

Henry Currer (II) and Hugh Currer (III) – the Civil War and the building of the 17th century Hall

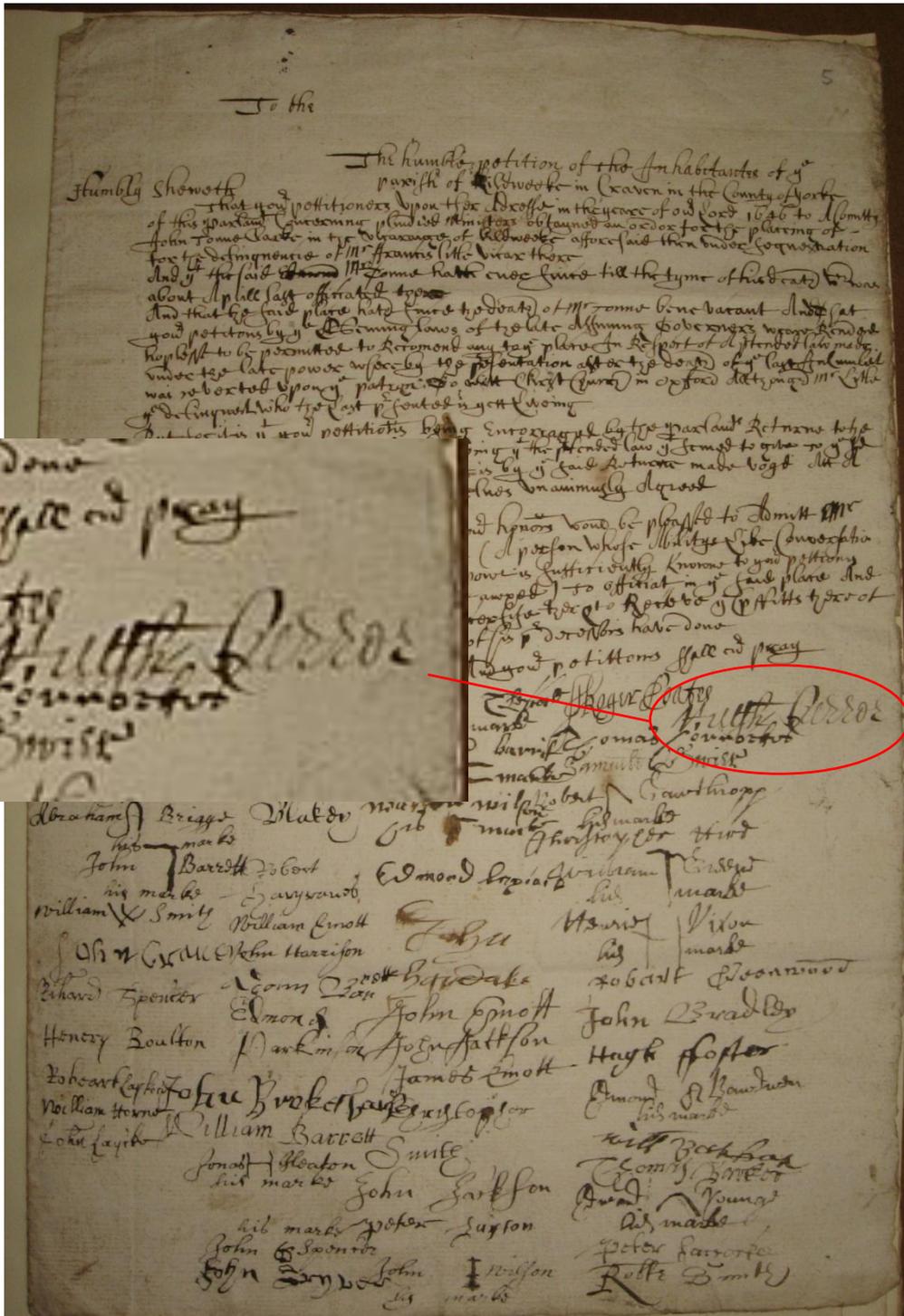
Hugh Currer's (II) son, Henry Currer (II), was one of a number of local gentry who took the side of the Parliamentarians in the first Civil War (1642–1646). He was given the rank of lieutenant colonel and established a garrison at Kildwick Hall. The only action of any significance of the war was when four Royalists were taken prisoner by the Kildwick garrison, which led to Sir John Mallory sending a drummer out from the Royalist camp at Skipton to arrange their exchange.

Henry's son Hugh (III) seems to have served in an active role in the New Model Army. He fought at the battle of Nantwich in January 1644; and the battles of Selby in April and Marston Moor in July. In February 1645 he took part in an action that prevented a raid on Keighley.

Later, in 1645, with the Parliamentarians in the ascendant, Hugh served as a collector of rents of properties sequestered from Royalists.

But the execution of Charles I, in January 1649, seems to have brought about a change in attitude and Henry Currer ceased to play any further part in politics. He died in 1653.

With the collapse of the Protectorate in 1659 it was prudent for the gentry who had supported the Parliamentarians to change sides if that was at all possible. The death of the radical Protestant vicar of Kildwick, John Towne, in May of that year provided an opportunity for Hugh Currer to add his name to a petition calling for the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church to appoint Edmund Garforth, a cleric whose views were far more in-tune with the new Royalist regime, to the vacant post.



The "Garforth petition" – asking Christ Church Oxford to appoint Edmund Garforth in succession to John Towne – bearing Hugh Curre's signature. Reproduced by permission of Christ Church Oxford.

Hugh Curren (II) didn't live long after buying the Kildwick estate and it was most likely his son, Henry (II) and grandson Hugh (III), who rebuilt the Hall.

Henry probably started the work – perhaps after the old Tudor house sustained damage in the Civil War – but it was his son, Hugh (III), who made the most significant additions, including the current facade and changes to the Tudor kitchen range, where the fireplace bears the date 1673.

Hugh Curren married Ann Haworth in 1616, and it is their joint coat of arms that is above the front door of the Hall.



**The coat of arms of Hugh Curren (III) and Ann Haworth
– from above the front door of Kildwick Hall**

There is also a drain-pipe on the main building which bears the initials H.A.C. (Hugh and Ann Curren?) and the date 1663.

It is probably around this time that the lions appeared above the front gates of the Hall.



Photograph of the front of Kildwick Hall, showing the Curren lions.

The lions are reputed to walk down to the river and drink whenever the church clock strikes 13.

Sources

History of Kildwick Parish (AD950 to 1660), by Michael Baumber; Chapter 9 - The Civil Wars and After (1642 – 1660), available on the History Group website.

A full transcript of the “Garforth petition” can be found in our article Radical Protestant churchmen in Kildwick – from Reformation to Restoration, available on the History Group website.

[Kildwick Hall Historical Sketch, by J.J. Brigg](#)

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