

Lt. Col. Richard Henry Francis Wharton Wilson DSO

Lt. Col. Richard Henry Francis Wharton Wilson was born on 18 August 1855.

He was the second son of Sir Mathew Wharton Wilson, the 2nd Baronet Eshton and Gratiana Mary Thomas – and the grandson of Sir Mathew Wilson. (Here again, the Wilson family policy was for the eldest son to inherit Eshton and for a younger son to inherit Kildwick.)

He was a military man; serving first in the Royal Navy and then transferring to the Army, where he served in:

- Third Ashanti War (Ghana) -1873 (wounded)
- Afghan War – 1878 to 1880
- Sudan – 1884/5



Richard Henry Francis Wharton Wilson
- as a Lieutenant with 10th Hussars at Jallalabad, Afghanistan, 1879

He retired from the Army in 1896 (with the rank of Major) but rejoined for the Boer War (1900/1). He retired again in 1901 and was given the honorary rank of Lt. Col. He was awarded a DSO in 1902.

In between his two periods in the Army he played an important role in the Kildwick typhoid epidemic of 1899, during which he was widely criticised for failing to take responsibility as landlord.

He also did some building in the village, including restoration work on the Old Priory at the top of Priest Bank Road.



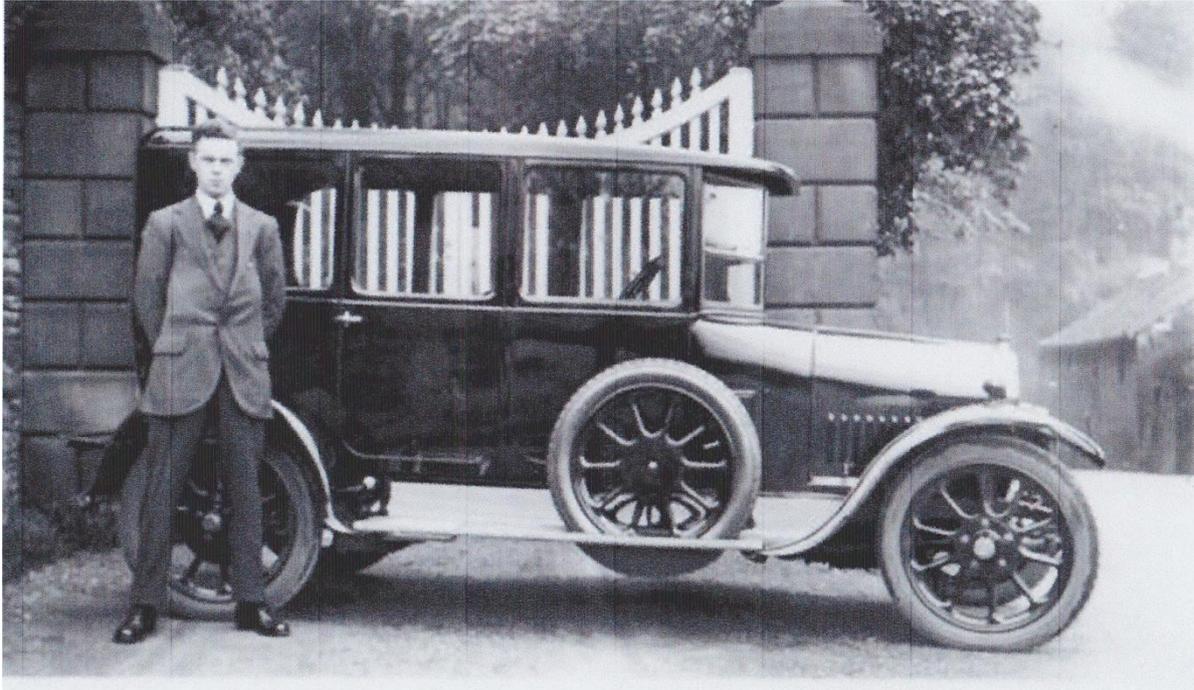
The Old Priory, at the top of Priest Bank Road – restored by Richard Henry Francis Wharton Wilson in 1899

He was also responsible for building Moorend, the house at the very top of Starkey Lane.



A dated lintel above what was originally the front door of Moorend

The latter was for the Kildwick Hall chauffeur, Robert Roe; the house being directly opposite the entrance to Kildwick Hall driveway – now Hall Gardens.



Robert Roe, the Kildwick Hall chauffeur, at the entrance to Kildwick Hall driveway

Richard Francis Henry Wharton Wilson married in 1889 and had a daughter. She died unmarried; so when Richard died, on 14th December 1936 aged 81, the Kildwick estate passed to his great-nephew Peter Cecil Wilson.

Sources

[10th \(Prince of Wales's Own\) Hussars](#)

The full story of the [Kildwick Typhoid epidemic](#) of 1899 and Major Wilson's role in it can be found in a series of articles on the History Group website.