

## Blanche's Yorkshire Tenants / Fieldnames

This section provides information additional to that given in the biography. Blanche's lands in Yorkshire had originally belonged to monastic houses and to the Crown:

Her lands in **Wheldrake** had been the property of Fountains Abbey (Cistercian). Wheldrake parish also had Thicket Priory (then a Benedictine nunnery, now the site of a modern Carmelite Convent). By 1542 this had been granted to Sir John Aske of Aughton, the uncle (or possibly the oldest brother) of the lawyer Robert Aske the most important leader of the ill-fated Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 .

She briefly held land in **Laughton-en-le-Morthen**, once the property of the Abbey of Saint Mary of the Rock, or Roche, (Cistercian) nine miles from Doncaster, in the West Riding. Founded in 1147, the same year as Dore Abbey, Roche was held in high regard. Its dissolution in 1538 was later described in detail, showing that the monastery went from viability to destruction in two days! The actual mechanics of suppression must have been absolutely traumatic for many of the religious and lay people involved.

**Thorganby Church**, a chapelry of Aughton Church, had belonged to Ellerton / Elreton Priory (Gilbertine) from 1351. In 1481 Edward Saltmershe bequeathed bricks, tiles and £13 to repair the fabric so possibly Thorganby Church was in reasonable order when Blanche owned it. As with all churches, Thorganby had a number of altars. One was to Saint Helen, the patron saint, served by members of the Guild of Saint Helen whose former lands were granted away in 1566. Another altar was dedicated to The Holy Trinity as the 1930 repairs to the tower revealed fragments of the centre of a 15<sup>th</sup> century alabaster altar representing The Holy Trinity . Following the Dissolution in 1542 the Ellerton lands were also the property of Sir John Aske of Aughton. A part of the Church, possibly the chancel, became the parish Church and the parishioners also acquired the graveyard. John Vaughan would have known the present tower, the chancel arch and the mediaeval octagonal font. When Hugh Bethell, by then Sir Hugh, died in 1610 he endowed almshouses adjacent to the graveyard for the six oldest and poorest of the people of Ellerton. He bequeathed the almoners £16 and twelve dried loads of turves annually. The almshouses, and filled-in well, are still there, now altered into two semi-detached cottages with a bungalow on the site of the outhouses. When building work was carried out it was found that the original walls were four bricks width making them a beautifully strong construction. In these almshouses, Hugh Bethell built and endowed in the way Blanche had wanted, but been unable, to do at Bacton. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the three bells were hung, much of the Church, as is common in the area, was re-built largely in brick. Ellerton Church, now redundant, has recently been repaired and brought back into use by a dedicated band of local people making it a lovely place to visit with a most beautiful, modern, stained-glass east window .

The **manor of Rise / Ryse**, north-east of Kingston-upon-Hull became Crown land when Richard, Duke of Gloucester became King Richard III. The manor of Rise itself was held by the Fauconberg family until 1464 when the male line failed. Their manor house, with a wonderful view towards the south, was the one Hugh Bethell knew and survives as earthworks.

## **Blanche's Grants**

(Direct quotations in italics.) Blanche acquired the Wheldrake tenements before 1567 . Then on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1567 two grants made on the same day provide details of the previous history of the lands. The second patent included.... *Know that in consideration of the good, faithful and acceptable service done and devoted to us by Blanche Parry, one of the gentlewomen of our Privy Chamber, of our special grace ... to the said Blanche Parry all the said messuages, lands, tenements, mills, cottages, feeding grounds, pastures, profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments etc. excepting as above to hold to the executors and assignes of the said Blanche Parry for 21 years after her decease. Paying a rent of £67-17-1¼ per annum...* Her payment into the Exchequer [fine] was £200. As ownership continued beyond death, Blanche was also able to use the property for bequests in her Wills.

## **Wheldrake**

The second patent giving fieldnames and named tenants in 1551 and 1567 is quoted from here. On the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1551 lands, and the manor, all in Wheldrake had been granted through the Court of Augmentations to Robert Rowbotham, King Edward VI's servant. It also included the Church at Thorganbye and the manor of Rise:

*The Queen to all etc Greeting. Whereas our most dear brother Edward the Sixth, late King of England, by his letters patent under the seal of the Court of Augmentations bearing date 13 September in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his reign [1551] granted to his beloved servant Robert Robotham esquire, the lordship and **manor of Wheldrake** with all its members and appurtenances in the county of Yorkshire and all the site of the said manor and all houses, buildings, gardens, orchards, and 1 croft of land [3 acres] now or late in the tenure of John Newton in Wheldrake.*

*Also 1 parcel of meadow called Ingemershe, 21 acres [which is 'the marsh on the ings' so the meadow was along the bank of the River Derwent];  
3 acres and 1 rod of land in Redcaire in tenure of George Rames in Wheldrake;  
all demesne lands meadows and pastures in a furlong called Westbancke and in a furlong near to it and in furlongs called Eight Acre, Seven Acres, Swaincall, Wyrele Pypinge, Fountelde, Fleshorminge, Personninge, Round Acres, Hugh Flatt [probably the higher flat land], Ginpoole [Empole], Horsemershell, Fisher Garthe, Freringe, Paddocke Hill, Milne Holme, Heybridge [Hay Bridge over the River Derwent used in harvesting hay from the ings and mentioned in several 14<sup>th</sup> century documents], le Hupe, le Ferninge and Heibrugge with appurtances in Wheldrake.  
And 7 closes of land called Suskewe, Curr, Cowe Pasture, Newclose, Graunge Garthe, Wiggerholmes and Morrens.*

It is possible that some of these fieldnames may still be traced in deeds and other documents relating to Wheldrake . Their exact position could then be established. Many fieldnames arise from the shape of the field, its location, agricultural potential, ownership or use . *Round Acres* may have been the site for staging the local Mediaeval mystery plays . These field-names, except *Ingemershe*, *Westbancke* and the seven closes are repeated. The patent rehearsed the history of these grants to Robert Rowbotham and his heirs:

*And all other messuages ,houses, buildings, mills, lands, tenements, meadows, feeding grounds, pastures, rents, commons, wastes, furze and heath, water, fisheries, fines, amercements, courts leet, views of frankpledge, chattels, waifs, strays, warrens and all other profits, revenues and hereditaments in Wheldrake or elsewhere in county York belonging or appertaining to the said **manor of Wheldrake**.*

Excepting all large trees growing upon the premises and 1 furlong called Lower Milve Boreneinges and 2 banks called lez Banckes, 1 furlong called Feryman Hill and 1 parcel of land called Fountance Dyke [preserving the link with Fountains Abbey] rented to a certain Humfrey Rowland by letters patent dated 12 January 33 Henry VIII [1542].

To hold all the said manor, messuages etc to the said Robert Rowbotham his executors and assigns for 21 years, paying yearly £86-17-6 at the Annunciation and Michaelmas or within 1 month thereof by equal portions into the hands of the bailiff or receiver as by the said letters patent more fully doth appear.....

**Now know that we in consideration of the good and faithful and acceptable service done and devoted to us before this time in many ways by our beloved servant Blanche Parie, of our special grace** and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have given and granted and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors do give and grant to the said Blanche Parie the reversion and reversions of all those lands, meadows, feeding grounds, and pastures and hereditaments following with their appurtenances being part of the premises granted to Robert Robotham viz in Wheldrake 18 acres in Westbancke, each acre worth 3s per annum making a value of 54s in all. Also

<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Furlong name</u>	<u>Value per acre</u>	<u>Total value</u>
10	near to West banke	3s	30s
8	Eight Acres	3s	24s
7	Seven Acres	3s	21s
5½	Swaincall	3s	16s 6d
6 acres 1 rod	Wyrelpipinge	3s	18s 9d
14½	Fourtene Acres / Fountelde	4s	58s
14 acres 1rod	Fleshehorminge	4s	57s
13 acres 3 rods	Parsomynges	3s	41s 3d
2	Rounde Acres	4s	8s
6	Hughe Flatte	4s	24s
1½	Hughe Flatte	4s	6s
2 acres 3 rods	adjoining Hughe Flatte	4s	11s
2 acres 1 rod	Empole	4s	9s
2	Horsemershill	4s	8s
2½	Horsemershill	4s	10s
5 long rods	-	-	5s
6 curved rods	-	-	6s
2 acres 1 rod	Fishegothe / Fisher Garthe	4s	9s
1	Freringe	4s	4s
4 acres 1 rod	Paddockehill	4s	17s
7½	Milneholme	4s	30s
1½	Longer meadow outside Heybrigge	4s	6s
½	le Hupe near Fishegarthe	-	2s

1 acres 3 rods in le Feringe recently enclosed in 4 yards worth 7s per annum

½ acre within le Heybrigge [Hay Bridge] 2 acres 1 rod within Haibrigge each worth 4s, total annual value 9s

60 feet of intake land worth 2s 3d per annum.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Annual value / rent</u>
Suskewe	John Haxbye	£4-13-4
2 messuages & lands	William Hargill	53s
1 mess	John Hadilsey	21s 6d rent
Cottage	John Lytster	3s

Cottage	- Butler's wife	4s
Cottage	Richard Penrouse	2s
Cottage	John Walker	4s 6d
Cottage in Wheldrake	Thomas Hudson	3s
Cottage	Robert Ewle	4s 10½d
Tenement	William Waller	17s 1½d
Tenement	Thomas Richardson	7s 5d
Cottage or tenement	Richard Hudson	9s 4d
Messuage	John Greye	18s 7d
Tenement	John Fowler	34s 5¼d
Tenement	William Butler	25s 9¾d
Tenement	William Isingwolde	17s 4½d
Tenement	Robert Laverocke	23s 11d
Tenement	Robert Ridlye	17s 6¾d
Cottage	Robert Bosell	6s 7½d
Tenement	John Laverocke	27s 1d
Tenement	Richard Waller	24s 11d
Tenement	John Bramley	28s 2d
Tenement	John Bosell	17s 8d
7a in Howarddinge alias Akkorne Close	formerly part of John Bosell's tenement	8s 4d
Mesuage	Cristofer Flower	11s 1d
Tenement	John Butler	20s
Tenement	John Blancherd	15s 10d
Tenement	Thomas Wilkinson	24s 10½d
Cottage	William Flower	4s 7d
Cottage	Thomas Dogeney	4s
Cottage	William Hudson	8s 2d
Cottage	William Clarkstone	5s 2d
Tenement	William Farechilde	28s 4d
Tenement	Marmaduke Dunwell or Dimwell	27s 2d
Cottage	Richarde Spoforde	3s
"	William Laverocke's wife	3s
Tenement	William Kirkbie	12s 2d
Cottage	Thomas Burnell	4s
"	Robert Laverock	3s
"	Thomas Wilson	4s
Tenement	Robert -'s wife	27s 8d
"	Henry Winterborne	17s 3d
Toft and croft	George Rames	3s 6d
Cottage	John Brameley	6s 6d
"	Robert Brampton	3s
Tenement	William Hargill	7s 10d
Cottage	John Rowle	4s
Tenement	Robert Gybson	28s 11d
Toft and 2a land in Brancrofte and 1a in Maergrave Flatt and 2a in Sandbutts worth 4s 4d		
Tenement	William Leym	11s 1d
Tenement	Richard Hudson	8s
1 acre in Mossecrofte	William Witham	7d
	formerly the Prior of Thicket	
1½ acre in Swadciddinge		

<i>and Cowpasture Lande,</i>	<i>John Shepard</i>	<i>10½d</i>
<i>1 acre in Swanriddinge, }</i>		
<i>2 acre called Gooselande, }</i>	<i>Richard Penrosse</i>	<i>3s 6d</i>
<i>3 acre in Haleclose, }</i>		
<i>Tenement</i>	<i>William Hargill</i>	<i>7s 10d</i>
<i>Tenement</i>	<i>William Hargill</i>	<i>11s 1d</i>
<i>Tenement and 7d rent of 1 a land in Robinriddinge late Walter Butler,</i>		<i>41s 5½d</i>
<i>Windmill</i>	<i>John Haxbye</i>	<i>16s</i>
<i>And all other lands, tenements, meadows, feeding grounds, pastures, mills and hereditaments before recited.</i>		

These were Blanche's new tenants in 1567. The 1551 tenants had represented forty families and thirty-four of these families were still represented in 1567, suggesting remarkable continuity:

<u>1551 List of tenants</u>	<u>1567 tenants</u>
<i>John Atter,</i>	
<i>John Blancherd,</i>	<i>John Blancherd</i>
<i>John Bowell,</i>	<i>John Bosell</i>
	<i>John Bosell</i>
<i>Richard Bowell,</i>	
<i>Robert Boswell</i>	<i>Robert Bosell</i>
<i>Robert Bray,</i>	
<i>John Bramley</i>	<i>John Bramley</i>
	<i>John Brameley</i>
<i>George Bramley,</i>	
<i>Robert Brampton,</i>	<i>Robert Brampton</i>
<i>Thomas Burnell,</i>	<i>Thomas Burnell</i>
<i>John Butler</i>	<i>John Butler</i>
	<i>-Butler's wife</i>
<i>Robert Butler,</i>	
	<i>Late Walter Butler</i>
<i>William Butler,</i>	<i>William Butler</i>
<i>William Clarksonne,</i>	<i>William Clarksonne</i>
<i>Cristofer Dogeney,</i>	
	<i>Thomas Dogeney</i>
<i>Marmaduke Dunwell,</i>	<i>Marmaduke Dunwell</i>
<i>William Esingwold,</i>	<i>William Isingwolde</i>
<i>Robert Ewille,</i>	<i>Robert Ewle</i>
<i>William Fairchild</i>	<i>William Fairchilde</i>
<i>William Fairchild,</i>	
<i>Cristofer Flower,</i>	<i>Christopher Flower</i>
<i>William Flower,</i>	<i>William Flower</i>
<i>John Flower,</i>	
	<i>John Fowler</i>
<i>William Gale,</i>	
<i>John Gybson,</i>	
<i>George Gibson,</i>	
<i>Robert Gibson's wife,</i>	<i>Robert Gybson</i>
	<i>Robert -'s wife</i>
	<i>John Greye</i>

*John Hadley,  
John Haddelsey  
John Hadesley,  
John Hargill  
John Haxbye*

*John Hadilsey*

*John Haxbye  
John Haxbye*

*William Argill,  
William Hargill,*

*William Hargill  
William Hargill  
William Hargill  
William Hargill*

*Rowland Herber,  
Thomas Hudson's wife,  
William Hudson's wife,*

*Thomas Hudson  
William Hudson  
Richard Hudson  
Richard Hudson*

*William Kirkbye  
John Laster ,  
John Laverocke  
Robert Laverock,*

*William Kirkbie  
John Lytster  
John Laverocke  
Robert Laverocke  
Robert Laverock*

*William Laverock,  
William Leyme,  
Richard Peerson,  
Richard Penrouse,*

*William Laverocke's wife  
William Leym*

*Thomas Penyngge  
George Romes,*

*Richard Penrouse  
Richard Penrosse*

*George Raines*

*3 acres and 1 rod of land in Redcaire in tenure of George Rames in Wheldrake;*

*Thomas Richardson's wife,  
Robert Ridlie,  
John Rowlye,  
John Sheparde  
William Sheparde,  
Richard Stopforth,*

*Thomas Richardson  
Robert Ridlye  
John Rowle  
John Sheparde*

*Richard Spoforde*

*Matthew Thomlinson,  
William Thomlinson,  
George Walker,*

*John Walker*

*Richard Walker,  
John Waller,*

*Richard Waller  
William Waller  
Thomas Wilson  
Thomas Wilkinson*

*Thomas Wilson,*

*John Winterborne  
Henry Winterborne,*

*Henry Winterborne  
William Witham*

*Rector of Wheldrake church*

Six names, including that of the Rector of Wheldrake, mentioned in 1551, are missing in 1567. In 1567 three new surnames appeared and all were single individuals.

The wealthiest of the 1567 tenants was undoubtedly John Haxbye who lived in a named property, *Suskewe* (which became *Susscars*), valued at £4-13-4 and who also rented a windmill worth 16 shillings. It seems likely that his sons were George Haxley, Hugh Bethell's servant who moved to the Rise area (named in a number of documents), and Thomas Haxbye the tenant of William Berrowe's farm in Blanche's Final Will.

The houses mentioned in 1567 would seem to have been scattered across the parish as only Thomas Hudson is described as living in a *cottage in Wheldrake*, presumably the village. The 1567 list shows the tenants of 26 tenements, 5 messuages and 20 cottages, which are all legal terms indicating different types of dwelling.

The tenements were land and houses held from the legal superior, in this case from Blanche Parry. The wealthiest of these, at 41s-5½d, had belonged to the *late Walter Butler* and it is possible that his wife had moved into the cottage designated as that of *Butler's wife*. This holding would probably have next been tenanted by the other members of the Butler family. The least expensive tenement was held by Robert Gybson and must have been very small as at 3s-11d it was cheaper than many cottages.

A messuage was far more desirable as it was a house with out-buildings and assigned land and the most expensive was 26s-6d, while the cheapest was 11s-1d. William Hargill held two, as well as three tenements.

A cottage was simply a house with, or without, a garden. The largest one was evidently Richard Hudson's, at 9s-4d, while Richard Penrouse's must have been tiny at only 2s, though he did rent 3 separate acres of land. George Rames did the same as he held a toft and croft (a smallholding with a house) in Wheldrake worth 3s-6d but also had 3 acres and 1 rod of land in *Redcaire*, possibly in Newton Carr in Newton-upon-Derwent. All this property and these tenants were now Blanche's responsibility and it seems likely that John Haxbye was given an administrative role by John Vaughan in his aunt's name.

## Rise

Edward VI granted to Richard Hogg, 18 May 1552 *all the manor of Ryse within the lordship of Shereffhutton and all its farms demesne lands, rents, services, mills, pools, fisheries, warrens, herbage and pannage of woods with strays and goods, waifs, amercements, courts leet, views of frankpledge with their perquisites and profits and all other profits, revenues and emoluments appertaining or belonging to the manor of Ryse*. Richard Hogg and his executors and assigns for 21 years had to pay annually £75-6-8 at Michaelmas and Annunciation .... Crown had reserved *all woods, underwoods, wards, marriages, mines and quarries, knights' fees and advowsons of churches belonging to the said manor*.

Blanche was assigned *all the houses, buildings, structures, barns, stables, dovehouses, orchards, gardens, messuages, tenements, cottages, demesne lands, rents, services, meadows, feeding grounds, pastures, commons, marshes, pools, fisheries, perquisites and profits of courts, fines, amercements, profits, commodities, advantages, customs, emoluments and hereditaments belonging to the said manor of Ryse...*

## Thorganby

Blanche was granted *the rectory of Thorganbie in the county of York and 1 cottage called le Preestehouse and 1 croft called le Olde House Garthe and the tithe barn and le Garth belonging to it. And all the houses, buildings, structures, barns, stables, dovehouses, gardens, orchards, glebe lands, tithes of corn and hay and all other greater or lesser tithes and the oblations, obventions, fruits, profits, commodities, advantages, emoluments and hereditaments*

*belonging to the said rectory now or late in the tenure of Edward Saltmershe part of the possessions of the late dissolved Priory of Ellerton in the county of York as granted by the said indenture of 3 October in the 25<sup>th</sup> year of our father's reign [1534]. Edward Saltmershe paid a yearly rent of £8-0-8.*

*Blanche had to find and pay at her own cost and expense...a priest to serve the church and parish of Thorganby yearly during the said term. And shall maintain and repair the chancel of Thorganby church and all houses, buildings, fences, ditches or enclosures at her own expense during the term...she was allowed to take sufficient housebote, hedgebote, firebote, ploughbote and cartbote from the premises... and sufficient timber to repair the houses and buildings... Resources retained by the Crown are enumerated.*

## Notes

- Edward Saltmershe was granted Thorganby Church, with its tithes and buildings, until 1574.
- 1228 earliest mention of Thorganby Church.
- By 1312 considered a chapelry of Aughton Church (property of Ellerton Priory in 1351); designation as a chapelry remained until the Dissolution.
- Later 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was classed as a curacy.
- In 1531, Edward Saltmershe, many of whose family are buried at Thorganby Church, established an obit, a memorial service to be held on the anniversary of his death.
- In 1563 and 1566 the Crown granted away lands which had formerly served to pay for another obit and three altar lights.
- In the last months of Queen Mary's reign, in 1558, the advowson of the Church was granted to the Archbishop of York, but was evidently disregarded on Queen Elizabeth's accession.
- In 1527 the chaplain of Thorganby Church received £4 a year and it would have been little more when Blanche, as detailed below, had to find and pay for a priest and maintain the chancel of the Church, houses, buildings, fences and enclosures. Blanche had the priest's house, Holde / Olde House Garth, with the tithe barn and garth but in 1570 other land which had been given to support a priest was granted away. So Blanche had to find the necessary funds herself. In 1582 the priest house still existed as it was let to Blanche with the rectorial estate. However, she does not mention it in either of her Wills.

## Woods

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1572 four woods were added to Blanche's grant. It was noted that *In consideration that the premises are woods only and must be enclosed after cutting for preservation of the young growth, as appears by certificate of the surveyors of woods, the charges whereof Blanche will undertake; and for a fine of £33-13s-4d paid at the Exchequer.* The surveyor of the woods was very probably Hugh Bethell who had found a valuable resource for Blanche. The woods included:

- (1) one wood *in Lawghton in Limracke, once monastery of St. Roche* - yearly rents £10-6s. Blanche did not hold this for long as she does not mention it in either Will. It was in Laughton en le Morthen in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The location *in Limracke* is possibly Lindric which was described as a wood surrounded by a ditch. It was within fifteen miles of the Cistercian Abbey of Saint Mary of the Rock, or Roche, as all the abbey's property was within this radius.
- (2/3) two woods in Rise, one with a yearly rent of 74 shillings, and another of 10s.
- (4) one wood in the manor of Wheldrake, late of Fountains Abbey, with a rent of 46s-8d.

## **Confirmation**

- On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1574 when Blanche was already sixty-six years old, she was granted, *for her service*, further confirmation of her ownership of Wheldrake.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1582 Blanche surrendered her patent, possibly the second one given on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1567. Presumably this had been superseded by the patents of 13<sup>th</sup> December 1572 and 7<sup>th</sup> July 1574.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1582 when Blanche was seventy-five years old, she was given a 21 year lease of the rectory of Thorganby with its named tenements and appurtenances, which had belonged to Ellerton Priory. The yearly rent was £8-0-8 (the same as paid by Edward Saltmershe) on the conditions set out in her previous lease and she paid £16-1-4 into the Exchequer. The Crown kept the woods and quarries.

It is probable that all this shows that Blanche's interests were being carefully overseen by her friends, notably Lord Burghley and Queen Elizabeth herself. However, the evidence suggests that Blanche was intelligent and that, despite her advancing age, she continued to be financially aware. It is likely that she was fully able to comprehend the grants the Queen was making available for her and Blanche trusted her. As she had had written on her Bacton epitaph:

*not doubting want whilst that my mistress lived*

## **Notes and References**

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