



8 STAINFORTH HOUSES

*...a hive of activity, with a joiner's shop, a baker's, a shoemaker's
and a cooper's...*

The following description of the older of (Great) Stainforth's houses is arranged as a walk around the village starting at the Yorkshire Dales National Park car park.

The car park and Allen Close adjoining the car park were once called Dyer's Croft. The picnic site and the field beyond were called Dyer's Field and the road past the car park and that past the old school were known as Dyer Lane and until the bypass was made in the 1970s this was main road entry to the village from Horton.

The School

The village school was built in 1857 on land given by Thomas Stackhouse to be used for education 'at all times thereafter'. It closed in 1984 and has been a private dwelling since then. For more information about the school, see Chapter 9.

With the school to your back, look across the road with the church on the right and the strip lynchets are visible. These were early medieval crop fields, allocated to villagers according to where they lived in the village. There are two theories of how lynchets took shape: either deliberately levelled and 'revetted' (the embankment faced with stones), or evolved by the action of single-throw ploughing and stone clearance. Also visible is **Rains Barn**. This place name is mentioned in the monastic record and means boundary. **Rains Cottage** and **Rains House** are also to be seen from this viewpoint. Above and to the left is a recently re-walled and replanted plantation that was derelict for many years. **Hustrill's** plantation now derelict but mentioned in the monastic record is on the Horton side of the restored plantation.

Sherwood House

Over the brow of the hill on the road to Horton lies Sherwood House, set along the road and high above the river. It consists of farm buildings and two houses, one of which is probably the oldest house in the village. Sherwood House had tanneries in the 18th century.

Bargh House

High on the opposite side of the road to Sherwood House stood Bargh House once an important farmhouse in the township.

Haworth Barn

At the end of Church Lane at the junction with the Horton road is situated Haworth Barn. When the barn was converted to living accommodation it was renamed Haworth Barn after the beams used in its refurbishment, which were brought from Haworth (of Bronte fame). The building was formerly called Townend Barn because it belonged to Townend Farm, which is opposite the village garage.

The Church

Dedicated in 1842, the church was built at a cost of £1,750. See Chapter 6 for further information on the church.

At right angles to Church Lane is a pathway across the fields. This is an old road that formed a straight-line route from Langcliffe, through the village and on to Helwith Bridge. In recent times this was known as the Postman's Path.

Stainforth House

At the end of Church Lane stands Stainforth House with its distinctive Scots pine and walkway around a roof light surmounted by a lightning conductor. The core of the house was built in 1780 with additions in 1851, 1890 and 1907. The owner Thomas Foster Knowles, a London tea merchant and local landowner, who brought his servants up with him, used it as a shooting lodge in the grouse season. His housekeeper occupied it for the rest of the year. The present day **Coach House** and **Stockhill Cottage** were formerly the coach house and stables for Stainforth House.



Stainforth House about 1980 - courtesy Helen Bentley

Ribblesdale House

Originally called Ribblesdale Cottage, it was built in the early 19th century and was the home of the Perfect family for a time. The present **Ribblesdale Cottage** behind was originally a barn or stables.

Stockhill House

Built in the early 18th century, but possibly a rebuilding of an older 17th century structure, Stockhill House was part of the Taitlands estate until that was sold and broken up in 1868 (see below). Does it derive its name from the site of the village stocks (see below)? It was partly burned down in 1910 and was then increased in height with dormer windows added. It was used for army officers to recuperate during and after the 1914-18 War. The former barn next door, **The Old Stables**, has a date stone 1678. Is this the date of Stockhill or, as some say, was it removed from Townhead House when that was rebuilt.

A cutting from the *Craven Herald* (or *Pioneer* as it was then known) reads as follows:

SERIOUS FIRE. £1000 DAMAGE

'Early on Tuesday morning the village was alarmed by an outbreak of fire at Stockhill House, belonging to Mr T F Knowles, of London and Stainforth. The house, which is closed for the winter months and kept by Mr Knowles as a residence for his friends in the summer, is in the hands of caretakers, who, as usual, attended to the fires on Monday night and left all right, as far as they could see. About 6.30 on Tuesday morning it was noticed that something was wrong by a villager who lives near. The caretaker's attention was drawn to the matter, and it was found that one of the bedrooms was on fire. Willing hands soon attempted to put out the flames. The water supply having given out, every drop of water had to be carried from the beck, 100 yards away. Women helped the men to carry as much furniture from the lower rooms as could be reached. By 7.00 am the fire had got a good hold and the roof began to fall in. The Settle fire brigade was wired for, and on arrival tried to battle with the flames. Their efforts were in vain, having no fire engine. The Skipton fire engine was wired for and though twenty miles away, reached the fore about 10.00 am. All the roof had fallen in, but the Skipton men soon had their engine at work, and played on the burning debris until after 1.00 pm. If the fire engine could have been present at 7.00 am no doubt much of the building and valuable furniture might have been saved. It is estimated that the damage will be over £1000. Had there been a high wind such as there has been during the last months, nothing would have saved the other residences in close proximity.'

Letters to the *Craven Herald*, March 1910:

THE FIRE AT STAINFORTH

Sir, As one who witnessed the fire at Stockhill House, Stainforth, on Tuesday, will you kindly allow me to pay a tribute to the promptness and alacrity and work of the Skipton Fire Brigade, with Deputy-supt. Smith, which started from headquarters very quickly after receiving the call a few minutes to nine am and arrived at Stainforth about 10.25 having galloped the 19 miles at the rate of a mile every five minutes, possibly a record journey for a fire engine drawn by horses and heavily loaded. On arriving at the fire the men were quickly at work with three lines of hose, getting a good supply of water from the beck, and soon putting an end to any danger from the fire. Fortunately there was no wind, or there would have been great risk of adjacent property becoming involved. Beyond the salvaging of furniture from the burning house there was little work done in Stainforth that morning, and some of the children went to school without thinking of breakfast.

*Yours truly
Ecran.*

Sir, Whilst the promptness and alacrity of the Skipton Fire Brigade would leave nothing to be desired, what about the poor horses which, it was stated, galloped the nineteen miles at the rate of a mile every five minutes (the fire engine being heavily loaded)? The wonder seems to be not that one horse gave out a mile from Stainforth, and had to be taken out of the shafts, but that the other four could endure the strain. In the name of humanity could there not be established a fire station between Stainforth and Skipton or failing this could Skipton not provide a motor fire engine? Personally I would see my house gutted rather than torture dumb animals who are powerless to defend themselves.

*Yours truly
A Lover of Animals.*



The Stock

The stock was 'discovered' in 1999; only one of the stone uprights remain. It lies at the junction of Goat Lane and the roadway leading to Stockhill House. The groove cut in the upright can be seen clearly. This would probably have taken two wooden planks placed on edge with holes for the feet of the person incarcerated, the whole being secured by a padlock. We have yet to discover when the stocks fell into disuse. **Lower Croft**, the house behind the stock, was built in the late 1960s on land that was at one time called Crow Croft. Formerly, this land had been part of Townhead Farm, which was owned and farmed by the Howarth family, the last family to do so.

Townhead Farmhouse

In the 1841 census, Townhead Farmhouse was called Ayrton House. It was

once part of the Taitlands estate and, when this was broken up in 1868, was bought by Thomas Foster Knowles. In the back garden walls are two sets of bee-holes. These were built into the walls to provide dry shelter for beehives kept for honey and to pollinate fruit crops. On the Goat Lane gable end of the house can be seen the blocked-up door which at the beginning of the 20th century was the entrance to the general store run from the Farmhouse by the Sharp family. On the left of the old doorway, a bench-mark has been cut into one of the quoins. This is shown as 207.69 metres (681 feet) on Ordnance Survey maps.

Townhead House

Townhead House belonged to the Foster family, until the line faded with the death of James Foster in 1912. At the sale of the estate in 1913 Townhead House was described:

... well built and contains good-sized dining and drawing rooms, two kitchens, five bedrooms, three attics and the usual offices. A pretty garden adjoins and runs down to Stainforth Beck ... which affords some good fishing.

A former resident of Stainforth remembers that the house remained unsold for a time and he and other village children could get in and out and play in the still furnished rooms. Sir Harold Mackintosh of Acre Mead, Halifax (of Mackintosh toffee fame) owned the house in the mid-1920s. A Miss Mallinson later occupied the house, but it proved too large for her. It was then subdivided to make the present separate dwellings, Townhead House and **Townhead Cottage**, the latter being converted from the stables and



Aerial view of Townhead 1967 - courtesy B Beattie © Nostalgia Air 1996

outbuildings. Early maps show a sundial dated 1828. In living memory there was a tennis court in the garden on the opposite side of the beck to the House.

Goat Lane and Silverdale to Dale Head

Immediately at the rear of Townhead Farmhouse is the farm entrance to **Townhead Barn** (converted to living accommodation in 1982 by the Whittle family) and a derelict barn and a croft. This croft together with the property now called **Long Close** (the bungalow was built in the late 1960s) was the site of the tenter frames of the village's linen weavers and was still in use in the 18th century. Records exist between 1711 and 1768. Long Close was formerly called Tenter Croft.

Behind Townhead Cottage is a lane, locally known as Donkey Lane after the donkey kept alongside it in living memory, leading to a footpath that was made to provide a direct way for children from **Rough Close Farm** to the school. A map will show that this path does not lead to the school that closed in 1984, but ends here in Goat Lane. This was the site of an earlier school, traces of which remain in the wall behind the STAINFORTH village sign. This also explains why **School House**, (in the square adjacent to **Burnside Farm**), which was the house for schoolteachers until recent times, is so named and located where it is.

A good walk, but mostly uphill, along Goat Lane leads past Sannat Hall and Neil's Ing up Silverdale to Dale Head.

Sannat Hall

Sannat Hall takes its name from the former ford through the beck at the foot of the steep hill below the Hall. This was called 'sannat' a corruption of 'sandwith', or sandy ford, a crossing on the monastic road from Malham and then on to Kilnsey Grange, an outpost of Fountains Abbey. The working farm buildings are Sannat Hall. The building closest to the road, Sannat Lodge, was built in recent years.

Neil's Ing

Neil's Ing Farmhouse was built in its present form by Pudsey Dawson, of Hornby Castle and Langcliffe Estate fame, around 1835. The style is Jacobean and the architect was G Webster. The Franklands family lived at Neils Ing until 1620. This family had connections with the royal court and one family member built Chequers in Buckinghamshire. The name Neil's Ing is believed to derive from the Old Irish name 'Nele' in combination with the Old Norse 'Eng', a meadow, so that this area is likely to have been farmed, if not occupied, for some centuries.

Dale Head

Dale Head was formerly a packhorse station. During the 1536 Pilgrimage of

Grace—a rebellion against Henry VIII—Dale Head was used as a remote and, therefore, secure meeting place for the rebels. In a field alongside the entrance to Dale Head is the base stone of all that remains of Ulfkil's Cross. The base stone once stood on the roadside, but was moved some years ago. This cross once marked the ancient crossroads at this point, certainly from the monastic period, but probably dating from much earlier.

The West Green

Back in the village, **Burnside Farm** has an original and ornate date stone in situ of 1697. The pattern is typical of a number of those found in North Ribblesdale, though it lacks the initials of either original owner or builder often found on similar date stones. The farm was at one time worked by Mr and Mrs Dinsdale. Their granddaughter Margaret, now Mrs Chapman, lives next door in **School House**. School House was formerly used for school-teachers at both the school in Goat Lane and its successor on the Horton Road, until a teacher was appointed who already had a house in Langcliffe. It then ceased to be used for this purpose. In the mid-19th century, records show that School House had been a grocer's shop.

On the corner next to the Vicarage opposite the Coach House and behind an ivy-covered wall is what is reputed to have been a pinfold (an enclosure where stray sheep would be penned until collected by their owner). It must have been bigger at some stage to have been of use for this purpose however, since it would currently hold only one sheep.

Adjoining the Coach House are Nos. 8 and 9 **Rose Cottages**. In the 1844 Tithe Allotment, this property is described as a '*Barn and Butcher's shop*'. The numbers relate to properties that belonged to Thomas Foster Knowles in the early 19th century and were sold in 1980 as part of the Stainforth Estate. The same fact explains the strange numbering of properties around the East Green.

The stepping stones, for which we have been unable to trace a date, lie on the original ford across Stainforth Beck and join the two village greens. Upstream there used to be a cotton mill, the last remains of which were destroyed in the flood of 1985. Downstream of the stepping stones there is believed to have been another mill around the site of what is now **Wynders House**. This may take its name from a Thomas Winder who, in the 1844 Tithe Allotment, is shown as occupying a '*House, Dye House, Yard and Croft*' on or near this site.

The East Green

Looking from Stainforth Beck with the stepping stones behind and facing Goat Scar Lane, the first house on the left, **Beckside**, was a butcher's shop in the 1930s and 1940s. The row of houses on the left was rebuilt in estate architecture style, with ornate bargeboards, and bears a striking resemblance to the stations and railway houses on the Settle-Carlisle railway. In the mid-

to late 19th century, the row was a hive of activity, with a joiner's shop, a baker's, a shoemaker's and a cooper's. Further up on the left is **Gooseker**, a former barn, which was converted in the 1990s to living accommodation. The name relates to Goat Scar Lane, a medieval road, a corruption of goosker, which is itself a corruption of gorse scar. Immediately above is **Kern Knotts**, a former farm, whose 1684 date stone is original. It was once the home of Godfrey Wilson, a local artist and teacher at Giggleswick School, and his wife. Above Kern Knotts is a 1930s bungalow, **Scar Foot**, built as a retirement home by Charles Forster who once kept the Craven Heifer. Opposite is another bungalow, **Carr Holme**, left to the National Trust but now sold and back in private occupation. Immediately below Carr Holme is **Green Barn**, which is a converted agricultural barn, first occupied in 2000.

Park House (Nos. 1 and 2) are so-called because they lie at the foot of the area on the right of Goat Scar Lane that was called the Park in the past.

To the right from the stepping stones is **Bargh Cottage**, which was latterly Bargh Café until the 1960s and was particularly popular with cyclists.

The Village Hall—once a barn attached to the farm at Fountain House—was first provided by Thomas Foster Knowles as was the **Reading Room** opposite, now a dwelling, for the benefit of the village early in the 20th century.



Brass plaque from fountain in wall of Fountain House: 'The Cottagers of Stainforth grateful to James Foster Esqr and Elizabeth, his sister, for their considerate gift of this Fountain for their use attach this tablet to commemorate its completion. September 20th 1869. The fear of the Lord is a Fountain of Life Proverbs 14.27' - photo courtesy Bryan Beattie and the Sharp family.

Fountain House, which takes its name from a disused fountain in the garden wall, was once part of the Thomas Foster Knowles/Im. Thurn/Koppel Stainforth Estate that was sold in 1980. In the house and next to the fireplace is a 'salt hole' for keeping dry the salt, which in the days before refrigeration was used to preserve the meat from the pig slaughtered at the onset of winter.

In 1844, **Brook House Farm, Brook House Cottage** and **Brookhouse Croft** formed a single farm occupied by Elizabeth Brown, a major local landowner. It dates mainly from the late 18th century but has 17th century origins. Formerly, it had iron railings atop the low wall, but these went during the Second World War, along with other railings in the village to provide for the war effort. Until 1998, the Post Office was sited here, brought over with Joseph and Gertie Forster when they moved from 2 Park View in 1937. Subsequently, the business was taken over by Kathleen Handy, their daughter. Alongside Brook House Farm and by the beck, runs a path called **Lady's Walk**. This was probably a Victorian idea that meant the women of the village could avoid walking past the front door of the pub on their way to church.

Riston House is a rebuilding of a 17th century house with attached barn and shippon that still maintains the original form, complete with external



*Brookhouse Farm and Riston House early 20th century
- photo courtesy Ken Hill, The Studio Settle*

staircase. The date stone, 1684, is not original; this was removed from one of the cottages demolished to make way for the church. During the Second World War, Riston House was used to accommodate evacuees.

Past **Croft House** and **Ingle Byre** there is a farm track that then becomes a footpath leading up the 'Cat Steps'. It crosses the parish boundary into Langcliffe and leads to Lower Winskill Farm above Langcliffe Scar. The land on the other side of the farm track, now the garden of **The Croft**, was a croft in 1844.

Nook House Farm is separated by Cow Cottage (3 Main Street), 2 Main Street and Lucy Cottage (1 Main Street) from **Townend Farm**, the building with a blank wall on Main Street. These two farms were farmed by the Mitton brothers in the mid-20th century. Number 2 Main Street was once a general store.

Cow Cottage got its name in the 1950s. Don Handy of Brookhouse Farm and a youthful Tom Sharp were bringing a somewhat skittish cow and its new calf down through the village and had just reached the end of Main Street, when the cow suddenly doubled back. Mr Handy was aware that the cow had shown an interest in 2 Main Street, where there was a baby in a pram in the vestibule, and so hit the cow with his stick to drive it past. Fortunately, the cow charged past 2 Main Street; unfortunately, it charged straight into 3 Main Street through the open front door, quickly followed by its calf and Mr Handy. On entering, the cow and calf stood for a while before covering floor, walls and Mr Handy in what in polite circles is called manure. Mr Handy hoped to drive the cow through the cottage and out the back via the kitchen but, as luck would have it, the door to the stairs was open and the cow shot up them. It first entered a small back bedroom and got on the bed—there being insufficient room for bed and cow on the floor. It then went into the front bedroom. By this time, the calf had made its own way back and joined Tom outside and was busy hollering for its mother. The cow heard the noise and could see its calf outside through the front bedroom window. Tom was convinced the cow was about to jump from the window. Also fearful that the cow would jump, Mr Handy managed to get behind it and drive it downstairs and out of the house. No permanent damage was suffered by cow, calf or Mr Handy and, perhaps not surprisingly, the cottage has been called Cow Cottage ever since.

The Craven Heifer Public House

The original four-legged Craven Heifer, a heavyweight, prize shorthorn heifer, was bred on the Bolton Abbey Estate by the parson and steward to the Duke of Devonshire, the Reverend William Carr, in 1807.¹ Stainforth's village inn, formerly called the Packhorse, was presumably renamed the Craven Heifer after that animal came to fame in the early 1800s, in common with other public houses near Skipton, Kelbrook, Clitheroe and Ingleton.

In the 1913 sale documents of James Foster's estate, the pub is described

as: *the Fully-Licensed Inn or Public House known as the Craven Heifer, with the Buildings and Appurtenances belonging thereto, and half of Stainforth Beck adjoining ... The Inn contains two smoking rooms, tap room, kitchen, wash-house, dairy, three cellars, eight bedrooms, with the usual offices, and has a four-stalled stable and carriage house.*'

In the 1920s, the Craven Heifer was the home of Alice and Charles Forster, whose father Joseph Forster was innkeeper and blacksmith. In 1925, Alice and Charles' son, another Joseph, brought his new bride Gertie to live at the Craven Heifer. When, in 1927, the outbuildings adjoining the Craven Heifer were converted to the three properties now known as Park View, Joseph and Gertie moved into No. 2 and ran a general store and Post Office from the property until they moved to farm at Brookhouse Farm.

From 1945 to 1949, Ernest Forster took over ownership of the Craven Heifer. In 1949, the pub passed into the ownership of J L L Davies (Stainforth) Ltd. This company held the pub until 1954 when a Walter Makin bought it (his address at the time being the Craven Heifer, Pole Lane, Darwen, Lancashire). In 1965, Walter Makin sold the Craven Heifer to James Kershaw Anderson, who died in 1968 leaving the pub to his son, Norman Anderson. Unfortunately, he died shortly afterwards in 1969. In 1970, Norman Anderson's executors sold it to the Smiths, Ernest George, Phyllis Mary and David Victor, who in turn sold it in 1974 to the Blackburn brewery, Daniel Thwaites & Co. Ltd, the present owners.

Earlier, in 1929, two plots of land, *312 square yards or thereabouts known as Smithy Hill* and *56 square yards or thereabouts with building erected thereon formerly used as a Smithy then or late in occupation of Joseph Hilton*, were purchased by Charles Forster from the Guardians of the Poor of Settle Union.

In 1933, **Glenhaven**, the house opposite the pub, was purchased by Mr and Mrs Farnsworth. The property then comprised the present Glenhaven and what is now the pub car park, and is described in the conveyance:

... also the Smithy (now in ruins) on the said plot of land or on some part thereof. All which premises were for many years occupied by George Lund as tenant thereof ...

So, there were two smithies operating in Stainforth around the end of the 19th century, one behind the Craven Heifer and the other on the opposite side of the road.

Mr and Mrs Farnsworth opened a general store at Glenhaven and the property remained a shop until it closed in 1991. In 1956, Glenhaven was bought by Walter Makin, who at that time owned the Craven Heifer and, when he sold Glenhaven in 1962, retained part of the land to form what is now the pub car park.

The row of three houses next to the pub is **Park View**. These properties

were converted from a barn and old cottages in 1927. The name is derived either from their view of the Park on the right at the foot of Goat Scar Lane or because they face the Park that is now **Joe's Close** (a recent development). No. 2 Park view was once a general store and Post Office (see above).

The **Garage** was built in the 1960s on what earlier had been a field used by the War Agricultural as a storage area for tractors and agricultural machinery during the Second World War.

Briarwood House, the tall house facing the garage forecourt, was a shoemaker's in the 19th century. Behind this lies **Smithy Cottage** named after the smithy that was situated behind the pub.

Brooklands and **Brook House Croft** at the entrance to the village are recent developments.

Taitlands

Immediately to the South of the village lies Taitlands, a Youth Hostel since (probably) 1942, but prior to that one of Stainforth's more imposing residences.

The house was built for Thomas Redmayne and his wife Jane. Little is known about him except that he had made his money as an industrialist: he was a mill owner, probably in Bradford, and it is said he also operated a



Aerial View of Taitlands (Now Stainforth Youth Hostel) in 1970s showing house, kitchen garden and carriage house - photo courtesy Stainforth Youth Hostel.

quarry somewhere in Ribblesdale. He had married Jane, a member of a local landowning family called Brown (see Brookhouse Farm above), on 19 April 1831. He was also related to other local Redmaynes, including those at Feizor. Thomas and Jane had four children—three girls and one boy; Henry, the third born, was baptised on 28 December 1841.

A decade of building

Work on the house began in 1831 and continued through the subsequent decade. The carriage house bears a date stone RTJ 1831, but it is not certain whether or not this is in its original position. There are date stones within the house from 1841 and 1848, both on fireplaces in the north wing. On the 1841 fireplace the figure 4 is written backwards. On the lawn outside there is what looks like a sundial stand with his initials, the date 1840 and a horse's head. The original house was built in a squared form with the north wing, containing the kitchen, being added in the 1840s. The architect chosen by Redmayne had already established his reputation in the area, having designed Anley Hall some years earlier, as well as The Grange at Hellifield.

A separate building (now in a somewhat precarious condition) served as the carriage house, stables and groom's quarters and, adjacent to this, is what was once the walled kitchen garden that would have supplied the kitchen with fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs. The Redmaynes' staff also provided honey and the raw material for pigeon pie: the carriage house has a dovecote added on behind with a floor (and it is the upper storey) of large Helwith Bridge slates; there is also a run of 12 or so bee-boles to the west of the carriage house, recesses built into a wall for keeping bee skeps out of the rain. There is also a cheese press behind the carriage house. The immediate grounds would have been laid out in a formal manner, as befitted bourgeois families of the Victorian era, and a ha-ha—a ditch with a wall on its inner side below ground level—kept farm stock out of the gardens without despoiling the view from the drawing room with fences or raised walls. The kitchen garden wall, incidentally, has a rather pretentious date stone set into it high up at the north-east corner, with the initials TR, the date 1839 and the same horse's head as the sundial stand.

At some point in its history, Taitlands produced its own gas and was one of the first houses in this part of Craven to do so. The method used will be familiar to cavers of more mature years as carbide was the source of the gas produced in a tank behind the carriage house.

Aspiring family

The family certainly aspired to the landed gentry in terms of the style of their house with its grand portico entrance, the internal portico in the hallway, the not-quite-grand sweeping staircase, the portico on the landing, the ceiling moulding in the main rooms, the two false windows, which all speak of grandeur, as does the size of the household they maintained. At one point,

they employed no less than 18 people: 12 servants within the house, four in the gardens, a coachman and a groom, though the 1851 census records only four house servants and a coachman living in with a labourer living out. This census records Thomas as a 'Landed Proprietor owning 160 acres in the township'. He was very prominent in the township and parish, being Guardian of the Poor and Chairman of the Parish Meeting from the early 1830s, and trustee of Stainforth church from 1844. Prior to that he seems to have been an official of Giggleswick church. When Stainforth church (St Peter's) was built he gave £200 as an endowment, a not inconsiderable sum in those days. In the master bedroom there is a large safe built into the internal wall, the implication being that he must have had many documents and much money

Local legend has had the effect of elevating the family beyond the power and status they actually enjoyed. An oft-repeated tale would have us believe that Redmayne was in a position to refuse permission to the Midland Railway Company to dig a cutting to carry their new railway through his grounds. He was not prepared, so the story goes, to have a railway slicing through his bit of England. Instead, he had them hide the railway in a tunnel and, furthermore, extracted from the company three months for him, his family and household at the seaside at company expense while the work was carried out. A nice tale indeed!

Unfortunately, there are two minor hiccups in this story. First, he mortgaged the house and his extensive estate in Stainforth in 1859 to the Birkbecks of Anley Hall who, among other things, were landowners, mill owners and bankers. Redmayne cannot have been driven to do this if he was as all-powerful as the story suggests. Second, and a lot more convincingly, both Thomas and his wife died in February 1862: Jane, aged 41, died on the 22nd and Thomas, aged 54, on the 28th, presumably heartbroken. Their son, Henry, (who also figures in the Town Book and was an Overseer of the Poor) sadly followed his parents to the grave six years later, aged only 26. All three, by the by, are buried in Stainforth churchyard and there is a memorial window to Thomas and Jane. Now, the ceremony to cut the first sod of the new Settle-Carlisle railway was not held until 1869 and construction of the tunnel was probably completed only in 1871. The family could only have turned in their graves.

Estate auction

After Henry's death the entire estate was put up for sale by auction, held on 2 June 1868 in the Golden Lion hotel in Settle. Full details of the estate can be seen in the Sale Particulars set out below. The estate was split up into different lots and the house went to Thomas and Mary Stackhouse and their five children, another of the eminent families of the district. It was Thomas Stackhouse who gave land for the building of the new village school and, indeed, offered to build it in 1856-57. He was not to enjoy his purchase for

long, though, because he died in 1872 at the tragically early age of 37. His widow survived him by many years, passing away aged 78 in November 1911. An invoice exists, dated January 1874 from John Hartley of Clapham, a surveyor, to the estate of Thomas Stackhouse concerning plans that Hartley had drawn up for dealings with the railway company. Was it he to whom the tunnel tale should refer? Confusingly, the invoice also has the date 1869 written in the same hand.

After Mrs Stackhouse died, the house was occupied by the Fowle family and then passed through a number of hands before becoming a Youth Hostel. In the inter-war years many Stainforth folk gained employment as domestics, gardener or chauffeur.

The house, ancillary buildings and grounds contain a lot of important features, some of which are in danger of crumbling away and being lost. It is hoped that it can all somehow be preserved for the future.

The following is the text of a letter dated 19 October 1937 to Jean Clunie's father on notepaper headed Miss Tempest, Taitlands, Settle, Yorkshire:

In reply to your application for Chauffeur Gardeners place. I give 45/- [£2.25] and cottage for wages and the Chauffeur Gardener besides keeping the cars in order Humber 12 and Morris 8 does knives, boots etc.—brings in coals and sticks and does the kitchen garden—as I do the flower part. The cottage is in the village of Stainforth a short ¼ mile away. There is also the hot water boiler and central heating boiler to be attended to. If you think the place likely to suit could you come for interview any day except Friday morning.

Miss Tempest

He was successful and took up the position. The cottage mentioned was **The Cottage**, next door to School House.

To the south of the village the fields display lynchets, the ledges formed by ancient ploughing (see the School above). The path across these fields was created as the way to work for villagers who worked at the Craven Lime Company site. Down the main road in the direction of Langcliffe beyond Taitlands is **Husbands Barn**, its original name, which was converted into living accommodation in the 1990s. This was formerly part of the Taitlands estate.

Return to the village and pass the Craven Heifer on the left and cross over **Stainforth Bridge**. This was a small humped packhorse bridge and stood on a major North-South medieval route, which was widened by nine feet in 1764. The two cottages on the left are known as **Bridge Cottages**. Beyond is **Hollies Close**, once the stables and coach house for the now-demolished Hollies House.

Hollies House

Built in the 1830s by the Brown family, relations of the Browns who then lived at Brookhouse Farm (see above). It is likely that Hollies House was built on the site of an even earlier house, which may have been pulled down to make way for the 1830s' building. Hollies House is shown in a pre-1910 photograph—with two small children in the foreground—taken from the bridge over Stainforth Beck, and is described as follows:

The North wall and front door were parallel with the big gates and thus gave onto the slip road and green grass ... the big gates were the entrance to the side yard, carriage shed and stable. The house had main windows looking onto the slip road as well as on both sides ...

In other words, it stood right at the roadside almost facing Stainforth House's front, but at an angle.

In 1925, Thomas Foster Knowles (J P Koppel's great uncle) bought the property and pulled down Hollies House and used the stone to help build Hollies Cottages in 1930, which were designed by a distinguished architect called Ambler. The Hollies House site then became a garden for Stainforth House until the sale of the 'Stainforth Estate' in 1980, when the current owner bought Lots 2 and 3 and built the present-day Holly House. The Hollies were built in 1983 on what was formerly the kitchen garden of Hollies House.



Hollies Cottages about 1980 - photo courtesy Helen Bentley

Extract from *Craven Herald* of 5 April 1907:

Re The Hollies Back Page (page 8)

Houses and Apartments

Stainforth, near Settle. To Let, with immediate possession.

The charming Dwellinghouse known as The Hollies.

Three sitting rooms, five bedrooms and one dressing room excellent attics, bath-room and lavatory (hot and cold) w.c., with excellent flower and vegetable gardens, conservatory, three-stall stable, coach-house, harness room, two cottages and a croft.

For further particulars apply to T and J L Brayshaw, Solicitors, Settle.

The bungalow on the right after crossing the bridge was once called Vicarage Bungalow and used to belong to the Church. The **Vicarage**, next door, is late 18th or early 19th century. In the 1985 flood, a tree blocked Stainforth Bridge and the waters backed up to the stepping stones. Floodwater burst through the back door of the Vicarage and flowed out through the front door. Children were catching fish in the road as the floodwaters swept on down to the car park and rejoined the beck (see also the Great Flood in Chapter 5).

The village walk is now complete. An extension, and a very pleasant walk in its own right, could be taken down Dog Hill Brow to the Packhorse Bridge over the River Ribble. Follow the riverbank to Stainforth Foss or carry on up to Little Stainforth where Knight Stainforth Hall and Knights Farm (discussed in other chapters) may be found.