

Origins of Kildwick Hall – and the Curren family

After the dissolution of Bolton Abbey by Henry VIII's commissioners, the Manor of Kildwick was sold and re-sold, eventually coming into the possession of John Garforth, who lived at Kildwick Grange, in the 1550s.

The principal tenants of the Kildwick estate were the Curren family.

The earliest mention of the Curren family locally is a reference to a Henry Curror of Farnhill who brought "a bow, and horse & harness" to a 1510 muster of men organised by Lord Clifford – one of just four men from the village. (This was thought to be the "Flodden muster" but as Trevor Hodgson and David Gulliver pointed out in their "History of Cononley", the battle of Flodden wasn't until 1513.)

In 1522 the same (?) Henry Curren is described as Henry Curren of Hamblethorp, just over the border in Bradley. His goods are valued at £40 – more than all the rest of the tenants of Hamblethorp manor put together.

In 1559 a Henry Curren bought part of the Kildwick estate from John Garforth. This land either included an existing house or Henry Curren built a house there – on the site of the existing Kildwick Hall. The kitchen range may be all that survives of the Tudor building.

In 1581 the Garforth family mortgaged the rest of the Kildwick estate to William Garforth, Henry's eldest son.

In 1614 John Garforth's son sold the Kildwick estate to William and Hugh Curren (II), Henry's two eldest sons, together with Hugh's three sons: Henry (II), Hugh (III) and William junior.

William Curren already owned an estate at Bank Newton, and so it was Hugh (II) who became the effective owner of the manor and the occupant of Kildwick Hall.

Sources

The History of Cononley: an Airedale village, by Trevor Hodgson and David Gulliver; available at <http://www.cpick.co.uk/THE%20HISTORY%20OF%20CONONLEY.pdf>

History of Kildwick Parish (AD950 to 1660), by Michael Baumber; [Chapter 6 - The Great Inflation and its Consequences \(c.1520 – 1640\)](#)

[Country Life visit Kildwick Hall \(1911\)](#)