

Farnhill tithe commutation

Part 1 – who owned and who rented land in the village

Introduction

Tithes were originally a tax which required one tenth of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to support the local church and clergy. Some of the produce, the “great tithe” went to the church authorities, to help maintain the fabric of the church; the rest, the “small tithe” went to the vicar himself.

In Farnhill, up until the Reformation, the great tithe was payable to Bolton Priory who owned the parish of Kildwick. In practice, this was probably paid to the monks at Kildwick Grange.

At the Reformation the control of Kildwick parish, which included not just the village but many of the surrounding townships, passed to Christ Church college in Oxford. They “appropriated” (that was the term used at the time) the right to appoint the vicar of Kildwick Church and the rights to the great tithe.

By the early 19th century tithe payments in the form of produce seemed a very out-of-date practice, and the 1836 Tithe Commutation Act provided for these “tithes in kind” to be converted to more convenient monetary payments, called a “rent charge”. The Tithe Survey was established to find out which areas were subject to tithes, who owned them, how much was payable in rent charges, and to whom.

The tithe survey map for Farnhill, dated 1845, and the associated tithe commutation document of 1846 provide useful information on:

- Who owned which parts of the village
- Who were the tenants
- The nature of the land-holdings or properties
- How much was payable as rent charges

Who owned land and property in the village ?

In 1846 the village of Farnhill covered an area of just over 560 acres. Of this, an area of 371 acres was liable for payment of rent charges; 159 acres was classed as common land; and 30 acres were recorded as roads and waste land.

The commutation documents records a total of 24 landowners, although only 10 of these owned more than 1 acre.

The major landowners were as follows.

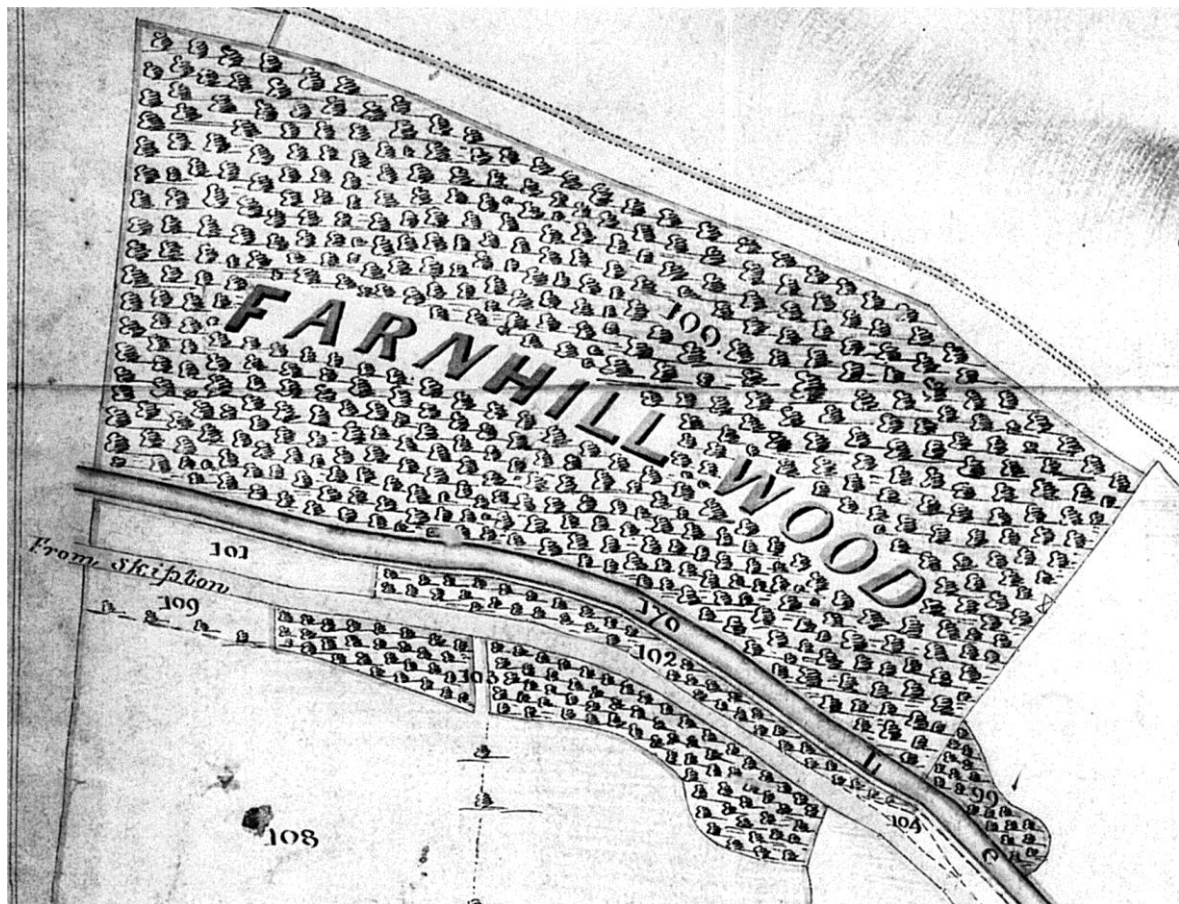
Sir George Lane-Fox (~300 acres)

The Lord of the Manor of Farnhill. His land included most of the farm land of the village as well as sizeable amounts of woodland. He also owned a number of smaller plots, particularly on the Arbour; various cottages; as well as the usual outbuildings, barns, etc.

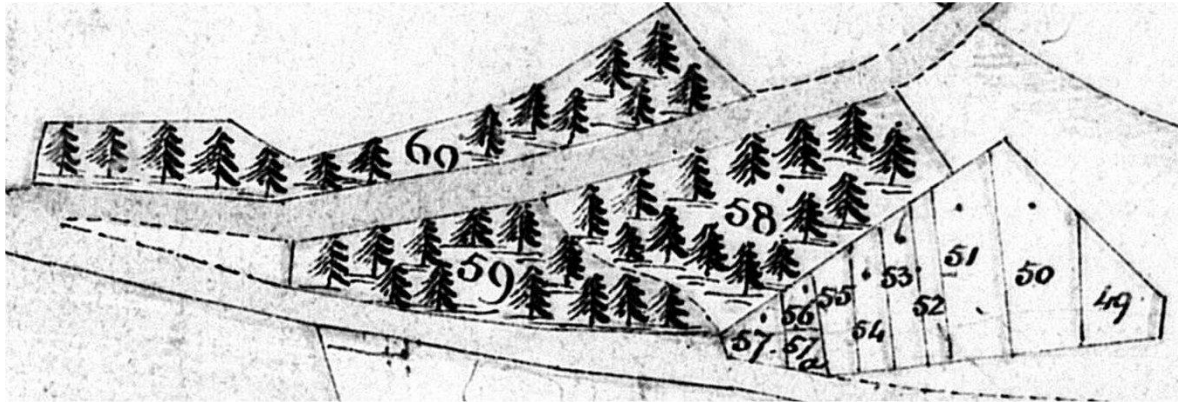
The tithe commutation document records over 120 holdings with him as owner – out of a total of 201 for the entire village.

He did not live in Farnhill (he lived in Bingley) and most of his properties were tenanted – he had 30 tenants.

The only land that he retained for himself (i.e. where he was recorded as being the “occupier”) were areas of woodland (almost 30 acres in total) including Farnhill Wood (plot #100), woodland near Farnhill Wood that extended below the canal (plot #102) and on the other side of the Skipton to Keighley Road (plot #103), and woodland either side of Grange Road where it meets Farnhill Main Street (plots #58, #59 and #60).



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Sir George Lane-Fox’s holdings #100, #102 and #103

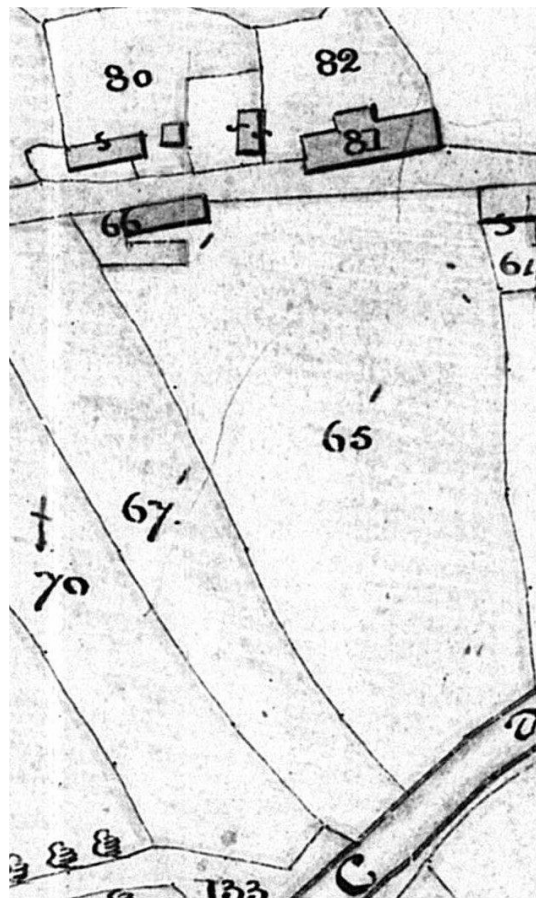


Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Sir George Lane-Fox's holdings #58, #59 and #60
(also the "Harbour" holdings, #49 to #57a)

Thomas Laycock (~20 acres)

The next biggest landowner, although holding less than 10% of the area owned by Sir George Lane-Fox, was Thomas Laycock.

His holding consisted, for the most part, of Hellifield Farm (plots #65, #66, and #67) and three large plots of land on the other side of the Skipton to Keighley road. He also owned a cottage and garden on Main Street (plot #80), opposite Hellifield Farm, which was tenanted.



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Thomas Laycock's holdings on Farnhill Main Street
(#65 - #67 and #80)

Frances Mary Richardson Curren (~20 acres)

Frances Mary Richardson Curren was the Lady of the Manor of Kildwick, although she never actually lived at Kildwick Hall, spending all her life living with the Wilson family at Eshton Hall.

She owned 20 holdings in Farnhill. All except two areas of woodland, close to the boundary with Kildwick, were tenanted. Her principal tenant was John Robert Tennant, who may already have been living at Kildwick Hall (and was certainly living there by 1848).

Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company (~9.5 acres)

Unlike roads, it appears that canal towpaths were liable for rent charges.

Who were the major land tenants ?

Although Farnhill was owned by just 24 people, there were 48 tenants (including people who were occupying their own land). The various parcels of tenanted land varied from over 176 acres to just 15 square yards – where people were renting their homes.

The three major tenants were, perhaps unsurprisingly, all occupants of land owned by Sir George Lane-Fox.

James Hargreaves (farmed ~176 acres, belonging to Sir George Lane-Fox)

James Hargreaves was George Lane-Fox's "tenant in chief". This meant that in addition to occupying a significant amount of land he acted as agent for his landlord in various local land-related legal matters.

Hargreaves tenanted almost all of the land in High Farnhill, including Farnhill Hall and all of the land surrounding it, on both sides of the canal. 28 separate plots in all.

The 1841 census records James Hargreaves as living at Farnhill Hall; with a household of 10 people, including his family, servants, and agricultural labourers. This family does not appear in any later census returns for the village.

Although James Hargreaves is not listed on the tithe commutation document as owning any land in 1846, it is known that he had owned land in the village – and in Cowling and Cononley – in the recent past. It appears that he was declared bankrupt in 1841 and his property portfolio sold at auction.

The newspaper report on the following page lists the various lots in Farnhill. The new owners of some of these lots can be identified in the tithe assessment.

5/6/1841 **Sales by Auction.**

SALE OF VALUABLE ESTATES IN THE PARISH OF KILDWICK.

By Mr. JOHN GARNETT, at the Ship Inn, Kildwick, in the County of York, on *Wednesday, the Ninth Day of June, 1841,* commencing at One o'Clock in the Afternoon precisely, by Order of Mr. Benj. Bradshaw, the Assignee of the Estate and Effects, real and personal, of Mr. Jas. Hargreaves, of Farnhill Hall, a Bankrupt:—

ALL the Valuable and Desirable FREEHOLD and LONG-LEASEHOLD MESSAGES, BUILDINGS, LANDS, and HEREDITAMENTS of the Bankrupt, situated in the several Townships of COWLING, CONONLEY, and FARNHILL, all in the Parish of Kildwick aforesaid, which will be put up either altogether, or in the following or such other Lots as the Assignee may determine upon at the Time of the Sale, and subject to such Conditions as shall be then and there produced.

IN FARNHILL.

Lot 5. In the Occupation of Wm. Palfreeman, the HOUSE, (known by the Name of the Ship Inn,) Barn, Stable, Garden, and Yard, Warehouse, and several CLOSES of very excellent LAND, containing altogether 8a. 3n. 38r. Statute Measure.

Also, TWO COTTAGES, adjoining the Ship Inn, in the Occupation of John Mosley, and Thomas Whitecock; also, the Barn behind the Canal, in the Occupation of the said William Palfreeman.

Lot 6 TWO COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Grace Wilkinson and Wm. Spencer.

Lot 7. THREE COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Mary Lilly, Jacob Lilly, and Wade Shuttleworth.

Lot 8. ONE COTTAGE, in the Occupation of Anthony Spencer, Sen.

Lot 9. FIVE COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Joshua Hill, James Brown, John Barrett, David Barrett, and Paul Mosley.

Lot 10. TWO COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Wm. Palfreeman, Jun. and Robt. Watson.

Lot 11. TWO COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Michl. Brown and John Overend.

Lot 12 THREE COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Thomas Wilson, John Todd, and Wm. Brown.

Lot 13. EIGHT COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Ann Wilcock, Henry Davy, Wm. Green, Peter Laycock, Wm. Spencer, John Brown, Margaret Wilson, and Wm. Holmes. Also, a Barn, in the Occupation of Wm. Spencer, lately occupied as a Cottage.

Lot 14. SEVEN COTTAGES, in the Occupation of Wm. Todd, Wm. Wilson, John Todd, Joseph Wilcock, Frank Birtwhistle, Wm. Hill and Henry Green.

The Whole of the Lands are in a good State of Cultivation, and are well-watered and fenced, and the Buildings are in excellent Repair, the whole affording a singularly good Opportunity for Investment.

For further Information apply to Mr. BENJ. BRADSHAW, of Skipton, Gentleman, the Assignee of the said Jas. Hargreaves; or at the Office of

Mr. ALCOCK, Solicitor, Skipton.

Lot 5: These are the three buildings on Kirkgate closest to the culvert.

Note – Kirkgate is now part of Kildwick but was until a few years ago part of Farnhill. The building closest to the culvert was the “Ship Inn”.

The commutation document records these properties as being owned by Peter Barritt, with all of them tenanted by William Palfreeman. (Neither John Mosley or Thomas Mosley were mentioned.)

Note – William Palfreeman was the landlord of the “Ship Inn” and the father of the man who was driving the train involved in the Kildwick rail crash in 1875.

Lot 6: There is no mention of a Grace Wilkinson in the tithe document, but “William Spencer and others” were recorded as the occupant of two cottages owned by a Mrs. Robinson.

These were adjacent properties towards the bottom of Starkey Lane.

Lot 7: “Jacob Lilly and another” were recorded as being the tenants of cottages owned by Marshall Green – at the very bottom of Starkey Lane.

Lot 8: unidentified

Lot 9: Of the five cottages, in 1846:

- Joshua Hill was the occupant of a cottage and garden owned by Thomas Laycock (plot #80, see earlier).
- “James Brown and others” were the occupants of a cottage, close to Redman bridge, owned by William Palfreyman.

The other three people cannot be identified neither can the location of these five cottages owned by James Hargreaves.

Lot 10: unidentified

Lot 11: unidentified

Lot 12: The cottage occupied by William Brown in 1846, was owned by William Hill. It was in Starkey Lane.

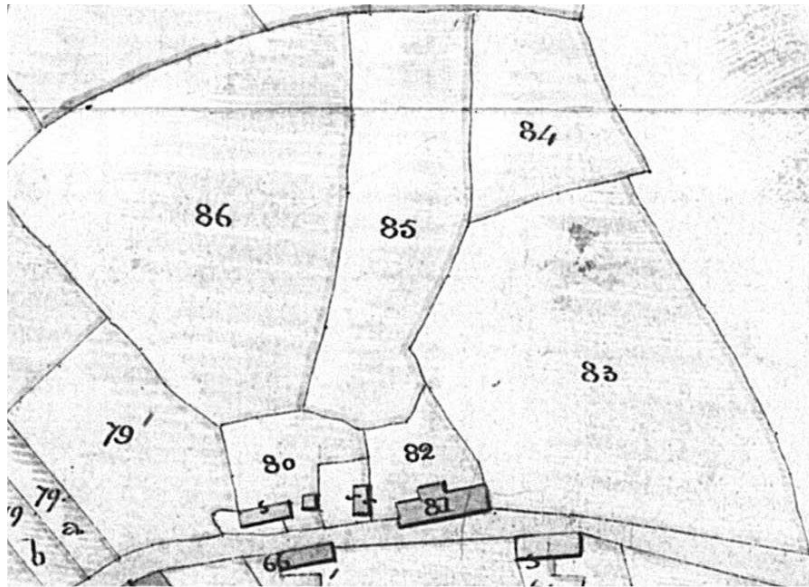
Lot 13: Only one of these properties can be positively identified. “John Brown and others” were the occupants of a cottage owned by Mrs. Newby. “William Spencer and others” were the occupants of two cottages owned by Mrs. Robinson (but see Lot #6).

Lot 14: In 1846 the cottage occupied by Frank Birtwhistle, located on Starkey Lane, was owned by John Crossley. None of the other properties can be positively identified.

Joseph Parkinson (farmed ~63 acres, belonging to Sir George Lane-Fox)

Joseph Parkinson occupied 32 plots of Lane-Fox land, in three main areas of the village.

He appears to have had a house on Main Street in High Farnhill, just west of the junction with Grange Road (plot #81), and to have farmed the land around it (plots #82 to #86).

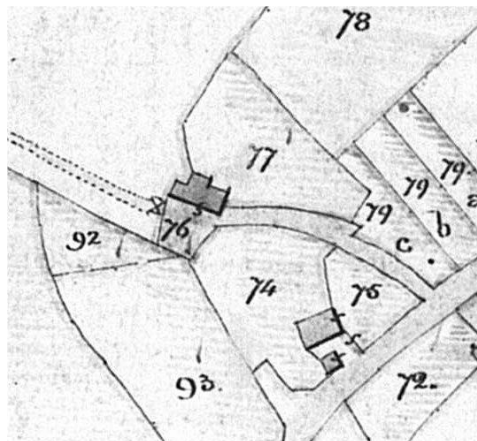


Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing Joseph Parkinson’s home on Main Street (#81) and some of the adjacent land that he farmed (#82 to #86)

He also held land close to Farnhill Hall Barn (although the barn itself was tenanted by James Hargreaves). However, his major interests were in land between the main Skipton to Keighley road and the river.

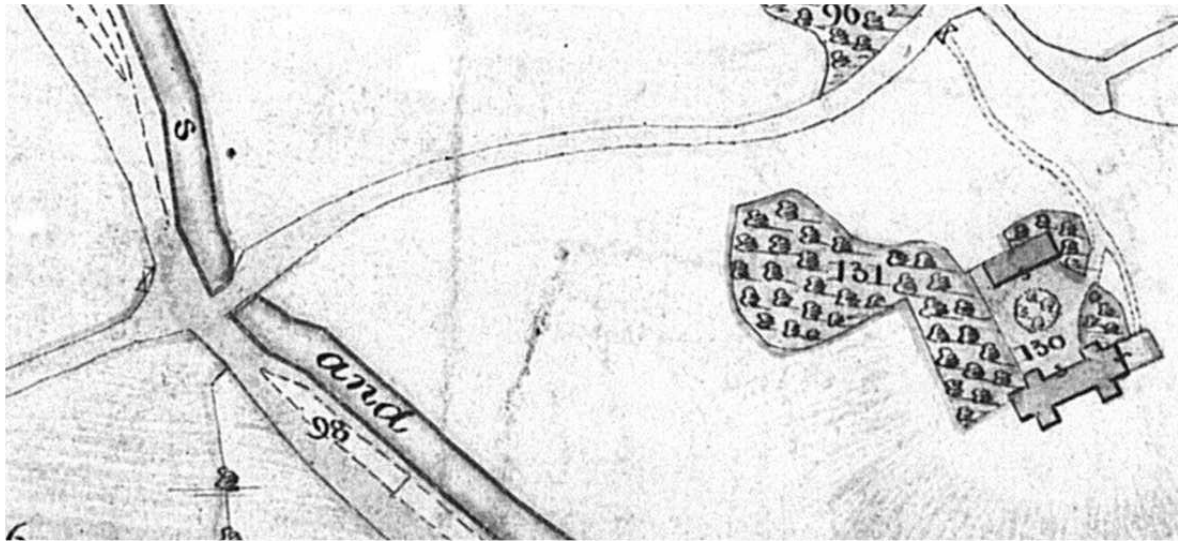
William Whiteoak (farmed ~12 acres, belonging to Sir George Lane-Fox)

William Whiteoak lived in what is now known as Moorgate Farm, at the bottom of Bradley Lane (plot #76) and also rented the adjacent plots (#77 and #92), as well as others around the village.



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing William Whiteoak’s home at the bottom of Bradley Lane (#76) and two small plots of tenanted land (#77 and #92)

He also rented land referred to as a “Coal Staith” (plot #98) – a narrow strip of land between the canal and the Skipton to Keighley road on the Keighley side of the bridge at Cononley Lane End.



Part of the 1845 Farnhill tithe map – showing the Coal Staith at Cononley Lane End (#98).
(Farnhill Hall is also shown (#130))

Rent charge assessments – who paid and how much

The total rent charge assessment for Farnhill was reckoned at £42.

Of the 24 land owners, 10 had their rent charges assessed as being zero and only 4 received a rent charge assessment of more than £1:

Sir George Lane-Fox	£30-17s-11d
Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company	£ 2-12s-2d
Thomas Laycock	£ 2-11s-10d
Frances Mary Richardson Currer	£ 1-19s-5d

10 land owners had their rent charges assessed as zero.

There seems to have been a considerable variation in the rent charge per acre of land owned:

L and Liverpool Canal Company	69.5 d/acre
Thomas Laycock	31.1 d/acre
Sir George Lane-Fox	24.7 d/acre
Frances Mary Richardson Currer	23.65 d/acre

The variations between George Lane-Fox, Thomas Laycock and Frances Mary Richardson Currer can probably be explained by the fact that both Lane-Fox and Currer owned a fair amount of woodland, whereas Thomas Laycock’s holdings were a farm and farm land.

What cannot be explained – particularly bearing in mind that the rent charge was supposed to replace payment of agricultural produce – is why the Canal Company were required to pay more than double the price per acre of the best agricultural land for the tow-path.

Who was the rent charge paid to ?

Page 3 of the commutation indicates how the £42 total assessment is to be divided.

The image shows a handwritten document with a table-like structure. On the right side, there are three lines of numbers in the format '£ s c'. The first line is '21. 0. 0', the second is '21. 0. 0', and the third is '42. 0. 0'. The first two lines are separated by a horizontal line, and the third line is underlined. On the left side, there are two lines of cursive text. The first line is 'To the vicar of Kildwick' followed by a horizontal line. The second line is 'Appropriators or Matthew Wilson their Lessee' followed by a horizontal line.

To the vicar of Kildwick _____	£	s	c
	21.	0.	0
- Appropriators or Matthew Wilson their Lessee _____	21.	0.	0
	<u>42.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0</u>

There are two points of note:

- The vicar of Kildwick was to receive half of the total. This indicates that at some point between the Reformation and 1846 the two types of tithe had been equalised – there was no longer a great tithe and a small tithe.
- The other half was payable to Matthew Wilson, rather than the original “appropriator” of the Kildwick Parish land, Christ Church Oxford. This may appear odd, but research by David Gulliver has revealed that that Christ Church had leased their portion of the tithe to various people for a number of years and Matthew Wilson had signed a 21 year lease with them in January 1846. This accounts for him being referred to as the appropriator’s lessee.

Matthew Wilson was the half-brother of Frances Mary Richardson Currer and the Lord of the Manor of Eshton. The Kildwick estate would pass to the Wilson family when Frances Mary died having not married.

This division of the rent charge makes for interesting issues regarding a couple of the payments due:

- Matthew Wilson owned a plot of land in Farnhill – a cottage and garden on Grange Road – that was assessed at 5d. Half of which was due to himself.
- The three plots of “glebe” land in Farnhill, land owned by the church, was assessed at five shillings and three pence. It’s amusing to contemplate who paid what, and to whom ?

Appendix A – Comparing the tithe document with the census

Comparing the tithe commutation document (1846) with the census returns for 1841 and 1851 provides some insight into the people who lived in the village, and changes in employment within the village.

Henry BANNISTER

In 1841 Henry Bannister (aged 47) was living in Low Farnhill with his wife (Elizabeth, aged 55) and five children (three girls and two boys). Both Henry and his eldest daughter were employed as Woolcombers.

The tithe document records “Henry Bannister and another” living in “Cottages taken from the Common”, owned by John Thornton; who the “another” was is not known but it could possibly have been a lodger (see later). The tithe map shows the building(s) to be located on the north side of Main Street - opposite Redman Bridge, behind another row of cottages that fronted onto the road.

By the time of the 1851 census both Henry and Elizabeth had died (in 1847 and 1849 respectively) but it is likely that the property was still occupied by the elder of their sons (John, a Woolcomber) along with his wife, and their young daughter. The household also included John and Grace Wilson, who were lodgers. (John Wilson might have been the “another” recorded in the tithe.)

Francis BIRTWHISTLE

The 1841 census records the Birtwhistle family (Francis, his wife, and six children) living on Starkey Lane. Francis was a Woolcomber, as was the older of his two sons.

The tithe map shows the house was one of a small terrace of cottages located part-way up Starkey Lane on the east side; the property of John Crossley, who was probably the schoolmaster at Kildwick school. The commutation document records that it was tenanted by “Francis Birtwhistle and Others”, although who the “others” were is unclear.

By 1851 some of the children were no longer living with their parents, there were two remaining at home (the younger son and a daughter), but there were two grandchildren. Once again, Francis was recorded as being a Woolcomber, as was his younger son; the daughter remaining at home was employed as a “Power-loom Weaver (Worsted)”.

John BRIGG

In 1841 John Brigg (aged 60), his wife Sarah (55) and a servant were living on View Street, for which entries in the census are recorded along with Cragg End and Starkey Lane. John was a Grocer.

According to the tithe their property was owned by the Lady of the Manor of Kildwick, Frances Mary Richardson Currer and was a “Homestead & Cottages” located on the very edge of the village, close to the boundary with Kildwick, beyond Starkey Lane.

John is missing from the 1851 census but his wife is still running the shop and she has two of her nephews living with her.

Thomas DAVY

It seems likely that Thomas Davy and his family arrived in Farnhill sometime after the 1841 census and before the 1845/6 tithe commutation arrangements.

He appears in the latter as “Thomas Davy and others”, the tenant of cottages owned by John Berry (?), the writing is unclear) located on the south side of Main Street.

Assuming that it is the same Thomas Davy, the family appear to have moved fairly quickly to Starkey Lane where Thomas, his wife, and six children are recorded as living in 1851. All the children old enough to work (those aged 9 and upwards) are employed in the worsted trade, with his 15 year-old daughter employed at a “Worsted Factory”.

Edward GREEN

In 1841 Edward Green (aged 47, a Woolcomber) was living in High Farnhill along with his wife and daughter and grand-daughter. Also forming part of the household is John Mosley (aged 22, also a Woolcomber) and a two year-old boy, also called John Mosley.

The tithe map has him as a tenant of Sir George Lane-Fox and occupying four small plots on the north side of Main Street in High Farnhill, stretching down from the junction with Bradley Lane.

By 1851 Edward Green appears to have died, but the family is still living in High Farnhill. His daughter (aged 30) is employed as a “Power-loom weaver (Worsted)” and his grand-daughter (aged 10) is a “Worsted Spinner”.

Hargreaves GREEN

A Stonemason, recorded in 1841 as living in Farnhill with his wife and four children.

The tithe documents show that the family was living in a cottage owned by Sir George Lane-Fox on the north side of Main Street, just below Redman bridge.

By 1851 the family had moved to Bradley.

Joshua GREEN

Joshua Green appears in the 1841 as a 41 year-old Woolcomber, living in High Farnhill with his wife and two children.

The tithe documents suggest that their home was on the north side of Main Street, opposite what today is Hellifield House. The property was listed as being a “Cottage and Garden” and was owned by Thomas Laycock.

The family were probably still living there in 1851, when Joshua was recorded as being a “Woolcomber and Farmer of 3 acres”. His 16 year-old daughter was reported to be a “Power-loom weaver of wool”.

Three acres is far more than the area Joshua tenanted according to the 1846 tithe document – presumably he took on additional land in the intervening years.

James HARGREAVES

In 1841 he was living in Farnhill Hall with his wife, five children, an Agricultural labourer, a house servant, and two others (a mother and child). He gave his occupation as Farmer.

See earlier for details of the land tenanted by James Hargreaves as recorded in the tithe documents and the properties belonging to him that were lost following his bankruptcy.

There is no record of him or any of his family living in the village in 1851.

John HEATON

John Heaton and his family were living in Low Farnhill in 1841. The household consisted of John (aged 52, a Tailor), four unmarried children aged 16 to 28, Sarah Mosley (aged 24, a Worsted Weaver), and her son Heaton Mosley.

The tithe documents suggests that the family was living in a cottage owned by John Heaton himself, one of a small terrace, part-way up Starkey Lane on the east side.

The 1851 census shows the Heaton family still had two of the children living at home, although the precise location is unclear.

Elizabeth HILL

Elizabeth was the matriarch of her family.

On the 1841 census she is recorded as being 70 years old, living at Cragg Top, with John Hill (aged 40, a Woolcomber), his wife, three Hill children and two children with the surname Lightfoot.

The tithe document shows her as the owner-occupier of a house at Crag Top,

By 1851 she must have died but John, his wife, and their three children are still living at Crag Top. John and his son are both Woolcombers, but the younger of the two girls (aged 22) is a “Powerloom weaver”.

James HOLMES

On the 1841 census James Holmes was recorded (aged 54) was recorded as the head of a household that included his wife, Mary, and five children. They were living at Crag End, and James and three of the children were employed as Woolcombers.

The tithe document has him tenanting a "Cottage and Garden" owned by Mathew Wilson of Eshton Hall. The map shows the building to be on Grange Road just down from the junction with Starkey Lane.

Mary died in 1848 and the 1851 census shows a much-reduced household comprising just James and his eldest son. Both are Woolcombers.

Thomas LAYCOCK

We have already discussed Thomas Laycock's significant land holdings in Farnhill earlier in this piece.

The 1841 census records his and his wife living in High Farnhill. They employ a live-in servant.

The tithe documents suggest that they are living in what is now Hellifield House: listed in the tithe as a Homestead and located adjacent to "Hellifield Croft".

The 1851 census has the couple living in the same house, with Thomas recorded as a "Farmer and landed proprietor of 19½ acres" – the exact area recorded in the tithe document.

Jacob LILL(e)Y

In 1841 Jacob Lilley (aged 40, a Woolcomber) was living in Starkey Lane with four daughters.

The tithe documents record "Jacob Lilly and another" living on the corner, the west side of Starkey Lane. The property was owned by Marshall Green.

The 1851 census has Jacob Lilley and three of the four daughters living either in the same house or close-by (possibly on Bucklar Hill). He is still a Woolcomber as are two of the daughters; the other (married) daughter is a "Powerloom Weaver (Worsted)" and her husband is a Woolcomber. He may have been the "other" person recorded on the tithe.

Joseph PARKINSON

As documented previously, Joseph Parkinson was a significant tenant of Sir George Lane-Fox.

The 1841 and 1851 census returns show him as being unmarried and living in Farnhill with his younger sister, Judith. By 1851 he was aged 66 but still appeared to be farming 60 acres on his own.

He is listed as living in High Farnhill; the tithe document records this property as being a "House and Yard" and the tithe map suggests that this might have been Box Tree Farm.

Joseph Parkinson died in 1855 and Judith three years later. Both are buried at St. Andrew's, Kildwick.

Richard PEARCE

Richard Pearce came to the area with Rev. Pering, as his man-servant, when the latter took up the post of vicar of Kildwick in 1806. He married a local woman, Mary Laycock, and they lived with her parents until their own home at Crag End, 3 Grange Road, was built. (The building is still standing.)

The 1841 census records Mary Pearce and two daughters living at Crag End, with Richard at the vicarage in Kildwick.

The tithe documents has Richard Pearce as the owner-occupier of the house at Crag End.

Both Richard and Mary died before the 1851 census. However, their daughters Elizabeth and Agnes were still living in the family home. which they ran as a "dame-school".

John REDMAN

In 1841 the census recorded John Redman and his family as living in Low Farnhill. John (aged 46) is a Farmer and he and his wife have eight children living with them.

The tithe documents list John Redman as the owner-occupier of around 4.5 acres of land in four plots:

- Three on the west side of the canal, forming a contiguous block, stretching from opposite the Arbour to the canal bridge.
- A further plot, called "Castle Field and 2 Gardens" between Main Street and the canal, directly opposite the Arbour.

He is also the owner-occupier of Cottages (number not specified) located on Main Street, hard-by the canal bridge which still bears his family's name.

The 1851 census shows a household made up of John, his wife, and seven children; there was also a lodger living with them. Three of the adult daughters were Power-loom Weavers(Worsted) and the two adult sons were Woolcombers.

Benjamin SMITH

This name does not appear in the 1841 census for Farnhill.

In the tithe document he is recorded as the occupant of four plots:

- A cottage (plot #47) owned by Sir George Lane-Fox, on the north side of Main Street opposite Redman Bridge
- Another cottage (#40), also owned by Sir George Lane-Fox, on the south side of Main Street just below the Arbour.

- A plot referred to as “Mill and Cottages” (#40a), of which he was owner-occupier, adjacent to plot #40.
- A second “Mill and Cottages” plot (#41), of which he was also owner-occupier, close to #40a but on the opposite side of the road.

The 1851 census records that Benjamin Smith and his family (wife, three sons, four daughters and a servant) were living in High Farnhill and were in the forefront of industrial development in the village. He is recorded as a “Worsted Manufacturer and Farmer of 56 acres”; his eldest son is employed as a “Worsted Warehouseman”, and another as “Overlooker in a Worsted Factory”.

John SUGDEN

The two census returns and the tithe documents show the Sugden family going up in the world.

In 1841 the 30 year-old John Sugden, a Clogger, was living in Low Farnhill with his wife and two young children.

The tithe commutation documents, dating from 1845/6 provide a picture of a rather well-off family. John does not appear to own any land or property, he is listed as the tenant of no less than seven separate plots:

- A “Cottage and Garden” owned by Sir George Lane-Fox, located on the east side of Main Street.
- A “House, Barn and Yard” stretching along Main Street from the bottom of what would become Mary Street and the bottom of Starkey Lane, the property of Mrs. Newby.
- The adjacent plot, also owned by Mrs. Newby, referred to as an Orchard.
- Three plots of contiguous agricultural land, belonging to Mrs Newby, running from part way up Starkey Lane to Grange Road; totalling four and a half acres.
- Finally, a “Cottage and Staithe” on the north side of the canal, adjacent to Redman bridge; the property of William Redman’s Trustees.

The 1851 census still has the family living in Low Farnhill, close to Starkey Lane or possibly at the bottom of Starkey Lane itself. In 10 years John has ceased to be a Clogger and is listed as a “Farmer of 20 acres” suggesting that his holding has increased substantially since 1845/6.

It is interesting that the Sugden name is connected with a staithe in Farnhill (an area where canal boats could be loaded and unloaded). What they were using the staithe on the north side of the canal for in 1845/6 is not clear but later the family would come to own a staithe just below Redman bridge on the south side, from where John’s son, William, would run his business as a Coal Merchant.

John Robert Tennant

John Robert Tennant was a close relative of Frances Mary Richardson Currer, the Lady of the Manor of Kildwick.

Both the 1841 and 1851 censuses show him living at Kildwick Hall with his wife and servants. However the tithe document also records him as occupying Frances's land and buildings in Farnhill, close to Crag Top.

It appears that, at this time, Frances's finances were being handled by her half-brother, Mathew Wilson of Eshton Hall and it is clear that Mathew and John Robert Tennant had something of a disagreement whether rent that should be paid for both the Hall and Crag Top.

As Tennant noted in his diary:

May 23 rd 1850	Paid to Mattw. Wilson Esqr rent due to Miss Currer for land at Cragg Top & Kildwick Hall the latter, charged I suppose, as accommodation which I am certain never was Miss C[']s] wish, & is not right £79 1s 9d.
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James WALMSLEY

1841 census records the Walmsley family living in High Farnhill. James Walmsley is 58, a Farmer; his wife, Margaret, is 57. They have two sons aged 20 and 15, both Woolcombers; and three daughters aged from four to 15. Also living with the family is Mary Fell, aged 87; she would die later in December of that year.

The tithe document has them living in a "House and Garden", belonging to Sir George Lane-Fox; and the tithe maps shows this to be located at the bottom of Bradley Lane – possibly Spout House. The "garden" being more than 3 acres in area.

By the time of the 1851 census the family had dispersed somewhat, although both sons at least appear to be still living in the village. The household headed by James Walmsley (now recorded as being aged 71 and "Farmer of 3 acres") is made up of his eldest daughter, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. One of the grand-daughters is a "Power-loom Weaver (Worsted)" and a grandson is a Woolcomber.

James WILKINSON

The 1841 census shows James Wilkinson and his family living in Low Farnhill. He was 60 years old, and a Farmer; his wife, Sarah, was also 60; and his children, two sons and a daughter, were aged 30 (a Wool Sorter), 25 (a Butcher), and 20 (a Dress-maker).

The tithe documents record him as tenant to plot owned by Mrs. Newby. The plot consisted of "House, Barns and Garden" and was located close to the canal on Main Street, near the bottom of what would become Mary Street. The total area of this plot was just over 1 acre and it is difficult to imagine that this, alone, was James' farm; see later.

James is missing from the 1851 census but the rest of the family were still together having moved to "Bank Top", close to Kildwick Hall – perhaps this was the location of the family's farm? Sarah is recorded as a widow and "Farmer of 120 acres" and her elder son was her "Farm Manager". The household also included a live-in "Farm Labourer" and an "Errand Boy".

John WILSON

In 1841 the 18 year old John Wilson was living with his mother and two younger siblings in Low Farnhill.

The tithe documents suggest that this might have been in a cottage owned by Sir George Lane-Fox on the north of Main Road, behind another building that fronted on to the road.

The 1851 census records him living with his wife as lodgers in Farnhill; he is a Woolcomber.