined at 3 o'clock, which made for very long evenings in winter, but in summer one of her maids took us for delightful walks.

When we were at Ramsgate we often went to children's parties, always in a comfortable sedan chair, which took us up in our hall and deposited us in the hall of our friends, thus avoiding all wet and cold.

We often saw Queen Victoria, then a child, with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, and her Uncle, Prince Leopold, a very handsome man, widower of Princess Charlotte and afterwards King of the Belgians also her half sister, Princess Feodore of Leiningen, afterwards Princess of Hohenlohe Langenburg. Princess Victoria came to a house in the angle of our square and from our balcony we saw the little Princess arrive. She was then about 7 years old; she stood up in the carriage, curtsying in response to the cheering, and then appeared on the balcony.

The schoolchildren were afterwards entertained by her to tea in the square, and she went down to see them.

We remained in Ramsgate three and a half years, my father having a great belief in the value of sea air for children.

It was dark when we came out from dinner in winter. We had tallow candles, or moulds which were rather better, but all required frequent and tiresome snuffing. The maids lit their candles in the morning by striking a light from a tinder box which contained flint and steel and burnt rag. Lucifer matches were not then invented. In those days the postage of letters was very expensive, and the smallest enclosure caused the letter to be charged double. People therefore wrote on a large piece of paper, and made the most of it, and folded it with great care, and sealed it. A candle had to be brought for the purpose, as there were no matches.

Envelopes were not invented and would have been charged as double letters, and no adhesive material was invented. Stamps were not then thought of. The first stamps were black.

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Afterwards wax or composite candles were used which did not require snuffing and plaited wicks were another improvement. Instead of night-lights people used rush-lights; a long thin candle was made round a rush and put into a long tin cylinder with holes at the sides which made patterns on the ceilings. Warming pans were universal. There were no hot water bed-tins.

Baths in bedrooms were not thought of and when first used were often adapted as travelling boxes, having a cover fitted to them, and clothes packed inside. There were china footbaths in every room.

Aunt Dodsworth's house was in my memory, a most comfortable one. A square hall; on one side my father's bedroom. On the other a parlour, ante-room and a large dining room. My sister and I had a room over the hall with a deep alcove and a window in it, in which were the bed and toilet apparatus, and when the curtains in the arch were let down during the day it made a delightful sitting-room.

My Aunt's room was similar, towards the West. The drawing-room was upstairs over the dining-room. The best bedroom had a large powder closet with window; there was a wide corridor with a sofa, cabinets, etc.

A large square lawn and a high lime hedge which screened it from the house. The garden was on a slope with a terrace between bushes and trees. The lawn was smooth and made a capital playground, and our great pleasure was to jump out of the window with our father and have a good romp.

(My *half*-brother, the late Sir John Croft (1828-1904), married Miss Emma Graham (1835-1919) and built the present house on the top of the hill, convenient for church and station, and much better views.)

One day in 1827 we were playing in our room when my father came in wearing his Star of the Tower and Sword and his medal round his neck. He wished us goodbye, and our Aunt told us he was gone to be married at the church at Dodington to Anne Knox Radcliffe, (1805-1887) age 21, the daughter of the Vicar of Dodington. The wedding tour was a short one, to Sevenoaks, Eastbourne and Tonbridge Wells, and was cut short by Mr. Canning's death, as my father wished to go to his funeral.

We had been very happy with our Aunt, and my father had made her house his headquarters. The year after my father married he took Ulcombe, 8 miles from Maidstone, and a son was born on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1828.

It was decided we were to leave Ramsgate and go to Mddle. (*Mrs.*) Gaudard, at 81 Marine Parade, Brighton. (*a private boarding school*)

The house had been built for Mr. Canning; a large banqueting room was our very cold schoolroom, the fireplace was at one end, the small children sat on benches at a table at the furthest end. Mdlle. Gaudard and her mother and her grandmother living with her, but we only saw them at meals. For breakfast and tea we had thick slices of bread and butter, and hot tea, milk and sugar, all mixed together in jugs.

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The grandmother, Mrs. Hunter was a Roman Catholic, and had appetising little dishes on Feast Days, which we thought looked delicious. The family had left France on account of the troubles there.

My father having lived so much abroad, was a good linguist, and fondly hoped that being with French people we should learn the language fluently. But all we saw of Middle Gaudard was when she made a stately entrance once or twice a day when she took the first class for a short time. A French lady looked after the rest in school time. We always talked French, but the veriest jargon passé muster. We all dressed in one room with long wash-hand stands all round, and there was a small washing closet. There were 32 pupils; 2 English governesses and one French. The house was frightfully cold. We had three pianos; two were in rooms with fires, the other in a small dressing room where I, at least, spent most of my practising time in winter, sitting on my hands which were stiff with chilblains and blue with cold. We had a private tunnel to the beach, which was a very pleasant change from walking two and two. Sometimes we went to the Downs. I was very fond of dancing and one evening was helping to prepare and clear away table and benches when a bench fell on my foot. Middle Gaudard was going to be married to Mr. Whiteside in the holidays, which were approaching and intended to give up the school, so there was dismay least I should be detained.

The doctor ordered leeches, so when all were gone to church I lay on a bench in the schoolroom to have them applied, dressed in a light grey poplin (the gift of my grandmother, Mrs. Warre), and a few pillows propped my head. There was no back to the bench, and when I sat up to put my foot into a tub of warm water whilst the leeches were taken off, I told the servant I did not feel well, and she left the room to get a glass of water; when I promptly fainted and fell backwards on to the floor. Fortunately the pillows went with me and saved me from being hurt. I was then moved to the top of the house to a pleasant room overlooking the sea and the Marine Parade. Washington Irving and other entertaining books were given to me and I had a pleasant time and was able to go home at the right time.

We went to St. George's Church, where there was an excellent clergyman, Mr. James Anderson.

We sometimes stayed with Mrs. Frederick Croft at Brighton, who dressed us very smartly. She was much admired as the lovely widow. At other times we went to our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Warre at Randall Court near Leatherhead, and afterwards to Buckland Court near Reigate.

We went there to stay one very cold winter to spend part of our holidays with our grandmother, which was a very great pleasure except for our clothes. We were dressed in stuffy dresses, and when we went out we took off our frocks and put on thin cloth pelisses, with which we wore chinchilla capes. When we came in we took them off and put on our frocks again. We were chilled both out of doors and in the house. For a long time in our childhood we wore low-necked dresses and short sleeves. Our cousin Julia Warre, who was dressed in much the same way, used to cry with cold.

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We went back to Brighton for one term after Mdlle. Gaudard's marriage. It was under an improved regime. We had been nearly five years at Brighton. We next went to Miss Fryer's, the Cedars, Hammersmith Road, where we were much more comfortable.

There were sixteen girls, we had a carpeted, sunny schoolroom looking into a flower garden and a field surrounded by fine trees; market gardens beyond. We seldom went into the street. It was a little beyond Addison Road. We had much more comfortable meals and the nice garden to walk in. Miss Fryer looked after the pupils; Miss Jane Fryer did the housekeeping. They were excellent people. Miss Fryer was a very clever Scotchwoman and a real friend to whom we could talk confidentially. On Sundays 6 of us went in what was then called a glass coach to Mr. Henry Blunt's church; Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, where we had a pew. The rest went to St. Mary's close to us. Here we remained until 1836 when we completed our twelve years at school. I was 18, my sister 19. However we were not presented { *at Court* } for two years.

My youngest *half* sister, Marianne Radcliffe, was born in 1832, and about 1834 my father moved to Millgate, 3 miles from Maidstone, where he lived many years, till his health obliged him to go to London to be near a Dr. .... He took a house in Queen Anne Street, where he died.

When we left school in 1836, my stepmother was only 31. Very pretty. She had no sympathy with children or young people, and I can now realise that it was a great effort to bring up two step-daughters, though we then thought her much older than she really was. We had been 12 years at school and it was a great blessing that my sister and I were always together and the best of friends. It was really better for us to be at school, than with a governess at home.

My father's nervous health and bad nights made him very unwilling to pay visits, or have friends at home, but he dined out and gave dinner parties. (I think the dinner hour gradually advanced from 6 to 7). He was a most kind father.

My stepmother was a great reader and left us much to ourselves., for which we were very grateful. She seldom walked out and in those days dress was not much adapted for walking; white petticoats, white silk stockings and shoes were the fashion.

My stepmother drove in a chariot with iron grey ponies and a Postillion who was dressed in summer in a jacket of striped material, in winter in a crimson cloth jacket, but both had a velvet badge on the left sleeve with my father's arms embroidered on. He wore a black velvet cap with a gold tassel. In summer she drove in an open carriage with hood; but no box seat or rumble; and then she had always an outrider.

The postillion had been a jockey, which recommended him to my father who loved horses, but never attended races, He hated betting and never touched a card. He was disgusted at the gambling he had seen in his younger days. Smoking was an abhorrence to him. No cigar or pipe was ever allowed in the house. When taking a journey, a flat leather box, called an Imperial, covered the top of the carriage and was excellent for dresses, as they could be full length. There was a long hollow at the back of the carriage, opening into the carriage but projecting at the back, called a sword case. There was a large Boot as it was called, under the driver's box, and boxes were put under the seat and under the rumble or dickey, occupied by the ladies' maid and

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footman. There was not much room for stray boxes or parcels and few wraps were taken. Railway rugs were not invented. It is not surprising that with such a load four horses were required much more than now. People went the first stage with their own horses, and then posted about every 8 miles, paying 1s 6d per mile for two horses; 6d for each Postboy per mile.

In London every smart carriage had a hammercloth with the family arms embroidered on. My father's was crimson; a loose cover was put on in wet weather. The footman stood on a board behind, holding two straps, and wore breeches and silk stockings. Ladies drove in high chariots with the steps folded inside the carriage and let down when required; consequently they were always dry and clean. Gentlemen drove in a cabriolet with a hood; a boy called a "tiger" standing behind. Ladies hardly went in them. The arms were always most carefully painted on carriages and were a study in heraldry.

Omnibuses first appeared about this time and were considered marvellously cheap at 6d fares. Much used by city men, but ladies did not go on them. Hansoms, too appeared, but it was thought very incorrect for ladies to go in them at first. The first flies were called glass coaches. Hackney coaches – now four wheelers- always had straw at the bottom. The coachman wore a coat with many capes.

Soon after we left school in 1836 we went to stay with our grandmother, Mrs. Warre, in Oxford Square, and our uncles took us somewhere to see a train pass by; but our father had given us strict instructions not to be tempted to try such a dangerous conveyance.

A journey from York to London by coach took three days, sleeping two nights on the road. My sisters-in-law used to say how cramped they were, especially the unfortunate child who sat bodkin between father and mother. The other children were in a landau. Very few ladies hunted or skated; it was thought too masculine. Ladies wore white under petticoats. Goloshes were not known; the first came from America. Servants and anyone engaged in housework, if they went out of the house slipped their feet into clogs which had a high ring, or into pattens which had thick wooden soles. Servants used pronged forks at dinner and pewter plates and dishes and had drinking horns, except in the housekeeper's room.

Ladies never walked out alone, and I remember being kept in the house on lovely summer days when we were in an Hotel because neither footman nor maid could go out with us!

Ladies when they went to church, frequently had their footman following up the aisle to open the pew door and put the prayer book in the pew.

When we were at 16 Hyde Park Street, we went to Quebec Chapel (now the Church of the Annunciation) and professional singers sang in the gallery at the West end of the Church.

In 1838 my sister and I went to the Coronation. We left Coulson's Hotel, Brook Street, at ten minutes past five a.m. (my father would not let us go earlier). We arrived at the Abbey (*Westminster Abbey*) twenty minutes past five and found the last places in the front part of the gallery were already occupied. Our tickets were for the North Upper Choir Gallery. We found seats in the second row. The doors were closed a little before 10 till the arrival of the Queen at

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half past eleven. The Peers and Peeresses came in previously, carrying their coronets in their hands, or else they were borne by little pages, generally their sons, dressed in scarlet with white silk scarfs, arranged the trains, and walked by the side of their respective Peers and Peeresses, who were conducted to their seats in the transepts by the Heralds in loose scarlet coats, embroidered with lions and harps of Erin. The Ambassadors, amongst whom Marshal Soult was especially noticed, were attended by their staffs.

Next came the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Gloucester, who was leaning on the arm of Prince George of Cambridge. Then came the youthful Queen. The guns fired a salute, the full band commenced the anthem; "I was glad when they said unto me .....

The ladies bearing the Queen's train were dressed in white with maiden blush roses down the stomacher and across the top of the sleeves and their gloves, and wreaths around their heads. Eight other ladies followed in blue satin trains and court plumes. Then came eight more ladies, finally the Marchioness of Landsdowne and the Duchess of Sutherland. Of all these entrances we had an excellent view. After some time we went to the lower gallery and contrived with some difficulty to see the Queen, on King Edward's chair, just as she was crowned; dressed in cloth of gold. The sun shone just then, with brilliant effect on all her diamonds.

It was a curious sight to see the Peers and Princesses put up their arms simultaneously to put on their coronets as soon as the Queen was crowned. We returned upstairs and heard the splendid Coronation Anthem and the Hallelujah Chorus. It was amazing to see the Generals, Officers, Attaches, Pages, scrambling like boys for the medals amid much laughter. (Rather strange in a cathedral !). The Queen returned, wearing her crown and carrying the orb and sceptre. We then went to look at the Peeresses, now wearing their coronets, which with their robes and diamonds made a gorgeous show. We also looked at the handsome Communion Plate. We then left the Abbey by the advice of the policeman and after standing two hours and three quarters outside at the entrance had the great satisfaction of hearing our number called, and we reached the hotel at ten minutes past seven p.m..

We were dressed in white Grecian net over white silk, trimmed with white satin and lilies of the valley, and we wore "sevigues" across the forehead. These could also be worn as a bracelet. In the evening we went out to see some of the illuminations and a few fireworks. Among the best we saw were those at Marshal Soult's, (Ambassador Extraordinary of France), at Chandos House, occupied by Count Esterhazy (Ambassador of Austria), those at Count Schwarzeburg's (Ambassador Extraordinary of Austria), and at the Italian Opera House, Mivarts, etc..

In 1840 my sister Harriet went to Harrogate for her health. Almost the first time we had been separated even for a day! To our great joy the Penny Post was just established, as we could write to each other daily. Formerly it was 8d for a letter from London to Milgate and much more to Yorkshire. The money was paid by the receiver. Peers and members of Parliament were able to frank a number of letters in a day, and they were in much request, but the letter must be sent the day it was dated, and not the smallest enclosure might be put in a letter, as it was then charged double.

In 1842 my sister went again to Harrogate, and I joined her there. I travelled with Mr. Thompson and two of his daughters. We left London about 9 or 10 a.m. and went to Alne station (*near*

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*Easingwold some 8 miles from Kirby, Little Ouseburn*). The Knaresborough Railway line was not made. Mr. Thompson took down his own carriage and another met him, from Kirby Hall, in which he drove off at once. I waited with one daughter for the carriage and horses to be taken off the train. They had never taken one off a train before at Alne and it was a lengthy process. We arrived at Kirby about 9 p.m. and had supper in the Breakfast Room. Trains from London then stopped at a great many stations, went much slower, and when expresses were arranged later, extra fares were charged for them. The train went via Lincoln, the more direct route was not made.

Formerly Mr. Thompson always drove to London. He took up two or three carriages for family and servants. They were 3 days on the road, sleeping two nights at Inns. He and his wife drove in a chariot with four horses. They had post boys and changed horses at various places.

I found two more daughters at Kirby and my future husband (*Stephen*), whom I had scarcely seen since my early visit 18 years before. After a few days at Kirby my sister and I went to stay at Studley Royal (*near to Ripon*), then owned by Mrs. Lawrence, who left it to Lord de Gray. We went on to Harrogate, which was much smaller in those days than it is now. No railway passed through it. The "Dragon", the "Granby" and the "Queen" were the best hotels. There was scarcely a house between Harrogate and Knaresborough.

The following winter H.S.T. (*Harry Stephen Thompson. He took on the additional surname, Meysey, later as a condition of inheriting certain wealth*) paid a visit for shooting at Milgate and again the winter after, and in June 1843 I was engaged to him. My stepmother wanted us to be married immediately, and my father said if we liked to be married in London he would invite all his friends, but in the country he could ask no one, as he was not well enough to entertain. Naturally I wanted first to go home to Milgate, so we were married there, August 26<sup>th</sup>. No one was asked except my husband's sister Emily. She and my two sisters were bridesmaids. My father gave me away. My stepmother, brother and Miss Williams, the governess formed the congregation. Mr. Radcliffe, Lady Croft's father was the clergyman who married us.

After lunch we drove to Thomas's Hotel, Berkeley Square, and a few days after we went to Shotover. On September 7<sup>th</sup> we went abroad with my husband's brother, the Rev. Thomas Charles and his sister, Emily, as he had always promised them they should go with him on his honeymoon. They were very kind and considerate, and all worked well. We took a maid and a travelling valet.

We went direct to Antwerp and stuck on a sandbank crossing from Flushing to Ostend, which much delayed us. We went to Brussels and Waterloo, and on to Cologne, where we went on board a steamer to go up the Rhine. We slept at Coblenz, Mayence, and saw as much of each place as we could.. We bought a carriage at Basle and sold it again at Basle. We got as far as Genoa, and then had to return home, and we stayed the winter at Kirby.

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1886. my dear sister Henrietta died, and was buried at Dodington.

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1887. Lady Croft (*my stepmother died*) and was likewise buried at Dodington.

## The Crofts and the Church

**The Crofts had a significant presence in the church** and many went first to Eton School and then to either Oxford or Cambridge as could be expected in view of their large landholdings and position in society. One, (James), even becoming Archdeacon of Canterbury in 1825. I have been unable to obtain any obituary on these men, some of whom must have, in their time, wielded considerable power. They were at various times:

**Croft Robert Nicholas Adm pens age 18 at Trinity June 19 1772**

**3rd son of Stephen of Stillington**

**Born June 3 1754**

School Eton. Matric Maths 1772. Scholar 1774. B.A. 1776. Fellow of Peterhouse 1776 Adm there 1 Feb 1776. M.A. 1779

Vicar of Hornsea cum Riston, Yorks 1782- 1831

Canon Residentary of York 1805. Preb. Of Botevant York 1784-1801. Preb. Of Stillington, York 1801-1831

Rector of Rowley near Beverley and also vicar of Hutton Buscel near Scarborough .Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 1787 to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1831

Married Elizabeth daughter of George Wanley Bowes of Hanwell Middlesex Aug 28 1778

Died March 23 1831 aged 76 at Canterbury at the house of his son James

Father of Stephen 1812, James 1802, Thomas 1816

**Croft, James. Adm pens (age 19) at Peterhouse Aug 1 1802**

**Son and heir of Robert N. (1772), Rector of Rowley.**

**Born July 2, 1784**

School Eton, Matric Maths 1803. B.A. 1807 M.A. 1812

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Ord deacon York Dec 24 1809. Priest Mar 24, 1810

Rector of Ingoldsmell Lincs 1810-1812. Rector of Saltwood Kent 1812-1819, Rector of Great Chart 1814. Probate of Ely 1815. Rector of Cliffe at Hoo Kent 1818-1869

Rector of Saltwood (re-inst) with Hythe 1819-1869. Prebendary of Canterbury 1822.

**Archdeacon of Canterbury 1825-1869**

JP for East Kent

Married Charlotte daughter of Charles Manners Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury 1812 Oct 5

Died May 9 1869 at Saltwood

Brother of Thomas Hutton (1816) and Stephen 1812

Father of Robert M. 1832 and Percy J 1838

**Croft Thomas Hutton**

**Adm pen age 18 at Trinity Feb 14 1816**

**3rd son of Robert 1772 Canon of York**

**Born 1800 at Rowley Yorks**

School Eton. Matric Maths March 16 . B.A. 1823. M.A. 1827

Ordained Deacon York 14 July 1823 Vicar of Stillington 1823

Vicar of Hutton Buscel 1827-73

Prebendary of York 1831

Rural Dean of Aldborough Hall Yorks. J.P.

Married Elizabeth Mary daughter of Richard Thompson Esq of Kirby Hall, Yorks Sept 1828

Died June 23 1873, Buried at Aldborough

Brother of James 1802

Father of George A.H. 1848

**Croft George Arthur**

**Adm Pens Trinity Feb3 1848**

**Son of Thomas Hutton 1816 Canon of York**

**Born Aug 1829**

School Eton

Matric Lent 1849

Of Aldborough Hall, Boroughbridge, Yorks J.P.

Lieut Yorks Hussars

Married and had issue

Died 8th April 1889

**Croft, Stephen**

**Adm Pens age 19 Trinity Dec 9 1812**

**6th son of Robert 1772 clerk**

**Born Aug 14 1794 at Rowley Yorks**

School Eton Matrix Michaelmass 1813. scholar 1815 B.A. 1817. M.A. 1821

Ordained Priest Ely Nov 12 1820

Rector of St. Mary Stoke Ipswich 1820-1826. Rural Dean

Married Georgina dau of Sir Cornelius Cuyler Bart on 1st January 1835

Died 23rd June 1868

Brother of Thomas H 1816

Father of Henry H.S. 1859

**Croft Robert Manners**

**Admin pens (aged 17) Trinity, Feb 20 1832**

**Son of James (1802) Archdeacon of Canterbury**

**Born Oct 21 1814 at Saltwood Kent.**

School Eton. Matric Maths Michaelmass 1833, Army Lieut 1st Royal Dragoons

JP for Kent

Married Cecilia Isabella daughter of Charles Winn of Nostell Priory, Yorks. on Sept 28 1848

Died June 29 1860 at Bath

Brother of Percy J. 1838

**Croft. Percy James.**

**Adm pens at Trinity June 29, 1838**

**2nd son of James (1802) Archdeacon of Canterbury**

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**Born Feb 4 1820**

School Eton. Matric Lent 1839. B.A. 1842. M.A. 1862.

Ordained deacon of Canterbury 1843. Priest 1844

Curate of Saltwood Kent 1843-47. Vicar of Exning Suffolk 1848-1854.

Rector of Kirton Notts 1854-1861. Rector of Kingstone Kent 1861-84

Disappears fom Crockford's 1885

Brother of Robert M 1832

Father of Jane H. de T 1883

**Croft Samuel Adm Fell-Comm age 19 Christs June 22 1805**

**6th son of Stephen of Stillington Hall**

**Born 28th Dec 1785 at York**

School Eton Matric Lent 1806

Went to India,

Died there when young through a fall from a horse.

**Croft, Charles, Hall - 1st son of Admiral William of Stillington**, co. York, arm. University College, Oxford. Matric 5 July 1825, aged 18. B.A. 1829, curate of Stillington and Roos, died unmarried.

**Croft, William. 4th son of William, of Stillington**, co. York. arm. St. Peter's York, Aug-Dec 1829. University College, Oxford. Matric 21st January, 1837, aged 20. He died unmarried in 1859.

**Croft Harry**

**Adm Pens at St. Johns Oxford Aug 2 1876**

**Son and heir of Stephen Esq of Stillington Hall Easingwold**

**Born 7th July 1857 at Fulford Yorks**

Bapt'd 9th May 1859

School Repton Matric Michaelmass 1876

Of Stillington Hall Yorks. JP Lord of Manor of Stillington

Succeeded his father in 1871

Of Burton Hall, North Tawton Devon in 1910

Died April 13 1926

## Memorials to the Croft Family

**Cloughton Church Tower** – Stone carving Croft ancient Arms

**Coverham Church near Middleham** –stained glass window Croft coat of Arms

**Aldborough Church – Stained glass windows**

To the Glory of God and to the honoured memory of the Reverend Thomas Hutton Croft JP Canon of York Minster and Vicar of Hutton Buscel and of Stillington, who died June XXIII MDccclxxiii and of Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Richard Thompson Esq of Kirby Hall who died October XXI MDccclxxxiiii. George Arthur Hutton Croft of Aldborough, their son dedicated this window.

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of George Arthur Hutton Croft of Aldborough Hall who was born August XXIX MDCCCXXIV died April VIII MDCCCLXXXIX This window was dedicated in faith and hope by his widow and children

In loving memory of Catherine Mary widow of George Arthur Hutton Croft of Aldborough Hall who was born May 27 1840 died October 18 1907 Her children have erected this window.

In loving memory of Sydney Hilda Hutton, Daughter of the late G.A. Hutton Croft of Aldeborough Hall widow of the late Major G(eorge) P(hilip) du Plat Taylor O.B.E. and wife of Lt.Col. The Hon Eric (Richard) Thesiger D.S.O. Born 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1873. Died Jul 16<sup>th</sup> 1930.

**Hutton Buscel – Stained glass windows**

To Robert Nicholas Croft born 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1754 died 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1831.

To Elizabeth his wife born 17<sup>th</sup> April 1761 died 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1841

To Anne their daughter born September 24<sup>th</sup> 1789 died 24 December 1852

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**Wooden furniture – Thomas Hutton Croft (vicar 1826-1873)****Stillington Church - Marble Stone on sacristy wall**

In memory of his grandfather Thomas Croft and Francis his wife, the daughter of Sir Stephen Thompson.

Of his father Stephen Croft and Elizabeth his wife the daughter of Sir Stephen Anderson.

Of his uncle Christopher Croft.

Of his amiable and much lamented wife Henrietta, the daughter of Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall and of his daughter Lucy Croft.

All whose remains are interred within the walls of this sacred place.

This marble was erected by Stephen Croft in the year 1773. Who died September 1798 aged 85 and lieth interred here.

Here also lieth the body of Stephen Croft his son who died July 21<sup>st</sup> 1813 aged 69 and Frances his wife who died the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1817 aged 73

Here lieth the body of Harry Croft son of Stephen Croft who died 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 1853 aged 78.

To the memory of Harry Croft his son who was drowned in the storm off Balaclava November 14<sup>th</sup> 1854 aged 29

In memory of Minnie, youngest daughter of Stephen and Fanny Croft Born 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1861 Died 24<sup>th</sup> February 1869

All above on same marble

Separate marble

In memory of Stephen Croft who died February 28<sup>th</sup> 1871 aged 43year

**Gravestones in Stillington churchyard**

Reverend Charles Hall Croft died January 7<sup>th</sup> 1834 aged 27

William Croft died March 5<sup>th</sup> 1854 aged 36

Also Anna Maria wife of Mortimer O'Brien 5<sup>th</sup> daughter of Admiral Croft died November 26<sup>th</sup> 1894 aged 74 years

Harriet Croft wife of Admiral Croft, Eldest daughter of Hall Plummer of Bilton Hall and Stockton Hall both in this county died 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1864 aged 79 years

Admiral Croft died 6<sup>th</sup> May 1872 aged 90 years

Stephen William 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Admiral Croft – Captain of the Royal Horse Artillery, Madras born 27 October 1808 died 27 December 1885

Harry Croft died 13<sup>th</sup> April 1926 aged 68 husband of Louisa Gertrude Croft.

Fann Croft relict of Stephen Croft died 27<sup>th</sup> April 1875 aged 45 years

Stephen Croft died 28<sup>th</sup> February 1871 aged 43 years.

Minn youngest of Stephen and Fann Croft died 27<sup>th</sup> February 1869 aged 7 years 10 months.

**Memorials inside Rowley Church**

North Wall In memory of/ the Rev Robert Croft, second son of/ Stephen Croft of Stillington, Esquire/ A canon Residentiary of the Metropolitan /Church of York, Vicar of Hornsea and Ricton/ and during forty three years/ Rector of this Parish/ Endured to his numerous friends by/ his social virtues and to his family by/ his kind and judicious care and affection/ He departed this life in the humble reliance/ on the merits of his Saviour at Canterbury/ (where his remains are interred) / on the twenty third day of March 1851/ in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his age / This stone also records the early lamented death of Captain George Croft / fourth son of the above mentioned / Robert Croft / He died in Ireland / the fourth day of December 1809 / aged twenty one years.

**York Minster**

South Choir aisle, South Wall, inside Minster, Monument to **John Croft**, (1731-1820) his wife Judith (Bacon) and son Francis. I have written separately on him.

I have now nearly completed my research of the Yorkshire Croft Family. There seem to have been a number of Bases from which they operated:

Cottescue Park Coverdale near East Witton, Ralph Croft his wife Ann operating from there.

York where Christopher went to and became Lord Mayor. Also later many members lived here such as John above.

Stillington Hall near York

From the above they expanded to East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire following the marriage of Thomas Croft of Stillington to Francis Thompson of Kirby Hall (Great and Little Ouseburn near Aldborough). These were lands that were settled on the Crofts that had belonged to her family. Also the Assignment of the Manor of Burnby and lands at Kilwick Percy by Sir Edmund Anderson in 1711 following the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Stephen Croft. The expansion was to their newly acquired estates at Aldborough, near Boroughbridge. This was the base of Thomas Hutton Croft(1797-1873)

Rowley and Roos near Hull, Hornsea and Ricton. This was the base of Robert Nicholas Croft (1754-1831) as was Hutton Buscell

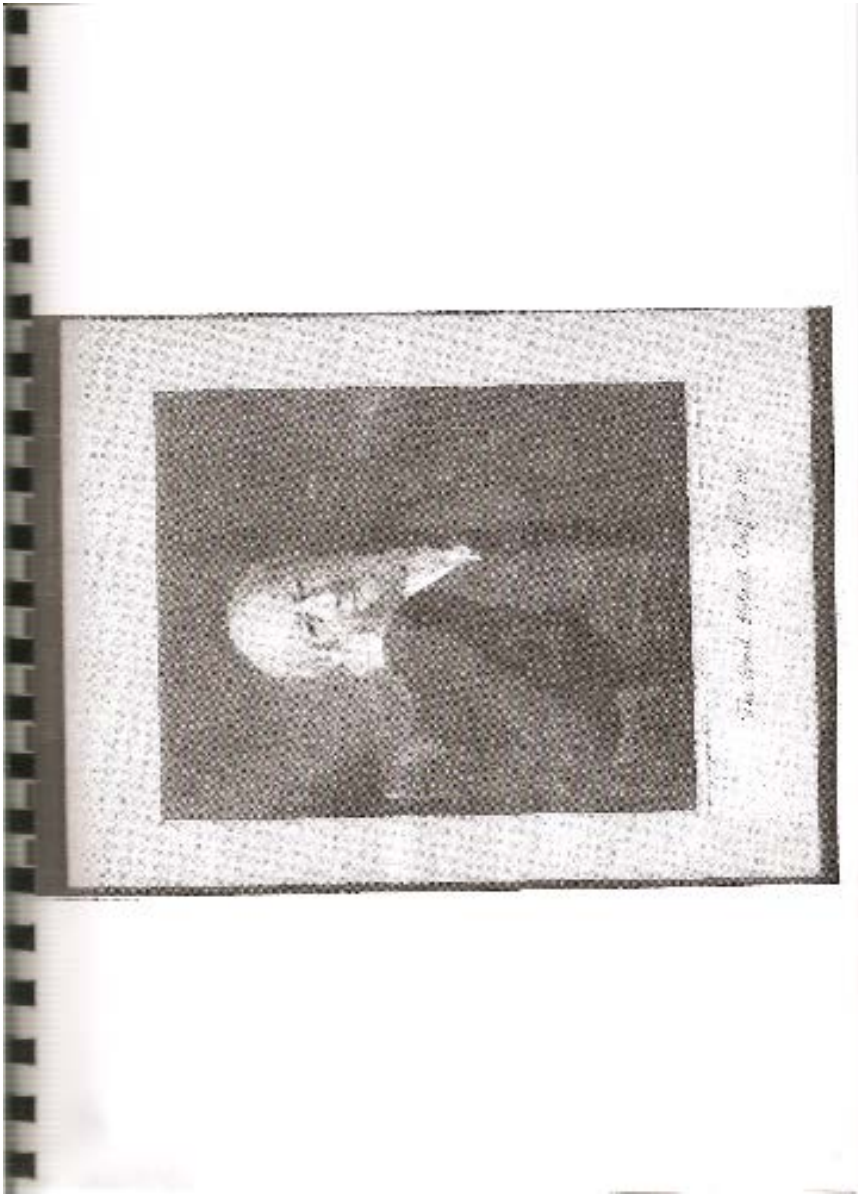
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Hutton Buscell near Scarborough. See Rowley above

There maybe others that I have not picked up on yet as I have concentrated mainly on North Yorkshire.



**Charlotte Manners Sutton 1788-1825**



**Rev'd Robert Croft 1754-1831**



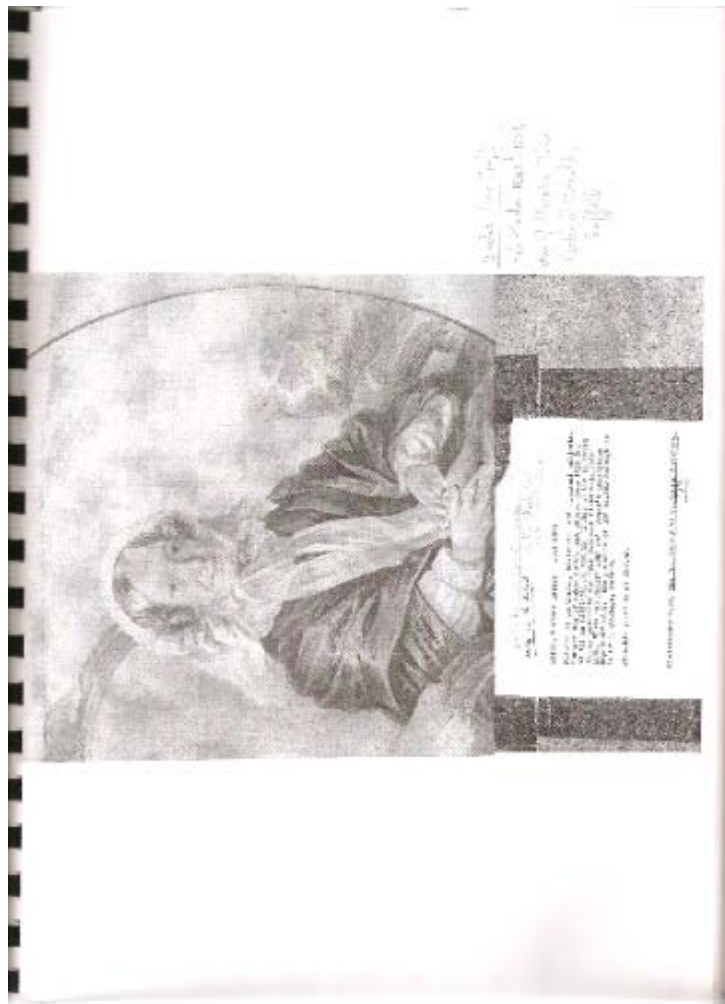
**Elizabeth Bowes 1761-1841**



**Archdeacon James Croft (1784-1869) with his daughters  
Anne, Charlotte, Amy**





**Harry (1855-83) George (1857-1937) Granville (1859) Croft sons of Robert Manners Croft**



**Amelia Ann Croft nee Todd (1845-1886) dau of Horatio Todd Rector of Occold Suffolk**



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Dear Glennys and Grahame,  
 I looked at Glennys' photo of the wedding, but couldn't spot anyone that I could recognise. I see from the GRO Index that the marriage was registered in the Jul-Sept quarter of 1883 - do you have an exact date Glennys ? I ask because there was another wedding on 27th Sept 1883 at Chichester where Frederick Sutton's youngest son Rev Charles Nassau Sutton was married to Edith Mary Cafe. Maybe the dates clashed?  
 I attach the Sutton wedding photo :

The groom's father, Capt Frederick Sutton is standing behind the married couple; Algernon Sutton (my great grandfather) is standing at the back 4<sup>th</sup> from the right; his future mother-in-law Barbara Louisa Fell (née Thomson) is standing at the back with her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband Revd. T.R. Rudston Read (Rector of Withyham) to the left of the porch directly under the upstairs window, to the left of him is Winifred Alice Fell (my great grandmother); Frederick's wife, Georgiana Croft is sitting in front of Rudston Read; Noel Hay Chapman and his father Frank Hay Chapman are sitting on the ground at Charles Nassau's feet; Herbert Sutton (brother of Algernon & Charles Nassau) is sitting on the ground at extreme left, behind him is his sister Amy Georgina Chapman nee Sutton.  
 Charles Nassau Sutton had been curate at Withyham and was to become Rector when Rudston Read died.  
 Best wishes  
 John



DULCIE OGLE 1868 - 1967  
(CROFT)



Print

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**From:** Glennys Dalby (glennys@pfo.eclipse.co.uk)  
**To:** grahame.richardson@btopenworld.com;  
**Date:** Friday, 24 September, 2010 21:40:59  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Crofts etc

Dear Grahame and Jillian,

Firstly I must apologise for not contacting you long ago. I take a large group from our village to France for a few days every September, and this has occupied much of my time.

I do hope that your knee is feeling much better, Jillian. These ops take time, but you will eventually be so glad to be free of the pain you had before.

Geoff and I are still trying to find time to get to grips with the family tree software. I am (hopefully) enclosing copies of two b/w photos. One is of the wedding of my great grandmother - Rosellen Mary Croft - and George Bowes Hutton Croft which took place in 1883 at Kingstone Rectory. I have been working with my aunt to try and identify those in this picture and think that my information is accurate. The smaller photo is also of my great grandmother and is taken in the latter years of her life. I think she was about 95 when she died.

WEDDING PHOTO (left to right)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Sir John Frederick Croft                                   | 2 Marianne Radcliffe Croft - wife of Sir John           |
| 3 (sitting) Helena Diana Croft - sister of bride             | 4 ? brother of bride                                    |
| 5 ? daughter of Sir John or sister of groom                  | 6 (sitting) Amelia Anne - 3rd wife of Percy James       |
| 7 (at back) Harry Stephen Thompson                           | 8 Elizabeth Anne Croft - wife of Harry Stephen Thompson |
| 9 (groom) George Bowes Hutton Croft                          | 10 (at back) ?  |
| 11 ? daughter of Sir John or sister of groom                 | 12 (sitting - bride) Rosellen Mary Croft                |
| 13 (at back) brother of bride or groom                       | 14 ? daughter of Sir John or sister of groom            |
| 15 (sitting) Cecilia Isabella - wife of Robert Manners Croft | 16 ? daughter of Sir John or sister of groom            |
| 17 ? brother of bride or groom                               | 18 (at back) ? brother of bride or groom                |
| 19 ? daughter of Sir John or sister of groom                 | 20 ? could this be vicar who took ceremony              |
| 21 (sitting) Anna Maria Croft - sister of bride              | 22 ? brother of bride or groom                          |

I hope that this clear. Can you put names to any of the question marks?

Kind regards,

*Glennys*

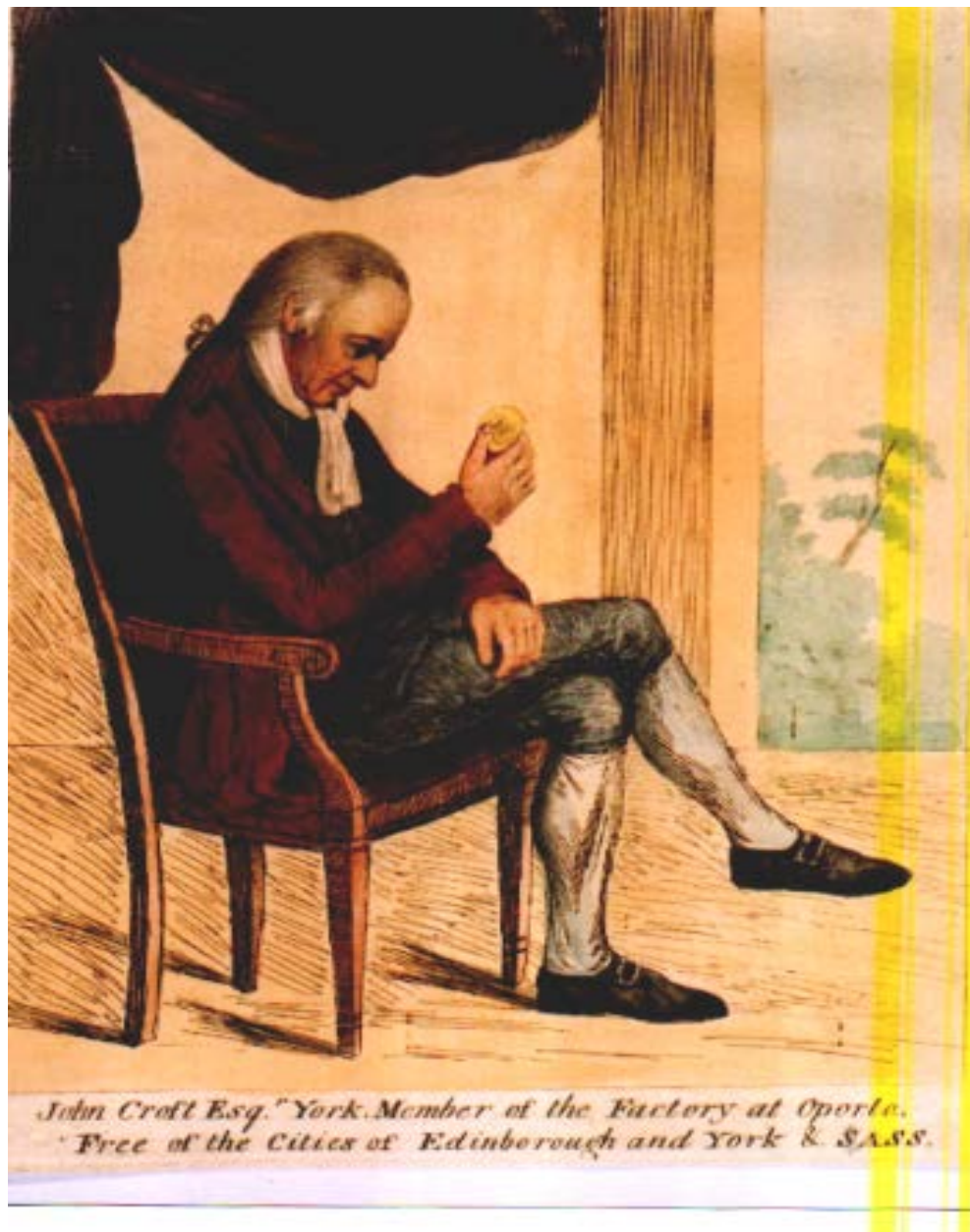


Mary Rosellan(Ogle) Jerrard, Monica Mary (Jerrard) Flack/Round, Rosellan Mary Croft,  
Glennys (Jerrard) Dalby



**Harry Ogle George Bowes Croft Rosellan Mary Croft -North Tawton**

**John Croft 1732-1820**



**Biographical Memoir      York Courant 25.11.1820**

**OF THE LATE JOHN CROFT, Esq. of York THE ANTIQUARY**

Having in our last announced the death of JOHN CROFT, Esq. F.S.A. we now hasten to give a Biographical Sketch of the well-known public character,- Mr. C. was born at Stillington, near York, on the last day of February, 1732, (Old Style) of a very ancient and respectable Yorkshire family who had considerable possessions in Portugal. Being a younger branch of the family, he was sent from this country to Oporto, at the tender age of 15, and there served a clerkship in the

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counting house of a respectable firm in the wine trade. At the conclusion of the above-named engagement, Mr. C. became a principal partner in another concern of the same nature, which shipped very great quantities of wine to this country. He thus remained at Oporto for about 30 years, during which time the dreadful earthquake occurred, which overthrew the fine city of Lisbon, on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1755. It is rumoured that Mr. Croft was at Lisbon on the morning of the awful visitation, and that observing the book case in his room move, he ran on board a ship in the harbour, and thence witnessed the dreadful spectacle of its spacious squares, public buildings and palaces, tumbling into ruins. But after much enquiry we have reason to believe, that he was at Oporto on the day of destruction, and that a few days afterwards he went with several others to wander over the scene of desolation.

On the return of Mr. Croft from Portugal, he fixed his residence in York, as a wine merchant, and soon after (1781) became a partner with Messrs. Suttell, the predecessors of Mr. Ellis, the wine-merchant, in the Mint-Yard. Mr. Croft did not however suffer business to occupy his attention exclusively. – Not long after his arrival from Oporto, (21.6.1774) he married Miss Bacon a daughter of the late Mr. Alderman Bacon of this city, by whom he had two sons.- One of them died very young; (*this was John, born 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1775, in York, Bapt'd 13 5 1775 at St. Saviour, York, who died in November 1786 of "white swelling" and was buried at Stillington on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1786 – g.richardson*) and the other, Mr. Francis Croft, died in 1807 aged 31. The subject of this memoir served the office of sheriff of York in 1773 and it is many years since he retired from business. Being, however, always of an active disposition, Mr. Croft devoted much of his time during the latter years of his life to antiquarian researches, and through the knowledge he acquired on that subject, he soon became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was also indefatigable as a *Virtuoso*, and has left behind him a very considerable cabinet of ancient coins, scarce books and other curiosities. Mr. C. published various trifling and eccentric productions, but as an author or compiler he certainly did not shine, the principal of his publications being "*Scrapania*" a collection of anecdotes, 12 mo., "*Notes on Shakespeare,*" and "*a small Treatise on Wines*". He was however in acquirements a scholar, and in manners, though eccentric, a gentleman – He knew most of the Continental languages and was ever ready to accompany any foreigners who might arrive in York, to see the relics of antiquity or the production of art with which this city abounds. In person Mr. C. was below the middle-stature, rather broadset, with short neck and shoulders generally shrugged-up – his dress careless, his hair white with age, and when he was in the streets, he generally had an umbrella under his arm, which, together gave him an air of eccentricity, that he ever rather exulted in than otherwise. In conversation he was interesting, possessing a great fund of anecdote, but was very penurious, and exhibited much of the suspicion of age, though he was always a tender husband and a kind and indulgent master. Various anecdotes are related to the eccentricity and peculiar propensities of this singular and well known character. He is supposed to have left property of £20,000 a considerable part of which is, we hear, at the disposition of his widow. Though in the 89<sup>th</sup> year of his age, Mr. Croft retained his mental faculties to the last. After a slight indisposition, he departed this life on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. And his remains were interred in the Cathedral of York on Friday last the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 1820.

### **Other Publications**

#### **York Courant 17<sup>th</sup> January 1769**

Mr. John Croft takes this Method to acquaint his Friends, that the raising the Price of the Portugal Wines being agreed upon by the Merchants, deals out Wines per Retail, at his Vault in the Mint-Yard, under the Play-House, at the usual prices as before.

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**York Courant 31<sup>st</sup> January 1769**

Thomas Suttell, Wine Merchant in York, was obliged to decline Business to his Brothers, James and George Suttell. He returns his sincere Thanks to all his Friends for their past Favours and still hopes for a Continuance of them having met with *new* Conveniences for carrying on his business, and has ordered a Parcel of *fine* Wines, foreign Brandy, and Rums, and on their Arrival shall take the Liberty to inform his Friends.

All persons who stand indebted to himself **only**; and those who have any Demand upon him are desired to send their Accounts to him at his house in Swinegate in order that they may be forthwith discharged

**York Courant 21<sup>st</sup> June 1774**

Yesterday morning (in fact 16.6.1774) was married by the Rev. Bedingfield at St. Michael's le Belfry in this City Mr. John Croft, Wine Merchant, to Miss Bacon, daughter of Mr. Alderman Bacon, an accomplished lady, with a considerable fortune.

**York Courant 6<sup>th</sup> February 1781**

**James and George Suttell**, having renewed Partnership in the Wine and Spirit Trade, the Business in future will be carried on by them and Mr. JOHN CROFT. In return their most sincere and Grateful Thanks to their Friends for the Favours already received, and humbly solicit a Continuation of them.

**York Herald 5<sup>th</sup> March.1791**

To be sold, together or separately

Two Genteel Dwelling Houses in complete repair, situate in Aldwark, York, one of them inhabited by Dr. Crowther and the other by John Croft, Esq. With very good gardens behind the same, extending to the City Walls, a neat summer house on the walls, commanding a pleasant and extensive prospect, two stables and a coach house.

The house inhabited by Mr. Croft, consists of a Parlour, Dressing Room, Kitchen and Back-Kitchen on the first floor, on the second a Drawing room 10feet six inches square, Dressing Room with a large Closet, and above are three garrets and two lumber rooms; also a detached Wash-House and Laundry over it.

For further particulars, inquire at the office of Messrs Seymour and Lakeland in York.

**York Minster (booklet)****133 Francis Croft, 1807, John Croft, 1820 and Judith Croft, 1824.**

S.Choir aisle S Wall- a monument probably by Michael Taylor

Wreathed medallion with shield of arms, quarterly

1 CROFT, 2 BACON, 3 BEST, 4 SUGER, floating over Sarcophagus, resting on a Lion's paws viewed end on. This rests on a tall podium bearing inscription. His gravestone is numbered 48.

The Friends of York Minster paid for the restoration of the wall monument in 1995.

Latin Inscription: Francis Croft died 14 December 1807, aged 31. Alas much lamented.

John Croft, Father of the same Francis, died 18 November 1820, aged 88

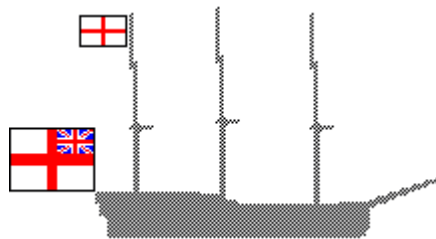
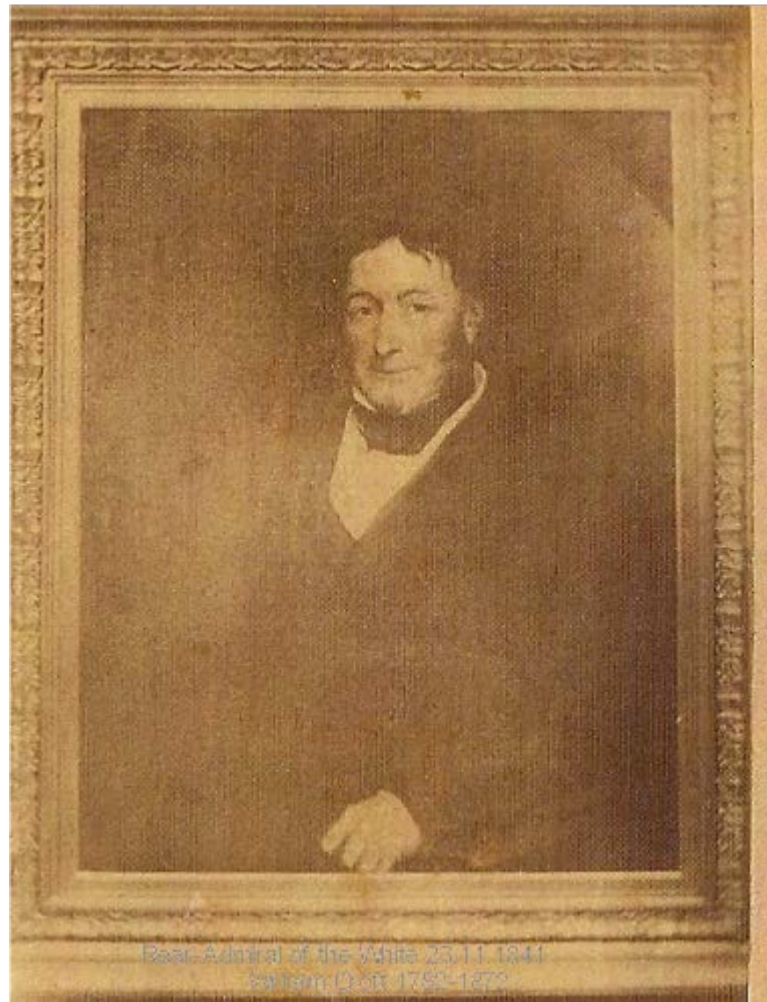
Judith Croft, mother of the same Francis, died 17 June, aged 78

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John Croft was born 29 February 1731/2 and dying on 18 November was buried in the Minster on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1820. He was the son of Stephen Croft of Stillington and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edmund Anderson, Bart., He was Freeman of the City of York, 1770, Chamberlain, 1772, and Sheriff 1773/4. A career as an amateur antiquary and civic worthy, followed a successful career working in Oporto as a Port and Wine Merchant. He was the author of a “ Treatise on the Wines of Portugal 1788, Excerpta Antiqua 1797, The Memoirs of Henry Rowe, and an annotation of Plays of Shakespeare. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a frequenter of book auctions. On 16<sup>th</sup> June 1774, he married Judith daughter of Alderman Francis Bacon, Lord Mayor of York, 1764, 1777 and Catherine Hildrop.

Francis Croft their only son, of the Parish of St. Cuthbert, York, died suddenly on 14<sup>th</sup> December, aged 31 and was buried in the Minster on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1807. His mother Judith of Aldwark in the Parish of St. Cuthbert, died on the 17<sup>th</sup> June aged 78 and was buried in the Minster on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1824.

### **Rear Admiral William Croft 1782-1872**



Flag of a Rear-Admiral of The White

William Croft, second son of Stephen Croft and Frances Clarke, was born in Stillington on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1782. He entered the Navy on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1795, at the age of 13 years, as a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Volunteer, on board the *AMAZON* No. 36. The Captain being Robert Carthew Reynolds. Reynolds had been assigned the task of watching the French at Brest with a small flotilla under the overall command of Capt. Sir Edward Pellew who was on the *INDEFATIGABLE*. On 11<sup>th</sup> December the Amazon was sent (back to England) with the news that Rear Admiral de Richey

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had arrived in Brest from L'Orient with seven ships of the line in preparation for an assault on Ireland.

In April 1796 William Croft was on the *Amazon* which assisted the *Indefatigable* at the capture of the *Unite* and *La Virginie* both from L'Orient.

In January 1797 The *Indefatigable* and *Amazon* discovered the French *Droits de L'Homme*, returning from the abortive attempt of the invasion of Ireland at Bantry Bay. The *Indefatigable* was seven miles ahead of the *Amazon*, which took an hour and a half to join her sister ship. *Droits de Homme* continued to run east south east with the two frigates on either side to rake her. After an action in a heavy gale which lasted for ten hours through the night of the 13<sup>th</sup>. At 4.20am on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, land was suddenly sighted and the frigates hauled off in opposite direction and the French ship went aground on the Penmarks in Audierne Bay with terrible loss of life. Out of a complement of 1300 men, she lost 100 dead and 150 were wounded in the battle; of the remainder all but 200 were drowned while trying to reach the shore. In the *Indefatigable* Lieutenant John Thompson and John M'Kerlie (who lost an arm) and only 17 other seamen were wounded. In the *Amazon* 3 were killed and 16 wounded. Unfortunately the *Amazon* had suffered so much damage to her sails and rigging, she was unable to weather the rocks and claw for safety. She was wrecked on the sands at Adiant near Isle Bas and six men who tried to make for the French shore in the cutter were drowned. The remainder of the crew stayed on the rocks and were later taken prisoner by the French. Captain Reynolds and his officers were honourably acquitted in a Court Martial on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1797.

William Croft was released by the French in 1797 (no doubt a prisoner exchange). He was by now 15, and he then joined as midshipman on the *Centaur No. 74* under Captain John Markham and was on that ship when the British took Minorca, in November 1798. This vessel was attached to the *Foudroyant No80*. bearing the flag of Lord Keith and took part in the expedition of 1801 to Egypt, where he served on shore with the naval brigade, and was present at the capture of Alexandria. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1801 he was confirmed at the young age of 19 years to a Lieutenancy in the *Success No.32* under Captain George Burleton. He was paid off at the peace.

In 1803 he joined the *Revolutionnaire No.44* under Captain Walter Locke, then to the *Camel* a store-ship under Captain Ayscough and then to the *Hercule No 74* the flagship of Sir John Thomas Duckworth. He witnessed the attack on Curacoa and was promoted to captain the sloop, the *Vigilante* on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1804. He was invalided in August 1804 and did not go to sea again until 4<sup>th</sup> February 1807 in the *Alacrity No.18*. He was at the siege of Copenhagen in August and immediately afterwards was elevated to Post-rank by commission dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 1807 (any captain of a ship over 32 guns). From August 1810 until December 1813 he was regulating officer at Hull. Unable to procure employment he went onto half-pay. His advance to flag rank took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1841 at the age of 59.

In March 1805 he married Harriet Plummer, daughter of Hall Plummer of Bilton Hall near York. They had eleven children. Harriett (1806-1864), Charles Hall (1807-1834), Stephen William (1808-1885), George Anderson (1809-1869), Eliza (1813-1896), Henry (1814-1892), William (1816-1854), Anne (1818-1865), Anne Maria (1820-1894), Marianne (1823-1899), and Caroline Sarah (1825-1848).





'Cary Husband' - Caroline?  
da. of Arthur & Anne.

Taken by L. Weaver in Dublin.

## CRITCHELL—CROCKER—CROFT—CROFTON.

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er; \* and, on 11 Sept. following, he the CONFIANCE, of 37 guns and 270 b. Downie, when that ship and several taken beneath the hostile batteries on Lake Champlain, by a greatly American squadron under Commodore on which occasion the loss of the counted to 41 killed, including Capt. 10 wounded. Mr. Criswick, whose dated 9 March, 1815, has not since ed, and has issue.

(COMMANDER, 1846. F-P., 24; H-P., 14.)

MITCHELL entered the Navy, 22 Aug. L Vol., on board the CALEDONIA 120, Bedford, flag-ship afterwards of Sir rd Neale, whom he followed, as Mid- 1811, into the BOYNE 98. From 1812 16, this officer, who had been hitherto the Channel, served with Capt. Phipps the STAG and SPARTAN frigates, on the d Hope and Mediterranean stations; he became attached, as Admiralty Mid- the MARTIN 16, Capt. Andrew Mitchell, I IPHIGENIA 36, Capt. John Tancock rker, under the latter of whom, in orted to Quebec the Duke of Rich- recently appointed Governor-General He was confirmed to a Lieutenantcy in r, Capt. Alex. Montgomerie, on the ation, 14 Oct. 1819; and afterwards 1 Sept. 1824, to the *ESK* 20, Capt. Wm. has, off the coast of Africa—3 July, to the *WOLF* 18, Capt. Edw. Stanley, dies—15 April, 1836, to a station in ard—16 Dec. 1837, and 27 June, 1839, rior Lieutenant, to the *ELECTRA* 18, Preston and Edw. Reeves Philip Main- PRESIDENT 50, Capt. Wm. Broughton, American station—and, 1 March, 1843, 1844, in a similar capacity, to the *HECLA* Capt. John Duffill, and *BONETTA* sur- Capt. Thos. Saumarez Brock, both the Mediterranean. Since the attain- present rank, 9 Nov. 1846, Commander been on half-pay.

ed, 23 Feb. 1830, Fanny, youngest the late T. Croft, Esq., by whom he AGENTS—Messrs. Chard.

(LIEUT., 1812. F-P., 37; H-P., 6.)

CKER entered the Navy, 12 July, 1804, ol., on board the *ADAMANT* 50, Capt. a, on the Home station; and, on re- the *RESOLUTION* 74, attained the rating an 2 July, 1806, and was present, under cer, at the bombardment of Copen- w. In 1808 he joined the *TRIDENT* 64, bell, in the Mediterranean, where he ve been successively transferred, until the *KINGFISHER* 18, Capt. Hepenstall, Lieut.-Commander Thos. Younger, and 25, Capt. Robt. Cathcart. From May, romoted, 7 Feb. 1812, he next served ndies on board the *ARETHUSA* 38, flag of Vice-Admiral Chas. Stirling, zmus 64, Capt. Peter John Douglas, in ship he returned to England. Being ed to the *BRAZEN* 18, Capt. Jas. Stir- ed Hudson's Bay, and again the West arrival home from which station he n Sept. 1815. Mr. Crocker (who sub- ned, 11 Feb. 1818, the *GRASSHOPPER* rry Forbes) obtained an appointment Guard 29 March, 1820; and, since his of that office in 1833, has been succes- ed with the command—18 March, 1834.

packet, on the Falmouth station—27 Feb. 1843; once more of a station in the Coast Guard—and, 20 June following, and 29 Jan. 1844, of the *SHAMROCK* and *PRINCE ALBERT*, other revenue-vessels; in the latter of which he is at present serving.

CROFT. (LIEUTENANT, 1841.)

HENRY CROFT is third son of Rear-Admiral Croft. This officer entered the Navy 16 Feb. 1828; passed his examination 7 Feb. 1833; and was serving on the North America and West India station, as Mate of the *ROVER* 18, Capt. Chas. Keele, when promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, 23 Nov. 1841. He was afterwards appointed, 15 July and 23 Dec. 1842, to the *QUEEN* 110, flag-ship of Sir Edw. W. C. R. Owen, and *SCOUT* 18, Capt. Hon. Jas. Robt. Drummond, both on the Mediterranean station, whence he returned home and was paid off in the summer of 1845. Since 11 June, 1846, Mr. Croft has been employed, latterly in the Mediterranean, as First of the *CROCODILE* 8, Capt. Geo. Lowe, and *SPARTAN* 22, Capt. Thos. Matt. Chas. Symonds. AGENT—Joseph Woodhead.

CROFT. (REAR-ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE, 1841. F-P., 12; H-P., 40.)

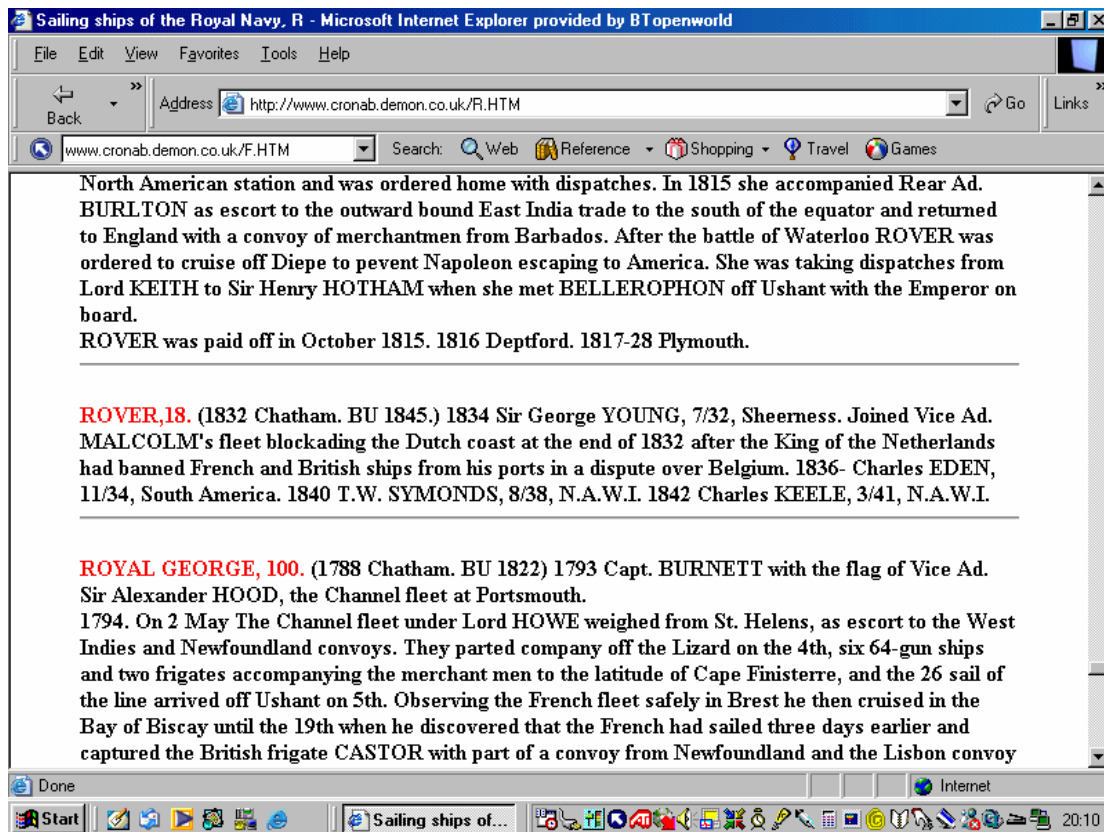
WILLIAM CROFT, born in April, 1782, is second son of the late Stephen Croft, Esq., of Stillington Hall, co. York; and brother of Col. Harry Croft, now of Stillington, a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for that county.

This officer entered the Navy, 1 Sept. 1795, as Fst.-cl. Vol., on board the *AMAZON* 36, Capt. Robt. Carthew Reynolds. In April, 1796, he assisted, in company with the *INDEFATIGABLE* 46, Capt. Sir Edw. Pellew, at the capture of *L'Unité*, of 38, and *La Virginie*, of 44 guns; and, on 14 Jan. 1797, he was wrecked and taken prisoner, near Isle Bas, at the close of a gallant action of 10 hours with *Les Droits de l'Homme* 74, on which occasion the *AMAZON*, whose consort in the engagement had again been the *INDEFATIGABLE*, sustained a loss of 3 men killed and 15 wounded. On being released Mr. Croft, in 1797, joined, as Midshipman, the *CENTAUR* 74, Capt. John Markham, under whom he took part in the reduction of Minorca, in Nov. 1798. Becoming subsequently attached to the *FOUBROYANT* 80, bearing the flag of Lord Keith, he attended the expedition of 1801 to Egypt, where he served on shore with the naval brigade, and was present at the capitulation of Alexandria. He was confirmed, 22 Dec. in the same year, to a Lieutenantcy in the *SUCCESS* 32, Capt. Geo. Burlton; and being paid off at the peace, was next successively appointed, in the course of 1803, to the *REVOLUTIONNAIRE* 44, Capt. Walter Lock, *CAMEL* store-ship, Capt. John Ayscough, and *HERCULE* 74, flag-ship of Sir John Thos. Duckworth. After witnessing the unfortunate attack on Curaçoa he was promoted to the command of the *VIGILANTE* sloop, 8 May, 1804. Invaliding, however, in the following August, he did not again go afloat until appointed, 4 Feb. 1807, to the *ALACRITY* 18. For his services during the subsequent operations against Copenhagen, Capt. Croft was elevated to Post-rank, by commission dated 13 Oct. 1807. From Aug. 1810, until Dec. 1813, he further officiated as regulating officer at Hull. Unable to procure employment, he has since been on half-pay. His advancement to Flag-rank took place 23 Nov. 1841.

Rear-Admiral Croft is Treasurer of the North Riding of Yorkshire. He married, in March, 1805, Harriet, eldest daughter of the late Hall Plumer, Esq., of Hockton Hall, co. York, and niece of Sir Thos. Plumer, Master of the Rolls, by whom he has issue ten children. His third son, Henry, is a Lieutenant R.N.; and his youngest daughter, Marianne, the wife of Capt. Geo. Joseph Huband, late of the 8th Hussars.

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See Rover below on which Henry Croft served



### Admiral Henry Croft ( 22.1.1814-26.1.1892)

First son of William Croft (1782-1872). Henry married Margaret Robinson, vicar's daughter of Stillington at Aigburth, Lancashire, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1857. They had six children, Caroline (1858-1901), Harriett (1860-1884), William Henry Symonds (1814-1892), Arthur George Baily (1871-1890), Lucy Elizabeth (1877-?), Gertrude Ethel Mary (1879-?). He died at Richmond , Surrey in 1892.

Henry entered Naval service in 1826 and in 1828 was appointed midshipman to the "Blondie" (46 guns, under Captain afterwards, Lord Edward Lyons) and was employed blockading of Navarino and the taking of Morea Castle. He then served in the "Prince Regent" (120 guns, Captain Dundas) and then the "Stag" (46 guns Captain –Sir Thomas Troubridge). Following this, in 1832, he served under Capt. the Hon. Joceline Percy on the "Malabar", 74 guns. Whilst in this ship he passed examination as Lieutenant (7.2.1833), but for some time served as mate. He also served as mate in the "Thunderer" (84 guns, Capt Wise), The "Phoenix" and the "Savage" (10 guns. Capt the Hon. Curzon). It was whilst he was on the "Savage", on the north coast of Spain that he several times landed in command of small arms parties and marines to act in support of the legion operating under General Evans, in the Carlist wars (1833-39).

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He was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to the “Rover” (18 guns. Capt Symonds) on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1841, and it was whilst serving on this ship he was recommended for promotion for performing an act of gallantry in lowering a boat and rescuing a drowning seaman. (*see later*). He also met with an accident and had two attacks of yellow fever, the subsequent effects of which led to his retirement in 1864.

He served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the “Wichester” (50 guns Capt. Carter) and in 15.7.1842 the “Queen” (100 guns. Capt Henry), in the Mediterranean. Then on 23.12.1842 joined the Scout (16 Guns. Capt the Hon Drummond) as Lieutenant, in the Mediterranean and was appointed to the Crocodile” (26 Guns, Commander Lowe), receiving promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on 11.4.1846.

This ship was employed in conveying troops to the Hudson’s Bay and had a remarkably difficult passage on account of the ice, and as the commander was laid up during the greater part of the voyage the command fell on to Lieut. Croft, who was strongly recommended to the Admiralty and received their thanks.

After serving in the “Spartan” (28 Guns. Captain Thomas Matthew Charles Symonds), he was specially mentioned in despatches for smartness and again when serving in the Ajax(60 Guns Capt Quin), he was recommended for promotion for jumping overboard and saving a seaman’s life, and also for proficiency displayed in quickly training into good seamen the raw material then supplied.

At the outbreak of the Crimean War 1853-1856, he was appointed Commander to the “Caesar” (Capt. Robb), which was in the Baltic fleet. At the close of war he received the Baltic medal. On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1856 he was promoted to captain and offered command of the “Valorous” but owing to the effects of the accident and the fever whilst serving in the West Indies he was compelled to decline this, and was placed on the retired list in 1864 with good service pension.

### **Stephen William Croft (27.10.1809-31.12.1885)**

Third child of Admiral William Croft. He married Anne Swann (I believe of Askham Richard) At Holy Trinity, Michaelgate, York on 7.3.1835. He became a colonel in the East India Company. They did not have any children. In 1851 they lived together at Haxby near York. After this Anne is shown as living with her sister at Harthill for the Census’ of 1861 through to 1891. She died in April 1891. In 1861 Stephen was living with the Admiral in Stillington. He then built a house at Farlington, nearby. This is called Rockingham Villa.

### **Charles Hall Croft 6.1.1807 to 7.1.1834**

Second child of admiral Croft. He went into the church and obtained his B.A. in 1829. He became curate of Roos (East Yorkshire) and of Stillington. Both appointments were presumably heavily influenced by his cousin the Rev’d Thomas Hutton Croft, Vicar of those two Parishes. He was active in his church duties at Stillington between July 1830 and 1833. He died on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1934 and is buried in Stillington Churchyard.

### Stillington Hall

Sir Richard Assheton bought the estate of Stillington in 1558. He was father of Elizabeth Ashenden. She married Sir James Willford at Nonington Parish, Kent on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1581. (The Rev. James Willford became Prebendary of Stillington and died on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1605). Their daughter Cecilia married Sir Christopher Croft in February 1609/10. She in turn died in 1612. (Sir) Christopher Croft acquired the estate in 1620 whilst he was Sheriff of York. In 1649, by Act of Parliament a survey was made of all church property. This included the prebend of Stillington. At that time Stillington Hall was described as “a fair Hall wainscoted (*panelled*) with a boarded floor, a larder, kitchen etc”. At this time it was occupied by Thomas Croft (1619 – 1654) and his wife Olive Dyneley. *Vol.17 COMM/124/17 1647-52 Lambeth Palace Libray No210*

Stillington Hall contains, on the Ground Floor, Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library, Small Study, Billiard Room, Conservatory, Kitchens, Butler’s Pantry with Butler’s Bedroom adjoining, and Servants Hall, and on the first and second Floors eleven Bedrooms and Attics. There were large gardens, an ornamental lake, just to the east of the current entrance road to the new housing estate “Parklands”. This lake can still be identified as the gardens at the rear of the row of bungalows on the east side of that entrance drop very steeply and the ground there is often wet. As in many country houses there was a belt of trees called “the Wilderness”, planted to screen the Hall from the village. The front of the house faced south and a Ha Ha was built some distance further away from the front of the house giving an uninterrupted view of the countryside. This Ha Ha now forms the southern edge of the new housing estate. The Hall was rebuilt in 1733 at the time of Stephen Croft (1712-1798) and Henrietta Thompson. The brick structure was rendered in the 1850’s when a porch and conservatory were added.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 1888 The Hall and Stillington Estate of 2047 acres, the White Bear Inn and Water Corn Mill, plus three farms at Askham Bryan, close to the West side of York, were offered for sale by auction by Harry Croft. The Hall and most of the “lots” did not reach the reserve price and were sold later, on 6.7.1894\* to Rawdon Thornton and then on 12.10.1903\* to Matthew Liddell. The Liddell family took an active part in the village. Mr. Liddell died in 1934 and is buried at Easingwold Catholic Church. The estate was sold in 1935\* and the Hall and grounds were bought by the Roman Catholic Alexian Brothers who in 1950\* sold it to the Verona Brothers. On 5<sup>th</sup> October 1959\* Albert Breeds, a builder from Leeds acquired it and stripped the Hall of many items. The House became derelict and was eventually demolished by Embleton Brothers of York in 1966. Parkfield Housing Estate was then built on the site. The stables and

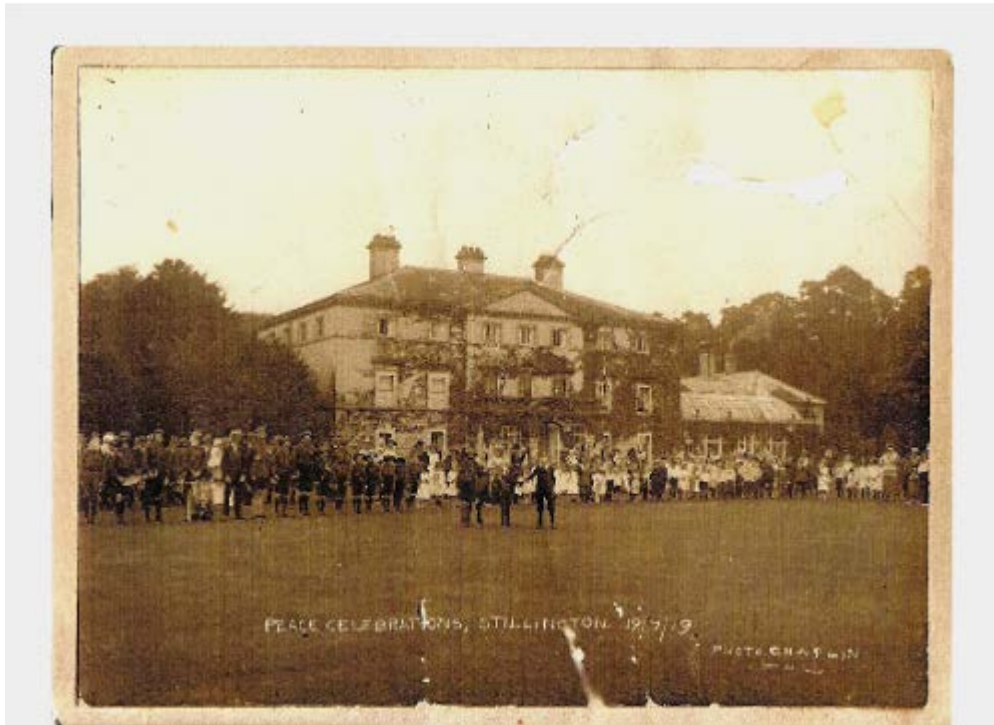
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coachyard were taken over by a coach business, H. Morse and sons and now the yard is a small housing site, two of the residences being part of the original coach houses.

The coat of arms that was originally over the front door of the Hall is fastened onto the North wall of the house called Moss Terrace with the motto "To Be rather than to Seem to Be". A stone plaque depicting work done by the Verona Brothers in Africa is built into the Bay Horse/ Mossy Terrace garden wall. This was originally at the apex of a large 3 storey property used by the Verona Fathers as a school, within the grounds.

The Green formed part of the Croft Estate. The remains of the old Pinfold were removed in 1892. An old photograph shows a timber framed house on the Eastern edge of the Green, called Cromwell House. This was built in 1630 and finally dismantled in 1920 and removed to Boston Massachusetts by a man called Leslie Buswell, great grandson of Admiral Croft. The house in the USA known as Stillington Hall is a private residence, but often used for special occasions.

*\* North Yorks Record Office, Northallerton Reg 24.7.1894 Vol 63 Page 85 No.42. Reg 16.19.1903 Vol 145 Page 342 No. 139 – 30.5.1935 Vol 653 Page 1171 .No .45-. 25.10.1950 Vol 1068 Page 209 No.87- 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1959 Vol 512 Page 777 No. 278*



Stillington Hall 19 Sept 1919



Motto **Esse Quam Videre-** (to be, rather than to seem)

The Fairleigh Dickinson and Weekly News - Newark, 17th November 2007

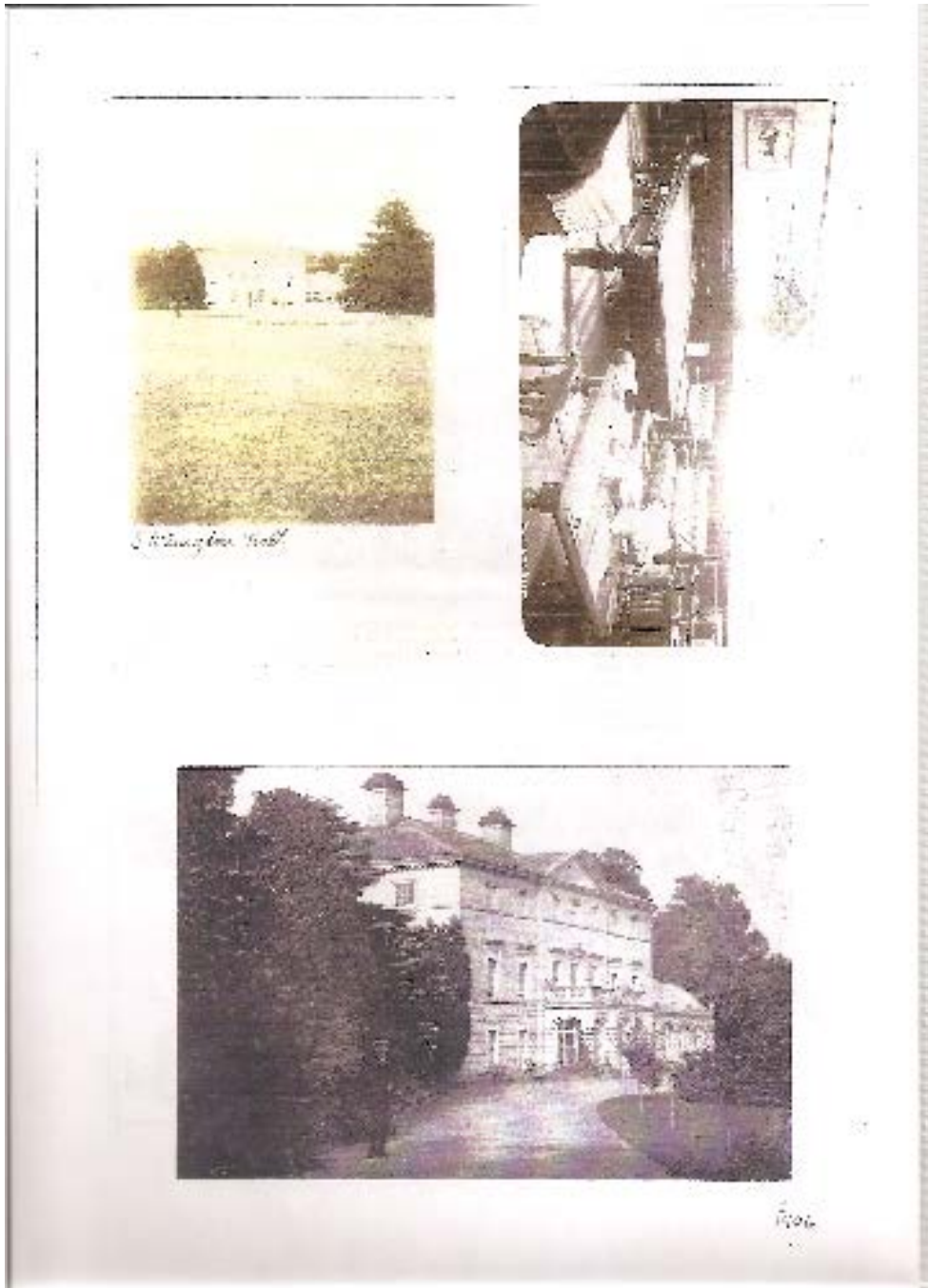


Stirling Hall into 1940's

This photograph shows Stirling Hall, and is a view, some taken by the National Estate. The Hall was originally owned by Admiral Sir John Stirling Maxwell, 1st Baron Maxwell, and, as well as Maxwell the estate included what is now the sports field and some farms in the immediate vicinity of Stirling Hall. It was sold to Wallace Lindsay when he bought it from the estate in the year of the land was sold to pay death duties. Stirling Hall was taken over by the Estate of the Duke of Devonshire and was used as a prep school for Ampleforth College. The Estate of the Duke sold it to Albert Brown for the sum of £100,000 in 1944, he then contributed £1,000,000 of all the valuable before the building and selling the land to its present construction from 1945 for housing (New Perimeter House).

All views  
 are taken from  
 the air  
 by 2007







**STILLINGTON HALL — taken in 1957**

The hall was pulled down some 15 years ago to make way for the housing development, now known as Parkside. Photograph was supplied by a former employee of the hall who now lives in Baulthorpe Island.



19 04p



Verona Fathers school in grounds of Stillington Hall

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**COURTS of Stillington**

CIVIL Court - The village was governed, not by a vestry, but by a "jury", twelve men who, once elected, held their posts for life - a system left over from the old manorial courts. The Lord of the Manor was their president, but delegated the office to his Steward, in later years a local solicitor. These jurymen recorded all decisions in the quaint "Jury Book of Stillington Manor", full of orders for cleaning the grieses and ditches, for the care of the poor, the division of labour in repairing bridges and gutters, the allotment of tasks in the open fields.

The Jury Book of Stillington Manor has been lost

It would appear however that the Civil Court did also deal with Property matters insofar as they related to Leasehold/ Copy Hold Tenancies within Stillington Manor.

I have seen, within the parcel of Deeds of one of the properties in Stillington, a number of Deeds prepared specifically for the Court of Stillington.

In the first a Thomas Wood redeems a mortgage on the property, the mortgagees surrender their rights to the Lord and (for a fine of 16s and "Fees on Admittance of L2.4s 10p") the Lord accepts Thomas Wood back as Tenant. In the second the property passes by Will as the result of a death. Here again the title passes back to the Lord who immediately grants Copyhold to the person(s) entitled under the Will, (again for a fine of 16s and "Fees on Admittance of L3 18s 6p").

One other document prepared for the Court where title passes, bears the York Crown Probate stamp of £1.0.0 dated 21.6.(18)50

In the first two documents dated 26/10/1880 & 23/10/1888 the names of the Jurors are given. VIZ:

Court held 26th October 1880

Manor of Stillington - with - Nawton and Wombleton

William Wright and John Rooke to Thomas Wood

ADMITTANCE

	L	s	d
Fine		16	0
Fees on Admittance	2	4	10
	-----		
	3	0	10

MANOR of STILLINGTON THE COURT of the View of Frankpledge with the

Great Court Leet with the Great Court Baron of

NAWTON and WOMBLETON Harry Croft Esquire Lord of the same Manor

holden at Stillington aforesaid in and for the said Manor on Tuesday the twenty sixth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty

Before Henry John Ware Gentleman Steward of the Court of the said Manor

The Names of the Jury and Homage

Thomas Wood - Foreman, Sworn.

-----  
 Richard Snowball ) Thomas Richardson) Matthew Halder)  
 William Richardson) John Kendrew ) David Wake )  
 John Slater ) Sworn Henry Thompson ) Sworn Sworn  
 Thomas Leaper ) William Abbey ) Alexander Scott)

IN THIS COURT the Homage found and presented a surrender of which the following is a copy "Manor of Stillington with Nawton and Wombleton. Whereas by a surrender dated the twenty fifth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty one IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of Two hundred pounds to Thomas Wood of the Groves in the suburbs of the City of York Bricklayer paid by Thomas Wright of Stillington in the County of York Butcher The said Thomas Wood Did out of Court Surrender into the hands of the Lord of the said Manor according to the custom hereof All those two Messuages or Dwellinghouses with the outbuildings thereto adjoining and belonging situate at Stillington aforesaid and then in the respective tenures or occupations of Thomas White and William Barnett with the appurtenances To the use and behoof of the said Thomas Wright his heirs and assigns by way of Mortgage for securing to the said Thomas Wright his executors and administrators and assigns the repayment of the said sum of Two hundred pounds and interest as therein mentioned AND WHEREAS at a Court held in and for the said Manor on the twenty eighth day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty one the said Thomas Wright was duly admitted Tenant to the said Messuages and hereditaments comprised in the hereinbefore recited

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Surrender upon the trusts therein mentioned And whereas the said Thomas Wright by his Will dated the sixth day of February one thousand eight hundred and sixty six devised all estates vested in him as a Mortgagee or Trustee to his son William Wright now of Stillington in the County of York Farmer and John Rooke of Marton in the same County Farmer their heirs and assigns subject to the equities and upon the trusts effecting the same estates respectively and appointed the said William Wright and John Rooke Executors of that his Will AND WHEREAS the said Testator died on the thirtieth day of September one thousand eight hundred and sixty six and his said Will was proved in the District Registry at York of Her Majestys Court of Probate on the sixth day of November one thousand eight hundred and sixty six by both the said Executors

AND WHEREAS on the sixteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighty the said William Wright and John Rooke as such Devises in trust as aforesaid were out of Court duly admitted Tenants to the said Messuages and hereditaments (but subject as aforesaid) AND WHEREAS the said Thomas Wood is desirous of paying off the said Thomas Wright and John Rooke as such Executors of the Will of the said Thomas Wright as aforesaid the principal sum of Two hundred on which all interest has been paid to the day of the date hereof as they the said William Wright and John Rooke do hereby respectively admit and acknowledge NOW THEREFORE BE IT REMEMBERED that out of Court to wit the seventeenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighty

IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of Two hundred pounds to the said William Wright and John Rooke paid by the said Thomas Wood formerly described as of the Groves, York Bricklayer but now of Woodlesford in the County of York Yeoman the receipt whereof the said William Wright and John Rooke do hereby acknowledge They the said William Wright and John Rooke DO and each of them Doth hereby Surrender and yield up into the hands of the Lord of the said Manor by the hands and acceptance of Charles Ernest Elmhurst Gentleman Deputy Steward of the Courts of the said Manor and by a Straw according to the custom thereof all and Singular the Messuages and hereditaments and premises comprised in the hereinbefore recited Surrender together with the appurtenances TO THE USE AND BEHOOF of the said Thomas Wood his heirs and assigns for ever according to the custom of the said Manor at and under the rents and services therefore due and of right accustomed "And the said Thomas Wood desires to be admitted Tenant to the said premises paying and doing the rents and services heretofore due and of right accustomed and so forth And he the said Thomas Wood hath paid to the Lord a fine for his admittance as appears in the margin and his fealty being respited he is admitted Tenant

A true Copy of the Court Roll

Henry John Ware

Steward

Upon the death of Thomas Wood on 11/2/1888 his wife was left the above property by his Will. The Court met on Tuesday the Twenty third of October 1888 before Henry John Ware, Gentleman, Steward of the Courts of the said Manor to admit Elizabeth Wood as Tenant to the Copyhold At that time the following were Members of the Jury: William Richardson, Thomas Leaper, Thomas Richardson, Henry Thompson Matthew Halder, Thomas Salmon, Alexander Scott, William Wright William Lane, John Kendrew

At the time one of the tenants was John Russell.

Elizabeth died on 12/9/1903 and the then Lord of the manor a Leonard Tatham through the court granted the heir the rights as tenant.

The members of the jury are not mentioned in that deed. (dated 28th February 1905)

The above were extracts taken from the parcel of Deeds relating to the property adjacent to the church currently owned by Mr. Donald Holmes and his wife Moira. 1996

Derek Little Church Warden, 2001, lent me the deeds to his farm that lay on the boundary between Huby and Stillington. The Court sanctioned transactions in what was described as "that close or parcel of meadow or pasture ground situate at Stillington .....commonly known by the name of the Old Ings and containing by estimation two acres and a half .... adjoining on a close of George Sherwin's on the east and Mary Etty on the west and late in the occupation of Robert North since of the said John Hall and now of Thomas Pennington.... and was purchased by the said John Hall of the Trustees of Richard Terrick Stainforth.

The officials and Jurymen that sat from time to time were;  
Date Baron Steward  
17th October 1808 Stephen Croft Joseph Munby

\* means Foreman

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 Jurymen: Christopher Richardson\*  
 Robert Morley William Wood  
 James Husband Thomas Souray  
 Thomas Wiley Henry Gibson  
 John Calvert James Gibson  
 Robert Bell  
 David Sadler  
 William Wetherill

24th April 1829 Harry Croft William Spencer Campion  
 Robert Morley\*  
 Thomas Souray John Richardson  
 John Hall Henry Souray  
 Thomas Wood William Weatherill  
 Thomas Lowther John Wood  
 George Richardson  
 William Wright  
 John Pennington

24th October 1843 Harry Croft John Brook  
 John Hall\*  
 Thomas Brown William Weatherill  
 Thomas Salmon George Coverdale  
 Robert Denton Jonathan Slater  
 John Richardson Richard Coverdale  
 Thomas Lowther  
 Richard Robinson  
 John Radcliffe

27th October 1868 Stephen Croft Henry John Ware Thomas Wood\*  
 John Richardson Johnathan Slater  
 Henry Thompson Richard Snowball  
 Robert Weatherill Richard Wright  
 William Richardson Thomas Smith  
 Alexander Scott  
 John Weatherill  
 Thomas Farrer

27th October 1872 Harry Croft Henry John Ware Thomas Wood\*  
 John Weatherill Alexander Scott  
 Richard Wright Richard Snowball  
 Robert Weatherill Jonathan Slater  
 Henry Thompson William Richardson  
 Thomas Richardson Thomas Smith  
 Thomas Leaper

CHURCH Court – This ecclesiastical court dealt with maintaining spiritual discipline in the village and can best be explained by the following extract-

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### Stillington Prebendal Peculiar Court

Laurence Sterne. The Early and Middle Years by Arthur H. Cash printed by Methuen

Spiritual jurisdiction was invested in Stillington Prebendal Peculiar Court, a tiny ecclesiastical court. There are no records of Stillington visitations for the first six years of Sterne's incumbency. The Prebendary, Mr. Levett, probably never came in person. Then for two years after Levett's death, the prebend was traded about among wealthy churchmen. Later records suggest that during these years Sterne and his neighbour, the Rev Richard Moseley of Wiggington, presided. James Worsley, rector of Stonegrave, who became the prebendary (*of Stillington*) in 1750, was a man who took his clerical duties seriously. He usually visited personally, and he faithfully turned his records to the dean and chapter, as he was supposed to. (Minster Library: C3a These loose papers are the only records of the court. One is impressed with Worsley because, although he came from a powerful family, he seems never to have used the church for selfish purposes. During one of the years Sterne presided, 1755, William Johnson and Jane Nelson were presented for "the Crime of fornication together, they since being married". Their penance is signed by Sterne.

One case is of particular interest, the trial of Jane Harbottle, a poor woman, probably the village idiot (first discovered by CURTIS, 47-48, with the exception of the Jury Book, the documents used by Cash are at the Minster Library: BB 23, and the Dean and Chapter Abstract Book, 1739-1774). We know something about her from the parish registers. In 1744 Sterne baptised "Tamar, the Bastard Child of Jane Harbottle" In 1749 it was Johnathan Bastard Child of Jane Harbottle & Ths Wood born – Feb 23" This ill-starred infant was buried in August 1751. In 1752 was born "Esther Bastard Child of Jane Harbottle" The father of this last child was alleged to be Robert Jepson, one of the leading yeoman farmers of the village, married and the father of a considerable family. The situation could no longer be tolerated, and the next year the churchwardens presented both Jane and Jepson:

July ye 3 1753

No more presentments but these as folous

We Hearby present Robert Jepson married man for the Crime of adultery by begetting a Bastard Child upon Jane Harbottle and we accordingly present the said Jane Harbottle for the Crime of Fornycation. The Sade Jane Harbotle has Had three bastards and all by mared men.

Jane pleaded guilty before Mr. Worsley. She was sent to York to pay her fine and to pick up a printed penance. The sheet survives with Sterne's certification on it that Jane did her penance, bare – headed, bare – footed, white sheet, wand and all, on 8 September. "Whereas I Good people forgetting my Duty to Almighty God, have committed the Detestable Sin of Fornication with Robert Jepson a Mary'd Man' etc.

An entry in the *Jury Book* of the following spring shows that the parish set aside £5.1s.0d for the use of Robert Jibson Childe by botil.... Per week 7 pence. \* . Obviously the parish officers had not prevailed upon Jepson to support the child. He was cited to specifically to appear at the next visitation. Sterne read the process in church on 21 July 1754; and Ben Camsell, a church warden swore an affidavit, witnessed by Sterne, that he had personally served the citation on Jepson. Because Mr. Worsley could not get to the visitation, held the next day, Sterne presided. Jepson failed to appear, and there was nothing to do but to excommunicate him. A full year was allowed to pass before Mr. Worsley sent an order to complete the excommunication. Jepson was denounced in Stillington Church, as Sterne's note attests, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1755.

Someone perhaps Sterne or Worsley or both, seems to have urged Jepson to make a defence, but he did nothing before his accuser died. Jane Harbottle, "Spinster" died at Stillington in September 1758, leaving her two surviving children on the parish. On 14 February 1760, Jepson finally acted: his lawyer appeared before Mr. Stables of the superior spiritual court of the dean and chapter and alleg'd that his client was not Guilty of the Crime of Adultery for which he stood presented in the said prebendal Court and desired him to be Dismiss'd & referred to Law which the Commissary Decreed". Jepson was received back into the parish. Within two years he was elected overseer of the poor, and in 1760 he was elected to the Jury. It is unthinkable that he could have won these honours without the support of the church. Probably it had been apparent to all that he was not guilty of fathering Jane Harbottle's bastard.

Jane herself had been treated kindly by the whole community. She had not been haled into the spiritual church until her third child. Once accused she was given every consideration. On that day in 1753 when she walked into York to get her penance, she carried in her pocket a note from Sterne to the registrar: which read,

Mr. Clough

The bearer is the poor woman who was presented at Stillington Visitation; and has left her child to go and get these said Penances, which I & Mr. Moseley talked so much about. She is as poor as a Church Mouse & cannot absolutely

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raise a Shilling to save her Life. So pray let her have the Penance – and so far as the Stamps, I will take care to discharge – If not above 3 or 4 Shillings.-

Yrs L. Sterne

PS,

Pray dispatch her, that she may not have a 2d Journey as she has a Child to leave -----

The church could be merciful. At the bottom of the presentation is a note in Mr. Clough's hand: "On Mr. Sterne certifying her poverty she only paid 4d for the penance, which was ret'd with a Certificate in due performance."

\* Note by Grahame Richardson

I hold a photocopy of the Poor Accounts for 1755 and later years showing monthly payments to "Jane bottle" of 2s 4d ( 28 pence). Indeed payments to a Margret HarBottell were being made through to September 1760.

**Will of Edward Croft buried 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1612 at St. Crux, York Reg. Test xxxii Folio 117**

Edward when at York was a Mercer, Freeman in 1589, Chamberlain in 1596, Sheriff in 1609-10. Christopher Croft (later to be knighted by King Charles 1<sup>st</sup>) was at one time apprenticed to him. He would have been born c 1560.

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**Note I have the original and have typed this version in slightly more modern day language.**

In the name of God Amen, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of the Lord God one thousand six hundred and twelve. I Edward Croft of the City of York, mercer, being sick in bodie but of good and perfect mind and remembrance, praise be to God, do make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say first I give my soul into the hands of Almighty God and to his son Jesus Christ my only Savoieur and Redeemer, by whose Life, Death and Passion I do faithfully believe to be saved and to be one of the elected children in the Kingdom of Heaven and my body to be buried within my Parish Church in the Quire therein. I give and bequeath to the poor in the four Wards of this City £10 to be delivered to the hands of the Wardens of the same Wards to be distributed by them at their discretion. To the prisoners in the lower prison upon Ousebridge 10 shillings. To Mr. Belwood so as to make a sermon at my burial 20 shillings. Item. I give and bequeath to Robert Preston son of Thomas Preston of Patrick Brompton my sister sonne and to his heirs and assigns for all that my third part of one message or tennement with the appurtanences in Patrick Brompton aforesaid in the county of York now in the occupation of Thomas Preston together with all deeds, evidence and writing which I have concerning the same. Item. I give to Charles Husband my apprentice for to turn him into a Master withall £10. Also to John Booth my apprentice £5. Also to Edward Croft son of Roger Croft of Kirklington £10. To Anne Croft his sister £10. To Thomas Husband, my cousin for to buy him a suit of apparel with all to wear for my sake £3.6s.8d. To Edward Preston son of the said Thomas Preston ten pounds. To the said Thomas Preston and to Marjorie his wife, my sister £40 to be paid to them at several payments £13.6s.8d at every Michaelmas next after my death until the same be paid. Also to Robert Dodd my brother in law and Dorothy his wife my sister £20 to Jaine Dodd my servant £10. To her sister Isabell Dodd £6.13s 4d. And also £10 more which I owe her. To Christopher Preston, son of the said Thomas Preston £5. To Elizabeth Gill £10 which I owe her and more which I give her £5. To Grace Preston £4. To Christopher Beckwith my best gold ring and to George Lyons of Langthorne and his wife 40shillings.. Also I forgive Richard Atkinson at Patrick Brompton aforesaid all such debts as he owes me. The residue of all my goods, cattles and chattels whatsoever not given nor bequeathed, my debts truly paid and funeral expenses and legacies discharged, I bequeath to Alice my wife, who I do ordaine, make and constitute my sole executrix of this my last will and testament and do make and appoint Mr. Robert Dakins of Linton my father\*\*\* in law, Mr. Roger Croft of Kirklington and Christopher Croft of Cottescue Park, my cousins – supervisors of this my will. Whom I desire to see the same performed as my trustees in form and I do give every of them for their pains taking herein £20 in gold.

Signed Edward Croft

Witnesses Robert Dakins  
Christopher Croft  
John Myers

There is then some Latin to the effect that Alice Croft, wife of Edward Croft deceased was granted probate on the 15<sup>th</sup> Month of July 1612.

This is by no means the end of the matter though.

Alice married a William Marshall (*date and place unknown*) (*note- in 1613 a THOMAS Marshall was Lord Mayor of York*). In due course she died. Having not completed winding up the Will. On 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1656 William Marshall asked the Court to give him Letters of Administration to finish winding up Edward Croft's estate. Because The Commonwealth had by then taken Probate powers from the Church. (8.4.1653. Courts reopened in 1660 upon the Restoration of the Monarchy. In the intervening time probate was granted by civil judges for the "Proving of Wills and Craving of Letters of Administration), William had to get these powers from the Court in London. The Court copied out the original will and added:-

"On the eleventh day of December in the year of our Lord God, one thousand six hundred fifty six there issued forth letters of Administration unto William Marshall, the husband and Administrator of the goods, chattels and debts of Alice Marshall, also Croft deceased, whilst she lived the sole executrix of the will of the said Edward Croft deceased to administer the goods, chattels and debts of the said Edward. Debts left unadministered by the said Alice. He the said William being first sworn by Commission well and truly to administer."

1598 (14<sup>th</sup> May) Edward Croft-mercier- married Alice Beckwith at St. John's Ousebridge.  
This Christopher Beckwith was Lord Mayor of York in 1597.

\*\*\* Explanation of reference in the Will to Robert Dakins of Linton my father in Law:-  
I believe that this should have read brother-in-law.

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Christopher Beckwith was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1599 at St. John's Ousebridge York. So at the time of Edward Croft's Will, (1612) he, Beckwith, was dead. However he and his wife Alice had a number of children Alice, bapt'd 25.7.1578 at St. John's and two sons Christopher, bapt'd 27.6.1583 and Christopher again bapt'd 12.5.1598. Both at St. John's. (Presumably the first one died before 1598). Consequently Edward Croft could have left "his best gold ring" to the second Christopher Croft, who would have been 14 years of age and had possibly started his apprenticeship by then.

A man name of Robert Dakins was baptised at Linton, Wintringham, near Malton, East Yorkshire in 1573 (his parents being Robert Dakins and Petronell Gardner) He married Margaret Beckwith at St. John's York in 1603. (She being Bpt'd at St. John's 27.12.1587). They in turn had a son Robert Bpt'd on 3.12.1615 at Linton Administration was granted to the estate of Robert Dakins of Linton, parish of Wintringham, gent and Parish of St. Nicholas, York on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1615. (St. Nicholas and its registers were burnt during the Civil War.)

A Thomas Marshall was Lord Mayor of York in 1613. He may have been related to William Marshall.

A Thomas Preston married Marjorie Crofte at Brompton Patrick North Yorkshire – near Catterick- on 9.4.1581

Dorothea Crofte married Henricus Gyll at Patrick Brompton 9.9.1576

Doroth Gyll married Robtus Dodsworth at Patrick Brompton 2.12.1584

Thomas Husband married Cicilia Conyers at Brompton- Patrick (Patrick-Brompton) on 19 Nov 1588. There are records of many other people, surname of Husband at Patrick Brompton

"All matters in dispute between Emott Husband, widow and Ann Spence both of Midleham, to be referred to the arbitrament of Math. Jobson, Esq., and Chris Crofte of Cottescue, gent"- see North Riding Records Vol 111- Quarter Sessions Records, Richmond, January 16, 1626/7.

See Quarter Sessions Records – Richmond, October 5<sup>th</sup> 1613 115 "Elias Squire, Constable of Lynnton for neglecting to execute a warrant from Sir A. Dakins fined 6s.8d

In Pavers Marriages, reference is made to- 1592 Croft Edward married to Garth Alice of St. Denis York Widow. Paver adds a note-Took place 20.2.1592-3 where only the wife's Christian name is given (presumably he got her surname, as widow, from the church register). *I believe that this was a different Edward Croft to Edward Croft mercer.*

**The village of Patrick-Brompton near East and West Appleton and Catterick comes up time and again, it may well be that Edward was born there**

THIS will does prove to me that the Croft families of Appleton/Patrick Brompton/Hunton and that of Cottescue Park are all related to Sir Christopher Croft of York and Stillington.

### **Will of Thomas Croft 1643-1711**

In the name of God Amen I Thomas Crofts of Stillington in the County of York Esq being of perfect & good memory & praised be God for ye same renouncing & revoking all other wills by me formerly made do make this my last Will & Testament in manner & form following first I commit my Soul into ye hands of God that gave it hoping to find mercy with him through the mercies of Christ my Saviour & my body I commit to the Earth from whence it was taken to be buried in ye Church of Stillington in decent manner And as for my real & personal Estate which it has pleased God to give me I do hereby dispose thereof as followeth. Imprimis whereas I am Seised by a lease for three lives of the mannor of Stillington Nawton Wombleton & Langton in ye County of York and of a Cottage House &

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several Copyhold Lands in Stillington aforesaid And I am seised in demesne as of Fee of & in several Messuages Cottages Lands & Tenaments in Purston Jackling in ye County of York also two Closes & a Garth & some Field Land at Wharram in ye Street also all my estate at Crake & a parcel of Field Land in Easingwold which are not settled on my Wife or eldest Son by any Deed of Settlement, I do for the raising of Portions & making Provisions for my younger Children John Edward and Nanse give & devise to them severally & respectively out of ye said Manner of Stillington Preston Jackling Wharram in ye Street Crake & Easingwold aforesaid Viz Item I give to my Son John the Sum of six hundred pounds when he shall attain ye age of twenty three years Item I give to my son Edward the Sum of six hundred pounds when he shall attain ye age of twenty three years Item I give to my daughter Nanse the Sum of one Thousand pounds to be paid at her Marriage & for her Maintenance the Sum of twenty pounds per annum until she be sixteen years of age & then she shall have tenpounds per annum more & if it happen that her Mother dies before she marry she shall have out of ye said Estate the Sum of ten pounds per annum more which is in all forty pounds per annum Also I do give and devise to my Sons John & Edward twenty pounds a piece per annum to be paid them yearly out of the Pmisses for their maintenance from my death till ye several sums of money to them respectively given shall be paid & if it happen that if my daughters dye before they marry then her portion go to my Son Stephen Crofts his Heirs & if any of my sons dye before they attain the age of twenty three years of age then his or there portions also to go to my Son Stephen or his Heirs

I do further order that when my son John & Edward are sixteen years of age they shall be putt to what trades they like best & what money is paid to their masters for there Apprenticeship shall be allowed out of their portions & I do hereby charge the said Manner & all & every of ye said Messuages Cottages in Stillington Nawton Wombleton & Langtoft Purston Jackling Whaaram Crake & Easingwold with all & every of the Sums mentioned Item I do give and demise to my Son Stephen Crofts and his Heirs all the said Manner of Stillington Nawton Wombleton and Langtoft with a Cottage House & Copyhold Lands in the said Towne of ~Stillington All the demesne Land Cottages Messuages & Tenaments in Purston Jackling Wharram Crake & Easingwold & if my son Stephen Crofts do faile or neglect to pay all or any part of ye said sums of Money at the time whereas they ought to be paid that then it shall & may be lawful for ye said John Edward & Nanse Crofts to enter into ye premises & to hold and enjoy ye same until all ye said Sums of Money be raised & satisfied wherewith the Premises are charged as aforesaid

I do further give to my son Steph Crofts my house at Pontefract & a little Close that belongs it & a house called Swineland house & all ye Closes belonging it provided he gives up all his interest in ye house Mr. Proctor bought of me at York. Item I give to my dear Wife for her life that house called Swineland House and ye land belonging it I bought of Mr. Remmington & my house in Pontefract provided she passes up her interest with my Son Stephen in ye house in Ousegate which I sold to Mr. Proctor and if my Son Stephen Crofts marries with the consent of his Mother her first giving sufficient Security for the payment of the younger Children portions as his Mother & Grandmother shall think fitt that then all my younger Children John Edward and Nanse shall consent that my Son Stephen Crofts shall have full power to make his Wife a Joynter out of all ye said Lands Messuages in Stillington Nawton Wombleton & Langtoft Wharram Crake & Easingwold which is security for their portions I do make my Son Stephen Croft my Sole Executor & do give him all my Mortgages Bonds Bill and arrears of rents at my death I do also give him all my household goods in Stillington house & halfe my Silver Plate I do give to my dear Wife all my household Goods in Monckbarr house halfe of my silver plate my Coach & horses my Gold Watch & that my Son Stephen shall pay hir at my death one hundred pounds for hir maintenance till her rents come in I have taken in consideration that if my daughter Nanse shall marry without the consent of her Mother & Grandmother (if then living that she shall only have seven hundred pounds to her portion to be paid at the time aforesaid Item I give to the Poor of Stillington five pounds to be given as my Son Stephen shall think fitt to ye Poor at Purston fifty shillings & to the Poor at Ribston fifty shillings in Witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal ye 3d day of December in ye year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred & Five ...

Thomas Crofts (LS) – Published & acknowledged in ye presence of us Charles Smeaton- Francis Cooke – James Young

Memorandum that Whereas since ye writing of this my Last Will which is all my own handwriting as well of the Memorandum now by me made I have paid to each of my sons Thomas & Christopher their portions which I designed them by my said Will & that the raizurs made in ye same are of my hand making designing thereby that neither of my said Sons Thomas & Christopher shall have any benefit by my said Will other than what I do give them that is to say I give unto my Son Thomas one hundred pounds to be paid to him within three months next after my death & unto my Son Christopher I give ye Sum of ten pounds & likewise I give unto my daughter Nancy as an addition to what I have given her in my said Will the Sum of two hundred pounds to be paid out of my Lands in Stillington Nawton & Wombleton & Langtoft to be paid her at or upon her Marriage And likewise I give to my daughter Olive (who I had also raized out of my Will for some reasons) ye annual Sum or yearly payment of forty pounds to be paid unto her until she shall marry & two equal payments in ye year & ye same to be paid out of my Lands in Stillington Nawton & Langtoft and Crake at her marriage ye same annuity to to rease & instead thereof I give her ye Sum of seven hundred pounds provided she marries with the consent and approbation of her Mother Grandmother and Brother Stephen ye same Sum to be charged on the Lands last mentioned In Witness that this is part of my last Will I have hereunto subscribed my Name and Seal this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 1710

Thomas Crofts(SS) – Published & acknowledged in the presence of us – Dan Smeaton Charles Smeaton- Mark Mease

08/11/22

This and the two foregoing sheets contain a true Copy of the Will and Codicil whereof the same purports to be a Copy being examined and compared therewith by us  
Simpson Dickinson

**Indenture** – dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1735

East Riding Archives-Beverley. Ref DDHB 24/76 Harrison-Broadley Family of Hull and Welton.  
Described as Copy Settlement of Stephen Crofts of Stillington.

See **FAMILY TREE** attached.

**Parties-**

1 **Elizabeth (nee Anderson) Croft(s) (1685-1771)**. Widow of Stephen Croft(s) senior (1683-1732/3)  
**NB Stephen did not die intestate. And, I have read, lived in a lavish lifestyle and lost a large sum of money in the “South Sea Bubble”, “leaving little for his children”.**

Also **Stephen Croft(s) (1712-1798)** junior, son of above Stephen and Elizabeth.

2 **Sir Edmund Anderson of Kildwick (1687-1765) (brother of Elizabeth above)**. NB Edmund and Elizabeth’s father was also called Edmund (1629-1703).

A large amount of property in East Yorkshire had been settled by the Anderson family upon Elizabeth and Stephen when they married in 1711

Also **Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall (1677-1768) (Little Ouseburn)**. Henry was brother of Frances Thompson (1664-1738). Frances being widow of Thomas Croft (1643-1711) Frances and Thomas being parents of above Stephen Croft(s) senior.

A large amount of property in Yorkshire had been settled upon Thomas Croft and Frances Thompson by the Thompson family when Frances married Thomas in 1681

3 **Elizabeth Croft(s) (1714-1753)** daughter of the above Stephen Croft(s) senior and of course sister of Stephen Croft(s) junior. NB she was 17 years old before the date of this Indenture. Just to confuse matters she marries in 1737, John Thompson (1701-1777) her brother in law, son of Henry Thompson (1677-1768) above.

4 Thomas Newsome of Southampton Buildings, Middlesex and William Bigge of Chancery Lane.

**Consideration**

By mother Elizabeth (Anderson) Croft(s) – the natural love and affection she has for her children.  
By mother Elizabeth and her son Stephen Croft(s) junior – five shillings each paid by Thomas Newsome and William Bigge.

**Sold to Thomas Newsome and William Bigge**

**Term** – One Year

**Property** – Land and property ay Duggleby (near Malton), Little Ribston (near Malton), Winksley Woodhouse (near Pontefract), Kirk Deighton, Craike, Wharram le Street, Purston Jaqlin (near Featherstone) and Easingwold. **Note** - Most of the property in Stillington appears to be left out of the deed, only a small amount of land being included.

Comments. This a document breaking an Entail.:

Elizabeth (Anderson) Croft(s) comes out of this with an Annuity of £220

Elizabeth Croft(s), the daughter gets £1000 on marriage (OR DOES SHE WAIVE THIS?)

The other children, viz: Thomas, Christopher, John, and Margaret get £200 each on becoming **21 years of age?**

**Will of Stephen Croft 15<sup>th</sup> January 1733**

**In the name of God Amen** I Stephen Croft of Stillington in the County of York Esq being of perfect memory and Remembrance do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following Imprimis I give and bequeath all my leased Estate lying and being in Stillington, Nawton , Wombleton and Langtoft together with all my personal estate to Sir Edmund Anderson, Bart. Henry Thompson Esq and Leonard Thompson Esq. in Trust towards the payment of my Debts, then I give and bequeath unto my five younger children namely my son Thomas Croft, Christopher Croft, John Croft, Elizabeth Croft and Margaret Croft the sum of three thousand pound to be raised out of my said Leasehold Estate at Stillington, Nawton, Wombleton and Langtoft. But nevertheless if my son Stephen Croft shall pay of the said three thousand pounds then the said leasehold estate of Stillington, Nawton, Wombleton and Langtoft aforesaid shall go to the said Stephen Croft and his heirs for ever, and if any of my said younger children shall die before they attain the age of twenty one years then their fortunes shall be equally divided amongst the rest.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1733

*Stephen Croft* Test

Witness of me *Chris Croft Richd Musgrave*

**This Will passed the Seal the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1733**

**North Riding Register of Deeds-Northallerton****Book E Page 47 No.46 Micro 262****Stephen Croft to Roger Gale- Bolton upon Swale, Greenbury, Ellerton upon Swale**

Memorial of Indentures of Seale and Release bearing date respectively the Eleventh and Twelfth days of December one thousand seven hundred and thirty eight the Release being Tripartite and made between Stephen Croft of Stillington in the County of York/ now residing at Oporto in the Kingdom of Portugal/ Merchant heir sole Exore and residuary legatee of Christopher Croft his uncle late of Stillington aforesaid Gentleman deced of the first part John Wright of Bolton upon Swale in the County of York Gentleman/ Brother and heir of George Wright late of the same place Gentleman deceased who was the eldest son and heir of George Wright dec'd of the second part. Roger Gale of Scruton in the County of York Esquire of the third part of and concerning all that the manor or Lordship of Greenbury (or copyhold Manr or Lordship) with the rights members and appurts in the said County of York and all those Messuages farms lands tythes Tenements and hereditaments whatsoever heretofore the Estate of George Wright deceased situate lying or being within the several towns townships hamlets precints places or territories of Bolton upon Swale Greenbury and Ellerton upon Swale and every or any of them in the said County of York now or late in the possession or occupation of the said John Wright Simon Todd Robert Anderson George Cass Robert Shipley or their respective under tenants or assigns and also all those tythes of corn grain and hay heretofore the Estate of the said George Wright from time to time coming growing renewing happening or arising within the lands grounds limits or precints of Bolton otherwise Bolton upon Swale aforesaid and also the other messuages lands tythes tenements and hereditaments whatsoever of him the said John Wright situate lying or being within the several towns townships and places precints territories of Bolton upon Swale and Greenbury aforesaid and any of them elsewhere in the said County of York together with all singular houses outhouses edifices buildings lands grounds ways easements hereditaments and appurts whatsoever to the precints or any part thereof belonging or in anywise appertaining or too with with the same or any of them now or at anytime heretofore held or occupied possessed or enjoyed or accepted reputed deemed taken or known as part parcel or member thereof or belonging thereunto which said Indentureas to the Execution thereof by the said John Wright  
 Witnessed by George Etherington of Bolton upon Swale  
 Aforesaid Gentleman  
 Thomas Raper of Bedale in the County of York Gentleman

Signed Sealed by the above named

John Wright in the presence of us

*John Wright*

*Geo Etherington:*

*Thos Raper:*

Sworn

**Will of Margaret Croft 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1785**

I Margaret Croft out of Bootham Bar in the suburbs of the City of York Spinster being mindful of my mortality do make and ordain this my last will and testament. In the manner following. In the first place I desire that my body be buried at Stillington near my dear Mother. Giving to the poor of Stillington five pounds and to the Parish I belong to here five pounds. I give to my brother Stephen Croft one hundred pounds, to my brother Christopher Croft I leave twenty five pounds a year during his life to be paid by my brother John Croft my Executor. I give to my nephew Stephen Croft ten pounds, to my nephew Robert Croft ten pounds and to my niece Frances Croft ten pounds to my Godson Henry Croft ten pounds and to my nephew Henry Thompson ten pounds to my nephew John Croft ten pounds to my nephew Francis Croft his brother ten pounds. To Alderman Bacon ten pounds to Sarah Scott in Petergate where we lodged many years ten pounds. To my friend Mrs. Elizabeth Wood of Barnsley Spinster I give the use of all my household furniture for her life. To my maid Ann Place I give ten pounds and five pounds a year to be paid by my Executor during her life and to the same Ann Place I give all my wearing linen and cloaks that are not otherwise mentioned. To my undermaid if she has lived above two years ten pounds, if not five pounds. To Catherine Rainer whose name was Maxam to Abby Smithson to Thomas Smithson her brother, Elizabeth Hall who was Bennington and to George Wiseman I give two guineas apiece. All the rest residue and remainder my Goods Chattels and Personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever I give to my brother John Croft whom I make my sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

N.B. instead of ten pounds  
I leave my silver kettle and lamp  
to my nephew Stephen Croft

I appoint my brother Stephen Croft trustee to this my will  
In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup> of May  
In the year of our Lord 1785

Witness *Hannah Robinson*  
*Wm. Heseltine*

*Margaret Croft*

Prerogative granted to John Croft Brother and Sole Exor 14.6 1785

**STEPHEN CROFT Esquire 1744-1813**  
**Extracted from the Registry of the prerogative Court of York**

**THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**

Of me Stephen Croft of Stillington in the County of York and also of Bootham in the Suburbs of the City of York Esquire made the sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen as follows that is to say first I do hereby subject and make those all my Real and Personal Estates whatsoever and wheresoever with the payment of all my just debts I give and devise unto my dearly beloved wife Frances Croft and her assigns all that my dwellinghouse with the garden outbuildings stables coach houses Close and all of that the grounds and appurtenances thereunto belonging situate in Bootham aforesaid and now in my own occupation to hold to her my said wife and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life without impeachment of waste and from and immediately after the decease of her my said wife I give and devise the same dwellinghouse hereditaments and premises unto and to the use of my son Harry Croft his heirs and assigns for ever

I give and bequeath all my household goods and furniture plate linen wines horses carriages and all other effects in and about my dwellinghouse in Bootham aforesaid unto my said dear wife Frances Croft to and for her own use etc benefit absolutely

I give and devise to my faithful servant (*Butler*) Noah Wynn the dwellinghouse Garth and premises situate at Stillington aforesaid which he now occupies as my tenant to hold to him the said Noah Wynn and his assigns for and during the term of his natural life without impeachment of waste and from and immediately after his decease I give and devise the said dwellinghouse and premises unto and to the use of my said son Harry Croft his heirs and assigns forever. I give and bequeath to such of my livery servants as shall have been in my service for the space of two years next preceding the time of my decease such a sum of money as is equal to the amount of their wages for two years

I give and bequeath to the Church Wardens and the Overseers of the Poor of the several Stillington Farlington and Askham Bryan the sum of Five pounds for each Parish which said several legacies shall be paid by my Executor hereinafter named. within three months next after my decease and shall be immediately afterwards distributed amongst the poor persons resident in the same several parishes. I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Croft one annuity or clear yearly sum of two hundred and forty pounds to be paid to her my said daughter and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life by my said Executor by four equal quarterly payments in the year the first of such payments to commence and be made at the end of three calendar months next after my decease. I do give and bequeath to my son Samuel if he shall continue to reside in India and so long as will entitle him to receive from the East India Company a pension or other recompense equal to the wages or pay which he is now entitled to receive but not otherwise one annuity or clear yearly sum of two hundred pounds to be paid to him my said son Samuel Croft and his assigns by my said Executor for and during the term of his natural life by equal quarterly payments in the year the first payment thereof to commence and be made at the end of three calendar months next after the expiration of the term which will entitle him to receive his said pension or clear yearly allowance and in the event aforesaid but not otherwise I

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do give and bequeath the sum of one thousand pounds unto such person or persons and in such parts shares and proportions in manner and form as he my said son Samuel Croft shall in and by his last will and Testament in writing or any writing purporting to be his will give or bequeath direct or appoint the same and to be paid to his legatee or legatees respectively within six months next after his decease. I give and bequeath to my Grand daughter Mary Lodge one annuity or clear yearly sum of one hundred pounds to be paid to her my said grand daughter and her assigns for and during her the term of her natural life or until the day of her marriage which shall first happen by my said executor by equal quarterly payments the first payment thereof to commence and be made at the end of three calendar months next after my decease provided nevertheless that if she my said grand daughter shall happen to marry with the consent of my said Executor if he shall then be living I do in such event give her the sum of five hundred pounds payable on the day of her marriage but if she shall marry without such consent if he shall then be living then such the said annuity as also the said legacy shall cease and be void and I direct that a due proportion of the said several annuities shall be paid to the Executors or Administrators of the respective annuitants up to the day of their respective deaths from this their last preceding quarterly day of payment thereof respectively. I give and bequeath to my son William Croft the sum of two thousand pounds to be paid to him by my said executor within six calendar months next after the decease of my said dear wife with lawful interest in the meantime for the same payable half yearly to commence and be computed from the day of my decease provided nevertheless that if she my said wife shall by her will or otherwise give or devise to him my said son William Croft her Estate at Askham Bryan in the County of the City of York I do in such event declare the said legacy of two thousand pounds to be void and do revoke the same accordingly and in such event do also revoke the annuity and power of bequest hereinbefore given to or in favour of my said son Samuel Croft but I recommend my said dear wife to make a similar provision for him in case she shall leave the said Estate at Askham Bryan aforesaid to my said son William Croft and I do hereby expressly charge and make chargeable my Real Estate at Askham Bryan aforesaid with the payment of the said legacy of two thousand pounds to my said son William Croft and of the said several annuities and also of the said legacy of one thousand pounds to be bequeathed by the will of my said son Samuel Croft in the event hereinbefore mentioned Accordingly and I do hereby declare and direct that if any of the said annuities or yearly sums hereinbefore given or any part thereof shall be behind or unpaid for the space of forty days next after any of the days whereon the same ought to be paid as aforesaid then and so often as it shall so happen it shall and may be lawful to and for the said annuitants respectively enter and upon the estates and premises charged therewith or any part to enter and distain and the distress and distresses then and there found and taken to drive carry away impound and keep or otherwise dispose of according to the Law until thereby or otherwise the same annuities or yearly sums and all arrears thereof respectively together with all costs and charges attending every such entry and distress and all such damages as the said annuitants respectively shall or may sustain by reason of the non payment of their respective annuities shall be fully satisfied and paid and whereas I did lately agree with Joseph Munby of the City of York attorney at Law for the absolute sale to him of a freehold house and outbuildings with divers closes of land containing together by survey sixty acres one rood and twenty two perches situate at Askham Bryan aforesaid and occupied by John Walker for the price of three thousand eight hundred pounds which purchase money has been duly paid to me but by reason of Mr. William Dawson the Commissioner appointed for the inclosure of Askham Bryan aforesaid not having yet made and published his award no certificate of the sale hath yet been made by me to the said Joseph Munby now if I

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should happen to die before such conveyance is perfected to him the said Joseph Munby I do in such event give and devise the same effects heridaments and premises or any allotment or allotments intended to be made by the said Commissioner to me in exchange with a person or persons whomsoever unto and to the use of my said son Harry Croft his heirs and assigns for ever upon trust and to the intent and purpose that he may absolutely effect the same sale hereditaments unto and to the use of the said Joseph Munby his heirs and assigns forever and I do herby direct him my said son Harry Croft to make such conveyance accordingly I give and bequeath all my ready money and securities for money shares in the Foss Navigation and all other my personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever not heretofore otherwise disposed of unto my said son Harry Croft to and for his own use and benefit and as to all my Manors Messuages Farms Closes Lands Grounds Rents Advowsons titles tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever situated at Stillington Farlington Easingwold Askham Richard and Askham Bryan or elsewhere and not hereinbefore devised whether the same are of Freehold Leasehold or Copyhold tenure I do give devise and bequeath unto and to the use of the said son Harry Croft his heirs Exors Admons and assigns absolutely for ever for and during all such estate and interest as I have therein to and for his and their own use and benefit and I appoint him my said son Harry Croft the sole executor of this my will hereby revoking all former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made in witness whereof I the said Stephen Croft the Testator have to this my last will and testament contained in five sheets of paper set my hand and seal to wit my hand to the four preceding sheets and my hand and seal to this fifth or last sheet by the day and year first herein written ***Stephen Croft*** Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Stephen Croft the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witness ***Joseph Munb,y Jona Gray, John Coates***  
***Proved at London 1<sup>st</sup> September 1819 before the Judge by the oath of Harry Croft Esq the sole Exor to whom admon was granted having been first sworn by Court duly to Admin***

### **Will of Admiral William Croft**

Made 13<sup>th</sup> April 1872

Executor-William Gray, Solicitor of York- Bequeathed £100

Bequeath-Stephen William Croft-his son £1000

Bequeath-Henry Croft-his son £500

A Life Annuity for the life of his daughter Harriett Croft, be set up with the sum of £500 and interest on the sum of £200.

To his daughter Eliza Croft, the sum of £300

To his housekeeper Bullivant the sum of £25

Residue of his estate equally to his two sons Stephen William, and Henry.

William died 6.5.1872

Will proved at York on 22.5.1872

**In the Register of the Freemen of York (York City Archives) there is mention in 1627/1644/1665 of Crofts of East Witton being made Freemen as a result of them completing their apprenticeships as Silkweavers (*see below*). I assume that some of these are a cadet (junior branch) member of the Croft Family.**

**Taken from Register of Freemen of York. York City Archives.**

**York Silkweavers**

**Croft/Crofte, John**

**Father,** Thomas Crofte, yeoman, of East Witton, near Middleham, in the County of York (D12)

**Apprentice to:** Edward Pinder, silkweaver, from 11<sup>th</sup> July 1627 for 7 years, indenture dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 1627 (D12)

**Freeman:** Silkweaver., 26 May 1636, by apprenticeship, paid £1 (D1, C21)

**Silkweavers Company:** paid his brotherhood money 26<sup>th</sup> May 1636 10shillings 13s 6d (SWAB)

**Croft/Crofte, Ralph (1)**

**Apprenticed to:** James Sowrey, Milloner (C23)

**Freeman:** Milloner, 10 December 1644 by apprenticeship, paid £1 (D1, C23)

**Trade:** Termed Silkweaver at death

**Silkweavers Company:** Not a member

**Children:** Ralph, free silkweaver 1672/3 (D2)

**Died,** Buried 9<sup>th</sup> November 1667 St. Crux (YPRS)

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**Croft/Crofte, Ralph (2) (presumably son of the above Croft)**

**Father:** Ralph Croft of York, Milliner (D12)

**Apprentice to:** Richard Darcy, milliner, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1665 for 7 years, indenture dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1665 enrolled 11<sup>th</sup> November 1665 (D12)

**Freeman:** Silkweaver 1672/3 per patres (D3)

**Silkweavers Company:** paid his brotherhood money 1673 3s 4d (SWAB)

**Taken from list of Freemen**

**Croft Christopher**, per ord (by permission of Lord Mayor) Freeman 1684/85\*

**Croft Christopher**, Gentleman, son of Christopher Croft Gentleman, freeman 1741

**Croft John**, son of John Croft, freeman 1693/4

**Croft John**, Wine Merchant, per ord, freeman 1770

\* This Croft was described as a Mercer and I believe that that they were probably all related.

**.5<sup>th</sup> March, 1696 Yorkshire Arch ' Sos. Vol V Bonds**

Christopher Croft of East Witton for payment of £13.6.0 to George Aiscough. Dated 22 Nov. in 4<sup>th</sup> year of James II  
*Note as James II came to power in 1685 this would mean that it was dated 22.11.1689. What the date 5 March 1696 means I do not know.*

**The Crofts were however still in occupation of the castle at Witton as evidenced by Letters of Admon dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1717 that are in the Borthwick Institute viz ADMON at Borthwick Institute**

**CROFT** second November in the year aforesaid (1717) Administration of Christopher Croft, gent. Late of Witton Castle in the diocese of Durham and Province of York having died intestate was granted to James Darcy Esquire. Principal Creditor of the said deceased according to a decree of Court made in that matter.

No Inventory was exhibited

*Note At that time there was a James Darcy living at Sedbury Park 3 miles from Richmond and about 15 miles from Witton..Also on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1665 Ralphe Crofte(2) was apprenticed, in York, to Richard Darcy, milliner.*

**More on Stillington:**

As stated in *A History of Yorkshire North Riding, Page 188*. "In 1086 and before this date Stillington Manor formed part of the possessions of the Archbishop of York. Before 1258 a prebend had been formed and endowed with the manor which was extended in 1295. The manor continued in the hands of the prebendary and was in the Liberty of St. Peter. In 1616 a lease or assignment was made to William Ramsden *Yorkshire Stuart Fines Page 50 York Archeological Society, Record Series Vol 58 Yorkshire Fines 1614-25 11 1615-16 Hilary term 13 James I* -John Wilford gent. Quer. William Ramsden Esq and Mary his wife, defendants. Manor of Stillington and messuages and lands in Stillington, Navilton, alis Nawton, Wymbleton and Langtofte and tithes in Stillington.(Note despite its funny wording this records the sale/lease of the Manor of Stillington by John Wilford, son of Sir James Wilford to Wm. Ramsden . (Ramsden was so I believe a merchant in York.). In 1625 Christopher Croft had a lease for three lives, (*Close,1649,pt. xii, no 24*. so he probably bought it from Ramsden. In 1649 the Parliamentary trustees for the sale of lands belonging to the Dean and Chapter of York, sold the manor to George Gill of Leeds; he in the same year sold it to Sir Christopher Croft (*Close 1649, pt xii No 24*) who appears to have obtained a grant of it from the Dean and Chapter after the Restoration of the Monarchy. After the Restoration the Commonwealth decisions had to be confirmed or corrected.

A document inspected by me at York Minster Library was a bit confusing at first as it infers that the Crofts were not as firmly seated at Stillington as I had thought. This was a Bill to be presented for Parliamentary approval -

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Dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 1740 between the Rev. Richard Levett, (*Prebendary of Stillington*) Sir Edmund Anderson of Kilwick in the County of York, Baronet. Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall and William Stainforth, City of York and Rev Musgrave of Stillington and William Knowlson of Stillington. In consideration of a former Lease mentioned therein between Richard Levett, Sir Ed. Anderson, Henry Thompson for 3 lives and a sum of money. That the said Manor and Prebend of Stillington.....the Manor House and any properties within Stillington belonging to the Prebend including properties in Havelton, otherwise Nawton, Wombleton and Langton (except the vicarage of Stillington) and the Prebend House in York be settled on Stephen Croft, Christopher Croft and John Croft, sons of Stephen Croft late of Stillington deceased and the life of the survivor. **This Bill was enacted in 1753.** The Bill stated that the Properties in Nawton, Wombleton and Langton were included, the Act said that they were excluded. In practice it would appear that they **were** included.

The above was **exchanged** for the Manor of DUGGLEBY that Stephen Croft was seised in Fee. (*Duggleby is on the B1252 Malton to Driffeld road*). On 9.5.2004 Dr. David Neave of Hull University told me that the Crofts were up to then, only leasees of Stillington and that the above Bill, which was enacted in 1753 was a transfer of the Freehold by the Prebendary of Stillington (Sir Richard Levett and the leasees thereof Andersons/Thompsons to the Crofts). The Prebendary (by then James Worsley) let back Duggleby to the Croft family for a rent of £52 pa.

In regard to the Coat of Arms used at Stillington and Doddington, Nicholas Carlisle on page 61 says "Sir Christopher Croft (knighted in 1641) obtained in **1649** an allowance and confirmation of certain arms and crest to him and his descendants under hand and seal of William Ryley, calling himself Norray King of Arms. Immediately after the Restitution of King Charles 11, Ryley was declared usurper and all his Grants declared null and void. However for many generations the arms had been constantly used by the family but did not appear upon record in the College of Arms by reason of Ryleys Grants being null and void. In 1803 certain armorial Ensigns were duly assigned to John Croft of the City of York (great uncle of Sir John Croft of Cowling Hall). Then John Croft of Doddington on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1836 successfully obtained grant of those from the Principal King of Arms, Sir William Woods, for use of himself and of any descendant of Sir Christopher Croft."



Sir John Croft's Coat of Arms

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**Croft Family expansion of property ownership by marriage –**

Property was transferred to the Crofts in Sandhall, Skelton, Saltmarshe, Leeds, Methley, Olton and York, when Thomas Croft of Stillington married Frances Thompson in 1681. She was daughter of Stephen Thompson of Kirby Hall (Great and Little Ouseburn, near Aldborough)

Upon the marriage of Stephen Croft (1683-1732) to Elizabeth Anderson in 1711. Her father Sir Edmund Anderson assigned over the Manors of Burnby and Kilnwick Percy to Stephen (see East Riding Archives Document DDAN/168). Over 1526 acres of land alone were involved at Kilnwick Percy see East Riding Archives Document DDKP/9/23). Again in 1846/47 Land at Farlington was subject to settlement upon the marriage of Ralph Creyke of Rawcliffe Hall near Goole to Louisa Frances Croft on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1847, daughter of Harry Croft (1775-1853) of Stillington.

Farlington Manor was sold to Stephen Croft (1712-1798) of Stillington in 1750 (Feet of Fines, York, Hil. 23 Geo11 page 182)

A scrutiny of the web site [www.eastriding.gov.uk/libraries/archives/archivesearch.html](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/libraries/archives/archivesearch.html) discloses a number of property transactions involving the Croft family. Viz:

<i>Collection</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Southeron-Escourt Family Estates</b>	DDSE(2)/38/5	Abstract of title of Steven Croft Relating to estate at Purston Jacklin and Featherstone	1682-1801
	DDSE(2)/16/123	Lease and release relating to property In Darrington	13-14 Jun 1718
Parties:) Stephen Crofts, Stillington, esquire 2) Christopher Hodgson, Westerton, Gentleman Property: messuage, half an acre in Short Longlands, close on far side Of the Green Leaze and specified lands in the open fields Considerstion: £100 Witnesses: George Marsh, Jonas Thompson			
<b>Scholfield Family of Sand Hall</b>	DDSD/39	Settlement relating to property in Sandhall Skelton, Saltmarshe, Leeds, Methley, Olton and York	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1687
1) William Brearey, Guiseley, Doctor of Laws, wife Elizabeth 2) Richard Thompson junior Esquire, Thomas Crofts, Stillington, esquire Property: the fifth share of William and Brearey of and in the Manor of Sandhall and land belonging thereto containing 400 acres Skelton and Saltmarshe, Long lands, Fish Garth with the River of Ouse and Sandhall Ferry, in Leeds, Methley, Olton and York Witnesses: George Prickett, Richard Rooles, John Briggs.			Parties: Kilham, Elizabeth in Sandhall, and lands
	DDSD/43	Purchase Deed relating to property in Sandhall Skelton, Saltmarshe, Leeds, Methley, Olton and York as described in DDSD/39	24 Dec 1713
William Brearey, Guiseley, Doctor of Laws, wife Elizabeth 2) Richard Thompson Junior, Kilham, esquire, Thomas Crofts, Stillington, esquire Witnesses: George Prickett, Richard Rooles, John Briggs			Parties: 1)
<b>Anderson Family of Burnby and Kilnwick Percy</b>	DDAN/168	Assignment of the Manor of Burnby	22 May 1711
Parties: 1) Sir Edmund Anderson, Elizabeth Anderson, Sir Anthony Deane and William Hewer of Clapham esquire 2) Stephen Crofts of Stillington, esquire Property: the Manor of Burnby and its appurtenances Witnesses: Luke Thompson, Thomas Turner, Timothy Dawson.			
	DDAN/100	Mortgage for £2400 relating to manor and Lands in Burnby	16 Nov 1713
Parties: 1) Sir Edmund Anderson of Bedford Row, Middlesex, baronet, William Harvey The elder of Chigwell, esquire, Stephen Crofts of Stillington, esquire and Elizabeth his Wife 2) Henry Thompson of Kirkby Hall, esquire, Oliver Marton of Middle Temple, London, Gentleman, John Blackstone, apothecary Property: The Manor or Lordship of Burnby and the messuages, lands, tenements, and Hereditaments thereto belonging; messuages, tenements, lands etc in the Parish of Lea In the County of Lincolnshire. Witnesses: Richard Musgrave, Jonas Thompson, James Cooke, William King			

**Collection** ANDERSON FAMILY OF BURNBY AND KILNWICK PERCY

**Series** Deeds for lands in Burnby and Hayton

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDAN/156

**Title** Copy of deed of trust relating to manors of Kilnwick Percy and Howald, Lea in Lincolnshire and Burnby

**Date** 26 Sep 1783

**Description** Parties: 1) Reverend Sir William Anderson 2) Stephen Croft of Bootham, York, esquire, Stephen Croft the younger of Stillington, esquire, Alexander Hunter of York, doctore in physic Property: manors of Kilnwick Percy and Howald and the sheep walk of pasture called Howald in Kilnwich Percy, Howald, Huggate, North Dalton and Birdsall, with appurtenances thereto; capital messuage or mansion house at Kilnwich Percy and the houses, cottages, farms lands etc. in Kilnwick Percy and Howald; manor of Lea, Lincolnshire, and the advowson of Lea Vicarage and the capital messuage or mansion and the houses cottages and lands of Sir William at Lea; the manor of Burnby with the appurtenances and the houses, cottages, lands etc at Burnby of Sir William Witnesses: William Jameson and Robert Scott, clerks to Mr Mortimer, York

**Extent** 1 item

08/11/22

**Collection** KILNWICK PERCY ESTATE  
**Section** Documents relating to various townships

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDKP/15/22

**Title** Lease and release of property in manors of Kilnwick Percy and Howard

**Date** 25-26 Sep 1783

**Description** Parties: 1) Reverend Sir William Anderson of Kilnwick Percy 2) Stephen Croft senior of Bootham, Stephen Croft junior of Stillington esquires, and Alexander Hunter of York doctor in physic Property: Manors of Kilnwick Percy and Howald. Sheepwalk called Howald in those places and in Huggat, North Dalton and Birdsall. Mansion house and estate in Kilnwick Percy. Manor, advowson, mansion house and estate of Lea, county Lincoln. Manor of Burnby In trust for sale to pay scheduled debts and raise portions for his children

**Extent** 1 Item

**Collection** KILNWICK PERCY ESTATE  
**Section** Documents relating to various townships

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDKP/15/13

**Title** Mortgage relating to manors of Pocklington and Waplington

**Date** 5 Apr 1756

**Description** Parties: 1) Robert Dolman esquire and his son Robert Dolman gentleman of Pocklington 2) John Tempest of Winyard, county Durham esquire and his trustee Stephen Croft of Stillington esquire Property: manors of Pocklington and Waplington with estates there and in Bishop Wilton, Yealthorp and Burnby Consideration: £1000 Witnesses: P Johnson junior, Thomas Mitchell, Edward Thompson, Henry Goddard

**Extent** 1 Item

08/11/22

**SubSection** Enrolment Books**Item** Enrolment Book (E)**Level** Piece**FindingNo** QDB/5/5**Title** Mortgage for £1000 (pp. 15-20)**Date** 7 Apr 1756**Description** Parties: 1) Robert Dolman senior and junior (as described in QDB/5/4) 2) John Tempest of Winyard county Durham, esquire 3) Stephen Croft of Stillington, esquire  
Property: as described in QDB/5/4 Witnesses: P[?] John, Thomas Mitchell.**Collection** GRAY, DODSWORTH AND COBB (LATER GRAYS), SOLICITORS, YORK**Section** Estate records and family papers**SubSection** Documents relating to Reverend Thomas Nelson the Rector of Fingal**Level** Item**FindingNo** DDGD/291**Title** Notice to the Enclosure Commissioners for Stillington of the claim of Reverend Thomas Nelson to property**Date** 16 Oct 1776**Description** Property: five acres two roods nine perches of Ings Meadow and ten acres two roods 21 perches of field lands**Extent** 1 Item

08/11/22

**Collection** ANDERSON FAMILY OF BURNBY AND KILNWICK PERCY

**Series** Deeds for lands in Burnby and Hayton

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDAN/157

**Title** Extinguishment of mortgage term of 2000 years for #2600

**Date** 10 Oct 1785

**Description** Parties: 1) Ann Orfeur of York, widow 2) Stephen Croft the younger of Stillington, esquires and Alexander Hunter of York, doctor of physic Property: the messuages, cottages, lands, sheep wiaks, hereditaments and premises of Sir William Anderson at Burnby and Hayton Witnesses: Robert Scott, Michael Ellis

**Extent** 1 item

**Collection** KILNWICK PERCY ESTATE

**Section** Documents relating to Kilnwick Percy

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDKP/9/23

**Title** Release relating to manor of Kilnwick Percy

**Date** 11 Oct 1785

**Description** Parties: 1) Stephen Croft of Bootham in the suburbs of York esquire, Stephen Croft junior of Stillington esquire, and Alexander Hunter of York doctor of physic 2) Timothy Mortimer of York gentleman 3) Richard Clark of Rothwell Haigh gentleman 4) Sir Edmund Andersen of Lea, county Lincoln 5) Robert Denison of Leeds esquire Property: manor of Kilnwick Percy alias Killwick with capital mansion house, messuages and 1,526 acres Consideration: £28000 Witnesses: Thomas Bolland, Robert Scott, Hall Plumer, Michael Ellis

**Extent** 1 Item

08/11/22

**Collection** HEDON BOROUGH RECORDS**Section** Gillyatt Sumners Collections**SubSection** Paull**Level** Item**FindingNo** DDHE/37/40**Title** Draft release for land in Paull**Date** 6 Apr 1809

**Description** Parties: 1) Benjamin Blaydes late of Melton now of Beverley and Stephen Croft of Stillington esquire (with consent of Hugh Blaydes late of Melton, now of Ranby Hall, county Nottinghamshire esquire and wife Delia Maria 2) Robert Stubbing of Hedon, gentleman Property: measure on East side of South end of Town Street in Paull Consideration: for £500 [Part of an original bundle DDHE37/31-37/44]

**Extent** 1 Item**Collection** HEDON BOROUGH RECORDS**Section** Gillyatt Sumners Collections**SubSection** Paull**Level** Item**FindingNo** DDHE/37/39**Title** Draft release for land in Paull**Date** 6 Apr 1809

**Description** Parties: 1) Benjamin Blaydes late of Melton now of Beverley and Stephen Croft of Stillington esquire (with consent of Hugh Blaydes late of Melton, now of Ranby Hall, county Nottinghamshire esquire and wife Delia Maria 2) Richard Eastwood of Paull, husbandman Property: 300 square yards, parcel of waste called Pennyhole in Paull Consideration: for £42 [Part of an original bundle DDHE37/31-37/44]

**Extent** 1 Item

08/11/22

**Collection** HEDON BOROUGH RECORDS  
**Section** Gillyatt Sumners Collections  
**SubSection** Paull

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDHE/37/43

**Title** Draft release for land in Paull

**Date** 25 Sep 1812

**Description** Parties: 1) Benjamin Blaydes late of Melton now of Beverley and Stephen Croft of Stillington esquire (with consent of Hugh Blaydes late of Melton, now of Ranby Hall, county Nottinghamshire esquire and wife Delia Maria 2) John Berne of Hull merchant Property: two parcels (two perches and three and a half acres) in Paull [Part of an original bundle DDHE37/31-37/44]

**Extent** 1 Item

**Collection** HEDON BOROUGH RECORDS  
**Section** Gillyatt Sumners Collections  
**SubSection** Paull

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**Level** Item

**FindingNo** DDHE/37/44

**Title** Draft release relating to the forshore of the River Humber at Paull

**Date** 24 Jun 1813

**Description** Parties: 1) Benjamin Blaydes late of Melton now of Beverley and Stephen Croft of Stillington esquire (with consent of Hugh Blaydes late of Melton, now of Ranby Hall, county Nottinghamshire esquire and wife Delia Maria 2) Samuel Man of Hull, merchant Property: parcel at north and of Paull on foreshore of River Humber with right to erect a gantry and ship goods Consideration: for £200 [See 65 below] [Part of an original bundle DDHE37/31-37/44]

**Extent** 1 Item

08/11/22

**Collection** HEDON BOROUGH RECORDS**Section** Gillyatt Sumners Collections**SubSection** Paull**Level** Item**FindingNo** DDHE/37/65**Title** Lease and release relating to foreshore at Paull**Date** 23-24 Jun 1813

**Description** Parties: 1) Benjamin Blaydes late of Melton now of Beverley and Stephen Croft of Stillington esquire (with consent of Hugh Blaydes late of Melton, now of Ranby Hall, county Nottinghamshire esquire and wife Delia Maria 2) Samuel Man of Hull, merchant Property: parcel at north and of Paull on foreshore of River Humber with right to erect a gantry and ship goods Consideration: for £200 [Part of an original bundle DDHE37/62-37/67]

**Extent** 1 Item**Collection** ANDERSON FAMILY OF BURNBY AND KILNWICK PERCY**Series** Deeds for lands in Burnby and Hayton**Level** Item**FindingNo** DDAN/162**Title** Release of Manor of Burnby and Howald and other properties in Burnby and Hayton**Date** 5 Jun 1816

**Description** Parties: 1) Reverend Sir Charles John Anderson of Lea, baronet 2) Harry Croft of Stillington, esquire (eldest son of Stephen Croft) Property: Manor of Burnby and Howald and the houses, cottages etc therewith in Burnby and Hayton Witnesses: B Codd

**Extent** 1 item

**Collection** CLARK AND CO, SOLICITORS, SNAITH  
**Section** Estate records and family papers  
**SubSection** Creykes of Marton and Rawcliffe  
**Series** Rawcliffe Estate  
**SubSeries** Various later settlements, et cetera

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**Level** Item  
**FindingNo** DDCL/775  
**Title** Deeds relating to settlement on the marriage of Ralph Creyke of Rawcliffe Hall, esquire to Louisa Frances Croft, daughter of Harry Croft of Stillington, esquire  
**Date** 1846-1847  
**Description** One is a deed covenanting to charge a marriage portion on property at Farlington, the second is a re-conveyance of the property (2 pieces). Former reference number: SCR364/3  
**Extent** 1 Item

[< First] [< Prev] 25 of 43 [Next >]  
 [Last >]

**Collection** SALTMARSHE FAMILY OF SALTMARSHE  
**Section** Documents relating to Kilnwick Percy

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**Level** Item  
**FindingNo** DDSA/264  
**Title** Lease for one year relating to property in the Manor of Kilnwick Percy  
**Date** 10 Oct 1875  
**Description** Parties: 1) Stephen Croft, Bootham, York, esquire, Stephen Croft the younger, Stillington, esquire, Alexander Hunter, York, doctor of physic 2) Robert Denison, Leeds, esquire Property: Manor of Kilnwick Percy otherwise Killwick and the capital Mansion House with gardens, outbuildings, et ceteras and the cottages, farms, land et ceteras belonging to the Manor and containing 1526 acres Witnesses: Thomas Bolland, Robert Scott  
**Extent** 1 Item


08/11/22

Collection WARTHILL WITH NORTH NEWBALD AND CAVE MANOR AND STILLINGTON  
MANOR, RECORDS


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Level	Item
FindingNo	DDX79/10
Title	Instructions for holding court relating to the manor of Stillington
Date	1894
Extent	1 item


### In the Dean and Chapter of York: Lease etc Registers:

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington (2) Stephen Croft esq of Stillington (3) William Mills and George Lawton, gents, of City of York, of lease for 3 lives of part of the prebend of Stillington. Res. rent £6.10s., being part of the ancient rent of £52 payable for the whole Prebend. Last renewal 9 April 1740.


**item: Indenture - ref. W/I/p 123 - date: 21 Apr 1803**

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd George Desmeth Kelly, Prebendary of Ampleford, (2) the Revd Robert Croft, Canon Residentiary of York, John Carr, Alderman of the City of York, (3) William Mills and William Burdon, gents, of the City of York, of lease for 3 lives of the Prebend of Ampleford. Res. rent £16. Last renewal 24 Sept 1794.


**item: Indenture - ref. W/I/p 133/b - date: 8 Oct 1803**

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Hon & Revd Edward Rice, Precentor and Prebendary of Driffield, (2) Stephen Croft esq of Stillington, Co of York, (3) William Mills and William Burdon, gents, of City of York, of lease for 3 lives of the Rectory of Usburn Parva (or Little Useburn). Res. rent £21. Last renewal 21 Dec 1759.

**item: Indenture - ref. W/I/p 138 - date: 13 Feb 1804**


 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington, (2) William Mills, gent, of the City of York, (3) John Lee and Thomas Snowball, farmers, of Duggleby, of lease to William Mills for 3 lives of the Manor of Duggleby and the lands, tenements and tithes situate in Duggleby and Wharram and Broughton belonging to the Prebend of Stillington Res. rent £35, being an apportionment of the total rent of £52 issuing out of the whole Prebend. Last renewal 15 Sep 1777.

**item: Indenture - ref. W/I/p 168 - date: 18 Aug 1804**


 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington, (2) John Crowder, gent, of Brotherton, Co of York, John Dunnington the younger, gent, of Thorganby in the said county, and William Mills, gent, of the City of York (the two surviving trustees of the late John Clough esq of the same city) of lease for 40 years of the Prebendal house of Stillington in the Cathedral Close, now in the occupation of Mrs Wilson and Mrs Salmond. Res. rent 26sh.8d. Last renewal 5 June 1790.

08/11/22


**item:** Dean Markham's Letters Patent - ref. **W/I/p 186** - date: 8 Oct 1804

 [from *Scope and Content*] Appointing his proctors to act for him in his absence: the Revd John Eyre, the Revd Robert Croft, the Revd Robert Markham and the Revd George Desmeth Kelly, canons residentiary.


**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/I/p 191** - date: 4 Dec 1804

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary Stillington (2) Stephen Croft esq of Stillington, (3) William Mills and George Lawton gents of the City of York, of lease to Stephen Croft for 3 lives of that part of the prebend of Stillington situate within the townships of Navilton (alias Nawton) Wombledon and Welburn. Res. rent £9.7s.1d., being a proportion of the ancient reserved rent of £52 payable on the whole of the prebend. Last renewal 9 Apr 1740.


**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/I/p 258** - date: 23 Aug 1806

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington (2) Richard Smith, woodmonger of Harram county of York (3) William Mills and George Lawton, gentlemen of the city of York of lease for 3 lives of land and tenements in Nawton. Res. rent £1.6s.11d. Last renewal 9 April 1740.

**item:** Dean and Chapter's appointment - ref. **W/I/p 333** - date: 5 Nov 1807


 [from *Scope and Content*] Of the Dean, and the Revds John Eyre, Robert Croft, Robert Markham and George Desmeth Kelly, all Canons residentiary, as Keepers of the Spiritualties of the Diocese during the vacancy in See.

**item:** The Archbishop Elect's appointment - ref. **W/I/p 339** - date: 19 Jan 1808


 [from *Scope and Content*] Of the Hon. and Revd Edward Rice, the Revd Robert Croft, the Revd Henry Kitchingman, the Revd John Ellis, all canons of York, to be his procurators for his induction and enthronement.

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/I/p 432** - date: 10 Oct 1809


08/11/22

 **[from Scope and Content]** Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington (2) Ann Clapham, Spinster of the city of York (3) William Mills and Thomas Layton, gentlemen of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land in the parish of Kirkby Grindalyth Whorram and in the parish of Appleton in the County of York. Res. rent £27.4s. Last renewal 13 February 1804.

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/I/p 437** - **date:** 10 Oct 1809


 **[from Scope and Content]** Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft. Prebendary of Stillington (2) Thomas Lambert, gentleman of New Malton in the county of York (3) William Mills and Thomas Layton, gentlemen of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land in Duggleby in the parish of Kirkby Grindalyth Wharram and in Broughton in the parish of Appleton. Res. rent £2.8s. Last renewal 13 February 1804.

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/I/p 441** - **date:** 10 Oct 1809


 **[from Scope and Content]** Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington (2) James Croft Esq of Rowley in the County of York and Richard Parkinson Atkinson, grocer and Woollen Draper of Kirby Moorside in the County of York of lease for three lives of tenements and land in the parish of Kirkby Grindalyth Wharram in the county of York, and in the parish of Appleton in the county of York. Res. rent £35. Last renewal 13 February 1804.

**FILE - Lease register - ref. W/m - date:** 1815-36

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 190** - **date:** 24 Apr 1821


 **[from Scope and Content]** Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, Prebendary of Stillington, (2) Julia and Maria Salmond, spinsters, of the City of York (3) the Archbishop (4) Dean and Chapter, of lease to (2) for 40 years, in consideration of £350, of the Prebendal Mansion of Stillington within the Cathedral Close. Res. rent 26s.8d.

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 222** - **date:** 5 Mar 1822


 **[from Scope and Content]** Between (1) Dean and Chapter (2) David Burton Fowler esq of Cherry Burton in the co of York, only surviving trustee of the estates of the late Richard Wood esq, and Hugh Blaydes esq of High Paull in Holderness and also of Ranby Hall, co of Nottingham, and Harry Croft esq of Stillington (both trustees nominated by the Court of Chancery) (3) William and John Robert Mills, gents of the city of York (4) Joseph Wade and Thomas Wade, farmers of Copmanthorpe, of lease to (2) for three lives of Copmanthorpe Rectory. Res. rent £16. Last renewal 30 April 1816.

08/11/22


**item: Indenture - ref. W/m/p 225 - date: 13 Apr 1822**

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) John Chambers, yeoman, of Harum in the parish of Helmsley, (3) John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills of lease for three lives of premises at Nawton, parcel of the prebend of Stillington. Res. rent £1.6s.7d. Last renewal 23 August 1806.


**item: Indenture - ref. W/m/p 329 - date: 14 Feb 1824**

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) William Mills, gent of the city of York (3) John Kopper and Robert Brown, farmers of Duggleby in the county of York, of lease for three lives of land at Duggleby. Res. rent £27.4s. Last renewal 10 October 1809.

**item: Indenture - ref. W/m/p 354 - date: 24 May 1824**


 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) Henry Broadley esq, of Melton Hill in the county of York (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at Langtoft. Res. rent £6.10s. Last renewal 29 March 1803.

**item: Indenture - ref. W/m/p 430 - date: 10 Jan 1826**


 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) Thomas Cook, yeoman, of Nawton in the parish of Kirkdale in the county of York (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at Nawton in the county of York. Res. rent £3.14s.6d. Last renewal 4 December 1804.

**item: Indenture - ref. W/m/p 433 - date: 10 Jan 1826**


08/11/22

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) William Wodd, Inn Keeper of Kirby Moorside in the county of York (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gent of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at **Nawton**. Res. rent £2. 10s. Last renewal 4 December 1804.


**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 436** - date: 10 Jan 1826

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) John Jackson, timber merchant, of **Nawton** in the parish of Kirkdale in the county of York (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at **Nawton**. Res. rent. £1.4s.6d. Last renewal 4 December 1804.


**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 438** - date: 10 Jan 1826

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) John Taylor, timber merchant, of Kirby Misperton in the county of York (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents of the city of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at **Nawton**. Res. rent £1.2s.6d. Last renewal 4 December 1804.


**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 441** - date: 10 Jan 1826

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) John Cussons, yeoman of Thornton in the county of Lincoln (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents, of the county of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at **Nawton** in the county of York. Res. rent 9s. 6d. Last renewal 4 December 1804.

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 444** - date: 10 Jan 1826


 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Robert Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) **Charles Duncombe esq** of Dumcombe Park in the county of York (3) William Mills, John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents of the city of York (4) Thomas Phillips, yeoman, of **Beadlam Grange** in the county of York and John Tate, yeoman, of **Beadlam** in the county of York, of lease for three lives of tenements and land at **Nawton**. Res. rent 6s.6d. Last renewal 4 December 1804.

**item:** Indenture - ref. **W/m/p 641** - date: 13 Dec 1831


 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) the Revd Thomas Hutton Croft, prebendary of Stillington (2) Robert Whorton esq of the Inner Temple, London (3) John Robert Mills and Joshua Mills, gents of the city of York (4) Thomas Corwood, Thomas Lund, John Lund and [blank] Ringrose, farmers of **Duggleby** in the county of York, of lease for three lives of lands at **Duggleby**, parcel of the prebend of Stillington. Res. rent £27.4s. Last renewal 14 February 1824.

**FILE** - Lease register - ref. **W/p** - date: 1860-94

**item:** Tripartite indenture - ref. **W/p/pp 76-78** - date: n.d. 1871

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) Dean and Chapter, (2) Ecclesiastical Commissioners, (3) Ecclesiastical Commissioners for conveyance of land in Waghen parish East Riding (Birkett Garth, part of 2a, Gill Croft, part of, 2a) by Dean and Chapter to Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Land surveyed for Dean and Chapter by R.W.J. Mills and valued at £140. Acknowledgement of payment of above sum of £140.

**item:** Tripartite indenture - ref. **W/p/pp 158-159** - date: n.d. 1888

 [from *Scope and Content*] Between (1) Dean and Chapter (2) Ecclesiastical Commissioners (3) James Melrose, Clifton Croft, York of conveyance of Cross Keys Inn, Goodramgate, York with yard and outbuildings to James Melrose for sum of £850.

08/11/22

**CROFT(E)**Borthwicke Institute York 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2004**Catalogue of the Inquisitions Post Mortem for the County of York for reigns of James 1 and Charles 1 in the Courts of Chancery (C) and Wards and Liveries (W)**

Year	Court	Bundle or Vol	No.
7 Car(olius) (?1632) Crofte Christopher	W	49	138
8 Car(olius) (?1633) Crofte James	W	52	17

*presumably one has to write to Record Office at Kew for a copy*

**Yorkshire Wills at Somerset House 1469 – 1660 Yorkshire Administrations****ACT BOOK 1649**

Folio

93 Crofts, Sir Christopher, Knight and Alderman – Place of Residence Yorke, Administrator Thomas Crofts Esq Son

Folio 1653

June Croft Sir Christopher Knight - York Thomas Croft Esq, Son

Folio 1654

656 Crofte Thomas Esquire Yorke Olive Croft relict (wife)

**ACT BOOK 1655**

Folio

29 Crofte, Sir Christopher Knight and Alderman

Admin

Yorke Olive Crofte, the mother of Faithe and Elizabeth *who were the grandchildren of Sir Christopher*. The effects being unadministered by Thomas Croftre esquire, deceased, son *of Christophe***Yorkshire Wills 1673 –1680**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 1673 Crofts, John, Yorke, gentl, Sept 20 1673 Volume 54 Fo. 453**YORK MINSTER LIBRARY****Marriage Bonds Archbishop of York's Marriage and Bond Allegations****1690 – 1714**

Nil

**1715 – 1734**Christopher Croft 23 Burton Constable Frances Wiles 21 West Newton Aldborough 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 1731 at Beverley St. John**1750-1764**

Nil

**1835, 6<sup>th</sup> May** Stephen William Croft 22 Stillington Anne Swann 22 York at Holy Trinity, Micklegate, York**Dean and Chapter of York Marriage Bonds 1613 – 1839**John Croft 40 York, St. Olave Judith Bacon 24 York at St. Michael le Belfrey on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1774

Stephen Croft, Jnr 20 Stillington to Frances Clarke 21 Askham Bryan on 17 Dec 1764 at Stillington

William Croft 22 York to Harriet Plummer 19 Bilton on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1805 Bilton (*just outside York*)**Yorkshire Archaeology Assn Books (YAA)****1636-1652 Wills**

8 June 1648 Will of William Turbutt of York "To Alderman Crofte according to promise 10s"

**1665-1666**

15 Mch 1654 (seems silly but dates are correct) Will of Richard Jaques of York "To Mrs Crofte, wife of Mr. John Crofte, a 10s piece of gold"

**The next page is a transcript of the Survey of the Prebend of Stillington in 1649 by Officers of the Commonwealth prior to its seizure from York Minster**



08/11/22

**Volume 17 Comm/12A/17 1647-52. Lambeth Palace Library No 210****A Survey of the Mannor of Stillington in Galtres**

With the Rights Members and Appurtenances thereof Lyeinge and beinge in the County of Yorke late parcell of the possessions or late belongninge to the prebendary of Stillington within the Cathedrall and Metropolitanall Church of Sct. Peter in Yorke Made and taken by us whose names are hereunto subscribed in the Month of July 1649/ By vertue of a Commission to us graunted upon an Act of the Commons of England assembled in parliament for the abolishinge of Deanes Deanes and Chapters Cannons, prebends and other Offices and titles of and belongninge to any Cathedrall or Collegiate Church or Chappell within England and Wales under the hands and Seales of Five or more of the Trustees in the said Act named and appointed.

All that Capitall Messuage or Mannor howse commonly called Stillington hall Consistinge of A Faire Hall wainescotted (*panelled*) with a boarded Floore, a lardge Kitchine etc.

The Tithe Corne and Tythe Hay of the Towne shipp of Stillington now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Crofte sonne of the Lesee is worth upon Improvement over and above its Proporcional part of the Reserved Rent per Annum £39.12s..6d

**Memorandum,** Christopher Crofte of the Citty of Yorke by Indenture of Lease beareinge date 20<sup>th</sup> day April in the year of the late King Charles 1 (*1625*) graunted by Phillipp Foord prebendary of the prebend of Stillington in the Metropolitanall Church of Sct. Peter in Yorke Holds all the prebend of Stillington with the Appurtenances and alsoe all the before mencioned Mannor house of Stillington and all howses, barnes, tables buildinges, Orchards, Gardens, Dovehowses and all other Edifices thereunto belongninge, And all Lands Tenements, hereditaments, Commons, Meadowes Feilds, pastures, Mills, Waters, Fishings, Woods and underwoods in Stillington, Navilton alias Nawlton, Wimbleton and Langtofte in the County of Yorke to the said prebend or prebendary belongninge. And alsoe all Tythes, Fruites Oblaciones, Obvencions, Customes Fines, Courts Barons whatsoever, And all Rents, Renewals, Services and all other proffitts Commodities, advantages and appurtenances whatsoever to the said prebend or prebendary belongninge (All Woods and underwoods in and upon the premises, and also the prebend howse at Yorke appertayneinge to the said prebend, and the guift and patronadge of the Viccaridge of Stillington excepted) from the day of the Date for and dureingen the Naturall Lives of Thomas Crofte sonne and heire of the said Christopher Crofte, Christopher Crofte sonne and heir of Ralph Crofte of Leedes in the County of Yorke, and James Loftus sonne and heire of James Loftus of East Witton in the said County yeoman, payeinge yearly to the said prebendary or his successors the entire Summe of fifetie twoe pounds att Candlemas and Lammas by equall porcions but they are worth upon Improvement over and above the said Rent per Annum as they are distinctly proporcioned in the twoe last mencioned particulars.

The Lesee is to dischargde the Leasor of all ordinary and extraordinary chardges whatesoever ariseing and groweing by reason of the said prebend (All Tenthes and Subsidies, duties and Impositions due to the Kinge his heires and Successors and to the Archbishop of the Diocesse excepted).

.For non payment by the space of Fiftety days to reenter and repossesses.

**The Viccaridge of Stillington**

The Viccaridge howse Consisteth of six lowe Roomes twoe Chambers, a Barne, Oxhouse and Stable all in good repaire together with a fold garth and garden adjoyneinge to the Churchyard Cont (taining) together by estimacion 0 Acre 1 Rood 20 perches Fower Crofts called the Viccar Crofts beinge viccar Freehold Lands for which the viccars are called in the Lords Court as freeholders lyeinge betwixt the Lands of Phillipp Houseman gentl[eman] on the East and West Cont (aining) by estimacion 2 Acres 0 Roods 30 Perches

One Messuage howse and Fower Oxfgangs of Coppiehold Land Arrable and Meadowe within the Townfields of Stillington given many hundred yeares since to the Minister of Stillington and Soe continued from one viccar to another and is now holden accordinge to the Custome of the Mannor and is worth per Annum viij l (£8)

The Tythe of Wooll and Lambe, Hay of the Coppiehold Tennants, Easter booke and all other Small Tythes whatesoever we estimate to bee Worth Quisque Annus (every year) £10

The prebend hath the Guift of presentacion

Mr. George Leake is the present Incumbent who [*is?*] paid 9s.6d yearely for Tenthes

Returned (amongst other things) into the Registrars

Office the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1649 by Raiphe Hassell }  
 Roberte White } Surveyors  
 Richard Croxall }

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**1649**

**York Minster Library**

**Volume of Various Lists used during the Commonwealth on the abolition of the Dean and Chapter containing rentals of Fabric, Dean and Chapter, Deanery, Prebendal and Vicars Choral estates, and list of Sales 1649-50, c1660 [S1/2f]**

Page 6 A Rentall of the Prebends belonging to the Cathedrall Church of York viz:  
The Mannor of Stillington in the possession of Mr. Thomas Crofte of York due at the Purification & Lamas. £52.0.0

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Page 20 The Names of the Prebends and the old rents due out of the severall Townes and Parishes

No.4 The Prebend of Stillington att Purification and Lamas £52.0.0

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<b>Where the Premises Lye</b>	<b>The Perticular of the Premises</b>	<b>Yearly Rent</b>	<b>Tymes when Sold</b>
The Mannor of Stillington In Galtres	Quitt Rents of Freeholds in Severall Townshipps Rents of Assize of Coppyholds in severall Townshipps Quitt Rents of Balks in Stillington Fields used for ease of way Courts perquisites of Courts and other Profitts to the Royltie [ <i>appertaining</i> ] The Mannor house with its scite and appurtenances Diverse parcels land arable & meadowe and pastures, with two water corne mills and a cottage Tythes of Corn and Hay in the Town Shipp of Stillington	} £51.15.0	27 October 1649

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08/11/22

CROFT v LEAKE Transcription of Latin Document appointing four men to adjudicate made in 1648/9

The custodians of the liberties of England by the authority of Parliament to Thomas Waite Senior Thomas Waite Junior John Hill William Halley Gentlemen greeting Since Thomas Croft Esquire plaintiff ##### a certain petition before us in our Chancery versus George Leake Cleric defendant, (which) they have lately exhibited and made plain for the same defence and by our writ lately ordered that it be before us in our said Chancery to a certain day already cited to reply to the aforesaid petition. Know ye that we, most confident of your faithfulnesses and provident circumspections have given to three or two of you power and authority the same defendant to be examineddiligently of and of the matter of the aforesaid petition whose tenor we sent to you with the enclosed presentments . And therefore we command the two or three of you that on a certain day and place which you were to provide for this to the aforementioned defendant if it be not convenient to you to work you should agree and you should examine the said defendant of and on the matter of the aforesaid petition on his oath for everything touched by himself previously before you three or two of you by the manifest in the sacrosanct gospels of God you should examine diligently because you should have received his response made to the same petition and you should render the said item in writing on parchment And when you will have brought it thus to us in Chancery in the fortnight after Easter next following Wheresoever then they will have been under your seals of three or of two of you closed distinctly and appropriately you should send [it] together with the said tenor and by this writ your testament to us ourselves at Westminster on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord 1648

Leuther Scrivener

**The next few sheets are transcriptions of the the Cases put forward by Thomas Croft and the George Leake.**

**Thomas Croft had about a month previous put forward his case to the Commissioners. It is very difficult to read and almost a carbon copy his case set out below, so I have not attached it.**

p 1 of first sheet

TO the Right Hon[or]able the Com[mi]ssioners for keepinge  
the Great Seale of England

pas<sup>5<sup>th</sup> April</sup> . . . . . 1649

...om p... ninge sheweth unto your Honors your  
dayly orator Thomas Croft of Skillington in the  
countie of Yorke Esquire That whereas Phillip Ford  
Clerke Prebendary of the Prebend of Skillington in  
the Cathedral Church of St Peter of Yorke was  
heretofore seized in his demesne as of Fee in the  
right of his said Prebend of and in the Mannor of  
Skillington aforesaid, and also of and in the  
Rectory of Skillington, of which said Mannor & Rectory  
said Phillip Ford and all his predecessors Prebendaries  
of the said Prebend <sup>time</sup> by me out of mynde of man had  
beene seized in right of his said Prebend and enjoyed  
the demesnes of the said Mannor freed from the  
payment . . . . . any manner of Tythes renewinge upon  
the demesnes of the said Mannor and especially  
when they or their Lessees or Farmers of the said  
Prebend enjoyed the same in their owne hands &  
manurance. . . . . noe other p[er]son or p[er]sons  
ever had or ought to have any tythes renewinge  
upon the same And the said Phillip Ford beinge  
soe thereof seized by his Indenture sealed with his  
Seale bearing date the . . . . . and twentieth day of  
<sup>Reigned 23/3/1625</sup> April in the first yeare of his Majesties Raigne  
<sup>[27/4/1625]</sup> over England that now is, and executed with livery  
of seizen[?] demised the Mannor & Rectory with th[er]e  
appurten[anc]ts to Christopher [Croft] then by the name of  
Christopher Croft of the Citie of Yorke Mercer and  
now knight To have and to hold the same unto  
the said Christopher Croft and his assignes for &



p2 of first sheet

dureinge the naturall lives of your orator and Christopher Croft sonne of Raiph Croft of Leedes and James Loftus sonne of James <sup>See page 17</sup> loftus of East Witton and the longest liver of them, for and under a certaine yearly rent thereby reserved By force whereof the said Sr Christopher Croft your Orators father became seized of the said Mannor and Rectory in his demeasne as of Freehold for a dureinge the lives of your orator & of Christopher Croft sonne of the said Raiph and of James loftus the younger and the longest liver <sup>See</sup> of them, And the said Sr Christopher Croft beinge soe of the premisses seized, by his deede executed with livery of seizen granted the premisses to Robert Hemsworth Thomas Proctor and Raiph Croft and their heires for and dureinge the lives of your orator & the said Christopher Croft sonne of Raiph Croft & James Loftus the younger and the longest liver of them, to the use of your orator By force whereof your orator was & is thereof seized And your orator for divers yeares & more especially by the space of Three yeares last past hath bene owner of the said Mannor & Rectory for the terme of the said Lease, and dureinge all those three yeares hath kept the demesnes of the said Mannor in his owne hands & manurance & kept the same in tillage, & ought not to pay any Tythes renewinge there upon unto any other person or persons whatsoever, But now soe it is May it please your Honors, that by preidence of an Ordinance of this present Parliamen<sup>t</sup> one George Leake made complainte to Sr Richard Darley knight & George Marwood Esquire two of the Justices of Peace in the Northrydeinge of the

p3 of first sheet

countie of Yorke, where the premisses doe lye, surmizinge as it was pretended he ought to have Tythes of the premisses and ther upon caused your orator to be sum[m]oned by a warrant from the said Justices, to appeare before them at the Cittie of Yorke to answer the said Complaint, att which day your orator appeared before the said Justices, but nether did the said George Leake then appeare, nor was there any Complainte in writing there for yo[u]r orator to Answer unto, and soe in like manner at two severall other dayes yo[u]r orator upon like Sum[m]ons & warrants appeared before the said Justices, & nether the said George Leake appeared, nor had exhibited any complaint in writinge; and therefore the said Justice told yo[u]r orator that he might goe away & that if further proceedings were had therein, yo[u]r orator should have convenient notice that he might answer & defend himselfe, After which yo[u]r orator never had any notice of any further proceedings upon the said Complainte, ~~but~~ untill about four monethes since that the said George Leake brought a warrant from the said Justices to levy Eleaven pounds of yo[u]r orators goods, which said somme of Eleaven pounds the said George Leake pretended to be decreed to him by the said Justices whereas there was noe Tythe due to be paid by yo[u]r orator for the reasons aforesaid, nor had the said George Leake, nor what or any colour of right to yo[u]r orators knowledge to demannde any Tythes, nor was any witness examined that yo[u]r orator can learne of either to ~~poss~~ ... e[st] the right of any Tythe in the said George Leake, nor what Tythes renewed



## P4 of first sheet

upon the p[re]misses, nor the values of them; Soe as  
yo[ur] orator humbly conceiveth that the said Justices  
had noe power to decree him to pay the said  
Eleaven pounds, nor any thing at all against yo[ur]  
orator for any Tythes, nor otherwise, albeit the  
said George leake p[re]stendeth that some former  
Tennants of the said Mannor & Rectory had  
voluntarily & of their owne accordes sometymes  
|| given five pounds to a viccar, and that if any such  
payment were, was only by a farmer, and at  
such tyme as he let the said demesnes to under  
tennants & was never paid of right nor of ancient  
tyme & therefore yo[ur] orator ought not to be  
bound by any such p[re]sident, And in regard  
thereof, & for that yo[ur] orator hath beene  
unjustly delt withall by the said Judgment of the  
said Justices of Peace, & compelled to deposite the  
said Some of Eleaven pounds, And for that it is  
p[ro]vided by the said Ordinance That if any  
p[er]son shall thincke himself unjustly delt with by  
& in the Judgement of the Justices of Peace, that he  
might complaine thereof to the high Court of  
Chancery & the cause betweene the parties thereto  
be heard againe, & that the said Court should  
have full power & authority to sum[m]on the  
parties & to heare & determyne the same  
wherefore yo[ur] orator humbly compleyneth  
of the said Judgement & prayeth that the said  
cause may be againe heard & determined in  
this high & honor[ab]le Court of Chancery And that  
for that end it would please yo[ur] hono[ur]s to  
to grant unto yo[ur] orator as well his Ma[gestie]s  
| writt of Sub...na to be directed to the said  
George leake, thereby comandding him under

VS of first sheet

a certaine paine I at a certaine day therein to  
 be limited personally to appeare before your  
 Honors in his Majestie's high Court of Chancery  
 & answere the premiss... And shewe cause if  
 he can why the said Judgement should not be  
 reversed And alsoe to awarde his Majestie's  
 writt of Injunction to be directed to the said George  
 Leake & all his Counsellors Attorneys and  
 Solicitors commandinge them and every of them  
 to forbear to proceede upon the said pretended  
 Jugement untill the same have beene heard  
 and determined by your Honors in the said  
 Court accordinge to the said ordinance And  
 yo[ur] said orator shall dayly pray for yo[ur]  
 hono[ur]s in all health and happynesse long to  
 continue.

W. Bilt.  
 [or Belt]



**Probatum** apud London fuit humilmodi Testamentum Jermineorum  
 die mensis Novembri Anno Dni Millesimo Sexcentesimo Septuagesimo  
 Quinto coram venerabili viro Domino Leolineo Fubino Magistro Legum  
 Doctore Curia Aragonica Cantuariensis Magistro Custode sive Commissario  
 legitime constituto Juramento Etiamra Vobis Jurato et Examinato in  
 humilmodi Testamento nominata Qui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium  
 et singulorum Honorum Jurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et  
 fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta dei Evangelia in debita Juris forma fuit.

August the Twelfth 1675

**In the Name of God Amen** I Ralph Croft doe acknowledge  
 myself to be my last Will and Testament being this time in perfect sense  
 in memory and hope to enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven Imprimis I doe give  
 and bequeath to my well beloved brother Christopher Croft being in East  
 written in portshire Ten pound sterling monney of England I doe  
 give and bequeath to my well beloved sister Ann Croft being in East  
 written in portshire Ten pound sterling monney of England I doe  
 bequeath for give to Richard Broad Eight pound sterling monney  
 of England which was due from him to mee Likewise doe make Mathew  
 ffogg my whole Executor for to pay the Legard which is here  
 above mentioned And after the payment of them I doe give all the rest  
 of the monney that I have and all that I am to myne Ralph Croft  
 Signed and sealed in the presence of us whose names are here under  
 written Richard Broad William Heath.

Em  
 Ralph Croft

**Probatum** apud London fuit Testamentum Juratissimum coram venerabili  
 viro Richardo Lloyd Legum Doctore Surogato venerabilis et egregii viri  
 Domini Leolinei Fubini Magistro Legum etiam Doctore Curia Aragonica  
 Cantuariensis Magistro Custode sive Commissario legitime constituto Juramento  
 Etiamra Vobis Jurato et Examinato in humilmodi Testamento  
 nominata Qui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum Honorum  
 Jurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando  
 eadem ad sancta dei Evangelia in debita Juris forma fuit.

**In the Name of God Amen** I Thomas Chivers of Eastham in  
 the County of Essex being very fit and wate in body but of perfect  
 memory shauld be to God doe make this my last Will and Testament in  
 manner following first I recommend my Soule into the hands of God that  
 gave it my body to the Earth to be interred where my late deare wife desired  
 them I give and devise unto my good mother in Law Mrs. Mathew ffogg  
 my brother in law Mr. John Woodcock and Mr. Henry Winst and to my sister  
 Ann Woodcock and their heirs all my well bought lands tenements  
 and hereditaments what soever under the severall titles and to the severall  
 uses here after mentioned that is to say for and to myne my house and  
 lands in Eastham aforesaid to be by them sold and the money thereof  
 to be by them bestowed as soon as opportunity shall offer for the purchase  
 of some other Estate which I doe hereby declare shall be for the behoof  
 of my only son Thomas Chivers and his heirs which my said son  
 happen to die without issue or if he shall attaine the age of one and  
 twenty years then the same to be for the use and advantage of my said son

Em  
 Thomas Chivers

[p 1 of 2nd sheet]

The Answers of George Leake Clarke defend[er]t to the  
Bill of Compl[ain]t of Thomas Croft Esqr Compl[ain]t

The Sayd defend[er]t haveinge to himselfe now and  
at all times here after all manner of benefitt and  
advantage of Exception to the uncertaintie & end  
insufficiency of the sayd Bill of Compl[ain]t for  
Answer there unto he sayth that he beleiveth it to be  
true that Philipp Ford Clarke in the bill named was  
seised in Fee of the Manor and Rectorie of Stillington  
in right of that Prebend And beinge soe seised did  
about the time in the bill menc[ion]ed demise the  
|| same to Christofer Croft now Sr Christofer Croft kt  
the Compl[ain]t's father in the bill also named  
for the life of the Compl[ain]t one Christofer Croft  
and James Lofthouse and the longer liver of them  
and further in such sorte as by the bill is sett  
forth And it may be that the sayd Sr Christofer  
Croft granted his said Estate in the Manor &  
Rectorie to Rob[er]t Kemsworth Thomas Procter &  
Ralph Croft and there heires duringe the said Lives  
|| in trust for the Compl[ain]t or to his use & that  
he hath such estate in the p[ro]misses as by the  
bill is set forth But this defend[er]t denieth that  
the demesnes of the said Manor are or ought to  
be freed from the paym[en]t of any manner of  
tythes Renewenge upon the same as by the bill is  
surmised for this defend[er]t sayth That the Lessees  
& Farmers of the sayd Prebend have always  
time out of memorie of man as this defend[er]t  
is informed (Especially if such Farmers or Lessees  
were Laye men) as the Compl[ain]t and his sayd

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father Sr Christopher Croft both of them are) duly payd tythes in kinde Renewenge upon the sayd demesne Lands within the said Manor or Compositions for tythes to the viccar or Curatt of the said p[ar]ish Church of Stillington as other p[ar]ishoner[s] w[er]e w[ith]in the sayd p[ar]ish have done & ought to doe And this defend[an]t sayth That it is also true as he hopeth to make appeare That the said Sr Christopher Croft father of the Compl[ai]nt in the yeares of o[ur] Lord God one thousand six hundred thirtie & <sup>1639</sup>nine One thousand six hundred & <sup>1640</sup>forty & one Thousand six hundred & <sup>1641</sup>forty one Compounded with one Mr Beamont then viccar & minister of the said Church next before this Compl[ai]nt for the tythes of hay, wooll & lambe and other small Tythes comeinge groweing or Renewinge upon Or by reason of the said desmesne Lands p[ar]cell of the sayd Prebend and agreed and Contracted to pay him in lieu of the said Tythes due to him five pounds p[er] ann[ua]m at Candlemas and Lammas <sup>as</sup> by Equall porcions some of which sayd Rents the said Sr Christopher Croft who is yet Liuinge payd to the sayd Mr Beamont & compounded specially to give him with his owne hands And by him selfe or his servant duly payd the sayd Composit[i]on as this defend[an]t hopeth to p[ro]ve not onely to the sayd Mr Beamont but also to one Mr Hodgson viccar of Stillington next p[re]decessor to the said Mr Beamont & compounded specially to give him five pounds p[er] ann[ua]m accordingly for the said tythes of Hay wooll & Lambe and other small Tythes renewinge upon the demesnes of the sayd Manor or Prebend And this

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defend[an]t further saith and hopeth to make it appeare That about sixteene yeares ago One John Morley of Stillington afore sayd (as Agent or Tythe gatherer of this defend[an]ts p[re]decessors viccars of the sayd viccaridge) as he hath told this defend[an]t, and deposed the same to be true upon his Oath before Sr Richard Darley knight & George Marwood Esqr the Iustices ~~of Peace~~ <sup>of Peace</sup> ~~high~~ in the Bill named) hath taken Tythe in kinde of the said demesnes at Stillington aforesaid then in the occupacion of the said Alderman Croft the Complayn[an]ts father And that he hath knowre by the hay taken in like sort by or for Mr Berryer who was viccar of Stillington aforesayd next before the said Mr Hodgson the immediate p[re]decessor of the said Mr Beaumont whose next successor in the said viccaridge this defend[an]t is. And this defend[an]t further saith That by an Indenture of Lease dated the fifteenth day of February in the <sup>15/2/1652</sup> seaventh yeare of ou[r] Late sov[er]aigne lord kinge Charles hee kinds that the said Mr Berryer by the name of Stephen Berryer of Stillington in the County of Yorke darke viccar of the p[ar]ish of Stillington did demise grant & to ferme sett unto one John Pepper and Marmaduke Croft the now complayn[an]ts uncles both of the Cittie of Yorke his tythes of Hay wooll & lambe and all other his Tythes increasinge & renewinge with in the sayd demesnes then in the occupacion of the sayd Sr Christopher Croft together with foure <sup>skew</sup> beast gates in a pasture called North <sup>Skew</sup> Sime[?] for three yeares & so from three yeares to three yeares duringe the terme of forty yeares from thence forth next

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Ensueinge if the sayd Sr Christofer Croft should  
 so long live for ~~the~~ and under the yearly rent  
 // of six pounds sixe shillings Eight pence as by  
 the same may appeare And this defend[an]t  
 beleeveith that they the sayd John Pepper &  
 Marmaduke Croft Received by the in kinde as  
 form[er]ly viccars had done -arousinge and  
 Renewinge upon the said demesne lands whereby  
 it doth appeare as also by an ancient  
 Endowment without date, and made true out  
 of minde of man as this defend[an]t beleeveith  
 between Thomas Corbridge Prebend of  
 Stillington aforesayd and one Thomas Burton  
 vicarr of the same that the viccar ought to have  
 all the by the hay wool & lambe and all small  
 Tythes within the sayd p[ar]ish of Stillington  
 And therefore this defend[an]t doth denie that  
 the sayd demesne lands are freed and -----  
 from paym[en]t of tythes as by the bill is  
 p[re]tended But it is true that this defend[an]t  
 bringe lawfully and accordinge to an Ordinance  
 of Parliam[en]t as he concerneth rightfully  
 invested into the said viccaridge of Stillington  
 and serveinge the Cure as viccar  
 of the same ought to have tythe in kinde of hay  
 wool lambe & hempe & all small tythes as well  
 upon the said demesne lands as in all other  
 places of the said p[ar]ish w[hi]ch he hath made  
 to appeare that his Predecessors viccars of the  
 said Church have had and inioyed And for  
 Recover[er]y of which sayd Tythes and due substracted  
 and withheld from this defend[en]t in the yeares  
 // One thousand sixe hundred forty sixe And One  
 thousand sixe hundred forty <sup>1646</sup> & seven <sup>1647</sup> (duringe which



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yeares he was incumbent and served the Cure as  
 aforesayd) by the said Complaynt contrary to right  
 as this defend[ant] believeth. True it is hee did  
 accordinge to severall Ordinances of Parliam[ent]  
 in that behalfe Complayne to S[er] Richard Darley  
 Kt & George Marwood Esqr ~~two~~ of the Justices of peace  
 and of the R[egum] within the Northridling] of the County  
 of Yorke who after two severall sum[m]ons given to  
 the Complaynt by theirre warr[an]ts to be ready at  
 the days and times therein appointed and the  
 Complayntt makinge default and not appearinge  
 as he was by the sayd warr[an]ts appointed the  
 said Justices duely & accordinge to the sayd  
 Ordinances as this Defend[ant] Conceiveth p[ro]ceeded  
 to Examine the p[ar]te of this defend[ant] and found  
 this Defend[ant] to have right to the tythes ~~afore~~  
 aforesayd And thereupon Ordered and decreed  
 as followeth (viz) Northridling] Coran[cy] Eboys ss(?)  
 For as much as by vertue of an Ordinance made this  
 p[re]sent Parliam[ent] bearinge date the Eight of  
 November One thousand six hundred forty and foure  
 for true paym[ent] of tythes &c And by vertue of an  
 additional Ordinance dated the ninth of August One  
 thousand six hundred forty & seven wee two of his  
 M[ajesties] Justices of Peace within the said ridding  
 haveinge upon the Complaynt of George Leake viccar of  
 Stillington taken notice of a Certaine Rent  
 Tythes due for the demesnes of Stillington w[hi]ch  
 is withdrawne and unpaid by Thomas Croft  
 Esqr for two yeares Last past And for as much  
 as it appeared unto us that there is an Ancient  
 Composic[i]on without date betweene Thomas

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Corbrigg Prebend of Skillington and Thomas Burton viccar of the same whereby the viccar is to have the Tythe of Hay wood & lambe and all small tythes within the said p[ar]ish of Skillington And that Mr Croft's father in the yeare One thousand sixe hundred thirtie & one did Compound with one Mr Berryer the incumbents at that time and did Cou[ve]nant to pay unto him for his life in Lieu of the tythes of all the demesnes there the some of five pounds p[er] ann[ua]m w[hi]ch was constantly soe payd duringe all his time And duringe the life of Mr Hodgson the next viccar And also in p[ar]t of the incumbency of Mr Beaumont And therefore wee doe Order and decree That Mr Thomas Croft shall forth with pay unto the said Mr Leake ten pounds for the tythes of the said demesnes of Skillington accordinge to the sayd Composition and Twentie shillings for his costs and charges susteyned by the p[ro]secution of this suite And if Mr Croft shall not pay the same within thirty days after notice thereof then these are to Authorize and Require the Constable of Skillington and his deputies to Levy the same upon Mr Crofts goods dated under o[ur] hands & seals the six & twentieth day of August one thousand six hundred forty & Eight w[hi]ch was signed and sealed under the hands & seals of the sayd Sr Richard Darley and Mr ~~Marwood~~ Marwood as by the same decree may appeare By vertue of which decree this defend[en]t did in a freindly manner demand the sayd Eleaven pounds of the



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said Complaynt shewed him the said decree under seales as aforesayd And desired him to pay the said Money wchich he Refused to pay albeit as this defendent conceiveth the said Justices ought to have decreed treble damages to this defendent whereas they onely tooke notice of the single value to witt five pounds beinge the some received by others the pcedessors of this defendent wchich might not to binde him this defendent in that the very tythe in kinde of the said two yeares in demand were of much greater value by the yeare neither ought the Complaynt ~~to~~ as this defendent humbly Conceiveth upon the Ordinance dated the <sup>27th</sup> seven & twentieth of October one thousand six hundred forty & eight to be admitted to his appeale unlesse hee first pforme the intention of the said Ordinance to witt. that the party Appealinge shall lay downe in money either with the Justices of Peace by whome such Order is made as aforesaid or in this hono[ra]ble Court the full value of the tythes adjudged together with the treble damages and costs wchich the said Complaynt hath not pformed he haveinge onely deposited the Eleaven pounds adjudged against him as foresayd  
 ----- said bill of Complaynt he hath Confessed And such moneys as he so deposited was after the thirtie days in the sayd Ordinance mencioned And this defendent desireth that the said Complaynt may pforme the said Ordinance in depositinge treble damages and costs before hee be admitted to pceed further

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in this suite Against this defend[en]t, without that  
 That the said Philipp Ford & all his ~~dece~~ p[re]decessors  
 Prebendaries of the said p[re]bend have beene or  
 their Lessees & farmer[s] ought to be freed from  
 paym[en]t of any manner of Tythes renewinge  
 upon the demesnes of the said Manor Or that  
 noe parson or p[ar]sons ever had or ought to have  
 any tythes Renewinge upon the same as by the  
 bill is untruly p[re]tended And w[ith]out that  
 that the demesnes of the said Manor never of  
 Right nor of Ancient time did or now ought ~~to~~ not  
 to pay any Tythes to this defend[en]t as by the  
 bill is untruly suggested & w[ith]out that that the  
 Complayn[en]t appeared before the said Justices upon  
 the sayd sever[al] sum[on]s at the days &  
 times appoynted in the sayd warr[an]ts as by the  
 bill is alledged, Or that at the days and times  
 appoynted by the said Justices for a hearinge this  
 defend[en]t did not appear, or that there was  
 noe Complaynt in writinge Exhibited by this  
 defend[en]t to the said Justices for the Complayn[en]t<sup>tt</sup>  
 to Answer to, As by the bill is untruly set  
 forth Or that the sayd Justices (to his defend[en]ts  
 knowledge) at any time did the Complayn[en]t  
 goe away upon his appearance as by the bill  
 of Complayn[en]t is p[re]tended And w[ith]out that  
 That the said Justices Examined noe witnesses  
 on the p[ar]t of this defend[en]t toucheinge the  
 subtractinge of the sayd Tythes Or p[ro]veinge  
 this defend[en]ts right and title to the same and  
 what tythes Renewed on the p[ro]misses and  
 the values of them As by the bill is falsely

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surmised And without that that the said Iustices had noe power to decree as aforesayd against the Complaynt Or that the Complayn[an]t was uniuistly dealt with all by the said Judgement as by the sayd bill is alledged to the scandall of the said Iustices And without that that any other matter or thinge in the said bill of Compl[ayn]t mentioned And herein not sufficiently Answered Confessed and avoyded trav[er]sed or denied, is True; All w[hi]ch matters and things this defend[en]t is ready to averr & p[ro]ve as this hono[r]able Court shall award and humbly prays to be dismissed with his costs and damages in this behalfe wrongfully susteined.

Ro Barwicke

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**Indenture** – dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1735 This a document breaking an Entail. Of the properties listed. It was made shortly after the death of Stephen Crofts (1683- 19.1.1734). Who, I have read, lived in a lavish lifestyle and lost a large sum of money in the “**South Sea Bubble**” (which crashed in 1720), “**leaving little for his children**”. **In his will**

East Riding Archives-Beverley. Ref DDHB 24/76 Harrison-Broadley Family of Hull and Welton.  
Described as Copy Settlement of Stephen Crofts of Stillington.

See **FAMILY TREE** attached.

**Parties-**

1 **Elizabeth (nee Anderson) Croft(s) (1685-1771)**. Widow of Stephen Croft(s) senior (1683-1732/3). Also **Stephen Croft(s) (1712-1798)** junior, son of above Stephen and Elizabeth.

2 **Sir Edmund Anderson of Kildwick (1687-1765) (brother of Elizabeth above)**. NB Edmund and Elizabeth’s father was also called Edmund (1629-1703).

A large amount of property in East Yorkshire had been settled by the Anderson family upon Elizabeth and Stephen when they married in 1711

Also **Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall (1677-1768) (Little Ouseburn)**. Henry was brother of Frances Thompson (1664-1738). Frances being widow of Thomas Croft (1643-1711) Frances and Thomas being parents of above Stephen Croft(s) senior.

A large amount of property in Yorkshire had been settled upon Thomas Croft and Frances Thompson by the Thompson family when Frances married Thomas in 1681

3 **Elizabeth Croft(s) (1714-1753)** daughter of the above Stephen Croft(s) senior and of course sister of Stephen Croft(s) junior. NB she was 17 years old before the date of this Indenture. Just to confuse matters she marries in 1737, John Thompson (1701-1777) her brother in law, son of Henry Thompson (1677-1768) above.

4 Thomas Newsome of Southampton Buildings, Middlesex and William Bigge of Chancery Lane.

**Consideration**

By mother Elizabeth (Anderson) Croft(s) – the natural love and affection she has for her children.

By mother Elizabeth and her son Stephen Croft(s) junior – five shillings each paid by Thomas Newsome and William Bigge.

**Sold to-** Thomas Newsome and William Bigge address as above

**Term** – One Year

**Property** – Land and property at Duggleby (near Malton), Little Ribston (near Malton), Winksley Woodhouse (near Pontefract), Kirk Deighton, Craike, Wharram le Street, Purston Jaqlin (near Featherstone) and Easingwold. **Note** - Most of the property in Stillington was not included in the deed, only a small amount of land being included. This Estate he passed to his son also Stephen, (1712-1798) who was instructed to pay his brothers and sisters a total sum of £3000 out of it.

**Comments.**

Elizabeth (Anderson) Croft(s) comes out of this with an Annuity of £220

Elizabeth Croft(s), the daughter gets £1000 on marriage (OR DOES SHE WAIVE THIS?)

The other children, viz: Thomas, Christopher, John, and Margaret get £200 each on becoming **21 years of age?**

**An Act for confirming and establishing an exchange agreed upon between the Prebendary of the Prebend of Stillington and Stephen Croft Esquire of certain lands and hereditaments in the County of York. Said to be effective from 4<sup>th</sup> June 1753.**

Whereas by Indenture of three parts bearing date the Ninth Day of April one thousand seven hundred and forty and made or mentioned to be made between the Reverend Richard Lovett Prebendary of the Prebend of Stillington in the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter of York of the first part Sir Edmund Anderson of Kilwick (*Kilnwick*) in the county of York Baronet and Henry Thompson of Kirby Hall in the county of York Esquire of the second part and William Stainforth of the City of York Esquire the Reverend Musgrave of Stillington aforesaid Clerk and William Knowlson of Stillington aforesaid Gentleman of the third part In consideration of a former lease therein mentioned to be made by the said Richard Lovett unto the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson for their lives and of a competent sum of money therein mentioned to be paid by them to the said Richard Lovett he the said Richard Lovett did devise grant and to farm let unto the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson and their heirs all that the Prebend of Stillington with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging set lying and being in Stillington in Galtres or elsewhere in the county of York and also all the Manor or Mansion house of Stillington and all the Houses Barns Stables Buildings Orchards Gardens Dovehouses and other edifices to the said Manor or Mansion house in any wise belonging or appertaining or commonly used to go or to be leased or occupied with the said Manor or Mansion

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house and all lands and tenements hereditaments commons meadows fields feedings pastures mills waters fishing with herbage and pannage of the woods set lying and being in Stillington Navilton otherwise Nawton Wombleton and Langtoft or elsewhere in the county of York the said prebend or prebendary in any wise belonging or appertaining or which theretofore had been known taken or reputed as part parcel or member of said prebend and all coney yards coneygrees with the whole profits and advantages of the conies there and also all the Tythes fruits obventions oblations customs fines heriots Courts Baron with the whole profits and perquisites of the same and all rents services and all other rights profits and commodities advantages emoluments Liberties franchises and hereditaments whatsoever they be with all and singular their appurtenances to the said prebend or prebendary or in anywise belonging or appertaining and all manner of Rents of all and singular the premises and every of them (except the donation presentation patronage and Gift of the Vicarage of Stillington aforesaid and except foreprised and always reserved out of the said Lease all woods and underwoods growing and that thereafter should grow upon the premises or any part or parcel thereof and also the prebend house being at York appertaining to the said prebend of Stillington with all the spiritual jurisdiction and profits arising and coming thereof belonging to the said prebend of Stillington and also all such pension or portion duty and right that in any wise there after should appertain and belong to the

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said

Richard Lovett or his successors of or for his or their Dividend or Canonical forms for the keeping of his or their residence at the same Metropolitan and Cathedral Church of York) To hold unto the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson their heirs and assigns for the natural lives

of Stephen Croft Christopher Croft and John Croft sons of Stephen Croft late of Stillington aforesaid Esquire deceased and the life of the survivor of them at the yearly rent of fifty two pounds payable half yearly as is therein mentioned and the said Richard Lovett did thereby covenant and grant for him and his successors to and with the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson their heirs executors and assigns to leave growing upon the premises without doing anything to contrary sufficient timber for Reparation of the houses edificies and buildings therein before demised and sufficient hedge wood fire wood house wood plow wood cart wood and pale wood to be bestowed or spent in or upon the premises for the necessary use of the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson their heirs executors and assigns and that it should and might be lawful for them to fell down and take the same Timbers hedge wood firewood house wood plow wood cart wood and pale wood as often as need should require during the said term and the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson did thereby for themselves their heirs executors and assigns covenant and grant to and with the said Richard Lovett and his successors to permit and suffer him and them his or their Deputy or Deputies assigne or assigns from time to time at his

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or their Liberty or pleasure to fell cut down sell and carry away as much of the woods and underwoods growing in or upon the premises or any part thereof as might be spared and taken upon the premises so that there should be at all times left standing in and upon the premises Timber wood and underwood for repairing of the houses and edifice therein before demised and for the said fire (wood) house (wood) hedge (wood) plow (wood) cart (wood) and pale (paling) (wood) according to the meaning of the aforesaid Covenant AND WHEREAS the names of them the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson were Used in the said Lease in Trust for the Said Stephen Croft the son out of the Cestinqui vies (*is the person who is named in a trust to derive future benefit from the trust*) in the said Lease named And the said Sir Edmund Anderson and Henry Thompson have in consideration of the promises and in pursuance of their Trust conveyed assigned and made over The said Manor House Lands Tenements Hereditaments and premises devised and granted by the said Lease and all Their Estate and Interest therein unto And to the use of him the said Stephen Croft and his heirs during the lives Him the said Stephen Croft and the said Christopher Croft and John Croft therein Named and the life of the Survivor and longest living of them **AND WHEREAS by Articles of Agreement indented bearing Date the thirtieth Day of October One Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty two and made between the Most Reverend Father in God Matthew Lord Archbishop of York of the first part James Worsley Clerk Prebendary of the prebend of Stillington aforesaid of the Second part and the said Stephen**

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**Croft of the Third part after reciting that The said Stephen Croft was by virtue of the Lease hereinbefore wited seised to him and his heirs for and surviving the natural lives of him the said Stephen Croft Christopher Croft and John Croft and for the life of the longer liver of them of and in the said prebend of Stillington and of the Manor or Mansion house of Stillington and of other of the Tenements and Hereditaments and premises in and by the said indenture of lease granted and devised under the yearly rent of fifty two pounds payable to the said prebendary and his successors and that all the said devised premises had** been viewed and valued by a person appointed by the said James Worsley and Stephen Croft and approved by the said Lord Archbishop of York and estimated to be of the yearly value of two hundred and three pounds five shillings and ten pence and no more and that there was not more wood or under wood growing upon the said premises than was necessary for repairing the said messuages and edifices and the several boots (woods) that were above mentioned and writing that the said Stephen Croft was seised in fee of and in the said Manor of Duggleby and of divers Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditiments herein mentioned which had been viewed and valued by the same person so appointed and approved as above mentioned and which were then let for the clear yearly value of two hundred and eight pounds fourteen shillings and eight pence and was estimated by him to be reasonably worth to be let (for)

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two hundred and sixteen pounds fourteen shillings and eight pence and writing that the said Stephen Croft had come to an agreement with the said James Worsley with the consent of the said Lord Archbishop to exchange his said Manor Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments at Duggleby for the said Manor Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments at Stillington which he then held by lease under the said prebendary and which said Manor Messuages and premises at Duggleby when vested in the said prebendary were to be demised to the said Stephen Croft and his heirs during the lives mentioned in the said lease then in being without any fine or fore gift subject to such rents covenants and agreements as his said Estate at Stillington was then subject to And afterwards to be subject to such renewals fines rents covenants conditions and agreements as the said prebendal estate at Stillington was then subject to he the said James Worsley with the consent and approbation of the said Lord Archbishop for himself and as far as in him lay for his successors did thereby covenant and agree to and with the said Stephen Croft and his heirs that the Manor of Stillington Manor house and all the Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments to which he the said Stephen Croft held by lease under the said prebendary of Stillington and the woods and underwoods growing thereon should be vested in the said Stephen Croft and his heirs freed and discharged from the said lease in exchange for the said Manor of Duggleby and the

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said messuages land and tenements there he the said Stephen Croft vesting and settling the said manor of Duggleby and the Messuages Lands and Hereditaments therein and upon the said James Worsley and his Successors Prebendaries of Stillington in lieu thereof and that the said James Worsley would consent to the procuring and obtaining any Act or Acts of parliament for the establishing and confirming the said exchange and that after the said exchange should be perfected and completed he the said James Worsley would demise the said Manor and premises at Duggleby unto the said Stephen Croft and his heirs for the lives of the said Stephen Croft Christopher Croft and John Croft and the life of the longest liver of the under such yearly rents and covenants as he then held the manor and premises at Stillington of the said prebendary without any fine or foregift to be paid for the same and that from time to time and at all times after the said exchange should be completed and perfected and the lease granted of the said manor Duggleby and the messuages lands tenements and hereditaments there so to be vested in the said prebendary and his successors the said manor and lands at Duggleby should be subject to such renewals fines reserved rents covenants and agreements as the said estate at Stillington which he then held under the said prebendary then was and stood subject to and the said Stephen Croft thereby covenanted with the said James Wolsey that he the said Stephen Croft would grant and convey unto the said James

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Worsley and his successors prebendaries of the prebend of Stillington the manor of Duggleby and the messuages lands tenements hereditaments their then of the clear yearly value of two hundred and eight pounds fourteen shillings and eight pence in exchange for the said manor of Stillington and the messuages lands hereditaments which he then held under the said prebendary and that he would at his own costs and charges in the law use his utmost endeavours to procure an act or parliament for vesting establishing and confirming the said manor of Duggleby and the messuages lands and hereditaments there in the said prebendary and his successors forever and for the vesting establishing and confirming the said Manor of Stillington and the messuages lands tenements and hereditaments which he held under the said prebendary with the woods and underwoods growing thereon in him the said Stephen Croft and his heirs discharged of the said lease in Exchange for the Manor of Duggleby and the lands and tenements there so to be vested in the said prebendary and his successors as in and by the said indenture of lease and Articles of Agreement hereinbefore recited colation being thereunto respectively had may more fully appear But although the Exchange so proposed and agreed upon would be a great convenience to the said Stephen Croft and a benefit and advantage to the said prebendary and his successors and a considerable improvement of their prebendal estate yet the same cannot be established and considered effectual without

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the aid and authority of an Act of parliament therefore your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the said Stephen Croft and James Wolsey prebendary of the said prebend of Stillington do most humbly beseech your Majesty that it maybe enacted and Be  
 it Enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present parliament assembled and by the Authority of the same That the said manor and prebend of Stillington with all and singular Appurtenances thereunto belonging situate lying and being in Stillington in Galtres or elsewhere in the County of York and the Manor or Mansion house of Stillington and all the Houses Barns Stables Buildings Orchards Gardens Dove houses and other Edificies to the said Manor or Mansion house in any wise belonging or appertaining or commonly used to go or be leased or occupied with the said Manor or Mansion house of Stillington all and every the Lands Tenements and Hereditaments Meadows Fields Feeding Pastures Mills Tythes Woods Underwoods Waters Fishings and Hereditaments situate lying and being in the Parish Precincts or Territories of Stillington the county of York to the said prebend or prebendary in any wise belonging or appertaining or which heretofore hath been known taken or reputed as parcel or Member of the said prebend and all coney yards coneygrees with the whole profits and advantages of conies there and also all the Tythes Fruits Obventions Oblations Customs Fines Heriots Courts Baron with the whole profits and perquisites of the

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same and all Rents Services and all other rights profits and commodities advantages emoluments liberties franchises and hereditments whatsoever they be with all and singular their appurtenances to the said prebend or prebendary in any wise belonging or appertaining (except nevertheless all such lands tenements or hereditaments being parcel or reputed parcel of the said manor and prebend of Stillington as are situate lying and being in the Townships hamlets precincts or territories of Havilton otherwise Nawton Wombleton and Langton or any of them in the North Riding of the County of York and also except the

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said donation presentation patronage and Gift of Vicarage of Stillington aforesaid and also the said Prebend house at York appertaining to the said prebend of Stillington with all the said spiritual Jurisdiction and profits arising and coming thereof belonging to the said prebend of Stillington and also all such pension or portion duty and right that in any wise hereafter shalappertain and belong to the said prebendary and his successors of or for his or their dividend or canonical forms for the keeping of his or their residence at the Metropolitan and Cathedral Church of York) and the reversions and Reversions Remainder and Remainders rents fines and profits of all and singular the same premises shall from and after the twenty fourth day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty three be settled upon and vested in the same are hereby from henceforth settled upon and vested in the said Stephen Croft the son his heirs and assigns to the use of him the said Stephen

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Croft his heirs and assigns for ever freed and discharged and absolutely acquitted exonerated and indemnified of from and against all right title interest claims and demands whatsoever of him the said James Worsley prebendary of the said prebendary of Stillington and his successor prebendaries of the same Prebend for ever AND it is hereby ENACTED by the authority aforesaid That all that the Manor or Lordship or reputed Manor Lordship of Duggleby in the county of York and all that messuage tenements or farms with the garth and gardens and the several closes or parcels of land called Wallbank Close Spring Close Mally flat and sixteen oxgangs and half of arable land in the Common fields thereunto belonging and there with used situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together by estimation three hundred and forty three acres three roods and twenty three perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of James Coultass his assigns or under tenants at the yearly rent of forty four pounds five shillings and nine pence and all that messuage tenements or farm with the two garths and two closes called Thoraby closes and the two new closes and twelve oxgangs of arable lands in the common fields situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid an containing together by estimation two hundred and forty seven acres three roods and twenty five perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of Robert Walker his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of twenty nine pounds five shillings and all that

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messuages

tenement or farm with the two garths thereto belonging and also two garths called High and Low say Garths and twelve oxgangs of arable land in the common fields thereunto also belonging and therewith used situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together by estimation two hundred and forty nine acres one rood and seventeen perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of George Simpkin his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of thirty one pounds and all that messuages tenements or farm with two garths thereto belonging and also a garth late Marshall's and ten oxgangs of arable land in the common fields thereunto also belonging and therewith used situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together by estimation two hundred and three acres three roods and thirteen perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of Christopher Dale his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of twenty four pounds nine shillings and all that messuage tenement or farm with the Garth and two oxgangs of arble land in the common fields thereto belonging and therewith used situate and lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together by estimation forty one acres and nine perches now or now or late in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Coultass his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of five pounds two shillings and six pence and all that

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messuages tenement and farm with the garth and two Page 13

oxgangs of arable land in the common fields thereto belonging and therewith with used situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together by estimation forty acres two roods and fourteen perches now or late in the tenure occupation of William Simpkin his assigns or undertenants at and under the yearly rent of four pounds eleven shillings and three Pence and all that messuage tenement or farm with the garth and one close called Thornalby Close and one Oxgang and an half Of arable Land in the Common Fields thereto belonging and therewith used situated lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together by estimation thirty one acres three roods and nine perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Jackson or his assigns or undertenants at or under the yearly rent of five pounds and sixpence and all that messuage tenement or farm with the garth and one oxgang of arable land in the common fields thereto belonging and therewith used and situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together twenty one acres and twenty perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of the widow Tod assigns or undertenants at and under the yearly rent of two pounds ten shillings and all that messuage tenement or farm with the two garths and one oxgang of arable land in the common fields thereto belonging and therewith used situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together twenty acres two roods and twenty one perches now or late in the tenure or occupation of Anne Eazart her assigns and or tenants at and under the yearly rent of two pounds six shillings and six pence.

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and all that messuage tenements or farm with the Garth and half an oxgang of land in the common fields thereto belonging and therewith used situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and containing together eleven acres now or late in the tenure or occupation of Mary Emerson at and under the yearly rent of one pound ten shillings and four pence and also all those the several thythes arising growing recovering or payable out of or in respect of the several farms and lands of or belonging to Francis Taylor the school Lands Sangley Peirson the North Flats and Horsley Situate lying and being in Duggleby aforesaid and which said tythes are now in the possession or occupation John Wharram Richard Webster Thomas Suggit Thomas Simpkin Peirson and William Pexton at and under several yearly rents amounting in the whole to twelve pounds ten shillings per annum or thereabouts and all that messuage tenement or farm with the garth and Ings close thereto belonging containing by estimation four acres two roods and also four acres and an half of meadow in the Ings and two oxgangs of arable land in the common fields and three cowgates and two horse gates all situate lying and being and arising in Wharram in the said county of York and now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Bogg his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of eleven pounds and all those the tythes coming growing concerning or arising in Broughton in the said county of York as the same now are

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or late were in the tenure or occupation of ffenton his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of thirty pounds and all those six flats or parts or parcels of arable land lying and being in the common fields of Broughton in the said county of York now containing by estimation forty eight acres and now or late in tenant or occupation of the said ffenton his assigns or undertenants at the yearly rent of thirteen pounds and all of the manors or reputed manors messuages farms lands tenements tythes and hereditaments whatsoever of him the said Stephen Croft the son or whereof or wherein he or any person or persons in trust for him have or have any estate of inheritance in possession reversion remainder exportatory situate lying being or arising within the towns parishes fields precincts territories of Duggleby Wharram and Broughton or any of them in the East Riding of the County of York and also all such lands tenements and hereditaments being parcels or reputed parcels of the said manor or prebend of Stillington as are situate lying and being in the townships hamlets precincts or territories of Haviton otherwise Nawton Wombleton and Langtoft or any of them in the North Riding of the County of York and all outhouses barns stables offices Buildings orchards garden garths curtilages crofts hedges Ditches xxx Trees woods underwoods cattle gates commons Commons of pasture Mines Quarries courts perquisites and profits of court rights royalties franchises privileges commodities advantages appurtenances whatsoever to the said manor messuages farms tenements tythes hereditaments and premises belonging or in anywise

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appertaining or therewith or with any part thereof used held occupied enjoyed or accepted reputed taken or known as part parcel or member thereof and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders rents issues and Profits thereof and every part thereof shall from and after the said twenty fourth day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty three be settled upon and vested in and the same are hereby from henceforth settled upon and vested in the said James Worsley and his successors to the use of him the said James Worsley and his successors prebendaries of the said prebend of Stillington for ever freed and discharged and absolutely acquitted exempted and exonerated of from and against all claims and demands of the said Stephen Croft his heirs or assigns and shall be held and enjoyed by the said James Worsley and his successors in right of and as annexed To the said prebend house being at York aforesaid and

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as part of the corps of the said prebend for ever in exchange for the said manor and mansion house of Stillington other the lands tenements tythes hereditaments and premises herein before settled upon and vested in the said Stephen Croft and his heirs as aforesaid

AND it is hereby further ENACTED by the authority aforesaid that within six months after the passing this present act he the said James Worsley or his successors shall and may and he and they are hereby authorised and by required by indenture under hand and Seal to demise grant and to farm let the said Manor of Duggleby and all and every the messuages farms lands tenements

Tythes rents hereditaments and premises situate lying and being and arising in Duggleby Wharram and Broughton or any of them herein before settled upon and vested in the said James Worsley and his successors aforesaid with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Stephen Croft his heirs and assigns for and during the natural lives of the said Stephen Croft Christopher Croft and John Croft and the live of the longest liver of them at and under the said yearly rent of fifty two pounds of lawful money of Great Britain payable half yearly at the feasts of Saint Peter ad Vincula commonly called Lammas day and the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary in every year by equal portions and subject to and with and under such and like covenants conditions powers privileges restrictions and agreements as are mentioned inserted provided and Declared in any lease or leases heretofore granted of the Prebend of Stillington or as near as the same can be done

Page 18

AND it is hereby further ENACTED and DECLARED that immediately after the lease or Demise hereby Directed to be made shall be made executed and perfected and also in the mean time after the passing of this act and until such lease shall be made executed and perfected as aforesaid he the said Stephen Croft his heirs and assigns shall and may have hold possess and enjoy the said manor (of) Duggleby and all and every the messuages farms lands tenements rents tythes hereditament and premises hereby directed to be leased and Demised as aforesaid and with their and every of their appurtenances subject nevertheless to and with and under such rents covenants conditions powers privileges restrictions and agreements as aforesaid for such and the same estate and interest and in such and the same manner and not otherwise as the said Stephen Croft the son could or might have held and enjoyed the said prebend of Stillington and the other premises granted or demised by the said first writed Indenture of lease before the passing this Act or could or might have held and enjoyed the same in case this act had not been made

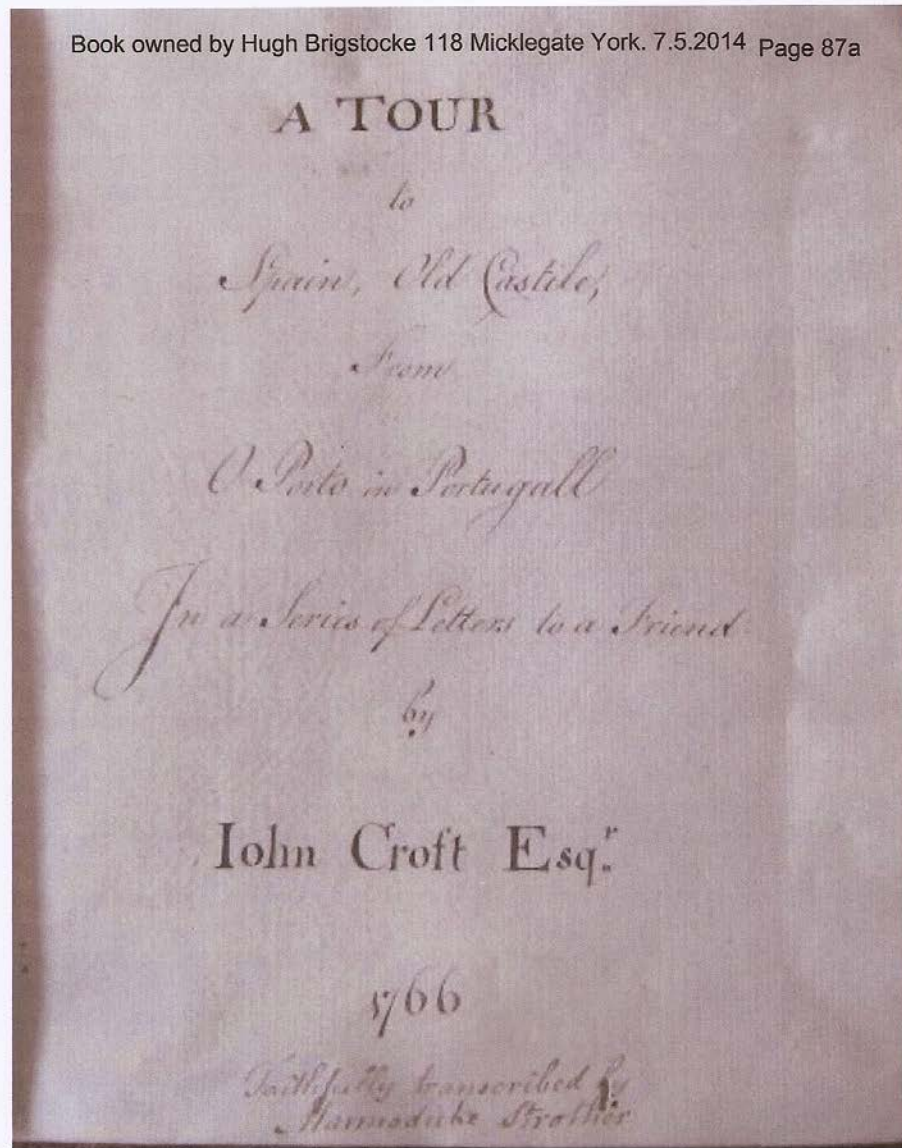
AND it is hereby further ENACTED that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said James Worsley and his successors prebendaries of the said prebend of Stilington for the time being to make and execute such Demises Leases and grants of the said manor of Duggleby and other the premises settled upon and vested in the said James Worsley and his successors by this act subject nevertheless and without prejudice to the estate and interest hereby vested in or secured and provided to or for the said Stephen Croft his heirs and assigns as aforesaid at and under further Yearly rent or rents with under and subject to such covenants conditions powers privileges restrictions and agreements and the such and the same manner as he or they could or might have made or executed of the said prebend of Stillington and other the Promises comprised in the lease herein first writed before the passing (of) this act or in case the same had not been made

08/11/22

SAVING ALWAYS

to the Kings most excellent Majesty his heirs and successors and to all and every person and persons bodies Politic and Corporate his her and their heirs successors executors and administrators (other than the said Stephen Croft the son his heirs and assigns and the said James Worsley and his successors prebendaries of the said prebend of Stillington) all such estate right title interest claims and Demands whatsoever of into or out of the said premises respectively settled and vested by this Act as they every or any of them had or were intitled to before the passing this Act or could or might have had and enjoyed in case this Act had not been made.



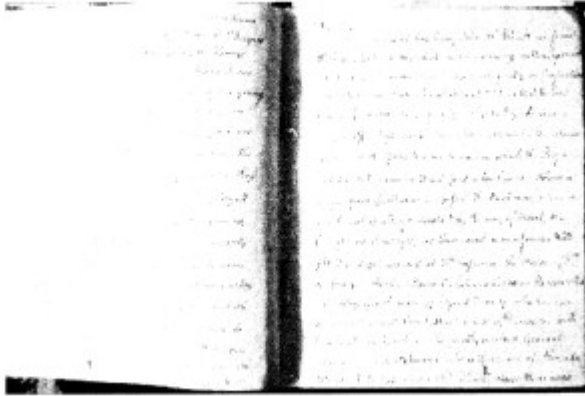


8. CROFT, John (1732-1820), wine merchant and antiquary. A TOUR TO SPAIN, OLD CASTILE, FROM O PORTO IN PORTUGALL IN A SERIES OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND BY JOHN CROFT ESQR., 1766. FAITHFULLY TRANSCRIBED BY MARMADUKE STROTHER. 1766, unpublished manuscript, small 4to, 111 pages, including the title-page, followed by 58 pages of miscellaneous historical notes in the same hand, but unconnected with the travel account, contemporary vellum.

£5750.00

John Croft was the fifth son of Stephen Croft (1683–1733) and Elizabeth (d. 1771). The Crofts were part of a long-established, aristocratic, wealthy land-owning Yorkshire dynasty. As a young man John Croft was sent to Oporto in order to learn the wine trade, and remained working there for several years. The Croft family port business was founded in 1588, and continues to this day. In 1787, John Croft published *A treatise on the wines of Portugal; and what can be gathered on the subject and nature of the wines, &c. since the establishment of the English factory at Oporto, anno 1727*. This journal describes a journey undertaken by Croft in 1766. The narrative is transcribed from a series of letters sent from Croft to his friend in Leeds, Marmaduke Strother, and it seems likely that this manuscript is in Strother's hand. Croft relates that he travelled firstly to Lamego, in the Norte region of the Douro. Here he met up with the three sons of a Portuguese gentleman and their tutor who were to travel with Croft to Salamanca where they were to receive their degrees in common law. The party travelled to Moimenta (where they played the violin and danced at a convent at the request of the nuns), through Pinhel to Almeida in Spain. From Almeida they proceeded to Salamanca where Croft's friends were presented with their degrees. While in Salamanca, Croft encountered Dr. Cuesta, "the most eminent physician of Salamanca mounted on his mule to see Sr. Joam de Souza who had a slight fever, and with much Spanish gravity order'd him some lemonade, also a lemicupio or half bath, chocolate and caldo or broth. He told us they were reforming the University, and first to begin with Physick. He ordered his patient a quantity of broth... and feeling his pulse said in Latin *Sunt aliqui agroti in quibus pulsus sunt naturales in aliis vero preternaturales*. So much for Dr. Cuesta." Croft also met the eminent poet, physician and mathematician Don Diego Torres Villarroel (1694-1771): "He told us he had got much money by writing fugitive pieces and pamphlets for he had wrote eleven volumes on different subjects which did not go down well." Villarroel made Croft a fellow of the university by conferring on him a degree in mathematics. Croft then travelled to Madrid, calling on the way at the impressive Escorial monastery which he describes at some length. In Madrid, where the narrative comes to a close, he visited the theatre, and two private menageries. Croft writes in a light and entertaining style, with a rather charming dry wit. In later life Croft published books on Shakespeare and made researches into the archaeological history of York Minster. His last publication was a small volume, "Memoirs of Harry Rowe, constructed from materials found in an old box after his decease. By Mr John Croft, wine merchant. Together with the 'Sham Doctor', musical farce by Harry Rowe;" the subject of his study had been master of a puppet show who died in York workhouse in 1799. The last third of the volume is occupied by miscellaneous historical notes and observations, presumably by Marmaduke Strother. Towards the end, at the foot of a piece about the state of the roads in 1735, Strother adds the comment "how different are the roads now - 1786," which is probably a good indication of the date of the last entry in the book. Marmaduke Strother lived at Burmantofts Hall, Leeds. One of the Strother family was Mayor of Ripon from 1681-97, and another took part in the American war of Independence and married a "squaw" at Fort Mobile in Florida. A detailed, but entertaining and informative account, written in a clear and easily legible hand throughout.

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[John Croft]



Thomas Croft 1717-1783