

Rev. Henry Curren Wilson and Sir Mathew Wilson (1st Baronet Wilson of Eshton)

In 1801, Frances Mary Richardson Curren's mother, Margaret Clive Wilson, married her cousin Mathew Wilson.

When Frances Mary Richardson Curren died, in 1861, she left the Kildwick estate to her half-brother, Rev. Henry Curren Wilson (born in 1803). He died, unmarried, in 1866, and the estate passed to his older brother - Mathew.

Mathew Wilson was probably not named as the heir to Frances Mary Richardson Curren, although he was the oldest son of the family, as by then he had already inherited the Eshton Hall estate from his father, in 1854. However, when his brother Henry Curren Wilson died he came into the Kildwick estate too.

Mathew Wilson was a politician and was MP for Clitheroe between 1841 and 42 and again between 1847 and 1853.

In August 1842, as a magistrate, it was Mathew Wilson who read the Riot Act from the steps of Skipton Town Hall, in Sheep Street, which ordered the "Plug Rioters" from Colne to disperse. This proclamation was ignored by the protestors and led to the "Anna Fields Fight", described in the first part of our article on Chartism.

He was made 1st Baronet Wilson of Eshton in 1874 and later that year became MP for the West Riding. He was subsequently MP for Skipton between 1885 and 1886.

A statue to him stands in Skipton High Street.



The statue of Sir Mathew Wilson on Skipton High Street

He died on 18 January 1891, at the age of 88.

Uniquely for a member of the Wilson family, Mathew Wilson actually lived for a time at Kildwick Hall. This was between around 1825 and 1841, when Eshton Hall was being remodelled to accommodate Frances Mary Currer Richardson's library amongst other changes.

It is possible that, from the time he was resident at Kildwick Hall, Frances Mary Richardson Currer handed over the management of the Kildwick estate to her half-brother, as it seems that several pieces of work were done by him at Kildwick even though his sister was still alive.

From 1841 onwards, with Mathew Wilson back at Eshton, Kildwick Hall was occupied by John Tennant, Mathew Wilson's cousin and also his brother-in-law. In his diaries Tennant reported mixed feelings about the changes that were still being made to the Hall, and generally about the way he was treated by Mathew Wilson.

June 16 th 1848	Paid Mr Wilson - rent half year for Kildwick Hall and Carlton Hospital house lands £77 10s 2d.
Mar 15 th 1850	New approach to the house - intend opening it to the public in about ten days, it will certainly be a great improvement Turnpikes - for travelling [on] a shocking bad road. Note: This is the carriage drive, now Hall Gardens. J.J. Brigg says that this was built by Mathew Wilson while he was living at the Hall – which is clearly not the case.
May 23 ^d 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.
Nov 28 th 1850	Paid Mr Wilson rent for Kildwick Hall and Crag Top Farm etc, £86 15s 5d.
April 9 th 1859	Matthew Wilson has made a sad mess in the House at Kildwick, by his last project - worse I think than ever.
April 16 th 1859	Matthew Wilson [is] pulling to pieces the only remaining room that we occupy. Note: Significantly, when Country Life visited the Hall in 1911 the article was very dismissive of the recent changes that had been made.

It is possible that the complaints that Tennant makes about the changes being made to the Hall in 1859 may refer to the changes made to the dining room, that bear Frances Mary Richardson Currer's signature stone.

Sources

[The Wilsons of Eshton: bricks and books](#)

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

[Mathew Wilson – Wikipedia](#)

[Wilson Baronets of Eshton – Wikipedia](#)

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

The diaries of J.R. Tennant are held in the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds; ref YAS DD201