

Tithes and Inclosure of Lands at Stillington

Before the dissolution of the Monasteries tithes were payable by the parishioners for the support of their parish church and its clergy. These tithes were:-

Great Tithes

A proportion of the profits of cultivation of all things growing in the fields, such as grain, vegetables and wood.

Small Tithes

(1) of all things nourished by the ground, such as cattle, sheep, etc and the produce from these such as milk, eggs and wool.

(2) produce of man's labour e.g from mills, rivers etc.

Prior to the Dissolution of the Monasteries it was normal for the great tithes to be paid to the York Minster clergyman responsible for Stillington (the Prebendary) and the small tithes to the Vicar. In the case of Stillington this is highlighted by a document written in the Parish Register, setting out the position in 1520. *See next.*

In Stillington, following the Dissolution, the Great Tithes were sold off to the Lord of the Manor whilst the Small tithes remained with the vicar. The Prebendary retained the vicarage, the church and a field just behind these off (north) Back Lane of some 6 acres 1 rood and 7 perches. There was also a small field in the Hurns at the very west end of the parish of 1 acre 2 roods and 13 perches. All church lands were locally described as Glebe Lands.

In 1767 the Stillington Inclosure Act was passed, authorising the enclosure of the Common, some 1360 acres (see later) and its allotment to parishioners pro rata to their existing property occupancies in the parish. The Lord of the Manor, who benefitted by being allotted sensible sizes of land rather than having to farm isolated strips and having to share the Common, was required by the Act to surrender his right to the Great tithes and the Vicar surrendered his right to the Small tithes, on that allotted land, both in exchange for being allotted land. All allotted land became Copyhold (a form of leasehold) and the tenant owners paid the Lord of the Manor an annual rent of 4d per acre as they were already having to do in respect of their existing land. A similar "one off" sum was also payable upon death of the tenant or on transfer of ownership.

In 1841 the remaining land in the parish, some 725 acres were freed from paying any tithes in kind and there was substituted an annual cash payment, spread over those lands, of £42 payable to the Vicar in respect of Small tithes and £6 to the Lord of the Manor in respect of the remaining Great tithes. The Tithe Act of 1936 extinguished Tithe Rent Charge.

So ended the payment of all Tithes in kind, both Great, Small or Glebe over all 2000 plus acres in Stillington.

In 1987 the Vicarage was sold into private hands.

Detailed History of the Church Tithes

Looking first at the Tithes due to the Vicar over the years, the earliest reference is that made in the parish register by John Dade AM when he became vicar on January 25th, 1692 viz:-

He made a copy of the dues belonging to the said Vicarage and the Prebendary, at the time of Thomas of Corbridge who was Prebendary in 1280. (Comment by G.R.as Thomas Burton was vicar in 1520 one wonders whether Dade meant to write the name of Thomas Dalby who was Prebend at the time rather than the name Thomas Corbridge)

“A Copy of the Endowment from the Original in Latin - translated as :

Be it known to all faithfull Christians by these Presents. That I, Thomas Corbridge, Prebendary of the Prebend of Stillington, and Canon of the Cathedral Church of York, of the consent to, and by the Authority of the Chapter of the said Cathedral Church of St. Peter of York, have granted to Mr. Thomas Burton, Perpetual Vicar of Stillington and his successors for the time being, All manner of Oblations, and all **small tythes** for the whole Parish of Stillington. Herewith the Tithes of Wool and Lamb, Foals, Calves, Kids or Goats, Pigs, Geese, Ducks, Chickens, Hens, Pigeons, Hives, and the Tythes of all manner of Fruits (to witt) of Pears and Apples, and the Tythe of all manner of Milknefs and also all manner of Tythes and Obventions of the Church of Stillington and the Parish of the same howsoever growing

leaving to me the Prebendary of Stillington for the time being (to witt) the Tythe of Corn in the Fields. (G.R. put this in bold on purpose) I have granted to the same Vicar and his successors, that he and they may have, their horses Oxen, Kine, Sheep, Goats, Swine yearly in the Woods and Common Pasture of Stillington & their Swine under the Prebend of all manner their Cattle. Also I have granted to the said Vicar and his successors, the Grass growing in the Churchyard of Stillington. Also I have granted to the said Vicar and his successors the Tythes of the Hay of the Parish of Stillington. Also I have granted to the said Vicar and his successors one Mansion House and a ce(u)rtain Garden to be beholden freely in the town of Stillington with the Appurtenances and four Crofts, as they lie butting upon the Mansion House & the Garden thereof. Without all Exation, Payment or Demand. And every of the Vicars for the time being shall have Feidel?? sufficient (to witt) Eight Wayne Loads of Wood at the least out of the Wood of Stillington by the Delivery of the Bailiff of the Manor. (where I have put ?? I cannot read the word or all of it (GR))

Also I have granted to the same Vicar and his successors to grind all manner their Corn & Malt for the Expenses of their Houses at the Mill of Stillington without Multure, of the which they shall take no Tythes. And also I have granted to the same Vicar and his successors the Thythes of Lime and Hemp as well in the fields as in the Gardens & the tythes of all manner of things & Fruits growing within the Inclosures of the Gardens or Crofts within the said Parish. And the said Vicar and all his successors for the time being shall receive upon three Solemn Days yearly forever to witt, at the Feast of St. Nicholas the Confessor, the Nativity of our Lord and at Easter

of every Husbandsman's Wife being of the Parishoner's of the Church aforesaid, and holding and occupying two Oxgangs of Land within the said Parish One Cake of Wheat to the value of a Farthing used by a laudable and ancient Custom yearly offered by the Wives of the said Husbandmen. And the said Vicar and all his successors for their times perpetually shall receive one Flagon of Ale of every Quarter of Malt from the Common Brewers of the same Parish according to ancient Custom used within the said Parish which is called Touster Ale of the which the said Vicar received none other Tythe."

Assuming that the above was the case in **1520** then the next record that I found was the situation in **1664** –taken from the Terrier of that time when the Rev'd Lamb was vicar

Vicar of Stillington Glebe Land 1664				1767 Field Ref No.
In the	Acres	Roods	Half	
Little fields		3	1	
Dunscarr Fields	2	1	0	219
Ings Fields	7	3	1	230
North Skeuf Fields	4	3	1	
Park Field (Crake Park)	8	2	0	25
Hurn	2	3	0	5?
Ings	6	1	1	284
Vicars Croft	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	119/120
Total in 1664	<u>37</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	

In **1760** there was recorded in John Hall's Book that the vicar was in receipt of some £19.1.7d in tithe rent and other payments in respect of some 147 acres of land (see schedule attached). He was being paid 1s 8d per acre.

It was in 1767 that the Inclosure Act extinguished the Vicar's tythes on that land that was subject to allotment, but not on lands that were not subject to allotment. He (Laurence Sterne) was recompensed by the

allotment of 87 acres 0 roods and 10 perches in the Common
 11 acres 3 roods and 25 perches in the Carr Field
 6 acres 3 roods and 25 perches in the Ing Field
11 acres 1 rood and 25 perches in the Ings
117 acres 1 rood and 5 perches in total

This is more fully explained in the section dealing with the Inclosure

He already had in (North) Back Lane 6 acres 1 rood and 7 perches
 And in the Hurns 1 acre 2 roods and 13 perches
 The vicarage and church were 0 acres 3 roods and 10 perches
 So at this date he held **125 acres 3 roods and 35 perches**

He also received small tythes in kind on some 676 acres of unallotted land which, to give an idea of their value were, in 1841 commuted to a cash rent charge of £42 p.a. Marmaduke Callis his Curate for Stillington was paid a stipend of £42 a year and had the use of the Vicarage. As Sterne could rent out most of the above 125 acres, he would still be “in profit”.

Sale of Glebe Lands

It was not until 1895 that Glebe lands were gradually sold off. The first one being the sale of Grey Carr Lodge and 107 acres and 15 perches.

Then in 1920 some 17.745 acres were sold, being the 6 acres 1 rood and 7 perches in the North Back Lane and the 11 acres 1 rood and 25 perches in the Ings on the south side of the road to Easingwold.

I have been unable to trace the disposal of the 1 acre 2 roods and 13 perches in the Hurns.

All that was left was the Vicarage, the church and the church yard. The Vicarage was sold into private ownership in 1987 and the upkeep of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish.

Inclosure

Enclosure Act 1766/67

The Act of 1766 provided for the enclosure of the four open arable fields of Stillington and the common wastes, meadows and pastures of the township. The names of the four fields were, the North Skew (Skeugh or Skewf) Field, immediately to the north - west of the village, the Crayke Park Field, on either side of Crayke Lane; the Car Field immediately south - west of the village; and the Ing field, west of the Car Field on the South side of the Easingwold road.

The boundaries of the Ing field are defined by the present Green Lane, Moor Lane, Wandell Balk and the Easingwold road.

Wandell Balk forms the western boundary of the Car Field and lies between the Easingwold road on the north and a beck from Moor Lane to York road on the south. In addition to the four fields there were two small open arable fields, the Hurns field, in the North - west corner of the township and the Little Field, on the east side of the York road, in the present park of Stillington Hall.

North and South of the houses in the village are garths and behind these are crofts.

In 1766 there was no Fox Inn and the present road to Huby across the former Ing field did not exist. This road was created from two fields belonging to the vicar, hence the “dog leg” that runs along the headland of one to join the foot of the other.

South and West of Ing Field were commons - West Moor, Gray Carr, Penny Flatt, Roseberry Hill and land south of the Hall Estate.

Finally coming round to the Common the Skeugh, lying between the Mill Bridge and Moxby Hall.

South of Carr Field, on a piece of common north of Roseberry Hill was a lake, the enclosure plan of **1767** shows this with a small building on an island in the middle, perhaps a fishing house or summer house. This lake which was several acres in extent is not shown on Greenwood's map of Yorkshire **1817/18** and had probably been drained by then. The island is still visible as a mound in the centre of the field and also an embankment on the north side of the field which must mark the northern boundary of the lake.

North of the North Skew between Crayke Lane and Jack Lane the same plan shows closes which represent the old pastures and meadows. The Gunfit Croft runs from west of Crayke Lane to North Skew Hill. The farmhouse called New Grange is marked, but not named. East of it the plan shows the New Laid Closes, fields called Long Hills, the Outfit Close at the corner of Jack Lane, the North Skew Closes, the Slack Style Close, Gaticar Hill and the Angrams Closes.

Curiously enough this award map stretches at three points into Crayke township, including the Charles Closes on the west side of Crayke Lane, a strip of land north of the Gunfit Croft up to Mosswood Lane.

There is still a mill on the Foss on the road leading out of Stillington to Farlington, although it is now a residence only. There are also the ruins of a mill, some 150 yards on the Brandsby side of the bridge over the stream on the Stillington/Brandsby road. A copy of the map is attached. However the best view is to see it enlarged, see me for a CD. The present system of Stillington, apart from the road from the Fox Inn. to Huby, seems to be much the same as on the 1767 plan and probably dates back to the open field days. Green Lane, Moor Lane and Wandell Balk look very much like balks in the open fields as do Jack Lane and Mill Lane. In 1767 there were gates on the Easingwold road at the township boundaries;- near the present pond; -at the junction of Crayke Lane with the Easingwold road; - on Jack Lane at the township boundary, just around the sharp bend on the way to Brandsby; and on York road adjacent to the pond dug by Stephen Croft as a condition of the Act. This pond no longer exists, though the site is readily traceable.

There appears to be no pre enclosure plan of the Stillington town fields. Crossland Closes, Peasebrigg Closes and Blackwell Closes on the award plan of 1767 suggest the names of flatts in Ing Field, East of Jack Lane up to the goit of the mill are New Dike Flats, the oddly named Yande Marr (“Old Marsh”), the Cockshut Close, the Pear Tree Closes and the Mill Pasture. Between the Mill goit and the Foss are the Wenby (Whenby) Ings. The Mill is of course shown, as is the farm at the corner of Green Lane and the Easingwold road. Shrubbery’s north and east of the Hall are named “Wilderness”

It seems probable that the majority of the strips in the Stillington and arable fields ran north and south, as in fact do most of the allotments made on their enclosure. Some of the allotments in the Ing Field were so narrow that they were probably in fact pre - enclosure field lands. The name “Crossland” may indicate strips not following the prevailing direction.

The total area enclosed under the Act of 1760, was 1360 acres, 3 roods and 12 perches. The award was made in 1767, though only the attached plan is dated. The Commissioners were Robert Bewlay junior of York, the Rev John Dealtry of Bishopthorpe, and William George Nicholson of Cawood. Allotments were made to Stephen Croft 11, in lieu of his rights in the Commons and in lieu of tithe (except the tithe of corn), and to the Rev. Lawrence Sterne.

GR’s Summary-

1767 Enclosure	1360.3.12
Old Enclosure, Roads etc	<u>729.3.20</u>
Total of Parish	<u>2090.3.02</u>

I have copied out in full the 1767 Act and have identified those fields with the names of the allottees, cross referenced and expanded with details taken from the Tithe Rent Apportionment of 1841 where appropriate. Hopefully this identifies the owner occupiers of the houses also.

The petition by Stephen Croft and the Rev'd Laurence Sterne was supported by William Stainforth, John Barker, Christopher Bell, Robert Wyley, John Stapylton John Wright, John Hall and others.

Not everyone agreed to the enclosure, indeed the proprietors of sixty acres of lands refused their consent and the proprietors of twenty seven acres of land, were not at home when application was made for their consent. The proprietors of eight common rights also refused consent. The whole number of common rights were 89. No person appeared before the Committee to oppose the bill. Power was given to the Commissioners to determine Claims and indeed this was the case when on 16th October 1766 the Reverend Thomas Nelson claimed the right to 5 acres 2 roods and 9 perches in the Ings also 10 acres 2 roods and 21 perches in other lands. In the event he was awarded 12 acres 3 roods and 16 perches adjacent to the road to Crayke. Receipts for each of the years to Michaelmas (29th September) 1743 to 1772 for Lord's rent of 4s. 5d payable (Acreage not stated) by the Rev'd Thomas Nelson to Stephen Crofts Agent, Mr. John Strangeways are held at East Riding Archives. Nelson was also paying to the Agent rent for Land and cottages at Craike. This rent to be paid over to Harry Thompson. The Rev'd Thomas Nelson was rector of Finghall, between Bedale and Leyburn. His father, also Thomas was rector of Craike in 1719/20. (East Riding Archives DDGD/291 and 288).

