



In 1134 Walter l'Espece granted land at Blakemoor to Cistercian monks from Clairvaux and they named the place *Rievaille* or valley of the Rye, the latter probably being a Celtic name for stream. There is no evidence of people living in the valley before the monks built their Abbey but the finds in the windypits at Ashberry and Antofts, a stone axe at Stilton House Farm and a tumulus near Oscar Park Farm all point to human presence in the area during the neolithic and bronze age periods.

Two villas were recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 : *Tilstun* or Tili's tun is of Old English origin and *Grif* seems to derive from the Norse word *Gryifa* meaning deep narrow gully and the most productive of the Rievaulx farms were to develop from this land which later formed the Abbey Grange of Griff. It has been suggested but not proved that the other Grange of New-lathes was also the site of a villa and that its name is derived from the old Norse *nive hlade*.

The story of Rievaulx Abbey has been covered by many writers but little has been written about the farms and village and the history that follows attempts to cover their development over a period of 460 years following the Surrender of the Monastery in December 1539.

Contents

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Origins |
| 3 | Rievaulx Granges in 1539 |
| 5 | Buckingham Survey of 1642 |
| 10 | Tenancies of 1642 |
| 13 | Manor Court Roll of 1670 |
| 14 | Hearth Tax 1673 |
| 16 | Rievaulx farms in 1694 |
| 18 | Rent roll of 1725 |
| 19 | Rent rolls of 1730 and 1733 |
| 20 | Rent rolls of 1741 and 1772 |
| 21 | Field book of 1783 |
| 22 | Field book of 1796 |
| 23 | Survey and maps of Rievaulx farms in 1806 |
| 31 | Field book of 1812 |
| 32 | Field book of 1827 |
| 33 | Field book of 1855 |
| 34 | Field book of 1895 and rent roll of 1905 |
| 38 | Valuation of 1909 and rent rolls of 1910 and 1915 |
| 40 | Harriet Air Farm |
| 41 | Griff Farm |
| 46 | Stilton House Farm |
| 48 | Abbot Hagg Farm |
| 49 | High Leys Farm |
| 51 | Oscar Park Farm |
| 53 | Sour Leys Farm |
| 53 | Moor End Farm |
| 54 | Newlays Farm |
| 55 | Ouldray Farm |
| 57 | Middle Heads Farm |
| 58 | Coney House Farm |
| 59 | Abbey Farms |
| 60 | Munday Farm |
| 61 | Harrison Farm |
| 62 | Cringle Carr Farm |
| 64 | Farming families of Rievaulx |
| 78 | The changing pattern of farming |
| 85 | Population Census of 1851 |
| 89 | The second half of the 19th century |
| 90 | Population Census of 1881 |
| 95 | Population Census of 1901 |
| 101 | Rievaulx Manor Court |
| 105 | The 20th century |

S
m
r
a
f

Origins

The earliest written record describing land that now forms part of the most productive of the Rievaulx farms is found in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and a confusing picture is created by the following entries :

In *Tilstun* Fredegæst has 1 carucate to be taxed. Land for half a plough.

In *Tilstun* Uhtræd had 1 manor of 2 carucates to be taxed, and there could be 2 ploughs.

Now Count Robert has it and it is waste. Woodland pasture and field 1 league long and 1 league broad. Value in King Edward's time 20 shillings.

In *Tilstun* the King has 1 carucate in the same place the Count of Mortain has 3 carucates.

It is difficult to decide whether the 3 carucates recorded for Count Mortain in the third listing are in addition to the 2 listed in the second or whether one entry was an error and as a carucate was roughly 120 acres the amount of land held by Mortain could have been between 500 and 750 acres, much of which was waste created by William's 'harrying of the North' but as Uhtræd's manor measured 1 league long and 1 league broad and a medieval league was roughly a mile and a half his land alone amounted to almost 900 acres and the total acreage could have varied between 1140 and 1500.

In *Grif* Grim held 2 carucates to be taxed and land for half a plough. The Count Mortain has it. In the same place the King has 2 carucates.

The combined acreages of *Tilstun* and *Grif* as recorded in the Domesday Survey amounted to not less 1600 acres and possibly nearer 2,000 most of which was held by Count Mortain the half brother of William I and those working the land had merely changed their allegiance from one powerful landowner to another as Uhtræd had held more than twenty manors covering at least 12,000 acres and Mortain was the second largest landowner after the King. Grim had also held the manor of Welburn and several messuages in York.

Mortain's lands were forfeit to the Crown in 1088 after he had taken part in an unsuccessful rebellion against William Rufus and thirty years later they were in the possession of Walter l'Espece and it was he, influenced by Thurstan, Archbishop of York granted land at Blakemoor to the small group of Cistercian monks from France who in 1134 commenced building their Abbey in the place they named *Rievaille* or 'valley of the Rye', the latter word probably being a Celtic name for stream.

Espece's first grant of land included five carucates at *Tilstun* and four at *Grif* amounting to approximately 1,100 acres which were combined to form the largest of the Abbey Granges whilst land a little further north became the Grange of New-lathes with its adjacent area known as *Hulwra* or *Ulrage*. The Abbey granges included collections of farm buildings which also had sleeping accommodation for the large numbers of *conversi* or lay brothers

who had been attracted to the monastic way of life and possibly for *mercenarii* who were servants. The work of the lay brothers would have included growing arable crops, tending the huge flocks of sheep and ancillary functions such as cheese making from ewe's milk but it must be remembered that there was a steady reduction in the number of lay brothers from the 14th century onwards and thirty years after the onset of the Black Death there were only fifteen monks and three lay brothers living at the Abbey.

It is therefore assumed that the Abbots had to employ others to work at the Granges and though there are no records of tenancies at Griff or New-lathes to compare with the ones that existed on the Abbey lands in Bilsdale the possibility of farm tenancies that pre-dated the Surrender of the Monastery cannot be ruled out as only twenty two monks were living at the Abbey at the end of December 1538.

It was certainly the work done by families who farmed the Abbey Granges that created the foundations for the farms that developed after all the Abbey lands were granted to Thomas, Duke of Rutland after the Surrender of the Monastery in December 1538 and it was these farms that were to be the basis of the Rievaulx economy for another four hundred years and whose fluctuations in fortune affected the life of every man, woman and child who lived in the parish.

The history of Rievaulx Abbey has been covered by many writers and readers who wish to learn more about it are recommended to read 'Rievaulx Abbey' by Peter Fergusson and Stuart Harrison. This history of the Rievaulx farms attempts to follow the development of the farms from the middle of the sixteenth century to the end of the twentieth, covering changes in tenancies and farm sizes and to trace the histories of the farming families on whose work the whole of the local economy depended.

There are huge gaps in the records that make it difficult to create a continuous unbroken history but most of the documentary evidence has been reproduced to provide readers with an opportunity to make their own assessments about the growth of the farms over a 450 year period and the map in the appendix has been made as large as possible to aid identification of fields and dwellings as they were in 1806, all the fields are numbered and their names, listed on pages 24-30 show that some their origins date back at least to before 1538 and in the case of Ouldray to the end of the thirteenth century.

The Rievaulx Granges in 1539

All the Abbey lands were granted by Henry VIII to Thomas, Duke of Rutland and the *Ministers' Accounts* prepared early in 1539 divided the Rievaulx land into three sections. The first named the *Manerium* being the land that surrounded the Abbey and now forms the village of Rievaulx whilst the remaining sections that were later to form the major farms were known as the *Granges of Griff and New-lathes*. The survey of 1539 is reproduced below and includes names that are still in use at the start of the new millennium. The land was measured in acres and the estimated rental values were shown for each named section.

Grangia de Griff

| | a | s | d |
|--|----|----|---|
| Felde Garth | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lath Garth | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Northe side of Lath Garth | 30 | 10 | 0 |
| Morter-po (unreadable) | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Coote Flate | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Thabote Hage | 60 | 20 | 0 |
| Yngraye Close | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Tillestones | 60 | 20 | 0 |
| Jodicfelde | 60 | 20 | 0 |
| Hye le (unreadable) | 30 | 10 | 0 |
| Fatte Pasturæ | 24 | 8 | 0 |
| Thysteley Felde | 40 | 13 | 4 |
| Gardielle | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Stoney Gardielle | 8 | 2 | 8 |
| Gryffe Enge | 40 | 13 | 4 |
| Spenser Ynge | 8 | 2 | 8 |
| Barkehouse Ynge | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| Brodeng cum Baxter Lees | 40 | 13 | 4 |
| Horseclose | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Horseclose | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Upper and Nether Doveholme | 20 | 6 | 8 |
| Shepecote called Gryscote with Grene Close | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| Fogge Close | 10 | 3 | 4 |
| Stoke Enge | 4 | 2 | 0 |

Total acreage of Griff Grange is 491 with a rental value of £8 6s 6d.

Based on the above figures the rent per acre in 1539 can be calculated at 4d.

Grangia de New-lathes

| | a | s | d |
|-----------------------------|----|----|---|
| Shepecote | | | 6 |
| Fewlome Enge | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| Doveholme | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Krynglecarre cum le Sprynge | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| Sowreleez Pasturæ | 30 | 16 | 0 |
| Busky Close | 16 | 8 | 0 |
| Yowsky Parke | 8 | 4 | 0 |
| Lyngerey Felde | 30 | 6 | 8 |
| Thisteley Felde | 40 | 12 | 4 |
| Southfelde | 40 | 12 | 4 |
| Crossflate | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Conygarth Felde | 20 | 6 | 8 |
| Hayeth | 60 | 15 | 0 |
| Belle Close and Lath Garth | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Newte Leez | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Conygarth | | 6 | 8 |

There are 298 acres at New-lathes Grange with a rental value of £6 15s 6d

Although tenants on the farms that were developed from the land at Griff Grange have traditionally paid higher rents per acre than those on land that was originally part of New-lathes this was not the case in 1539 when New-lathes rents represented 5.4d an acre which was 35% higher than the value placed upon the land at Griff.

The valuations are from the Ministers' Accounts which listed the Duke of Rutland's rents for the site of the Abbey and its demesnes immediately after the Surrender of the Abbey and Rutland was required to account to the Crown for the rents that were due. The auditor was Sir Leonard Beckwith a Receiver of the Court of Augmentations and as can be seen from the surveys of the Rievaulx Estate taken a hundred years later the acreages and rentals of 1642 cast some doubts about the veracity of the figures that he presumably approved in 1539.

Although the plots of land were valued individually no tenants' names were recorded in the Ministers' Accounts or in the Rental or Survey which were produced at about the same time and as tenants' rents were recorded for Bilsdale land and for dwellings that were within the Manerium it is assumed that the Rievaulx farms were first tenanted after the Surrender of the Abbey and the will of Richard Bolbie made in 1552 reproduced on page 49 shows that he had established a considerable acreage only 13 years after the land was granted to Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland. No tenancy records have survived for the period between 1539 and 1637 when the Rievaulx estate was surveyed for the Duke of Rutland and as a survey made for the Duke of Buckingham five years later was far more detailed the farm tenancies are reproduced on the following pages.

The Buckingham Survey of 1642

This survey shows every tenancy with fields measured in acres, roods and perches, where there were four roods to an acre and forty perches to a rood. The annual rent for each field was also calculated and shows wide variations in the rents paid per acre, even for fields on the same farm and these variations can be seen on page 8 where rents in pence per acre are shown in the right hand column.

| | a | r | p | £ | s | d |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|---|
| Harmon Brisbye | | | | | | |
| Holdeth the ground called the Carley wherein the Abbey standeth with his house and garth | 14 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 0 |
| One half of Abbot Ings | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Total Harmon Brisbye | 21 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 19 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|----|----|----|---|
| Matthew Brisbye | | | | | | |
| His house and garth | 1 | 0 | 35 | 8 | 0 | |
| Watsonnes Close | 12 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| Penny Piece | 3 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 3 | |
| Hard Inge | 10 | 1 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Bringing Meadow | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Total Matthew Brisbye | 33 | 2 | 35 | 7 | 17 | 8 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|----|----|----|
| George and Widdow Boulby and Ralph Chambers | | | | | | |
| House and garth, Meadow Close and Green Close | 22 | 2 | 30 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| Long Rayles and Calves Close | 31 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 6 |
| Grim Acre and Long Field | 82 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 15 | 10 |
| The Stockings | 36 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 8 |
| Thistely Leaz | 17 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 10 |
| The Barke Swarde and the Bank | 30 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 9 |
| The Ashes | 19 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| High Field | 41 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Part Ings Meadow next William Yeoward Ings | 9 | 0 | 26 | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| The middle part where grow the alders | 8 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | |
| That part next to the lane | 7 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 9 | 2 |
| Total Boulby and Chambers | 306 | 3 | 32 | 54 | 6 | 2 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|---|
| William Kirkham | | | | | | |
| His house | | | | 13 | 4 | |
| One halfe of Abbot Inge | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Harrwood Hays | 238 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 15 | 0 |
| Greencliffe Hagge | 100 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 10 | 0 |
| Mason Holme | 4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 |
| Total Kirkham | 349 | 3 | 0 | 50 | 6 | 1 |

| | a | r | p | £ | s | d |
|---|-----|---|----|----|----|---|
| Steven Sillison | | | | | | |
| House, homestead and Sheepcoat Field | 10 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| The bank and hill joining to Middle Heads | 55 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 6 |
| Buskie Close | 11 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| Long Leaz | 5 | 1 | 26 | | 18 | 0 |
| His ground joining Carlton Moor Close | 39 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 6 |
| The bank being rough ground | 16 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Middle Head being cottagers' pasture | 157 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 14 | 6 |
| Holme Close and Barley Garth | 11 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 16 | 3 |
| Flatfield | 25 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Sheepcoat Field | 35 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 18 | 4 |
| Low Field | 63 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| Foot Head Close | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| The moor called Shepparde Hook | 4 | 0 | 0 | | 9 | 0 |
| Part of Foot Wood Spring | 61 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| Barkers Hole being meadow | 8 | 0 | 23 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| Middle Straw Hagge | 18 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| Total Sillison | 525 | 0 | 33 | 63 | 12 | 6 |

William Kilvert

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|----|----|----|
| His house and garth | 5 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Bank Close being part of The Heighte | 21 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| The Swarde called The Heighte | 55 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| Horse Close | 9 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 6 |
| Stubham Inge Meadow | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Stubble Close being mossie | 2 | 3 | 19 | | 14 | 6 |
| Oulde Wall Close Meadow | 3 | 1 | 29 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| Ground called The Acres being rough ground | 12 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Switterings Meadow | 5 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| Carrounds Ings Meadow | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Waste Holme Meadow | 0 | 3 | 0 | | 10 | 0 |
| Total Kilvert | 122 | 2 | 20 | 29 | 1 | 10 |

Richard Rooke

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|----|----|----|
| House, homestead and Cunnie Garth | 66 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Meadow | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Browne Close | 16 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 2 |
| Halliday Close | 19 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| Far Field | 22 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| The bank and ye hole being rough ground | 17 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| Total Rooke | 145 | 1 | 6 | 21 | 2 | 10 |

Widdow Smith

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| High Gardelle | 32 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|

| | a | r | p | £ | s | d |
|---|-----|---|----|----|----|----|
| John Spence | | | | | | |
| Stilton wherein the house standeth | 51 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 0 |
| Longland Close being part of Stiltons | 27 | 1 | 28 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Home Meadow Close | 12 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Part Meadow Close next Cunnie House ground | 14 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Further Stiltons | 39 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 10 | 5 |
| Total Spence | 144 | 0 | 23 | 23 | 10 | 0 |
| Widdow Mason | | | | | | |
| House and garth | 0 | 0 | 32 | | 3 | 4 |
| Bank Close | 18 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 3 |
| House and garth called Harrisons | 10 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| Lam Field | 4 | 2 | 0 | | 15 | 0 |
| Horse Close | 31 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Buskye Close | 13 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total Widdow Mason | 77 | 3 | 38 | 14 | 9 | 7 |
| Thomas Baxter | | | | | | |
| His house and garth | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Morter Close, Pitt Fielde, Limestone Fielde | 40 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| Little Fielde | 6 | 1 | 30 | | 12 | 10 |
| Land at Hencoat Bank | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ings Meadow | 7 | 0 | 30 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Total Baxter | 68 | 1 | 20 | 13 | 2 | 7 |
| Robert Edwards | | | | | | |
| Birke Close | 13 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 0 |
| Cringle Carr Close Meadow | 3 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Total Edwards | 16 | 2 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 4 |
| Thomas Oram and partners | | | | | | |
| Sowerley Pasture | 80 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Intarke | 26 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| Ashes | 8 | 3 | 25 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Total Oram and partners | 115 | 2 | 32 | 17 | 7 | 2 |
| Thomas Oram for himself | | | | | | |
| Lamb Close | 11 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Hagge Head Close | 4 | 2 | 30 | | 11 | 6 |
| Birke Home Meadow | 3 | 3 | 36 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Total Oram for himself | 19 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 6 |
| In my Lordes hands | | | | | | |
| Hoecliffe Hagge | 99 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 0 |

| | a | r | p | £ | s | d | |
|------------------------|----|---|----|----|----|---|-----|
| William Yeoward | | | | | | | |
| Horse Close | | | | 16 | 8 | | |
| House and garth | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 140 |
| Garth | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 60 |
| Hencoat Bank | 10 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 24 |
| Horse Close | 2 | 0 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 138 |
| Ing Meadow | 9 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 95 |
| High Field | 40 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 40 |
| Total Yeoward | 70 | 2 | 16 | 17 | 1 | 7 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| William Yeoward junior | | | | | | | |
| House and garth | 0 | 2 | 29 | 10 | 0 | | 90 |
| Abbott Hagge | 54 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 30 |
| Part of the Hagge being Low Close | 2 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 3 | | 60 |
| Part of Hagge being ye wood part | 1 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 9 | | 60 |
| Ingerdale Close | 15 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 60 |
| Total Yeoward junior | 75 | 3 | 29 | 12 | 1 | 3 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Alexander Watson | | | | | | | |
| House and garth and New Leaze | 13 | 0 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 60 |
| Low Hagge being pasture | 15 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 36 |
| High Field | 13 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 72 |
| Birke Ing | 6 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 130 |
| Total Watson | 48 | 2 | 34 | 14 | 2 | 6 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| Ralph Watson | | | | | | | |
| Helmsley Stockings | 18 | 2 | 30 | 3 | 14 | 9 | 47 |
| Griffe Stockings | 14 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 36 |
| Total Ralph Watson | 33 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 0 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|----|---|---|----|
| William Seamer and Harmon Brisbye | | | | | | | |
| Summer Fielde | 249 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 2 | 6 | 30 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|---|----|---|---|-----|
| William Bentley | | | | | | | |
| Gardells | 25 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 114 |
| Frismill Close | 2 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 0 | | 96 |
| Total Bentley | 27 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 0 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|---|-----|
| Great Fewlam Ings | | | | | | | |
| Shared by Alexander Watson, John Brand, Harmon Brisbye, Nicholas Brisbye and Thomas Taylor | 15 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 106 |

| | a r p | £ s d |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Thomas Dabsonne | | |
| House and garth and Little Close | 3 0 3 | 18 0 |
| Cow Close | 9 0 22 | 1 10 5 |
| Cringle Carr being meadow | 5 0 30 | 2 0 10 |
| Lower Cringle Carr Close | 2 1 9 | 13 6 |
| Yosker Park | 19 1 15 | 2 17 9 |
| Total Dabsonne | 38 3 39 | 8 0 6 |
| William Huggin | | |
| His house and garthe | 4 3 28 | 2 4 0 |
| Loe Felde | 16 0 0 | 3 4 0 |
| Ing Meadow | 6 3 0 | 3 7 6 |
| High Felde and Misty Bank | 41 1 3 | 6 3 9 |
| Hencoat Hagge in my Lordes hands | 18 0 0 | 2 14 0 |
| The land adjoining | 4 1 10 | 8 6 |
| Total Huggin | 91 1 1 | 18 1 9 |
| Estate Total in 1642 | <u>2731 2 19</u> | <u>457 15 4</u> |
| Estate Total in 1539 | <u>789 0 0</u> | <u>15 2 0</u> |

The average rent of 3s 4d per acre was almost nine times the 1539 figure of 4.5d and according to Bank of England figures the 3s 4d of 1642 would equate to £18 6s 8d in 2002. There were wide differences between types of fields as the average rent per acre for the 19 meadows and ings was 8s 9d and the fact that they were only 4.2% of the total area but accounted for 12.2% of the total rental revenue indicates that meadows were more highly valued though the variations in the rents of individual fields shown on page 8 show fluctuations that defy explanation as the rent per acre for Horse Close was 11s 6d, Birke Ing was 10s 10d and Gardells 9s 6d which were four times the figure of 2s 6d per acre charged for Abbot Hagg and Summer Field. The area previously farmed as two granges had more than trebled in size and this growth had created a rental income from Abbey lands that was more than thirty times that recorded in the Ministers' Accounts a hundred years earlier though as will be seen from figures on later pages rents were then to remain virtually unchanged for another hundred years.

This survey of 1642 provides the earliest surviving complete record of the Rievaulx farms that had developed from the two Abbey granges and provides a starting point where individual farm names are seen for the first time and from which their later development can be studied. Some of the field names can be traced back to the middle of the 16th century and there are family tenancies that were to last for over two hundred years. Clearly the hundred years that had elapsed since the surrender of the Abbey had seen the development of the farms to a stage where they would have been the mainstay of the village economy, employing a local workforce as labourers and servants and also providing trade for shoemakers, tailors, carpenters and blacksmiths.

Tenancies in 1642

A hundred and four years after the Surrender of the Abbey the land classed as part of Griff amounted to 643 acres which was shared between eight tenants.

George and Widdow Boulby and Ralph Chambers

In 1642 the Boulby or Bolbie family had probably been tenants of part of Griff for a hundred years and could have possibly been there before the surrender of the Abbey. In his will dated April 1552 Richard Bolbie decreed 'John my son of the Griff shall have 60s at Griff and 10s in the Low Medowe beneath Griff'. The will of John Bolbie who died in 1567 bequeathed his farm to his sons Ralph (1561-1601) and James (1563-1608) and it was Ralph's widow Jayne and their son George who were the tenants of 306 acres in 1642. As the name of Chambers was sometimes used as an alias by members of the Richardson family Ralph Chambers may have been related to the Boulbies by marriage.

The fields known as Thisteley Leaz, Green Close and Stockings were recorded in the survey of 1539 and the Grim Acre of 1642 could have been a fitting name for a particularly difficult piece of land or could possibly have harked back to the Grim who held two carucates at *Grif* before the Norman conquest.

Thomas Baxter

His 68 acres included Morter Close which had been part of Griff Grange.

William Yeoward

Another tenant of part of Griff whose land included the Horse Close recorded in 1539.

Ralph Watson

His 33 acres included Griff Stockings.

William Huggin

Had 91 acres that were part of Griff in the middle of the 17th century.

William Bentley

His 25 acres known as Gardells was recorded as Gardielle in 1539 and the name was to continue in different forms for over four hundred years and is still known as Gaydale at the start of a new millennium.

Widdow Smith

Her 32 acres called High Gardells were the Stoney Gardielle of 1539.

Michael Allen, William Allen and George Warde

Their 9 acres called Broad Ing and 3 acres known as Baxter Leaz were less than a third of the size of the Brodeng cum Baxter Leaz of 1539. This land was a part of Griff that was transferred to Abbot Hagg Farm in the middle of the 18th century.

Harmon Brisbye

His 21 acres were later to form Abbey Farm which was to remain a working unit until the middle of the 20th century.

Matthew Brisbye

Brigg Ing Meadow was land near Bow Bridge and according to local stories the naming of Penny Piece referred to payments to men quarrying stone for the Abbey. Hard Ing became the name of a small farm that was tenanted until 1823 when its land was divided amongst village tenants. The cottage at the farm became known as Crabtree Hall in 1832.

Steven Sillison

His 525 acres represented the largest area of Rievaulx land ever held by one tenant and included what are now the farms of Middle Heads and Ouldray.

William Kirkham

His 348 acres included land known as Harrwood Hays, known as Hayeth in 1539 and become Harrwood Haire by the middle of the 18th century, Harret Hare at the beginning of the 19th and is now Harriet Air Farm of which Green Cliff Hagg is still a part. It can be seen that the 60 acres of Hayeth had increased almost fourfold in size to 238 acres.

William Kilvert

His 122 acres included the Swarde called The Heighte which for many years was the name given to the land that formed part of what is now High Leys Farm.

Richard Rooke

The survey referred to his house and Cunnie Garth which was the Conygarth listed as part of New-lathes Grange in 1539. This became part of a farm of 145 acres known as Coney House which was recorded as part of the Rievaulx estate until 1823 when its land was divided between Stilton House and High Leys which were on each side of it.

John Spence

Was the first recorded tenant of Stilton House Farm which had 144 acres in 1642.

Widdow Mason

Had 77 acres surrounding a house and garth called Harrisons, a name that was retained until 1732 when the land became part of what was then known as Harrwood Haire.

Thomas Oram and partners

Were the first recorded tenants of what was to become Sour Leys Farm based on 80 acres known as Sowerley Pasture which had grown from the 30 acres listed as Sowreleez Pasture in the Ministers' Accounts of 1539.

Alexander Watson

Had land known as New Leaze recorded as Newlass in the parish registers in 1576 when his father Thomas Watson was baptised. This was the start of the farm now known as Newlays.

Thomas Dabsonne

Held land known as Cringle Carr, recorded as Krynglecarre cum le Spring in 1539 which became Cringle Carr Farm where the Dobson family were to remain tenants for another 275 years. Dabsonne also held land referred to as Yosker Park which had been Yowsky Park a hundred years earlier. Yosker Park then became Osca Park and in one record Moscow Park before the name of the farm was changed to Oscar Park in the early 19th century.

Robert Edwards

Also held land that became part of Cringle Carr and Birke Close which became part of Newlays Farm.

William Seamer and Harmon Brisbye

These two men had 238 acres known as Summer Field which in the middle of the 18th century was divided between the farms of Harret Hare, High Leys, Abbey and Newlays where the fields named Summer Field were still recorded in 1806.

William Yeoward junior

His 54 acres known as Abbott Hagge were originally part of Griff Grange in 1539 and recorded as Thabote Hage. By 1642 Abbot Hagg had become an individual farm and over a hundred acres of Griff land were transferred to it in the middle of the 18th century.

Great Fewlam Ings

Five tenants shared this 15 acres and as William Seamer, a village tenant had another 6 acres known as Fewlam Ing the 16 acres at New-lathes Grange known as Fewlome Enge in 1539 had grown to 21. A map of the Rievaulx estate made in 1806 showed that Fewlam Ings had been divided into nine parts, four of which were described as woody parts and the land was part of the farm known at that time as Harrett Hare and later to become Harriet Air.

It can be seen that individual farms had developed during the hundred years that had elapsed since the surrender of the Monastery but tenancies were still fragmented and the land at Griff was being farmed by eight tenants. There are no surviving detailed surveys until the Duncombe Field Book of 1783 but the changing pattern of tenancies can be followed by a series of documents commencing with the Court Roll of 1670 and the Hearth Tax levied three years later which listed the number of hearths in every dwelling in Rievaulx. The Court Roll listed every Rievaulx tenant, hearth tax was levied at a rate of two shillings per hearth and both lists are shown on the next two pages.

Manor Court Roll of 1670

This listed all the tenants in Rievaulx township and although many were cottagers and smallholders many of the tenant farming families can be recognised.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Harmon Allen | Ann Mason |
| William Allen | John Milner |
| Edward Athey | Nicholas Milner |
| Jordan Boulby | Andrew Munday |
| Judith Boulby | Ann Munday |
| Thomas Boulby | John Munkister |
| John Bowes | Isabel Oworm |
| William Brisby | John Pannett |
| Richard Brisby | George Readman |
| Matthew Brisby | Richard Reeveley |
| Richard Brisby | Ellinor Reeveley |
| Thomas Brisby | Ralph Richardson |
| Elizabeth Brisby | Thomas Richardson |
| William Browne | Marbo Richardson alias Chambers |
| Christopher Burrell | George Richardson |
| Roger Casson | George Rooke |
| John Clemyt | Ann Seamer |
| John Dawson | William Seamer |
| Robert Denton gent* | John Seamer |
| Roger Dobson | George Sigsworth* |
| Ralph Dobson | George Taylor |
| Robert Dobson | Richard Thompson |
| Robert Geldart | Richard Ware |
| Dorothy Goss | William Watson |
| William Huggon | Thomas Wilkes |
| Steven Manners | Elizabeth Yoward |
| William Mason | William Yoward |

*Robert Denton and George Sigsworth were tenants at West Newton Grange which was part of Rievaulx township.

This left a balance of fifty two tenants recorded in Rievaulx of whom slightly more than half are thought to have been farm tenants and it is difficult to understand why only thirty seven heads of households were accountable for Hearth Tax in 1673 including those who had certificates of exemption because of lack of assets.

Hearth Tax of 1673

The number of hearths is shown on the right and farm tenancies are shown where known.

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---|
| William Seamer | Cottage | 1 |
| William Warde | Cottage | 1 |
| William Browne | Cottage | 1 |
| John Moncaster | Cottage | 1 |
| Dorothy Gosse | Cottage | 1 |
| Anne Tasker | Cottage | 1 |
| Harmon Allen | Cottage | 1 |
| Stephen Manners | Abbot Hagg | 1 |
| Judith Boulby | Griff | 2 |
| Elizabeth Boulby | Griff | 1 |
| Ralph Richardson | Griff | 1 |
| George Richardson | Griff | 1 |
| Widow Munday | Griff | 2 |
| Richard Brisby | Griff | 3 |
| William Allen | Griff | 2 |
| William Hoggard | Sowerley | 1 |
| Charles Wilkes | Sowerley | 1 |
| Thomas Wilkes | Sowerley | 1 |
| Richard Geldart | Sowerley | 1 |
| Widow Yeoward | Griff | 1 |
| John Watson | Newlass | 3 |
| Ann Mason | Newlass | 1 |
| George Rooke | Coney House | 1 |
| George Ellecar | Ouldray | 2 |
| Richard Brisby | Abbey | 1 |
| Nicholas Brisby | Cottage | 1 |
| Richard Dobson | Cringle Carr | 1 |
| Christopher Burrell | Harwood Hay | 3 |
| William Brisby | Hard Ing | 1 |
| Dorothy Casse | Cottage | 1 |
| Michael Sunley | Cottage | 1 |
| Thomas Richardson | Cottage | 1 |
| Henry Edwards | Cottage | 1 |
| John Skelton | Cottage | 1 |
| John Bowes | Cottage | 1 |
| Rupert Peacock | Cottage | 1 |
| John Pannet | Cottage | 1 |

Twenty four householders can be identified as tenants of land that had originally been part of the Abbey Granges. Eight of the tenancies were at Griff, nine if Abbot Hagg is taken into account. Eleven were for land that had formed part of New-lathes Grange and it is pointed out that during the 17th century the words Sowerley and Newlass were used to denote specific areas rather than individual farms. One of the tenancies was on land known as the Carley in 1539 and later became known as Abbey Farm and the second farm that was called Abbey came from land described as pasture in the Ministers' Accounts referring to the Manerium. William Brisby was the tenant of 21 acres known as Hard Ing centred on the present-day Crabtree Hall.

The Boulby family tenancy at Griff had begun at least 125 years earlier and possibly before and their connection with the Richardson family had started with the marriage of Elizabeth Boulby to George Richardson in 1611, following which they had 110 acres at Griff. Ann Mason a tenant at Newlass in 1673 was the widow of Thomas Mason whose father Thomas was born at Newlass in 1587.

The pattern of tenancies that had developed after the Dissolution continued for 150 years and the list of tenancies shown on the following page was drawn up in 1694 after the estate had been purchased by Sir Charles Duncombe a London banker.

The Rievaulx farms in 1694

A survey of the estate presented by Sir Robert Clayton to Sir John Hoskyns on 15 June 1694 only listed the names of tenants and annual rentals but it has been possible to identify most of the farms.

| | | £ | s | d |
|---|--------------|----|----|---|
| Richard Brisbye for his farm | Abbey | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Peter Seymour for the same | Harrwood Hay | 42 | 6 | 8 |
| Mr Richard Mann a farm late Kilvert | The Height | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard and George Rooke a farm | Coney House | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| John Spence for Stilton farme | Stilton | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas and Ralf Boulby a farme | Griff | 21 | 2 | 6 |
| John Boulby a farme | Griff | 17 | 2 | 6 |
| Ann Chambers a farme late Ralf Chambers | Griff | 12 | 15 | 6 |
| William Huggon for his farme | Griff | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Elizabeth Yoward part of a farme | Griff | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Yoward for the rest | Griff | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| George Richardson for his father's farm | Griff | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| William Bentley for Gardel lease | Griff | 8 | 7 | 0 |
| Edmund and Ann Munday a farme late Smiths | Griff | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Pretions a farme late Whitehead's | Ouldray | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Stephen Manners for his farme | Abbot Hagg | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Ralph Seymour part of John Bowes farme | Sowerley | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| William Freer his Tup Hagg the rest | Sowerley | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| George Oram for his farme | Sowerley | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas and James Wilkes for a farme | Newlass | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| William and Ann Mason a farme | Newlass | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Dobson part of a farme | Cringle Carr | 5 | 10 | 8 |
| William Dobson for the rest | Cringle Carr | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Matthew Brisbye for his farme | Hard Ing | 8 | 10 | 0 |
| John Casse for a farme late Casse's | | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Robert Walker the rest | | | 5 | 0 |
| Thomas Snowdon for his farme | | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Matthew Brisbye and others for Summer Field | | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| Widow Moncaster for Midle Heads | Middle Heads | 15 | 0 | 0 |

The number of farm tenancies had increased from 25 to 28 which was largely due to farms being shared between different members of the same family and as the combined acreages of what were called Casse and Walker farms would have amounted to little more than 30 they are likely to have been village smallholdings.

A surprising feature is the overall reduction in total farm rents from £457 15s 4d in 1642 to £399 18s 2d fifty years later, a drop of 12.6%. The largest part of this rental income was still coming from Griff though it had dropped from £127 13s 1d to £115 7s 6d, a fall of 10.6%. Although the figures of rents per acre always varied from farm to farm the average in 1693 seems to have been around 3 shillings per acre compared with 3s 4d in 1642.

The Boulby and Richardson dynasties were still continuing at Griff and Brisbye, Yeoward, Mason, Dobson, Rooke and Oworm families were still farming tenants. Peter Seymour or Seamer the tenant at Harrwood Hay was a descendant of Lamberti Semer who ran the Abbey forge before the Dissolution and then managed it for the Duke of Rutland. Peter's father William Seamer lived at a dwelling on the site of the present-day Severadus and Bank Cottage. Edmund and Ann Munday or Munda had about 120 acres at Griff and their farm was known as Munday Farm until the land was transferred to Stilton in the late 18th century.

No surveys or detailed records of farm tenancies have survived for the years between 1693 and 1783 but as rents hardly changed during a period of 70 years it is possible to use the few surviving rent rolls to trace changes in farm tenancies during that period and another document dated 1694 shows the names of tenants at the end of the 17th century.

This was an assessment made on 7 August 1694 for the Constabulary of Rivalx for the raising of money for their majesties by a poll, their majesties being William and Mary.

| | | £ | s | d |
|--|--------------|---|---|---|
| Peter Seamer his wife and two servants | Harrwood Hay | 4 | 0 | |
| George Bowlby his wife and 1 servant | Griff | 3 | 0 | |
| William Huggin his wife and 1 servant | Griff | 3 | 0 | |
| Richard Yoward and his wife | Griff | 2 | 0 | |
| Ralph Bowlby and his wife | Griff | 2 | 0 | |
| John Bowlby his wife and 1 servant | Griff | 3 | 0 | |
| Thomas Bowlby | Griff | 1 | 0 | |
| Edmund Munday and Andrew his brother | Munday | 2 | 0 | |
| John Spence his wife and 1 servant | Stilton | 3 | 0 | |
| George Rooke | Coney House | 1 | 0 | |
| John Flintoft his wife and 1 servant | Ouldray | 3 | 0 | |
| Ann Mason and her neice | Newlass | 2 | 0 | |
| John Belwood and his wife | near Newlass | 2 | 0 | |
| William Dobson and his wife | Cringle Carr | 1 | 0 | |
| William Hawkins | Sowerley | 1 | 0 | |
| George Oworm | Sowerley | 1 | 0 | |
| John Seamer his daughter and a servant | Abbey Farm | 3 | 0 | |
| Charles Wrightson and his wife | Abbot Hagg | 2 | 0 | |
| Richard Brisbye | Abbey House | 1 | 0 | |
| George Garbut | Middle Heads | 1 | 0 | |

This document shows that most tenancies had stayed unchanged and also records the start of the Wrightson family tenancy at Abbot Hagg, John Flintoft's brief tenancy at Ouldray and the start of the Hawkin's family presence in the general area of Sowerley which still continues with their tenancy of Oscar Park Farm in the year 2003.

The document also shows that seven of the Rievaulx tenant farmers could afford to employ servants at the end of the 17th century.

18th century rent rolls

These rent rolls are the only surviving documents that show how tenancies changed in the first 72 years of the century. Tenants with less than 20 acres are not shown as they were not associated with named farms. The figures in the right hand column are the annual rentals.

| Rent roll of 1725 | | £ | s | d |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|----|---|
| Henry Bellwood | Griff | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| John Boulby | Griff | 40 | 7 | 8 |
| Thomas Boulby | Griff | 29 | 14 | 8 |
| Ralph Richardson | Griff | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| Edward Hornby | Griff | 23 | 12 | 6 |
| Jane Munday | Munday | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Dobson | Cringle Carr | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Dorothy Holiday | The Height | 18 | 3 | 6 |
| John Kendray | Oscar Park | 19 | 19 | 2 |
| John Bentley | Sour Leys | 12 | 13 | 6 |
| Richard Rook | Coney Hall | 27 | 12 | 6 |
| John Fisher | Stilton | 35 | 1 | 0 |
| Henry Harrison | Harrisons | 15 | 7 | 0 |
| Robert Seamer and William Burton | Harret Hare | 39 | 8 | 4 |
| Charles Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Hoggard | Moor End | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| George Owram | New Leys | 18 | 11 | 6 |
| James Garbut | Hard Ing | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Stephen Smith | Middle Heads | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Francis Mitchell | Ouldray | 42 | 12 | 0 |
| Mary Seamer and Hannah Wright | Abbey | 41 | 4 | 0 |
| Richard Brisby | Abbey | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 477 | 10 | 2 |

Thirty five years had passed since the estate was purchased by Sir Charles Duncombe and this record from the end of the first quarter of the 18th century suggest the commencement of a policy to reduce the number of small tenancies that was to continue throughout the rest of the 18th century and the early years of the next.

Names from the previous century are still seen on this rent roll and John Fisher had just arrived at Stilton, Dorothy Holiday was farming at what was to become High Leys, Stephen Smith was the tenant at Middle Heads and Francis Mitchell was at Ouldray. The Harrwood Hay of the 17th century had become Harret Hare where Robert Seamer was the tenant. The general area known as Sowerley had been divided into the three farms of Oscar Park — (Yowsky Park in 1539 and Yosker Park in 1642) — Sour Leys and Moor End.

Rent roll of 1730

| | | £ | s | d |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----|----|---|
| William Bellwood | Griff | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| John Boulby | Griff | 40 | 7 | 8 |
| Thomas Boulby | Griff | 29 | 14 | 9 |
| Ralph and Ellen Richardson | Griff | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| William Bellwood | Griff | 23 | 12 | 6 |
| Richard and Thomas Rook | Coney Hall | 27 | 12 | 6 |
| Henry Harrison and son | Harrisons | 15 | 7 | 0 |
| John Fisher and son | Stilton | 35 | 1 | 0 |
| John Barker | Harret Hare | 39 | 8 | 4 |
| Dorothy Holiday and son | High Leys | 18 | 3 | 6 |
| Richard Dobson | Cringle Carr | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mary Seamer and Hannah Wright | Abbey | 41 | 4 | 0 |
| Richard Brisby | Abbey | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| James Garbut | Hard Ing | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| George Owram | Newlays | 30 | 14 | 6 |
| Stephen Smith | Middle Heads | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Francis Mitchell | Ouldray | 42 | 12 | 0 |
| Thomas Kendray | Oscar Park | 19 | 19 | 2 |
| Robert Hoggard | Moor End | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| John Bentley | Sour Leys | 12 | 12 | 6 |
| Total | | 466 | 12 | 3 |

Rent roll of 1733

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----|----|---|
| William Belwood | Griff | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Boulby | Griff | 29 | 14 | 9 |
| John Boulby | Griff | 40 | 7 | 9 |
| Ralph and Ellen Richardson | Griff | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| William Belwood | Griff | 23 | 12 | 6 |
| William Munday | Munday | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Dorothy Holiday and son | High Leys | 18 | 3 | 6 |
| Richard and Thomas Rook | Coney Hall | 27 | 12 | 6 |
| John Barker | Harret Hare | 39 | 8 | 4 |
| John Fisher and son | Stilton | 35 | 1 | 0 |
| Henry Harrison and son | Harrisons | 15 | 7 | 0 |
| George Owram | Newlays | 30 | 14 | 6 |
| Thomas Kendray | Oscar Park | 19 | 19 | 2 |
| Richard Brisby | Abbey | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Mary Seamer and Hannah Wright | Abbey | 41 | 4 | 0 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Stephen Smith | Middle Heads | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Francis Mitchell | Ouldray | 42 | 12 | 0 |
| John Bentley | Sour Leys | 12 | 12 | 6 |
| James Garbut | Hard Ing | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Robert Hoggard | Moor End | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Total | | 487 | 11 | 0 |

Rent roll of 1741

| | | £ | s | d |
|------------------|--------------|-----|----|---|
| William Bellwood | Griff | 48 | 12 | 6 |
| Ellen Richardson | Griff | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| Thomas Boulby | Griff | 29 | 14 | 9 |
| Thomas Ovington | Griff | 40 | 7 | 8 |
| John Fisher | Stilton | 35 | 1 | 0 |
| John Fisher | Munday | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Hoggard | Moor End | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Dorothy Holiday | High Leys | 18 | 3 | 8 |
| Thomas Riccaby | Harret Hare | 39 | 8 | 4 |
| Thomas Riccaby | Harrisons | 15 | 7 | 0 |
| Charles Mason | Abbey | 41 | 4 | 0 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| William Dobson | Cringe Carr | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| James Garbut | Hard Ing | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Thomas Kendray | Oscar Park | 12 | 9 | 6 |
| Thomas Oworm | New Leys | 30 | 14 | 6 |
| Thomas Oworm | Middle Heads | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Francis Mitchell | Ouldray | 42 | 12 | 0 |
| John Bentley | Sour Leys | 16 | 2 | 6 |
| Richard Brisby | Abbey | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 496 | 9 | 6 |

Rent roll of 1772

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----|----|---|
| Robert Weightman | Griff | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Scrafton | Griff | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| George Boulby | Griff | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| John Agar | Griff | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| John Fisher | Stilton/Munday | 66 | 11 | 0 |
| Judith Hoggard | Moor End | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| William Holiday | High Leys | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| John Bentley | Sour Leys | 16 | 2 | 6 |
| Thomas Smorfit | Harret Hare | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Susannah Wright | Abbey | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| William Garbut | Abbey | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| William Strickland | Ouldray | 42 | 12 | 0 |
| George Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| William Garbut | Hard Ing | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| William Dobson | Cringe Carr | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| James Hawkins | Oscar Park | 12 | 9 | 6 |
| John Hornby | Coney Hall | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Oworm | New Leys | 30 | 4 | 6 |
| George Garbut | Middle Heads | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 537 | 15 | 0 |

The five rent rolls on the previous pages provide a means of identifying changes of tenancies that took place between 1725 and 1772 of which the most significant was the reducing influence of the Boulby family at Griff where in 1772 they had been tenants for at least 230 years. Thomas Boulby was the last member of the family to farm at Griff though Thomas Ovington, a Griff tenant in 1741 had married Jane the daughter of John Boulby and taken his tenancy after he died. The Richardson tenancies at Griff had also come to an end by 1772 when Robert Scrafton had taken their farm. The period also saw several changes at Harret Hare where John Barker took over from Robert Seamer and was then replaced by Thomas Riccabby who also became tenant of the farm called Harrisons which was then amalgamated with Harret Hare after which the tenancy passed to Thomas Smorfit.

Another amalgamation of farms took place when John Fisher added the tenancy of Munday Farm to that of Stilton and sometime between 1741 and 1772 Thomas Wrightson's Abbot Hagg became a 229 acre farm after gaining 169 acres of land that had previously been part of Griff.

It can be seen from the rents that apart from these changes the farm acreages remained virtually unchanged and the earliest surviving Duncombe Field Book of 1783 shows how the number of farms had steadily reduced throughout the 18th century.

Field Book of 1783

| | | Acres | £ | s | d |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|-----|----|----|
| Andrew Fisher | Stilton/Munday | 232 | 108 | 6 | 8 |
| John Hornby | Coney Hall | 138 | 43 | 2 | 11 |
| Thomas Holiday | High Leys | 140 | 44 | 19 | 11 |
| Thomas Oworm | Newlays | 144 | 49 | 18 | 9 |
| George Garbut | Middle Heads | 154 | 25 | 6 | 4 |
| William Strickland | Ouldray | 362 | 68 | 8 | 1 |
| John Wright | Abbey | 140 | 45 | 5 | 7 |
| William Garbut | Abbey | 27 | 18 | 5 | 4 |
| George Wrightson | Harret Hare | 411 | 88 | 1 | 3 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 229 | 87 | 0 | 1 |
| Thomas Agar | Griff | 169 | 67 | 2 | 5 |
| John Gray | Griff | 147 | 59 | 13 | 4 |
| William Holiday | Hard Ing | 21 | 11 | 5 | 3 |
| John Hawkins | Moor End | 35 | 10 | 16 | 6 |
| James Hawkins | Oscar Park | 79 | 18 | 9 | 4 |
| John Bentley | Sour Leys | 103 | 28 | 16 | 9 |
| Totals | | 2531 | 774 | 18 | 6 |

In addition to land held by Rievaulx tenants, John Bentley of Helmsley had 26 acres including Gadill Close, Gadill Pasture and Strait Close and William Baker of Bilsdale had 31 acres including High Hagg Plain, High Hagg Wood and Middle and Low Plains in Tupp Hagg Wood. Adding these acreages creates an estate with 2,588 acres compared with the figure of 2,729 when it was surveyed in 1642. Though rents per acre varied from farm to farm and field to field on the same farm the average figure had risen from roughly four shillings for the first seventy five years of the 18th century to six shillings and eightpence in 1783, a rate of increase that was to accelerate during the forty years that followed.

By 1783 the Duncombe policy of consolidation had reduced the number of farm tenancies to sixteen and the most notable change had been at Griff where the eight tenancies of the 17th century had been reduced to two which were shortly to become one. Stilton and Munday were effectively one farm though they were still being shown as separate entities under Andrew Fisher's tenancy in the next surviving field book of 1796.

| Field Book of 1796 | | acres | £ | s | d |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------|------|----|----|
| Andrew Fisher | Stilton/Munday | 307 | 194 | 8 | 10 |
| William Pickering | Coney Hall | 138 | 54 | 12 | 8 |
| Thomas Kirby | High Leys | 77 | 37 | 19 | 7 |
| Thomas Oworm | Newlays | 174 | 69 | 5 | 7 |
| William Strickland | Ouldray | 362 | 81 | 4 | 2 |
| Joseph Smith | Middle Heads | 154 | 28 | 7 | 11 |
| John Wright | Abbey | 148 | 59 | 2 | 8 |
| John Wilson | Abbey | 66 | 37 | 1 | 0 |
| Thomas Bulmer | Harret Hare | 421 | 109 | 6 | 5 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 263 | 134 | 19 | 8 |
| William Garbut | Hard Ing | 23 | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| James Hawkins | Oscar Park | 164 | 51 | 5 | 7 |
| John Hawkins | Moor End | 96 | 26 | 12 | 11 |
| William Dobson | Cringle Carr | 21 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| John Gray | Griff | 231 | 104 | 10 | 7 |
| Total | | 2645 | 1008 | 5 | 1 |

As the 18th century drew to a close the number of farm tenancies had fallen to 15 and the rents had steadily increased during the last quarter of the century. Arthur Young the eminent agriculturalist had produced a very unfavourable report for Thomas Duncombe commenting on the inefficiency of all the estate farms and recommending that the only way to persuade farmers to work more efficiently was to dramatically increase the rents, even double them and Duncombe appears to have acted upon this advice which was also followed by his brother Charles who succeeded him when Thomas died in 1779 and then Charles's son Charles who took over the estate in 1803. The average rent per acre in 1796 was eight shillings compared with six shillings and eightpence 13 years earlier.

The policy of reducing the number of farms had continued and John Gray's sole tenancy of 231 acres at Griff was a dramatic change from the situation in 1642 when eight tenants had shared 643 acres. The name of Sour Leys had temporarily disappeared from the field books and its land divided between Moor End and Oscar Park whilst land transferred from High Leys had increased the size of the second Abbey Farm held by John Wilson.

The next ten years were to see even more changes which can be seen from the survey made in 1806 shown on the following page.

Estate Survey of 1806

This survey was prepared for Charles Duncombe by Thomas Hornby who took the measurements of every field in acres, roods and perches. The summary is shown below and all the field names and numbers are listed on the following pages allowing every farm and field to be identified on the estate map in the appendix and on the maps of the individual farms that are interspersed between pages 24 and 39. Some of the field names survived from the time when they formed part of the Abbey Granges and other names commemorated previous farm tenants. The location of defunct farms such as Coney Hall, Hard Ing can be seen on the estate map and the positions of Munday Farm, Harrison's Farm and the Gardielles of 1539 can also be traced from the field names shown on the maps of individual farms.

| | | Acres | £ | s | d |
|----------------------|--------------|-------|------|----|----|
| Thomas Bulmer | Harret Hare | 376 | 165 | 4 | 6 |
| Charles Duncombe Esq | Griff | 519 | 216 | 19 | 9 |
| William Dobson | Cringle Carr | 45 | 30 | 6 | 7 |
| Andrew Fisher | Stilton | 283 | 259 | 12 | 0 |
| William Garbutt | Hard Ing | 25 | 26 | 0 | 10 |
| John Hawkins | Moor End | 87 | 50 | 10 | 4 |
| James Hawkins | Oscar Park | 131 | 80 | 2 | 9 |
| Thomas Kirby | High Leys | 67 | 60 | 9 | 8 |
| Thomas Oworm | Newlays | 184 | 116 | 0 | 3 |
| Ann Pickering | Coney Hall | 143 | 88 | 4 | 6 |
| William Strickland | Ouldray | 349 | 119 | 10 | 10 |
| Joseph Smith | Middle Heads | 164 | 44 | 13 | 3 |
| John Wright | Abbey | 164 | 107 | 3 | 1 |
| John Wilson | Abbey | 74 | 59 | 8 | 7 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 236 | 207 | 19 | 8 |
| Total | | 2847 | 1632 | 6 | 4 |

At the beginning of the 19th century Charles Duncombe decided to make Griff the estate Home Farm and its acreage increased from 231 acres to 323 plus woodland. Stilton lost 24 acres and Abbot Hagg lost 27 and the remainder was parkland that was turned to cultivation.

A comparison of the farm acreages of 1796 and 1806 shows relatively minor changes had taken place with some farms gaining a few acres and others reducing in size but it is impossible to judge exactly where the transfers occurred and the largest change excluding Griff was at Harret Hare which lost 45 acres some of which may have been transferred to Newlays and the two Abbey farms.

There had been a further significant increase to average rents per acre which had risen from eight shillings to eleven shillings and five pence, a rise of 42.7% and this trend was to continue as further increases that took place in the space of six years can be seen from the figures in the Duncombe Field Book of 1812 shown on page 31.

Stilton House Farm

283 acres

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 321 | Four Days Work | 341 | <u>Gaydale</u> |
| 322 | Three Days Work | 342 | <u>Gaydale</u> |
| 323 | Six Days Work | 343 | <u>Gaydale</u> |
| 324 | Far Pasture and Limekiln Close | 344 | Low Leys |
| 325 | Wood Top Close | 345 | High Leys |
| 326 | Wood Top Close | 346 | Eight and Five Days Work |
| 328 | Bank Head Close | 347 | <u>Chester Close</u> |
| 328a | Bank Head Close, wood part | 348 | <u>Munday Pasture</u> |
| 329 | Barton Hagg | 349 | Whinney Field |
| 329a | Barton Hagg, woody part | 350 | Limekiln Close |
| 330 | Calf Close | 357 | Low Whinney Field |
| 331 | Back Garth | 358 | Little Seed Close |
| 333 | Stack Yard | 359 | Straight Close |
| 334 | Yard | 360 | <u>Ten Acre Close</u> |
| 335 | Low Orchard | 361 | <u>Gaydale Close</u> |
| 336 | Codling Close | 362 | <u>Munday Close</u> |
| 337 | Stoney Close | 363 | Orchard |
| 338 | Low Pasture | 364 | <u>Ox Pasture</u> |
| 339 | Straight Close | 366 | Craggs Close |
| 340 | <u>Gaydale</u> | 367 | <u>Sheep Pasture</u> |
| 332 | House and Garth | | |

Fields 340, 341, 342, 343 and 361 known as Gaydale in 1806 were part of the Gardielles recorded as part of Griff in 1539. Fields 347, 348, 360, 362, 364 and 367 were all part of Munday Farm in 1783.

Newlays Farm

184 acres

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 55 | <u>Bushy Close</u> | 66 | House and Garth |
| 56 | <u>Bentley High Intake</u> | 67 | Back Garth |
| 57 | Fog Field | 68 | Back Garth |
| 58 | High Moor Field | 68a | Back Garth, woody part |
| 59 | Birch Close | 69 | Garth |
| 60 | Cow Pasture Bank | 69a | Garden |
| 61 | Low Moor Close | 70 | Long Garth |
| 62 | House Field | 71 | <u>Bentley Low Intake</u> |
| 63 | Lime Field | 106 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 64 | High and Low Bank Leys | 107 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 64a | High and Low Bank Leys | 107a | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 64b | Gill to Wood Top | 108 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 65 | <u>Harrison Garth</u> | 108a | <u>Summer Field</u> |

Widow Mason was the tenant of Buskye Close and Harrison Garth in 1642 and the Newlays fields known as Summer Field formed part of the 249 acres of that name listed in the Buckingham Survey of 1642. The Bentley Intakes are named after a family who were tenants at Sour Leys in the 18th century.

Abbot Hagg Farm

236 acres

| | | | |
|------|---------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 242 | High Pasture | 271 | Batt |
| 242a | Banks | 272 | <u>Hoofington Ing</u> |
| 243 | High Seeds | 272a | <u>Hoofington Ing</u> boggy part |
| 244 | Far Coach Close | 273 | Harding Close |
| 245 | Middle Pasture | 273c | Old river in Harding Close |
| 246 | Great Seeds | 274 | <u>Thompson Close</u> |
| 247 | New Laid Close | 274a | Old river in <u>Thompson Close</u> |
| 247a | Garden | 275 | High Horse Close |
| 248 | Stone Heap Close | 277 | Bank Top Close |
| 249 | Cowfold | 277c | Bank Top Close, woody part |
| 250 | Orchard | 278 | Sugar Hill |
| 251 | House and Garth | 391 | Stephen Garth |
| 252 | Close back of House | 391a | Stephen Garth, woody part |
| 253 | Calf Garth | 391b | Stephen Garth, old quarries |
| 259 | Batt and Lane to Hill Top | 393 | Low Horse Close |
| 267 | <u>Broad Ing</u> | 394 | <u>Belwood Ings</u> |
| 268 | Little Seed Close | 395 | Sand Bed |
| 269 | Ramper Close | 396 | <u>Bowlby Ings</u> |
| 270 | Mutton Holme | | |

Belwood Ings and Bowlby Ings had previously been part of Griff and were named after families who were tenants in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Hoofington Ing was also part of Griff and the name was a corruption of Ovington, the name of the man who married Jane the daughter of John Boulby and took the tenancy after his death.

Thompson Close commemorated John Thompson who was the tenant of Forge Cottage in 1642 and the term 'old river' refers to the canal constructed by the monks to ferry stone to the site of the Abbey. The name Broad Ing was originally part of Brodeng cum Baxter Leaz which was part of Griff Grange in 1539.

Hard Ing House Farm

25 acres

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 90 | <u>Bridge Ing</u> | 95b | Bank, boggy part |
| 91 | <u>Bridge End</u> | 95c | Bank, south part |
| 92 | <u>Penny Piece</u> | 96 | House and Orchard |
| 93 | Bank | 194 | <u>Ward Close</u> |
| 94 | Bank | 195 | Waste |
| 95 | Bank | 197 | <u>York Close</u> |
| 95a | Bank, woody part | 198 | <u>Mulcaster Close</u> |

Bridge Ing and Bridge End were known as Brigg Ing Meadow in 1642 and Penny Piece was known as Penny Moore. Ward Close, York Close and Mulcaster Close were all named after families who were all living in the village in the 18th century.

Coney Hall Farm

143 acres

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------|-----|------------------|
| 286 | Low Broom Field | 311 | House and Garth |
| 287 | Middle Broom Field | 312 | Calf Garth |
| 288 | High Broom Field | 313 | Horse Pasture |
| 289 | Little Broom Field | 314 | New Plowed |
| 300 | Back Garth | 315 | Ox Pasture |
| 301 | Cowpasture | 316 | Lime Kiln Close |
| 305 | Seed Close | 317 | Square Close |
| 308 | Wood | 318 | Lane Close |
| 309 | High Pasture | 319 | <u>Old Sward</u> |
| 309a | High Pasture, south part | 320 | Isaacs Close |
| 310 | House and Garth | | |

In 1642 Olde Swarde was part of William Kilvert's tenancy at The Heighte which was the origin of High Leys Farm. All the above field names were still listed when this farm became defunct and its land divided between High Leys and Stilton which were on each side of it.

Harret Hare Farm

376 acres

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 77 | Air Close/House Field | 88 | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> |
| 79 | Long Field | 88a | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> , woody part |
| 80 | Harret Plain | 89 | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> |
| 81 | Hagg Tops | 89a | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> , woody part |
| 82 | Hagg Tops | 100 | Acres |
| 83 | Hagg Tops | 101 | Acres |
| 83a | Hagg Tops, woody part | 102 | Calf Garth |
| 85 | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> | 103 | House and Garth |
| 85a | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> , woody part | 104 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 86 | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> | 105 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 87 | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> | 105a | <u>Summer Field</u> , woody part |
| 87a | <u>Fewlam Ings</u> , woody part | 210 | <u>Abbot Ings</u> |
| 237 | <u>Chapel Garth</u> | 210a | <u>Abbot Ings</u> , woody part |

Fewlome Enge was part of the Abbey Grange of New-lathes before the Dissolution and had become Fewlam Ings by 1642. Abbot Ings was known as Thabbotes Ynges in 1539 and was land within the Manerium as was Chapelle Garth which was behind the Abbey Gate Chapel on whose foundations the present-day Church of St Mary was built in 1907.

In 1642 Summer Field was 249 acres in the tenancy of Matthew Brisbye and William Seamer and the land was later divided between the farms of Harret Hare, High Leys, Abbey House and Newlays which all had fields with that name in 1806.

It is thought that Hagg Tops were the Green Cliffe Hagge of 1642 and Green Cliff Hagg Woods are still marked on modern Ordnance Survey maps.

Griff Farm

298 acres

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 233 | High Pasture | 377 | Whinny Bank |
| 234 | High Ashes | 377a | Whinny Bank, woody part |
| 235 | Low Ashes | 378 | Bank Top Close |
| 352 | Ten Acre | 379 | Garth |
| 353 | Well Field | 380 | Garth |
| 354 | Low Pasture | 381 | Stack Garth |
| 355 | Jenny Carr | 382 | Fold Yard |
| 356 | Low Pasture | 383 | Fold Yard |
| 359 | <u>Monday Holme</u> | 384 | House and Garden |
| 370 | Hill Holme | 385 | Garden |
| 370a | Hill Holme, woody part | 386 | <u>Scrafton Field</u> |
| 373 | High Stockings | 387 | Back Garth |
| 374 | Pig Sty Field | 388 | High Griff Garth |
| 375 | Brekon Field | 389 | Square Field |
| 376 | Limekiln Close | 390 | <u>Belwood Garth</u> |
| 305 | Spring Wood | 391 | Horse pasture |
| 351 | Low Ashes | 397 | Boggs |
| 371 | Oak Tree Close | 398 | High Ings |
| 372 | <u>Low Stockings</u> | 398a | High Ings, woody part |
| 372a | <u>Low Stockings</u> , woody part | 399 | Low Ings |

Other land listed in the name of Charles Duncombe esquire was not part of Griff Farm but amounted to another 221 acres making a total of 519.

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 41 | Land at Sour Ley | 399a | Low Ings, woody part |
| 47 | Sour Ley and Green Ley Hagg | 13 | Tupp Hagg Wood |
| 240 | Terrace Bank Wood | 241 | Terrace |
| 254 | Wood | 241a | Plantation in Terrace |
| 276 | Quarry Bank | | |

Monday Holme was originally a field at Munday Farm ; Belwood Garth was named after a family who were tenants at Griff in the 18th century and Scrafton Field was named after Robert Scrafton who had part of Griff in 1772. Stockings were referred to in Richard Bowlby's will made in 1552.

Abbey Farm (1)

164 acres

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------|-------------------|
| 153 | <u>Summer Close</u> | 163 | Street Close |
| 157 | Pates | 164 | Robert's Pasture |
| 158 | Pates | 167 | Low Heights |
| 159 | Pates | 167b | Gill west of barn |
| 160 | Potato Close | 168 | House and Garden |
| 161 | <u>Pail Gate Close</u> | 169 | Potato Garth |
| 162 | Low Gate Close | | |

Summer Close would appear to have been part of the Summer Field of 1642 and Pale Gate is still marked on modern Ordnance Survey maps.

Abbey Farm (2)

74 acres

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------|
| 204 | <u>Cockerass Ing</u> | 219 | House and Garden |
| 214 | <u>Berry Close</u> | 255 | Top Close |
| 215 | <u>Berry Close</u> | 260 | Batt |
| 216 | Monk Hill | 261 | Batt |
| 217a | Abbey Garth | 262 | Beck Ing and Barn |
| 217b | Abbey Garth | 217d | Abbey Garth |
| 217c | Abbey Garth | 218 | Calf Garth |

Cockerass Ing is thought to be a later version of Calcarhowse Enge or Clokkar Howse Ing which were part of the Manerium in 1539. Berry Closes were named after the family who had the Rievaulx Ale House from 1715 until 1783.

Middle Heads Farm

164 acres

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 111 | Wood | 120 | House Close |
| 112 | Old Limekiln Close | 121 | House and Garth |
| 112a | Old Limekiln Close, woody part | 122 | Garden |
| 113 | Back Field | 123 | Intake |
| 113a | Back Field, woody part | 124 | Intake |
| 114 | Back Field | 125 | Intake |
| 114a | Back Field, woody part | 125a | Intake, woody part |
| 115 | Back Field | 126 | Intake |
| 116 | Holm Field | 126a | Intake, woody part |
| 117 | Old Limekiln Close | 128 | Intake |
| 118 | Garden | 129 | Intake |
| 119 | Hill Top | | |

Moor End/Sour Leys Farms

87 acres

These were originally separate farms which were combined in 1806 under the name of Moor End but changed to Sour Leys in 1827.

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 14 | Tupp Hagg Close | 21b | Middle and Low Intake |
| 14a | Tupp Hagg Close, woody part | 31 | Far Close |
| 15 | Tupp Hagg Close | 32 | Far Close |
| 16 | Sow Close | 35 | High Field |
| 17 | Round Hill Close | 36 | Low Field |
| 18 | House and Garth | 39 | Wood Field |
| 19 | Sow Garth | 39a | Wood Field, woody part |
| 20 | High Intake | 40 | High Field |
| 21a | Middle and Low Intake | 50 | Sower Ley Field |
| 53 | Sower Ley Field | | |

William Freer had fields known as Tupp Hagg in 1693

Ouldray Farm

349 acres

| | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 130 | High Plain | 142 | Garden |
| 131 | High Plain | 143 | Limekiln Close |
| 132 | Owl Close | 144 | Limekiln Close |
| 133 | New Laid Field | 145 | Scarth Close |
| 134 | Wood | 146 | <u>Foot Heads</u> |
| 135 | Leys | 147 | <u>Foot Heads</u> |
| 135a | Leys, woody part | 148 | <u>Foot Heads</u> |
| 136 | New Field | 149 | Wood |
| 136a | New Field, woody part | 150 | <u>Holmes</u> |
| 138 | <u>Shepcote Field</u> | 150a | <u>Holmes</u> , boggy part |
| 138a | <u>Shepcote Field</u> , woody part | 307 | <u>Holme</u> |
| 140 | Stack Garth | 308 | <u>Holme</u> |
| 141 | House and Garth | | |

Foot Head Close was a field held by Steven Sillison at Ouldray in 1642 and Leys was known as Long Leaz at the same time. Holme Close and Shepcote Field were also Ouldray fields in 1642 and Shepecote was listed as part of the Abbey Grange of New-lathes in 1539 and probably dates from a much earlier period as 'Ulraye' is thought to have been a sheep farm at the time of the Lay Subsidies of 1301 and 'Ulwraye' was recorded as part of Bilsdale in the Ministers' Accounts of 1539.

Oscar Park Farm

131 acres

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 22 | <u>Near Intake</u> | 42 | Wood Close |
| 23 | Plantation | 45 | <u>Wright Ing</u> |
| 23a | Garth | 46 | <u>Wright Ing</u> |
| 24 | Garth | 48 | House and Garth |
| 25 | Garden | 49 | <u>Cogg Hole</u> |
| 26 | Garden | 51 | Seed Field |
| 27 | Stack Garth | 52 | Rough Close |
| 28 | Pasture End | 54 | New Field |
| 28a | Pasture End, woody part | 59a | <u>Birch Close</u> |
| 29 | Low Pasture | 72 | Far Intake |
| 30 | Stubble Close | 73 | <u>Wilkes Field</u> |
| 33 | <u>Tenter Garth</u> | 74 | Rough Field |
| 34 | Cowpasture | 75 | <u>Sower Ley Close</u> |
| 37 | <u>Far Ashes</u> | 76 | <u>Cogg Hole Close</u> |
| 38 | <u>Near Ashes</u> | | |

Wryght Ing was listed in the Rental of 1539 and Wilkes Field was named after a family who lived in the general area known as Sowerley in the 17th century. Ashes, Birke Close and Intarke were all field names in 1642 and Cogg Hole is still a present-day field name at Harriet Air Farm. The naming of Tenter Garth suggests the earlier presence of tenter frames for the stretching of cloth after fulling.

High Leys Farm

67 acres

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------|---------------------|
| 154 | <u>Summer Field</u> | 295 | Calf Garth |
| 155 | <u>Summer Field</u> | 295a | Calf Garth |
| 156 | <u>Summer Field</u> | 296 | Pates Close |
| 165 | Limekiln Close | 297 | Cowpasture |
| 290 | Sanders Close | 298 | East Field |
| 291 | Low Lane Close | 302 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 292 | High Lane Close | 303 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 293 | Calf Garth | 304 | <u>Summer Field</u> |
| 294 | House and Garth | | |

The position of the Summer Field listed in the 1642 survey can be seen from the locations of the fields with that name on Hornby's map of 1806 which provides the means of identifying the location of the original 249 acres that were held by William Seamer and Harmon Brisbye in the middle of the 17th century and shows how it was eventually distributed amongst the various farms.

Cringle Carr Farm

45 acres

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Far Close | 9a | <u>Kendry Hill</u> , woody part |
| 1a | Far Close, woody part | 10 | Limekiln Field |
| 2 | Back Close | 10a | Stoney Holme |
| 3 | Whining Close | 11 | Low Wood |
| 3b | Whining Close, woody part | 11a | Low Wood, woody part |
| 3c | Whining Close, woody part | 12 | Hagg Plain |
| 4 | Low Leys | 43 | Hagg and Holme |
| 5 | Back Garth and Garden | 44 | <u>Bentley Holme</u> |
| 6 | House and Garth | 44a | <u>Bentley Holme</u> , boggy part |
| 7 | Fore Close | 44b | Boggs |
| 8 | Middle Field | 44c | <u>Bentley Holme</u> , woody part |
| 9 | <u>Kendry Hill</u> | | |

The Kendray and Bentley family were early 18th century tenants of land in the general area known as Sowerley which would have included land that became part of Cringle Carr Farm where their names were still commemorated a hundred years later.

| Field Book of 1812 | | Acres | £ | s | d |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------|------|----|----|
| Charles Duncombe Esq | Griff | 628 | 280 | 6 | 4 |
| John Fisher | Stilton | 261 | 312 | 3 | 7 |
| William Dobson | Cringle Carr | 45 | 39 | 6 | 7 |
| John Hawkins | Moor End | 87 | 64 | 3 | 5 |
| James Hawkins | Oscar Park | 155 | 119 | 17 | 1 |
| William Garbut | Hard Ing | 25 | 33 | 16 | 10 |
| Thomas Kirby | High Leys | 120 | 131 | 6 | 9 |
| Thomas Owram | Newlays | 155 | 137 | 5 | 6 |
| Robert Prest | Harret Hare | 379 | 214 | 2 | 11 |
| Ann Pickering | Coney Hall | 140 | 113 | 13 | 10 |
| William Strickland | Ouldray | 364 | 154 | 6 | 2 |
| William Worthy | Middle Heads | 171 | 53 | 16 | 2 |
| John Wright | Abbey | 146 | 143 | 6 | 4 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 192 | 235 | 15 | 11 |
| Totals | | 2868 | 2033 | 7 | 5 |

The size of Griff had increased to 628 acres consisting of 66 acres transferred from Stilton and Abbot Hagg and the addition of land known as Park Plain. The reduction in farm tenancies had continued as only one Abbey Farm remained and 74 acres from the defunct farm had been divided between High Leys and Oscar Park.

In the six year period between 1806 and 1812 average rents per acres had increased from eleven shillings and five pence to fourteen shillings and two pence and the overall increase between 1796 and 1812 amounted to 77%. In the same period estate income from rentals had risen from £1,008 to £2,033 which according to figures provided by the Bank of England would represent approximately £65,000 in present-day values.

Family tenancies that had already lasted for over a hundred years were as follows :

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Dobsons at Cringle Carr | 205 |
| Owrams at Newlays | 190 |
| Wrightsons at Abbot Hagg | 120 |
| Fishers at Stilton | 112 |
| Hawkins at Sowerleys | 120 |

In 1822 changes took place that reduced the number of Rievaulx farms to almost the number that exist at the start of the new millennium, the exception being the remaining Abbey Farm which was a working unit until the middle of the 20th century. Coney Hall Farm ceased to exist and as can be seen from the figures on the following page 68 of its acres were transferred to Stilton House and 58 to High Leys.

The small village farm of Hard Ing House also became defunct in 1822 and its 25 acres were divided amongst five village tenants, two of whom, Thomas Bowes and Matthew Clark shared the tenancy of the dwelling to which Bowes appears to have given the name of Crabtree Hall in 1832.

Land transferred from Coney Hall Farm

| To Stilton House | | | To High Leys | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| 309 | High Pasture | 17 0 12 | 286 | Low Broom Field | 4 1 34 |
| 309a | -do- south part | 3 26 | 287 | Middle -do- | 3 3 6 |
| 310 | House and Garth | 1 21 | 288 | High -do- | 4 2 1 |
| 311 | -do- | 2 23 | 289 | Little -do- | 3 1 0 |
| 312 | Calf Garth | 2 0 27 | 299 | Back Garth | 4 3 6 |
| 313 | Horse Pasture | 6 1 20 | 300 | High Garth | 6 2 37 |
| 314 | New Ploughed | 9 2 12 | 301 | Cowpasture | 9 1 34 |
| 316 | Lime Kiln Close | 12 2 23 | 305 | Seed Close | 8 3 25 |
| 317 | Square Close | 5 3 13 | 315 | Ox Pasture | 12 2 23 |
| 318 | Lane Field | 5 1 19 | Total | | 58 3 6 |
| 319 | Old Sward | 4 2 33 | | | |
| 320 | Isaac Close | 3 0 20 | | | |
| Total | | 68 3 9 | | | |

Land transferred from Hard Ing House Farm

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| Bridge End and Penny Piece | 4 1 28 | To Robert Richardson |
| Bridge Ing | 4 0 29 | To William Johnson (village blacksmith) |
| Mulcaster Close, Ward Close and York Close | 5 1 34 | To Thomas Robinson (the miller) |
| Banks, House and Garden | 11 2 3 | To Thomas Bowes and Matthew Clark |

The effects of these transfers can be seen in the Field Book of 1827.

| Field Book of 1827 | | Acres | £ | s | d |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------|------|----|----|
| Lord Feversham | Griff | 978 | | | |
| Michael Dobson | Cringle Carr | 57 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| Sarah Hawkins | Oscar Park | 147 | 111 | 2 | 9 |
| John Hawkins | Sour Leys | 77 | 56 | 1 | 6 |
| George Lumley | Harriet Air | 362 | 200 | 16 | 1 |
| Robert Kirby | High Leys | 180 | 183 | 16 | 7 |
| Richard Milner | Newlays | 195 | 179 | 0 | 11 |
| John Rowland | Stilton | 341 | 420 | 16 | 0 |
| Christopher Wright | Abbey | 141 | 148 | 3 | 3 |
| William Worthy | Middle Heads | 170 | 53 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Wrightson | Abbot Hagg | 191 | 238 | 17 | 6 |
| Emmanuel Strickland | Ouldray | 205 | 160 | 19 | 3 |
| Totals | | 3044 | 1809 | 13 | 10 |

The 978 acres at Griff included 336 known as Far Moor Park and 169 that were part of Park Plain. Moor End Farm had reverted to the original name of Sour Leys and had lost 10 acres which together with 8 from Oscar Park and 17 from Harriet Air appear to have been transferred to Newlays. Ouldray had lost 159 acres which cannot be accounted for and may have reverted to moor. Average rents had risen to seventeen shillings and sixpence an acre, an increase of 119% over a 31 year period.

The next seventeen years saw virtually no changes to the sizes of the farms though Lord Feversham purchased Scawton Croft in 1839 and Robert Pearson, his tenant in 1845 had 15 acres that had previously been part of Abbot Hagg being the fields known as Broad Ing, Mutton Holme and Thompson Close. The most significant change to take place was a reduction in farm rents which if measured as an average per acre had fallen to fourteen shillings and ninepence in 1830 and remained at that level in 1845.

This was a reduction of 11% brought about by Lord Feversham's recognition of the very difficult times that farmers were experiencing. Between 1796 and 1808 the war with France created demands that enabled farmers to greatly increase prices for their produce and as an example the price of grain was three times what it had been ten years before. But after the war ended in December 1814 the situation began to change. Bumper harvests and cheap imports combined to reduce prices for meat and grain and after very good harvests in 1821 and 1822 the prices for wheat reached their lowest level for forty years.

On 29 January 1830 over a hundred farm tenants of Lord Feversham petitioned for lower rents and though they quickly apologised the records suggest that he recognised their plight and almost immediately reduced farm rents to a level where the average payment per acre was only fourpence above the figure paid in 1812. The Duncombe Field Book of 1855 shows that these reductions lasted for at least another twenty-five years.

Field Book of 1855

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------|------|----|---|
| Elizabeth Bentley/Albert Milner | High Leys | 180 | 159 | 0 | 0 |
| Job Hawkins | Oscar Park | 148 | 90 | 4 | 0 |
| Ann and James Hawkins | Sour Leys | 67 | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| Michael Dobson | Cringle Carr | 60 | 43 | 0 | 0 |
| Bentley and Strickland | Harriet Air | 354 | 164 | 0 | 0 |
| George Sigsworth | Stilton | 341 | 360 | 0 | 0 |
| John Strickland | Ouldray | 205 | 130 | 4 | 0 |
| Richard and Robert Milner | Newlays | 195 | 143 | 2 | 0 |
| Francis Taylor | Abbot Hagg | 184 | 190 | 12 | 0 |
| William Worthy | Middle Heads | 170 | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| George, Mark and William Lumley | Abbey House | 141 | 115 | 14 | 0 |
| Lord Feversham | Griff | 970 | | | |
| Totals | | 3015 | 1480 | 16 | 0 |

There had been virtually no change to farm acreages since 1845 and the average rent per acre had fallen slightly to fourteen shillings and five pence. The Dobsons were still at Cringle Carr and the Hawkins tenancies at Oscar Park and Sour Leys were still continuing but the Wrightsons had left Abbot Hagg after being tenants for 140 years and the Fisher tenancy at Stilton had ended after 130 years. George Sigsworth had moved to Stilton from Gillamoor and no connection could be found between him and the Sigsworth family who had been at Newton Grange since the middle of the 17th century. As the farming economy improved rents began to increase and the changes can be seen in the Duncombe Field Book of 1870 shown on the following page.

Field Book of 1870

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|------|------|----|----|
| James Hawkins | Sour Leys | 75 | 45 | 14 | 6 |
| Isaac Lumley | Harriet Air | 354 | 310 | 9 | 9 |
| George Wass | Abbey House | 139 | 176 | 18 | 0 |
| John Bentley | High Leys | 180 | 244 | 11 | 8 |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 148 | 125 | 3 | 10 |
| Robert Milner | Newlays | 195 | 229 | 11 | 4 |
| John Trousdale | Middle Heads | 186 | 64 | 16 | 0 |
| John Strickland | Ouldray | 208 | 131 | 3 | 3 |
| Lord Feversham | Abbot Hagg | 221 | 318 | 0 | 1 |
| Lord Feversham | Griff | 459 | 665 | 11 | 6 |
| George Sigsworth | Stilton | 341 | 468 | 14 | 10 |
| William Dobson | Cringle Carr | 39 | 37 | 0 | 11 |
| Totals | | 2545 | 2817 | 15 | 8 |

In 1862 Lord Feversham took over the management of Abbot Hagg which then gained 37 acres and according to the field book entries Griff lost 511 acres which are likely to have been Far Moor Park and part of Park Plain which were recorded as 505 acres in the field book of 1827. There were no other significant changes to farm acreages and average farm rents had risen to £1 2s 1d per acre which was an increase of 53.1% on the 1855 figure.

Average rents per acre shown on previous pages were calculated to give general trends over the eighty seven years between 1783 and 1870 but a valuation made in 1868 provides details that show wide variances between the rents per acre charged for different fields on the same farms and the following extracts from the valuation clearly illustrate the situation. The fields were measured in acres, roods and perches and the figures in the right hand column are the rents per acre.

Lord Feversham at Griff

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|----|---|----|----|---|
| 173 | Arable | 19 | 2 | 24 | 25 | 0 |
| 174 | Arable | 23 | 0 | 34 | 28 | 0 |
| 175 | Grass | 22 | 1 | 14 | 30 | 0 |
| 176 | Arable | 22 | 3 | 8 | 25 | 0 |
| 177 | Arable | 12 | 3 | 14 | 35 | 0 |
| 341 | Grass | 36 | 1 | 36 | 24 | 0 |
| 343 | Grass | 19 | 2 | 28 | 18 | 0 |

Lord Feversham at Abbot Hagg

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|----|---|----|----|---|
| 148 | Grass | 5 | 2 | 21 | 32 | 0 |
| 149 | Arable | 10 | 0 | 19 | 34 | 0 |
| 150 | Arable | 6 | 1 | 10 | 20 | 0 |
| 151 | Arable | 4 | 0 | 15 | 33 | 0 |
| 152 | Arable | 7 | 2 | 23 | 35 | 0 |
| 153 | Grass | 9 | 1 | 39 | 28 | 0 |
| 114 | Arable | 11 | 3 | 32 | 36 | 0 |

Michael Dobson at Cringle Carr

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------|---|---|----|----|---|
| 20 | Grass | 2 | 3 | 28 | 10 | 0 |
| 21 | Arable | 2 | 3 | 35 | 20 | 0 |
| 22 | Arable | 2 | 1 | 19 | 16 | 0 |
| 23 | Grass | 2 | 2 | 31 | 12 | 0 |
| 12 | Grass | 3 | 0 | 21 | 18 | 0 |
| 13 | Arable | 2 | 0 | 32 | 12 | 0 |

John Strickland at Ouldray

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----|---|----|----|---|
| 295 | Arable | 21 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| 296 | Arable | 15 | 2 | 37 | 13 | 0 |
| 297 | Arable | 11 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 0 |
| 298 | Arable | 12 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 0 |
| 299 | Grass/Arable | 11 | 0 | 33 | 18 | 0 |
| 300 | Arable | 9 | 2 | 28 | 18 | 0 |
| 301 | Arable | 13 | 0 | 31 | 14 | 0 |
| 306 | Grass | 11 | 2 | 26 | 7 | 0 |
| 308 | Grass | 20 | 3 | 24 | 18 | 0 |
| 309 | Arable | 9 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 0 |
| 310 | Arable | 9 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 0 |
| 311 | Arable | 8 | 2 | 29 | 5 | 0 |
| 312 | Arable | 5 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

Job Hawkins at Oscar Park

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----|---|----|----|---|
| 248 | Arable | 12 | 3 | 16 | 24 | 0 |
| 249 | Arable | 11 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| 250 | Arable | 4 | 0 | 24 | 26 | 0 |
| 251 | Arable | 5 | 0 | 17 | 20 | 0 |
| 252 | Arable | 5 | 2 | 15 | 20 | 0 |
| 253 | Arable | 3 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 0 |
| 254 | Grass | 2 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 255 | Grass | 2 | 2 | 14 | 22 | 0 |
| 256 | Arable | 5 | 2 | 37 | 20 | 0 |
| 257 | Arable | 5 | 0 | 37 | 24 | 0 |
| 260 | Grass | 8 | 3 | 27 | 16 | 0 |
| 270 | Grass | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 0 |
| 271 | Grass | | 2 | 29 | 25 | 0 |
| 273 | Arable | 17 | 0 | 26 | 7 | 0 |
| 274 | Arable/Grass | 7 | 3 | 23 | 3 | 0 |

George Sigsworth at Stilton House

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|----|---|----|----|---|
| 322 | Arable | 16 | 0 | 26 | 38 | 0 |
| 323 | Arable | 16 | 1 | 32 | 25 | 0 |
| 324 | Arable | 7 | 2 | 38 | 25 | 0 |
| 325 | Arable | 6 | 2 | 20 | 25 | 0 |
| 326 | Grass | 8 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| 327 | Grass | 19 | 0 | 10 | 33 | 0 |
| 328 | Arable | 12 | 0 | 9 | 26 | 0 |
| 331 | Arable | 6 | 2 | 5 | 22 | 0 |
| 313 | Grass | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 314 | Grass | 2 | 1 | 28 | 22 | 0 |
| 315 | Grass | 21 | 0 | 36 | 18 | 0 |
| 316 | Grass | 12 | 0 | 37 | 26 | 0 |
| 317 | Arable | 8 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 |
| 318 | Grass | 14 | 1 | 37 | 28 | 0 |

Ann and James Hawkins at Sour Leys

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|---|---|----|----|---|
| 15 | Grass | 8 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 0 |
| 16 | Arable | 8 | 2 | 22 | 12 | 0 |
| 17 | Arable | 4 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 0 |
| 18 | Arable | 2 | 3 | 18 | 14 | 0 |
| 261 | Grass | 2 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 0 |
| 262 | Arable | 2 | 1 | 22 | 20 | 0 |
| 263 | Grass | 2 | 1 | 39 | 22 | 0 |
| 266 | Grass | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 258 | Arable | 6 | 0 | 13 | 22 | 0 |
| 259 | Arable | 5 | 2 | 34 | 18 | 0 |

Records show that although the Ministers' Accounts of 1539 valued land at New-lathes more highly than that at Griff the situation then reversed and a pattern emerged when rents per acre for the farms closer to Helmsley (Stilton, Griff, Abbot Hagg and High Leys) were traditionally higher than those further afield (Harriet Air, Newlays, Oscar Park, Sour Leys, Middle Heads and Ouldray). Looking at the valuations made in 1868 it is assumed that they would have been based on the estimated values of yield but it is difficult to understand how those entrusted with making the evaluations arrived at decisions that caused rents for adjacent fields of roughly the same size on the same farm and growing similar crops to vary by as much as 60% and it is noted that the highest arable rent of 38 shillings per acre for 16 acres at Stilton was 7.6 times greater than the lowest figure of 5 shillings at Ouldray and the highest figure of 33 shillings for grass at Stilton was ten times the lowest at Oscar Park. A local farmer with 60 years experience has never encountered such a method though he says he once asked a valuer how he could look quickly at all the fields on a farm and arrive at a realistic rent per acre. As the 1806 survey recorded 350 fields on the Rievaulx farms alone and valuations were produced for all the other Fever-sham farms at the same time we can look back 134 years to 1868 and wonder how long the work took and whether the tenants were happy with such variations.

The Field Book of 1895 listed farm tenancies at the end of the 19th century and it was the last record of its kind as no others exist to cover the next 50 years.

Field Book of 1895

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----|------|----|----|
| Isaac Lumley | Harriet Air | 354 | 310 | 9 | 9 |
| Joseph Wass | Abbey House | 139 | 193 | 16 | 6 |
| George Hawkins | Sour Leys | 69 | 43 | 18 | 6 |
| Elizabeth and John Bentley | High Leys | 180 | 244 | 11 | 8 |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 148 | 125 | 3 | 10 |
| John Trousdale | Newlays | 195 | 229 | 11 | 4 |
| Isaac Trousdale | Middle Heads | 186 | 64 | 16 | 0 |
| Edward Trousdale | Ouldray | 196 | 124 | 17 | 3 |
| George John Sigsworth | Stilton | 341 | 468 | 14 | 10 |
| William Dobson | Cringle Carr | 39 | 37 | 0 | 11 |
| Total | | | 1843 | 0 | 7 |

The page that listed Lord Feversham at Griff and Abbot Hagg had no entries to show acreage or valuation.

The field book shows that John Trousdale and his two sons had become the first family to hold three different farm tenancies at the same time with John having Newlays, Isaac holding Middle Heads and George Edward farming at Ouldray. All the other farms had remained in the same families with the tenancies of Abbey House, Stilton, Sour Leys and High Leys having passed from father to son.

The farm acreages and average rents per acre had stayed basically the same over the twenty-five year period but things were to change dramatically when the depressed state of the farming economy seems to have been responsible for rent reductions that can be seen on the next surviving records which are three rent roll dated ten, fifteen and twenty years later and a valuation made in 1909. As farm rents stayed the same between 1905 and 1915 the percentage reductions of the rents for each farm between 1895 and 1905 are shown on the assumption that most of the farm acreages remained unchanged.

1905 Rent Roll

| | | £ | s | d | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|----|---|--------|
| John Bentley | High Leys | 165 | 0 | 0 | —32.5% |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 100 | 0 | 0 | —19.1% |
| William Hawkins | Abbey House | 100 | 0 | 0 | —48.3% |
| Joseph Dobson | Cringle Carr | 32 | 14 | 6 | —11.6% |
| Joel Scaife | Harriet Air | 170 | 0 | 0 | —45.1% |
| George John Sigsworth | Stilton | 324 | 0 | 0 | —30.7% |
| George Edward Trousdale | Ouldray | 106 | 4 | 0 | —14.9% |
| John Trousdale | Newlays | 175 | 0 | 0 | —23.7% |
| Isaac Trousdale | Middle Heads | 51 | 0 | 0 | —21.3% |
| George Hawkins | Sour Leys | 40 | 0 | 0 | —08.8% |
| Total | | 1262 | 18 | 6 | —31.4% |

The Estate Valuation of 1909

This was a national valuation of all properties sometimes referred to as 'Lloyd George's Domesday' and it shows the acreages of the farms and their gross annual values from which can be calculated the assessed values per acre which are shown in descending order.

| | | Acres | Gross Annual Value £ | Assessed Value per acre £ s d |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| George John Sigsworth | Stilton House | 318 | 324 | 1 0 4 |
| Herbert Edward Myers | Abbot Hagg | 190 | 190 | 1 0 0 |
| John Bentley | High Leys | 180 | 165 | 18 4 |
| John and Stephen Trousdale | Newlays | 194 | 175 | 18 0 |
| Earl Feversham | Griff and Parkland | 609 | 525 | 17 2 |
| William Hawkins | Abbey | 131 | 100 | 15 3 |
| Joseph Dobson | Cringle Carr | 42 | 32 | 15 3 |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 153 | 100 | 13 1 |
| George Hawkins | Sour Leys | 70 | 40 | 11 5 |
| George Edward Trousdale | Ouldray | 190 | 106 | 11 2 |
| Joel Scaife | Harriet Air | 353 | 170 | 9 7 |
| Isaac Trousdale | Middle Heads | 171 | 51 | 5 11 |

1910 Rent Roll

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|----|---|
| John Bentley | High Leys | 165 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| William Hawkins | Abbey House | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| George Hawkins | Sour Leys | 47 | 0 | 0 |
| Joseph Dobson | Cringle Carr | 32 | 14 | 6 |
| Edward Herbert Myers | Abbot Hagg | 190 | 0 | 0 |
| Joel Scaife | Harriet Air | 170 | 0 | 0 |
| George John Sigsworth | Stilton | 324 | 0 | 0 |
| George Edward Trousdale | Ouldray | 106 | 4 | 0 |
| Isaac Trousdale | Middle Heads | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| Stephen Trousdale | Newlays | 175 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 1460 | 18 | 6 |

1915 Rent Roll

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----|---|---|
| John Bentley | High Leys | 165 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| George Hawkins | Sour Leys | 47 | 0 | 0 |
| William Hawkins | Abbey House | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| William and Joseph Scaife | Harriet Air | 230 | 0 | 0 |
| George John Sigsworth | Stilton | 324 | 0 | 0 |
| Christopher Barker | Abbot Hagg | 190 | 0 | 0 |
| Isaac Trousdale | Middle Heads | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| Matthew Trousdale | Ouldray | 106 | 4 | 0 |
| Stephen Trousdale | Newlays | 175 | 0 | 0 |

It can be seen that there were wide variances in the levels of rent reductions applied to the tenanted farms on the Rievaulx estate, ranging from the lowest of 8.8% at Sour Leys to the highest of 48.8% at Abbey House and the overall effect was a drop of £580 2s 1d in annual estate rental income which was a reduction of 31.4%. As the rent changes are believed to have taken place in 1896 the situation was to remain virtually the same for at least nineteen years and as the 1915 records are the last to have survived there is no way of knowing how long these levels of rents continued.

The three rent rolls and valuation on the previous pages show that several tenancy changes had taken place. Joel Scaife had moved from Snilesworth to become tenant at Harriet Air by 1905 and William Hawkins was at Abbey House but the other family tenancies remained the same though Joseph Dobson had taken over from his father at Cringle Carr. Within the next five years Lord Feversham had ceased farming at Abbot Hagg and the tenancy was briefly held by Edward Herbert Myers but had been taken by Christopher Barker by 1915. Stephen Trousdale another son of John had become the tenant at Newlays by 1910 and his brother Matthew had moved to Ouldray by 1915. William and Joseph Scaife the sons of Joel were tenants at Harriet Air in 1915.

Although there are no surviving tenancy records for the first half of the 20th century the parish registers and the knowledge of older Rievaulx residents have made it possible to produce records of tenancies that cover a period of 350 years and these form part of the brief histories of the farms on the following pages, including the farms that became defunct and their land transferred to others in earlier centuries.

Harriet Air Farm

In 1539 the Abbey Grange of New-lathes had 60 acres known as Hayeth and it is fairly certain that by 1637 the name of this land had become part of the 238 acres known as Harrwood Hay which was held by William Kirkham together with another 100 acres called Green Cliffe Hagge. As Kirkham also had 7 acres that were part of Abbot Inge and 4 known as Mason Holme he was farming 349 acres and the farm has stayed at roughly the same size for 350 years.

After Kirkham's death in 1650 the farm was held by Christopher Burrell and was known as Harwood Haire but had reverted to Harrwood Hay when Peter Seamer became the tenant in 1682. The son of William, he was born in 1643 at a dwelling on the site of the present-day 'Severadus' and was a descendant of Lambert Semer who had operated the Rievaulx forge before the surrender of the Abbey and then ran it for the Duke of Rutland. Peter died in 1725 and the rent roll for the same year showed his son Robert sharing the farm with William Burton. John Barker had become the tenant by 1730 and his stay at the farm was a brief one as Thomas Riccaby was at Harret Hare in 1740 and had also taken the tenancy of a small nearby farm previously run by Henry Harrison and its land then became a permanent part of Harret Hare. Riccaby seems to have been on uneasy terms with his neighbours as he was fined at a Rievaulx Manor Court in 1740 for forceably making way over the land of Charles Mason and William Taylor and 'hanging a gate where there was never one before'. It was during Riccaby's tenancy that a new house was built in 1757 and the farm was briefly known as Hariot Hare.

No records have survived for the period between 1757 and 1770 but Thomas Smorfit became tenant in the latter year and by the time of the earliest surviving Duncombe Estate Field Book of 1783 the 411 acre farm known as Harrett Hare was held by George Wrightson and as his brother Thomas was at Abbot Hagg they were farming 640 acres which was the largest area of land farmed by one family at one time apart from the period when Griff and Abbot Hagg were both farmed by Lord Feversham.

Wrightson was only at Harrett Hare until 1787 when William Laycock became tenant and the farm was known as Harriot Hare. The tenancies of Thomas Bulmer (1806), Robert Prest (1812) and Thomas Howard (1820) followed in quick succession and the field book of 1827 showed George Lumley at the farm though he married Mary Beilby in Felixkirk in 1825 and six of their children were born at Greendale, Boltby between 1826 and 1833. Thomas Wells had Harriet Air from 1830 until 1837 and George Lumley was again listed as tenant in 1838 and held the farm until 1845 when the field book recorded the tenancy shared by John Bentley of High Leys and Emmanuel Strickland of Ouldray but it is thought they may have only rented the land and that George Lumley's widow Mary and her sons were living at the farmhouse. Bentley and Strickland were still listed as tenants of 354 acres at Harriet Air in 1855 but the 1851 Population Census showed George's widow Mary living at the farm with her six children, employing 6 labourers with her brother James Beilby working as a farm servant and a parish record of 1843 is a mystery as it recorded the marriage of Martha Beilby daughter of Roger, farmer of Hariot Air. Mary's son Isaac took the tenancy in 1862 and held it until 1901 when Joel Scaife came from

Snilesworth to take the tenancy which had passed to his sons Joseph and William by 1915 and held by William until 1929 after which he lived at Bank Cottage in Rievaulx Village where he died in 1948. The next tenant was Matthew Trousdale who had previously been the tenant at Ouldray and he was followed by his son Robert whose children Leslie and Jean Margaret were born at the farm in 1939 and 1940 respectively. The Trousdales held more Rievaulx farm tenancies than any other tenant family having been at Middle Heads, Ouldray, Newlays, Harriet Air and Abbey House. Sydney Fairburn started a family tenancy at Harriet Air in 1952 that is still being continued 50 years later by his son Frederick and as his younger son Jonathan now farms at Griff the brothers are tenants of 635 acres which is almost the same as that farmed by the Wrightsons in 1783.

When Hayeth was part of the Abbey Grange of New-lathes it had 60 acres (as *Harothey* in the Rental it only had 24 acres) and its growth to 238 in the space of 100 years can be attributed to work done by unknown predecessors of William Kirkham whose Harrwood Hay of 1637 had 349 acres. The addition of Harrison's Farm during Thomas Riccaby's tenure created a farm of 421 acres but there was then a steady transfer of Harret Hare land to Newlays that can be seen from the changes that took place between 1783 when George Wrightson had 411 acres and 1812 when Robert Prest farmed 379. The last record of the 19th century showed Isaac Lumley with 354 acres and the acreage at the start of a new millennium is 370 which is only 21 acres more than its size 365 years earlier.

Griff Farm

According to the Domesday Survey of 1086, Grim held a vill of two carucates prior to the Norman Conquest which would have been approximately 240 acres. The vill was named *Grif*, a word whose origin is believed to be the old Scandinavian word *Gryfja* meaning deep valley or hollow and as *Grimr* was also an old Scandinavian personal name there are good grounds for believing that Grif had a strong Danish connection probably dating from the 10th century and possibly like the neighbouring vill of *Tilstun* having developed from an even earlier Anglo-Saxon settlement.

As the Domesday Survey is the only record of Grim's existence we have to theorise to try to form a picture of what life would have been like in *Grif* nearly a thousand years ago, before the coming of the Normans and the most likely scenario is that Grim's two carucates would probably have been divided into peasant holdings of small acreages known as yardlands and half yardlands where the former was about 30 acres. Each peasant family had land which is likely to have been in strips scattered evenly over the whole of the vill and the farming of the land was subject to common rules as all had to fallow part of their land each year whilst cultivating the rest. Animals could then roam on the fallow land until the next sowing and it would be more productive after the natural manuring. Areas of permanent common grassland would have been available and the number of animals allowed to graze would be dependent upon individual peasant holdings.

The scattering of strips meant that every peasant worked some of the worst and some of the best land so that if there was a poor harvest everyone had the same chances to create

enough food for their families to avoid starvation though in normal years the aim would be to create sufficient surplus to create a small income that would at least pay the rent.

At the time of the Domesday Survey this pattern of farming had probably been carried out at *Grif* for over a hundred years and the change of the Lord of the Manor from Grim to Count Mortain is not likely to have made any difference to the way the peasants lived and worked. The vill of Grif held by Grim just prior to the Conquest was said to have had an area of two carucates — about 240 acres and the vill of Tilstun being one mile long and one mile broad was about 640 acres. These 880 acres were part of the land granted by Walter l'Espece to the Cistercian monks from Citeaux who combined Griff and Tilstun to form their largest Grange, yet the Ministers' Accounts of 1539 recorded only 491 acres, casting doubts about the veracity of those measurements.

The Estate Survey made for the Duke of Buckingham in 1642 showed the following eight tenants occupying land that was part of Griff.

| | a | r | p |
|--|-----|---|----|
| George and Widow Boulby and Ralph Chambers | 306 | 2 | 3 |
| Widow Smith | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Baxter | 68 | 1 | 20 |
| William Yeoward | 70 | 2 | 16 |
| Ralph Watson | 33 | 2 | 3 |
| William Bentley | 27 | 3 | 0 |
| William Huggin | 91 | 1 | 1 |
| Michael and William Allen and George Warde | 13 | 0 | 26 |
| Total | 643 | 0 | 29 |

If the land at Stilton and Abbot Hagg, both originally part of Griff Grange is added to this figure the total acreage of 863 is much closer to the approximate 940 acres of the vills of *Grif* and *Tilstun* as recorded in the Domesday Survey.

Although the Ministers' Accounts of 1539 recorded all the Abbot's farm tenants in Bilsdale the only Rievaulx tenants listed were those who had dwellings within the Manerium and the absence of the names of any farm tenants at either of the Abbey granges suggests that there were none but details in the will of Richard Bolbie made in 1552 indicate that he was a Griff tenant of the Duke of Rutland and as this was only 14 years after the surrender of the Abbey it is possible that Bolbie was working at Griff in some capacity before 1538. The Helmsley parish registers provide the names of other families who were living at Griff in the 16th century and though it is not possible to verify if they were all farm tenants the ones marked * were among the first families to farm at Griff after it ceased to be an Abbey Grange.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Akinside* | Charlton | Garbotte* | Peckytt |
| Brand* | Connor | Hood | Reeveley* |
| Brown | Dobson* | Horner | Sleighholme |
| Burne | Duckytt | Huggon* | Wainwright |
| Clemyt* | Emmerson | Lynton* | Ware* |
| Forrie | Greensyde* | | |

As the Rutland Survey of 1637 and the one made for the Duke of Buckingham five years later are the earliest surviving records to list farm tenants we have to turn to the parish registers once more to find a few more families who were living at Griff in the first thirty years of the 17th century.

| | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Addison | Chapman | Humble | Staynton |
| Chambers | Hardin | Richardson | Taler |
| Yeoward | | | |

It is interesting to note that although the parish registers listed details of 29 (30 including the Boulbies) families who lived at Griff between 1575 and 1630 only four of them were listed as Griff tenants in 1642 — Boulby, Huggon, Chambers and Yeoward.

According to the list of those paying Hearth Tax in 1673, the itemisation of tenancies at the time of the purchase of the estate by Sir Charles Duncombe and the Poll Tax List of 1694 the number of tenants at Griff remained virtually unchanged during the rest of the 17th century though there were some tenancy changes, notably the naming of Munday Farm which had previously been Griff land and whose location can be clearly seen by a study of the field names at Stilton and Griff on pages 24 and 27 and the estate map in the same section. The naming of Munday Howl is particularly interesting as the origin of the name of Griff is thought to be an Old Scandinavian word *Gryfja* meaning deep valley or hollow which could also be a description of the word Howl.

Between 1694 and 1725 the Duncombes embarked on a policy of reducing the number of farms and in the latter year the number of tenants at Griff including Munday had fallen to six and to five by 1772 when Munday became attached to Stilton. It was in the same period that 160 acres that had previously been part of Griff was transferred to Abbot Hagg and the location of that land can be judged from the fields listed on page 25 that were named after the Boulby, Belwood and Ovington families who were all earlier tenants at Griff. The effect of this transfer of land and that of Munday to Stilton was to reduce the size of Griff to 316 acres farmed by two tenants in 1783 and in the space of ten years further land transfers to Stilton and Abbot Hagg caused Griff to become even smaller as John Gray was the sole tenant of 231 acres in 1796 and that was still the situation at the end of the 18th century.

At the beginning of the 19th century Charles Duncombe decided to make Griff the Estate Home Farm and transferred 27 acres from Abbot Hagg in 1807 and a further 44 acres by 1812. Stilton had also lost 24 acres to Home Farm by 1807 and another 22 acres by 1812 and the Field Book of 1827 showed Griff with 978 acres including 336 at Far Moor Park and 169 that were part of Park Plain. The names of two of the fields of 1822 can be traced back to 1539 as Doe Holme is likely to have been the Doveholme listed in the Ministers' Accounts and Thorney Holme seems a logical progression from Thysteley Feilde.

The Griff of the mid 19th century was by far the largest farm that ever existed on the Rievaulx Estate and the Population Census of 1851 showed the farm bailiff Ralph Spraggon in charge of 35 farm labourers which was the same number as were employed on all the other Rievaulx farms. The number of labourers employed on each of the other Rievaulx farms is shown overleaf and illustrates the intensity of productivity at Griff

compared with the other farms on the estate. For example George Sigsworth employed four farm labourers at Stilton and also had three male servants who presumably would be called upon to work on the farm so the total workforce including George numbered eight people to cope with 341 acres compared with the thirty six who worked 970 acres at Griff and there was a similar situation at Harriet Air where Mary Lumley employed six labourers and possibly her two sons to farm 354 acres. We see the two largest tenanted farms with a ratio of roughly one person to 43 acres whilst the ratio at Griff was one to 27 acres. Here are the actual figures of the numbers of labourers employed as listed in the 1851 Census.

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|---|------------|---|
| Harriet Air | 6 | Ouldray | 4 | Moor End | 2 |
| Cringle Carr | 2 | Newlays | 4 | Abbot Hagg | 4 |
| Middle Heads | 3 | High Leys | 4 | Abbey | 0 |
| Oscar Park | 2 | Stilton | 4 | | |

It is interesting to see the wages paid to Griff labourers in 1848.

| MALE | | s | d |
|-------------------|------------------------|----|---|
| Thomas Dale | 6 days @ 1/9d per day | 10 | 6 |
| William Holmes | 6 days @ 1/9d per day | 10 | 6 |
| Thomas Hawkins | 6 days @ 1/11d per day | 11 | 6 |
| Thomas Wilson | 6 days @ 1/9d per day | 10 | 6 |
| John Sherwood | 6 days @ 1/9d per day | 10 | 6 |
| John Dennis | 6 days @ 1/9d per day | 10 | 6 |
| William Sigsworth | 6 days @ 1/8d per day | 10 | 0 |
| William Corner | 4 days @ 1/4d per day | 5 | 4 |
| Thomas Dale | 4 days @ 1/6d per day | 6 | 0 |
| William Hindson | 6 days @ 1/3d per day | 7 | 6 |
| Thomas Spraggon | 6 days @ 9d per day | 4 | 6 |
| William Wilson | 6 days @ 7d per day | 3 | 6 |
| FEMALE | | | |
| Elizabeth Jakeman | 5 days @ 9d per day | 3 | 9 |
| Rose Hairey | 5 days @ 9d per day | 3 | 9 |
| Ann Heaton | 3 days @ 9d per day | 2 | 3 |
| Elizabeth Spence | 6 days @ 9d per day | 4 | 6 |
| Ann Gamble | 5 days @ 9d per day | 3 | 9 |
| Jane Cooper | 6 days @ 9d per day | 4 | 6 |
| Mary Corner | 5 days @ 9d per day | 3 | 9 |
| Alice Hoggard | 5 days @ 9d per day | 3 | 9 |
| Hannah Sheale | 5 days @ 9d per day | 3 | 9 |
| Ann Barker | 2 days @ 9d per day | 1 | 6 |
| Margaret Holmes | 1 day @ 9d per day | | 9 |

An interesting comparison can be made between the apparent average wage of 10s 6d per week paid to male Griff labourers and the following record of a meeting in 1838 of the Helmsley Board of Guardians referring to payment of poor relief.

'It is the opinion of this meeting that whereas any able bodied worker can earn thirteen shillings per week over a year no man with less than six children shall be entitled to any payment of poor relief but can make application for a place in the workhouse.' As Lord Feversham was chairman of the Board of Guardians at the time it is curious that in 1848 labourers at Griff appear to have been paid 2s 6d a week less than the figure the Guardians appear to have regarded as a local average wage ten years earlier.

Throughout the period that Griff was the Duncombe Home Farm it was managed by farm bailiffs and although their names do not appear on any surviving estate records the parish registers and details in the 1851 and 1881 Census show that the following men all served in that capacity.

Ralph Spraggon was at Griff when his daughter was baptised in 1843 and was recorded as bailiff in the 1851 Population Census, being affluent enough to employ five servants. William Sherwood was bailiff in 1881 and also employed five servants. He was born at Verbena Cottage in Rievaulx village and married Elizabeth Allison, a member of another Rievaulx family. Hornby Adamson was farm bailiff in the first decade of the 20th century and Alfred Lee Simpson became tenant of the farm in 1921 and was followed by George Harold Leng in 1933. Alfred Metcalfe became the tenant in 1938 and the family tenure at Griff continued until the tragic accidental death of his son Ian on the farm in 1996.

At the beginning of the new millennium Jonathan Fairburn is the tenant at Griff, farming land that has been cultivated for at least a thousand years and it interesting to note that he is still visited by American descendants of Richard Bolbie who was a tenant farmer at Griff in the middle of the 16th century. As Jonathan's brother Frederick is the tenant at Harriet Air Farm history is almost repeating itself as over two hundred years earlier the Wrightson family jointly farmed Harret Hare and Abbot Hagg which included some land that had previously been part of Griff.

At the start of the new millennium 265 acres are being farmed at Griff by one tenant and it is interesting to trace the pattern of growth from the vill of two carucates held by Grim before 1066, which would have been roughly 240 acres that became part of the Abbey Grange of Griff. The Ministers' Accounts of 1539 recorded 491 acres at Griff which had become 643 acres by 1642 and remained that size for another hundred years before the start of the steady transfer of land and reduction in the number of tenants that led to John Gray's sole tenancy of 231 acres at the end of the 18th century. The development of Griff as the Home Farm intervened for over a hundred years but it seems very likely that the present day Griff Farm encompasses the land that formed Grim's vill and represents a farming tradition that has lasted over a thousand years.

Stilton House Farm

The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded *Tilstun* having two carucates to be taxed though the area described as one mile long and one mile wide would have amounted to 640 acres. The name has an Anglo-Saxon origin meaning roughly 'the farm or settlement of *Tilli*', the latter being an old English personal name. Prior to the Conquest the vill had been held by Uthtræd who was a Saxon of considerable importance as he held many manors including some as far west as Knowsley and Speke near Liverpool and as he also held one of the two *Scaltun* (Scawton) manors which probably included land that became Antofts his *Tilstun* and *Scaltun* manors may have been close together on different sides of the River Rye.

There are no records to show how the vill of *Tilstun* was farmed before 1066 but part is likely to have been kept as demesne land whilst the remainder was probably divided into yardland and half yardland holdings of 30 and 15 acres respectively farmed by peasants who would hold their land by making small rent payments and in addition by working two or three days per week on the demesne land and probably more at harvest time under the direction of a reeve appointed by Uthtræd and the peasants' lives are not likely to have changed much after the Conquest as the new Lord of the Manor, Count Mortain was the second largest landowner in the country after his half-brother the king, nor are things likely to have changed after Mortain rebelled and the land passed into new ownership so when Walter l'Espece granted it to the Cistercian monks they inherited a system of farming that had probably been carried on at *Tilstun* for a few hundred years.

Tilstun and *Grif* were then combined to form the Abbey Grange of Griff and remained so for four hundred years until the surrender of the Abbey in December 1538 and a few months later the *Ministers' Accounts* of early 1539 listed sixty acres known as *Tillestones* with an annual rental value of twenty shillings which represented four pence per acre.

The Helmsley parish registers recorded the baptisms of three children of George Halliday who were born at Stilton between 1585 and 1592 which suggests that he must have been one of the first tenants but the first specific record of a tenancy is that of John Spence in 1637 when the farm had 142 acres and five years later he was paying annual rent of £23 10s which was 3s 3d per acre. He died in 1652 and was succeeded by his son John who was still the tenant at the end of the 17th century paying an annual rent that had only increased by £1 10s over a fifty year period. In 1700 his daughter Margaret married John Fisher who had become the tenant at Stilton by 1711 and as he was paying annual rent of £35 1s in 1725 there had been an increase of 40% in the space of thirty years but there were then no further rent increases until the last quarter of the century.

Sometime between 1733 and 1741 John Fisher added the tenancy of Munday Farm to that of Stilton and as the 1783 field book showed his son Andrew farming 232 acres of which 83 acres were at Munday the size of Stilton had remained relatively unchanged for 140 years but in the space of eleven years the rent per acre had increased from 4s 10d to 9s 3d, a rise of 91.3% though the rate of increase on the Munday land was only 29.8%.

Andrew Fisher was succeeded as tenant of Stilton by his son John who was at the farm until his death in 1819 which ended a family tenancy which had lasted over a hundred years and the tenancy was then taken by John Rowland whose 341 acres in 1827 included land that had been part of Coney House Farm and 21 acres that was described as being in Helmsley township. Rowland was paying £1 4s 8d per acre which represented an increase of 164.2% over a forty four year period but by 1845 his rent had fallen to £1 1s 1d per acre and two years later he died at the age of 48 and George Sigsworth became the tenant at Stilton having been born and bred in Gillamoor and farming there before coming to Stilton in 1848. Though some Sigsworths were Duncombe tenants at West Newton Grange in 1670 and a George Sigsworth served as a juror at a Rievaulx Manor Court in 1697 no connection could be traced between the two families.

The size of the farm and the rent per acre were unchanged in 1855 but fifteen years later increased rents reflected improvements to the farming economy and George was paying annual rent of £468 14s 10d which amounted to £1 7s 5d per acre and was an increase of 30% on the rent of 1855. It was still the same in 1895 when George's son George John Sigsworth took the tenancy after the death of his father at the age of 88 but the rent roll of 1905 showed that there had been a substantial reduction in the space of ten years as the rent was £324 per annum which was a fall of 30.4% to nineteen shillings per acre which was still the amount being paid in 1915, the year of the last surviving rent roll or field book. It is assumed that this reduction in rent had been brought about by the very difficult conditions being faced by farmers and it is interesting to note that when the Wombwells sold the nearby Old Byland estate to different private buyers in 1922 the average rents per acre had fallen to 12s 9d having being 18s 1d forty three years earlier in 1879 and as average rents of the Scawton farms were only 12s 9d per acre when the Bolckows sold the estate in 1939 it appears that the depressed state of the farming economy continued to affect the whole area for almost fifty years.

The Sigsworth family tenancy continued until 1927 which was the year that Matthew and Christopher Barker moved the short distance from Abbot Hagg to take the tenancy at Stilton and though Christopher had moved to London, built up a very successful business and lived at Oakhurst Grange, Caterham, Surrey he still maintained his voting rights in Rievaulx. His brother Matthew continued to run the farm in the name of C and M Barker and was followed by Thomas Matthew Barker and the family employed Ralph Curtis as their farm manager until 1995 when Ronald Wilson took the farm tenancy and with his son Robert running the farm brought a new dimension to the pattern of farming at Stilton by introducing intensive pig farming to the Rievaulx estate for the first time in its thousand year history.

Abbot Hagg

The *Ministers' Accounts* of 1539 recorded sixty acres known as Thabote Hage and there is one school of thought that suggests that the 'Abbot's Enclosure', this being a literal translation, could be where William the first Abbot resided before the first stages of the Abbey were completed and if this assumption is correct the origin of the name of the farm can be dated to around 1132/33.

Two documents produced within a few months of each other in 1539 differ widely in their recording of the size of the land that was to become the original farm. The *Ministers' Accounts* listed *Thabote Hage* with 60 acres and the *Rental* entitled 'the demesns of Ryvalx' produced a few months earlier recorded 'abbott hagfeld' with only 24 acres but as the *Rental* contains a number of other suspect measurements 60 acres is likely to have been the more accurate assessment as William Yeoward junior, the Duke of Buckingham's tenant of 1642 held 54 acres known as Abbot Hagge plus another 4 acres of Low Close and wood that were said to have been part of the Hagge.

Surviving records show that Stephen Manners was the farm tenant between 1673 and 1693, the tenancy of Charles Wrightson commenced in 1694 and Abbot Hagg was still a 60 acre farm at the end of the 17th century. After the death of Charles in 1729 the tenancy passed to his son Thomas who held the farm until he died in 1744 when his younger brother George took the farm and it was during his tenancy that 160 acres of Griff land were transferred to Abbot Hagg to create a sizeable farm with 220 acres. Field names of the farm in 1806 clearly indicate that this was land bounded on the east by the River Rye, on the west by Quarry Bank with the road to Ing Dale Howl on the north side and Griff field 392 on the south. Included in this land were the following fields named after previous tenants at Griff : Belwood Ings, Boulby Ings and Hoofington Ing.

No record of the death of George Wrightson could be found in the Helmsley parish registers but it is thought he was still the tenant of Abbot Hagg in 1772 and sometime between then and 1783 the tenancy of the 229 acre farm passed to his son Thomas whilst his other son George held 411 acres at Harret Hare. Thomas still held Abbot Hagg in 1796 when the farm had 263 acres but after Griff was made the estate Home Farm at the beginning of the 19th century the size of Abbot Hagg steadily reduced. Thomas Wrightson died in 1840 ending a family tenancy that had lasted for 145 years and Francis Taylor then took the farm which had been reduced to 191 acres, lost another 7 acres by 1855 and was the same size when Taylor died in 1860 and Lord Feversham decided to add it to the Home Farm. It was still listed as a separate farm with 221 acres in the field book of 1870 but no acreages were recorded for either Abbot Hagg or Griff in the last surviving field book of 1895. A Kelly's Directory of 1890 showed Job Richardson as a farmer at Abbot Hagg but as he was a shepherd at the farm in 1881 it is assumed he was still a farm worker. No tenants were listed on the 1905 rent roll but Herbert Edward Myers was at the farm by 1908 and his tenancy was a brief one as Christopher Barker the son of Simeon of Pockley was paying annual rent of £190 for the farm in 1915 and sharing the tenancy with his younger brother Matthew. Christopher moved to London where he built a successful business and he continued to maintain control of the farming activity though Matthew was

named as tenant of Abbot Hagg in a Kelly's Directory of 1921 and continued to live at the farm until moving to Stilton House in 1928 following which there was a succession of family tenancies which still have links with local farms at the start of the twenty first century.

Walter Fenwick was at the farm from 1928 until 1935 with his son Robert Francis who then briefly lived in the village before moving to Ashberry Farm which though adjacent to and only a short distance from Abbot Hagg is in the neighbouring parish of Old Byland and is still farmed by his son and Walter's grandson Walter who also farms land that used to be part of Hard Ing House Farm. Alfred Dunn took the tenancy of Abbot Hagg Farm in 1935 and farmed there for ten years and the family presence is still maintained in Rievaulx by his grandsons sons Paul and Nicholas who followed their father 'Willie' as tenants at New Leys.

In the year 2002 Peter and Richard Teasdale can look back on a family tenancy that has lasted 57 years and was started by their father Ronald in 1945 after which he had fifty years involvement in local farming and village life being closely linked to the Ryedale Show and serving for many years as chairman of Rievaulx Village Hall Committee. His widow Kathleen and son Peter still live at Abbot Hagg and another son Richard and his wife Patricia live at Forge Cottage which is adjacent to the field on the farm known as Thompson's Close in 1806, named after John Thompson who lived at the cottage in 1642.

This is another example of the farm's links with the past as the cottage is close to the site of the old Abbey Forge and lies next to the field wrongly described in the 1806 field book as 'old river in Thompson Close'. The 'old river', the bed of which can still be seen is the remains of the canal created by the monks to carry stone dug from the quarry in Hollins Wood on the opposite bank of the Rye from where it was brought down Hollins Bank on sleds before being transported along the canal to the Abbey.

Standing near the cottage and looking across Abbot Hagg land one can picture the scene over eight hundred years ago when barges were moving across land that was then part of Griff and along the foot of Terrace Bank Wood to deposit their cargoes of stones that are still part of the Abbey ruins and can also be seen in the walls of cottages in the village.

High Leys Farm

In the Ministers' Accounts of early 1539 is a partly unreadable entry 'Hye le . . .' which were 30 acres that were part of the Abbey Grange of Griff and a record in the 'Rental of the demesns of Ryvalx' of a similar date reads : 'on the South thereof a close of pasture called hye ley cont xxx acres wt two lyttell closes liyng on the Est end of it'. There seems little doubt that these 30 acres formed the basis for the development of the farm that came to be known as High Leys or that the land was part of the vill of *Tilstun* recorded in the Domesday Survey. The Buckingham Survey of 1642 listed William Kilvert as tenant of 122 acres which included 55 which were the 'Swarde known as The Heighte' a name that continued to be used to define the area for at least another two hundred years. Other land held by Kilvert known as Stubham Ing and Old Walls were listed in the Ministers' Accounts as part of the Manerium.

William's father Robert had married Margaret Kirke from an old Bilsdale family in 1609 and the family status at that time can be judged by the fact that when their daughter Margaret was born in Rievaulx 1610 Robert was described as gentleman and it seems reasonable to suppose that he was the tenant of The Height early in the 17th century. William Kilvert was born in 1613 and in 1641 he married Elizabeth Mann from another well established Rievaulx family.

The document detailing the Rievaulx tenancies of 1693 recorded Mr Richard Mann paying annual rent of £34 for a farm described as being 'late Kilvert' and his tenancy was a fairly short one as Thomas Holliday appears to have been at The Height in 1702, his widow Dorothy was the tenant in 1711 and was still at the farm in 1741 with her son William who was the tenant in 1772. William's son Thomas held the farm in 1783 when it was known as High Ley House and had 140 acres and as he was tenant until the early 1790s the family were at High Leys for ninety years.

The next tenant was Thomas Kirby and the field book of 1796 showed that the farm had lost 63 acres which appears to have been transferred to Stilton and by 1806 High Leys had lost a further ten acres and at 63 acres was one of the smallest farms on the estate but things then began to change. By 1812 the farm had almost doubled in size, gaining 57 acres from the smaller of the two Abbey farms which had ceased to exist and in 1822 four years after the death of Thomas Kirby when his widow Ann and son Robert were the tenants, High Leys gained a further 58 acres from Coney Hall Farm which also ceased to exist.

John Bentley moved to High Leys sometime between 1845 and 1850 and after he died in 1862 the tenancy was taken by his widow Elizabeth who was the sister of Richard Milner of Newlays and she then held the farm jointly with her son John who was still at the farm in 1921 but then moved to Scawton Croft where he died in 1926 whilst William Bentley the previous tenant at the Croft moved to High Leys but was only there for a short time as Charles Bowes moved to the farm in February 1928 having previously worked as a farm labourer at Harriet Air Farm. He started a family tenancy that has already lasted 74 years as it continued with his son Sydney and then passed to his grandson Brian who runs a farm with 264 acres in 2003 having extra land that was gained from Harriet Air and had previously been part of Abbey Farm.

Close family relationships have always played an important part in the local farming community and Brian's wife Jean is the sister of Derek Cornforth of Long Plains Farm in Old Byland and their great uncle Belt married Hannah the daughter of Joel Scaife a one time tenant of Harriet Air Farm.

Oscar Park Farm

Two records from 1539 provide different origins for the name of this farm and the earliest of these is the 'Rental of the demesns of Ryvalx' which referred to 30 acres known as 'yowstoo parke' whilst the other record, the Ministers' Accounts produced shortly afterwards recorded land known as 'yowsky parke'. As the Rental contains many suspect entries the latter name is more likely to have been the correct version though its recorded 8 acres must be viewed with suspicion.

There are no other records that refer to the word 'yowsky' and its original meaning remains unknown though the first syllable is recognisable as a word still used by many North Yorkshire farmers for 'ewe' and Richard Bolbie left a 'yowe' in his will of 1552 but by the time of the next surviving survey made for the Duke of Buckingham in 1642 the name had changed to 'Yosker Park' whose connection to the present-day name is far more obvious. The land was 19 acres held by Thomas Dabsonne (Dobson) and as he held a further 7 acres that later became part of Cringle Carr Farm which is a good distance from the present-day Oscar Park it is no means certain that his 19 acres were ever part of the farm that owes its name to phonetic variation of a record from the middle of the 17th century and was also referred to as Moscow Park and Osca Park in local records.

There are no records to indicate how long Thomas Dabsonne held the 19 acres of Yosker Park though Richard Dobson was at Cringle Carr in 1673 and William and Robert Dobson each had part of the farm in 1693 but John Kendray was tenant of what was to become Oscar Park Farm in 1702 and in 1725 he was paying annual rent of £19 19s 2d, which based on other rents paid in the same year, would have been for a farm of about 100 acres. The farm was still the same size when John Kendray's son Thomas had the tenancy in 1730 and 1733 but some time between then and 1741 the farm lost land as Thomas was paying rent of £12 9s 6d in that year and James Hawkins was still paying the same amount in 1772 but his tenancy at Oscar Park may have started nearly thirty years earlier.

William Hawkins was living in Rievaulx in 1682 when his son Jacob was said to have been born at Sowerley which was the name given to a general area rather than a specific farm. The name of James Hawkins appeared on a Rievaulx rent roll in 1702 and in 1725 he was paying annual rent of 18s 6d for what must have been a cottage and a small amount of land and ten years later when Thomas Kendray was paying £12 9s 6d for Oscar Park, Hawkin's acreage had increased as he was paying rent of £2 18s 6d, presumably for land at Sowerley. As Thomas Kendray was not listed on a rent roll of 1743 and James Hawkins was recorded as a tenant in that year it is believed that Hawkins succeeded Kendray as tenant at Oscar Park in the mid 1740s.

When James started farming at Oscar Park in the middle of the 18th century he would have had no idea that he was beginning a family tenancy that would last for over 250 years, a period that has only been exceeded by the Dobson tenancy of 270 years at Cringle Carr and as George Hawkins the great, great, great, great, great grandson of the first James is still farming at Oscar Park there is every chance that the Dobson record will eventually be broken.

Sometime between 1783 and 1796 James Hawkins the son of James became the tenant and the farm gained 87 acres when the name of Sour Ley Farm briefly ceased to exist and its land was divided between Moor End where James's cousin John Hawkins was the tenant and Oscar Park which also gained land from High Leys but then lost 27 acres between 1796 and 1806, had regained 15 acres by 1812 and was a farm with 147 acres in 1830.

When Job Hawkins the son of James married Hannah the daughter of Thomas Kirby of High Leys he was the tenant at Abbey House but the couple then moved to Oscar Park where their son Thomas Kirby Hawkins was born in 1843. Two years later Job was paying annual rent of £114 8s for 150 acres, his rent had fallen to £90 4s by 1855, increased to £125 3s 10d by 1870 and remained the same when Thomas Kirby Hawkins who had married Sarah Strickland took the tenancy after his father's death in 1886. Their son Ernest became the tenant of Oscar Park in 1923 and lived at the farm until retiring to the Old Schoolhouse in 1954, leaving the family tenancy in the hands of his son William who farmed at Oscar Park until his death in the year 2000.

William's son George now runs the farm and the Hawkins family tenure at Oscar Park has already lasted about 259 years, they were living in the general area originally known as Sowerley 320 years ago and George represents the ninth generation of Hawkins in the area.

Sour Leys Farm

The Ministers' Accounts of 1539 refer to 30 acres known as Sowerleez Pasture and the 'Rental' from the same period recorded 46 acres known as Sollarleye which seems to have been another of the odd spellings found in that document as late 16th century entries in the Helmsley parish registers refer to births taking place in the general area of Sowerley.

The first person discernible as a tenant living at Sowerley is William Wright whose three sons and a daughter were all born there between 1584 and 1596 and over 200 years later fields 45 and 46 at Oscar Park Farm were still known as Wright Ing. The Buckingham Survey of 1642 listed Thomas Oram and partners holding 80 acres known as Sowerleez Pasture and as Thomas's son Robert was born at Sower Lea in 1631, it seems probable that another Robert Oram who died at Sowerley in 1625 was Thomas's father and that he was also a tenant very early in the 17th century. As the Halliday, Scaling, Dobson, Geldart and Brand families were all living in the Sowerley area in the first quarter of the 17th century some of their number may have been Oram's partners referred to in the Survey.

No Owrans were listed on the Hearth Tax list of 1673 and other records show that William Hoggard, Charles and Thomas Wilkes and Richard Geldart were all living at Sowerley in that year and twenty years later George Ooram and Ralph Seymour were each paying annual rent of £4 for land at Sowerley and William Freer was also paying £4 for 'his Tup Hagg' which was a field name at Sour Leys in 1806.

In 1725 John Bentley was paying annual rent of £12 3s 6d for a farm that can definitely be

seen to have been Sour Leys and the Bentley family tenancy at the farm continued until some time between 1783 and 1796 as the name of the farm disappeared from the Field Book in the latter year and part of its farmland became part of the tenancy of Moor End which in 1783 had been a 35 acre farm held by John Hawkins who began farming at Moor End some time between 1772 and 1783 starting a family tenancy which lasted for over 160 years during which time the descendants of the two Hawkins cousins were tenants on the adjacent farms of Oscar Park and Sour Leys.

The farm continued to be listed in the Field Books as Moor End until 1822 when for reasons that are not known it reverted to the original name of Sour Leys and John Hawkins was still the tenant of 77 acres paying annual rent of £55 but after his death in 1845 when his widow Ann and their son James became the tenants the farm lost 10 acres, the annual rent was reduced to £45 10s and had fallen to £37 by 1855.

James Hawkins married Tamar Lawn of Old Byland in 1853 and they had nine children who were all born at Sour Leys between 1854 and 1869 and when James died in 1898 his son George became the tenant to be followed by his son James who was the last member of the family to farm at Sour Leys which he left in 1938 when James Law Wrightson took the tenancy and held it for ten years until an earlier family connection with the farm was re-established.

In 1795 Francis Flintoft married Ann Dobson of Lastingham and their son Francis was born in Hawaby in 1804. Some time between 1806 and 1812 the family moved to Sour Leys Cottage and as he grew older Francis junior worked as a labourer at Sour Leys but in 1858 he had a tragic accident and died at the farm at the age of 53 leaving his widow Mary and five children, one of whom John, was farming at Broxhill, Scawton when his son John was born in 1875 and had moved to farm 106 acres at Plantation House, Ampleforth by 1881 where Francis, son of John junior and great, great grandson of the first Francis was born in 1914. Always known as Frank he took the tenancy of Sour Leys in 1948, starting a family tenancy that has lasted 54 years and is presently held by his son David.

Frank Flintoft has been associated with many aspects of local farming affairs including long involvement with the Young Farmers' Association, members of which affectionately refer to 'uncle Frank' and over fifty years association with the Ryedale Show Committee. He also served for many years as chairman of Rievaulx Cricket Club and secretary of Rievaulx Village Hall Committee and these activities are a measure of his long and continuing support for the local community. He now lives at the Old Schoolhouse in Rievaulx where the garden is his pride and joy.

Moor End Farm

Was originally a farm of about 40 acres on land that was part of the general area known as Sowerley and the first identifiable tenant was Robert Hoggard who was paying annual rent of £5 10s in 1725 but as William Hoggard was paying Hearth Tax in 1673 and Robert's daughter was born at Sowerley in 1698 it seems probable that the family tenancy at the

farm had started by the end of the 17th century and was to continue until sometime between 1772 and 1783 when the tenancy of Judith Hoggard ended and that of John Hawkins commenced. The Robert Hoggard who was the tenant in 1725 died in 1734 and it is assumed that the Robert who was listed on the 1741 rent roll was his son and that Judith was the widow of Robert junior but no record could be found of that Robert's baptism, marriage or burial.

The field book of 1783 recorded John Hawkins having 35 acres known as Moor End and ten years later the farm had gained a further 61 acres from Sour Leys Farm making Moor End a farm of 96 acres whilst the name of Sour Leys disappeared from the records until 1822 when the farm once again became known as Sour Leys and the name of Moor End was never again recorded in any Rievaulx records.

Newlays Farm

The Ministers' Accounts referred to 4 acres known as Newte Leez, the Rental recorded the 'common belongyng to Neweleye' and the Buckingham Survey listed Alexander Watson as tenant of 48 acres that included 13 acres known as New Leaze. He was the son of Thomas Watson and as his place of birth was recorded as Newlass in 1583 it is fair to assume that Thomas was a tenant of Newlass land at that time together with Thomas Mason was also living at Newlass in 1587 and whose widow in 1642 held 77 acres that included Harrison Garth which was still a Newlays field name in 1806 and Bushy Close which was also part of Newlays in 1806 and would have been the Buskye Close of 1539.

In 1673 John Watson the son of Alexander paid tax for three hearths and Ann Mason paid tax for one and twenty years later the name of Watson had ceased to appear in Rievaulx records and William and Ann Mason were paying annual rent of £14 for what would have been a farm at Newlass which must have been one of about 70 acres where Christopher Mason the son of Thomas may still have been the tenant in 1702, living at Newlass with his wife Ann nee Oworm who he had married in 1676 she being the sister of George Oworm who had married Mary Mason in 1698 and in 1725 was the sole tenant of the farm that was to become Newlays. George was the son of the Thomas Oworm who was tenant with partners of the 80 acres known as Sowerleez Pasture and the Oworm/Mason marriage seems to have established the family at Newlays where they were to continue farming until 1814.

George Oworm held the Newlays tenancy until his death in 1737 after which it passed to his son Thomas who in 1783 was paying annual rent of £49 18s 9d for 144 acres and by 1796 the farm had gained a further 30 acres and the rent had increased to £69 5s 2d rising again to £116 0s 3d for 184 acres in 1806 and to £137 5s 6d for 155 acres six years later which was the last year the name of Oworm appeared in the Rievaulx field books as Richard Wilson took the tenancy in 1814 and held it until 1827 when it passed to Richard Milner who came to Rievaulx from Old Byland having being born at Byland by Wass.

Milner held 195 acres in 1827 for which he paid rent of £179 0s 11d but this had fallen to £143 2s by 1845 for the same acreage which he and his son Robert held jointly in 1855 and

The Census of 1881 recorded William and Richard Hawkins sons of Job and Ann working as farm servants on their grandfather's farm in Rievaulx whilst their father and mother were living at Stockton on Tees with their three younger children. Elizabeth Milner, daughter of Richard and brother of Robert married John Bentley the tenant at High Leys.

Some time between 1881 and 1895 John Trousdale moved from Middle Heads to Newlays when the farm still had 195 acres and the rent had remained unchanged since 1866 but 1905 saw a sizeable reduction to £175 and it was still the same in the last surviving rent roll of 1915 when Stephen Trousdale had the tenancy that passed to him when his father John died in 1909 and which he held until 1923 when his nephew Albert Trousdale moved to Newlays. He was the son of Eliza Trousdale the daughter of John and Ellen who was born at Middle Heads in 1875 and was living with her father at Newlays when Albert was born in 1895. He was the last of the Trousdales to farm at Newlays and left the farm in the early 1930s when George Humphrey took the tenancy and held it until 1939 which saw the commencement of a family tenancy that has already lasted 63 years and could continue for much longer.

Alfred Dunn farmed at Abbot Hagg from 1935 until 1945 and in 1939 his son William Herbert became tenant of Newlays where his sons Paul and Nicholas still farm in 2003. Their father, known locally as Willie died just before this history was published and was a prominent and well respected member of the local farming community and a judge at many Agricultural Shows who before his retirement worked as a Methodist lay preacher for 67 years.

Ouldray Farm

The Lay Subsidies of 1301 recorded land known as Hulwra as part of the Abbey lands whilst another document showed the name as Ulraye and as its assessed value was so low compared with that of the Granges of Griff and New-lathes it is thought likely to have been a sheep farm. Jacob Crathorne was said to hold one tenement at Ulwraye in 1539 which was recorded in the Bilsdale section of the Ministers' Accounts and over a hundred years later the Buckingham Survey of 1642 contained no reference to Ulwraye but recorded fields known as Sheepcote which were still the names of fields at Ouldray in 1806.

This omission is strange as Richard Wightman of Ulray married Prudence Brande of Rievaulx in 1574 and their son Peter was born at Ouldray in 1579. When Richard died at Ouldray in 1585 his widow Prudence married William Garnett and their son Abraham was born at Ouldray in 1593. Thomas Man and William Ryveley were both at Ouldray in 1595 and four children of Francis Hawkesworth were born there between 1608 and 1621 when the place was referred to as Oowleraye and Owerlaie so it seems reasonable to suppose that these men held tenancies at Ouldray in the late 16th and early 17th centuries before Steven Sillison who was tenant of recognisable parts of Ouldray in 1642, although the farm was not specifically mentioned in the Buckingham Survey which is the only document that refers to Sillison's presence in Rievaulx and also recorded his tenancy of land that was to become Middle Heads Farm.

The length of Sillison's tenancy at Ouldray is not known but Phillipa Ellicar of Ouldray married Richard Marshall of Hawnby in 1643, Margaret Ellerker the daughter of George was born there in the same year and Mary Ellerker the daughter of Brian was born there in 1670. As George Ridman of Ouldray married Isabel Oworm of Sowerlea in 1673 and George Ellerker died at Ouldray in 1680 the possibility of shared tenancies in the area must be considered especially as George Readman and Alles Ellicar were jointly fined 3s 4d at a Rievaulx Manor Court in 1670 for a fold break.

When Sir Charles Duncombe purchased the estate in 1693 Thomas Pretions was paying annual rent of £35 for a farm stated to be late Whiteheads but an assessment made by the Rievaulx constabulary for the payment of tax in August 1694 recorded John Flintoft being at Ouldray and he was still there in 1711. Christopher Dent was living at Ouldray in 1723 but Francis Mitchell had become the tenant by 1725 and was paying annual rent of £42 12s which was still the same when William Strickland was recorded as tenant on the rent roll of 1772 though as five children of Matthew Medd were born at Middle Heads between 1757 and 1766 it is likely that Matthew was the tenant during that period and the Strickland family tenancy at Ouldray probably started between 1766 and 1772.

Eight children of William Strickland were born at Ouldray between 1782 and 1798 and during that period the farm was one of 362 acres and the annual rent increased from £68 8s 1d to £81 4s 2d but by 1806 although the farm had lost 13 acres the annual rent had risen to £119 10s 10d and six years later the acreage was back to 364 and as the rent was £154 6s 2d William Strickland had seen his annual payment rise by £111 14s 2d which was an increase of 120%.

When William died in 1823 the Ouldray tenancy was taken by his son Emmanuel who saw the size of the farm reduce to 205 acres by 1827 and as none of the land appears to have been transferred to any other farm this diminution is assumed to have been caused by an area reverting to moorland. The farm was still the same size when John Strickland took the tenancy after his father died in 1860 and had lost a further 9 acres when George Edward Trousdale moved to the farm in 1895 paying annual rent of £124 17s 3d which had reduced to £106 4s by 1905 and was still the same when Matthew Trousdale took the farm tenancy in 1913 and held it until 1934 when he moved to Harriet Air and the Ouldray tenancy was taken by Albert Coning who was then at the farm until 1942. History then repeated itself as another Medd became the tenant of Ouldray and he was Frederick Medd who moved to Ouldray in 1942 and started another family tenancy that has lasted for sixty years. Fred was the son of Stephen Medd of Old Byland and grandson of Bell Medd of Bilsdale and he married Lizzie Ann Dunn when she was living at Abbot Hagg with her father Alfred and her brother William Herbert was tenant of the nearby farm of Newlays which is still farmed by Lizzie's nephews, Paul and Nicholas. The tenancy of Ouldray was taken by Fred's son John after his father's death in 1970 and in the year 2003 he farms 175 acres compared with the 362 held by his predecessors of the 17th and 18th centuries. One further note of interest is that Isaac Trousdale the son of Isaac who was born at Middle Heads in 1908 became a close friend of Frederick Medd and died at Ouldray in 1962.

Middle Heads Farm

The oldest surviving record naming this farm is the Buckingham Survey of 1642 which referred to 157 acres at 'Middle Head being cottagers' pasture' which compares with the 154 acres held 141 years later by George Garbutt when he was listed as tenant of Middle Heads in the oldest surviving Duncombe field book of 1783. The Buckingham survey is the only surviving record to mention Steven Sillison who farmed the largest area of land on the estate in 1642 which comprised 525 acres that also included the land that became Ouldray Farm and 55 acres of 'hill and bank adjoining Middle Head' and another 37 acres 'adjoining Carlton Moor'.

The only 17th century records to mention Middle Heads are the Helmsley parish registers which recorded the death there of Richard Brisby in 1676 and that of Widow Moncaster who was listed as tenant of the farm when Sir Charles Duncombe purchased the estate in 1693 and is thought to have been the widow of John. As the parish registers recorded the births of their five children born between 1657 and 1667 taking place in Rievaulx it is possible that the Moncaster family were at Middle Heads for forty years.

George Garbutt was at the farm in 1694 and the fragmentary records make it impossible to know his length of tenure but Stephen Smith was at Middle Heads in 1725, paying annual rent of £14 and Thomas Oworm briefly held the farm in the 1740s in addition to his tenancy at Newlays. No rent rolls exist for the years between 1741 and 1772 but the parish registers recorded the birth of George Garbut son of George at Middle Heads in 1769 and the 1783 field book showed George senior paying annual rent of £25 6s 4d for 154 acres. Joseph Smith had become the tenant by 1796 and held the farm until 1812 when William Worthy moved to Middle Heads and was paying annual rent of £53 16s 2d for 171 acres and he was still at the farm in 1855 paying rent of £48 for the same acreage but left Middle Heads two years later when Daniel Dunning briefly took the tenancy in 1860 and kept it for two years after which it passed to William Garbutt.

Some time between then and 1870 John Trousdale came to Rievaulx from Bilsdale to become the tenant at Middle Heads and started a series of family tenancies that lasted for over 70 years and included more farms than any other family in the entire history of the Rievaulx estate.

The Duncombe field book of 1870 showed John with 186 acres at Middle Heads for which he was paying annual rent of £64 16s and the situation was the same twenty years later after he had moved to Newlays and his son Isaac had the Middle Heads tenancy which he held until 1917 when he moved to Abbey Farm where he died in 1924.

Charles Wilfred Humpleby followed Isaac Trousdale as tenant of Middle Heads and was there until 1929 when the farm tenancy was taken by Francis Wilson who was followed by Raymond Skilbeck in 1966.

Coney House Farm

The Ministers' Accounts listed 20 acres known as Conygarth Felde and Conygarth with an assessed rental value as 6s 8d. The Rental recorded 'closes of pasture called conygarth whereyn standyth a howse cont 2 acres' and the general supposition is that it had been an area where rabbits were kept by the Rievaulx monks. The earliest Rutland tenant of land that was to become part of the farm is likely to have been Richard Bowlby who in his will of 1552 left half of the Conyng Garth to his sons Ralph and Matthew and half to his daughter Jane Rowland.

The Helmsley parish registers recorded the death of Alice Jackson in 1596 at The Conye House, John Richardson was said to have been living at Cunnislande in 1606, John Hallidae the son of John was born at the same place in 1621 and Dorothy Cunnie the daughter of Richard was born there in the same year. Each of these families could have been tenants at Coney House but the earliest person definitely recognisable as a farm tenant was Richard Rooke who held 145 acres in 1642 including 55 known as Cunnie Garth and as the parish clerk listed the birth of Elizabeth Rooke daughter of Richard taking place at Summer Field in 1636 and those of another four of Richard's children taking place at Newlass between 1636 and 1649 it seems likely that his tenancy at what was to become Coney House Farm started early in the 17th century, a supposition strengthened by the fact that Ralph Rooke the son of George was born at Newlass in 1601.

The George Rooke who paid tax for one hearth in 1673 is likely to have been the son of Richard born in 1638 and in 1693 he was joint tenant of Coney House Farm with another Richard Rooke who is likely to have been his son who was listed as the sole tenant in 1725 when he was paying annual rent of £27 12s 6d. History then repeated itself as Richard Rook and his son Thomas shared the tenancy in 1731 and 1733, Thomas being the last member of the Rook family to be recorded at the farm in the rent roll of 1742. As there are no surviving rent rolls for the years between then and 1772 it is not possible to know when the Rook family tenancy ended though John son of Richard died in Rievaulx in 1751.

John Hornby was listed as the tenant in 1772 and eleven years later he had 138 acres known as Coney Hall Farm for which he was paying annual rent of £43 2s 11d which had increased to £54 12s 6d when a Duncombe field book recorded William Pickering as tenant in 1796. Ten years later William's widow Ann was faced with an increase of £33 12s when she paid £88 4s 6d for 143 acres and then paid £113 13s for the same acreage in 1812 and she was the last tenant of the farm whose name last appeared in the field book of 1822 after which 68 of its acres were transferred to Stilton and 58 to High Leys and a name that appeared in the Ministers' Accounts almost 300 years earlier became a forgotten memory.

One aspect of the transfer deserves comment as the 1806 estate map showed the fields of Coney Hall Farm sited between Stilton and High Leys which were both part of Griff Grange in 1539 yet Conygarth Felde and Conygarth were both listed as part of the Grange of New-lathes of which all the other land recorded lay to the north of the 30 acres known as Hye Ley. Perhaps the Granges overlapped or names changed as farms developed but the real answer is lost in the mist of time.

Abbey Farm

The first record of land that formed part of the two farms that were eventually given the name of Abbey Farm was contained in the description of land recorded as part of the Manerium in the Ministers' Accounts of 1539. The Kyrkegarthe et Karloo occupied 11 acres and can be recognised as the 14 acres known as the Carley held by Harmon Brisbye in 1642 when he was also tenant of half of Abbot Ings, the Thabote Ynges of 1539. Another piece of land was referred to as Calcarhousse Enge in the same Accounts and as Clokkar Howse Garth in the Survey of the Abbey lands made in the same year and logic suggests that in the years between 1539 and 1806 the name had changed to Cockerass Ing which was a field name at Abbey Farm in the latter year.

This was the smaller of the two farms that were given the name of Abbey which was the only one recognisable as such in the Buckingham Survey of 1642 and 31 years later Richard Brisby appears to have been the tenant when he paid tax for a dwelling with one hearth and was paying annual rent of £12 for the farm in 1693 but the Poll Tax List of 1694 introduced a further dimension as Richard Brisby was assessed for tax of 1 shilling but John Seamer, his daughter and a servant were assessed for 3 shillings and they were at a larger farm that also came to be given the name of Abbey.

By 1725 the larger Abbey farm was held by Mary Seamer and Hannah Wright who is thought to have been Mary's daughter born out of wedlock in 1704. They were paying annual rent of £41 4s and were still the tenants in 1733 but Mary died in 1736 and the tenancy was taken by Charles Mason whose origins are unknown but he died in 1757 and the fragmentary nature of the surviving records make it difficult to be certain about the next tenancy but it is thought that he was Christopher Wright whose widow Susannah was at the farm in 1772 and was followed by their son John who in 1783 was paying annual rent of £45 5s 7d for 140 acres.

He continued to hold the farm until his death in 1818 when his son Christopher became the tenant and then held the farm until 1835 when the tenancy passed to Job Hawkins who farmed at Abbey until 1851 when he moved to Oscar Park and the Abbey Farm tenancy was taken by George, William and Mark Lumley the sons of John and Mary and they held the tenancy until 1872 when it passed to George Wass who came to Rievaulx from Farndale and was followed by his son Joseph who had the tenancy in 1895 when he was paying annual rent of £193 16s 6d for 139 acres.

Some time between then and 1905 Abbey Farm became one of the tenancies held by the Trousdale family as Isaac of that name was at the farm in the latter year paying annual rent that had been reduced to £51 and he held the tenancy until he died in 1924 when it passed to William Thomas Hawkins who was the last person to farm at Abbey House as it became a workshop for the Ministry of Works stonemasons in 1952 and a new building on the site now houses an excellent permanent exhibition created by English Heritage that tells the story of the development and history of Rievaulx Abbey.

As stated on the previous page the smaller of the original two Abbey Farms had its beginnings in the Kyrkegarth et Karloo of 1539 which was known as the Carley in 1642 when Harmon Brisbye was the tenant and he may have been at that place when his son John was born in Rievaulx in 1618. The Brisbye family tenancy then continued until at least 1743 when Richard Brisbye died and there is then a void in the records as there are no surviving rent rolls for the next 29 years and William Garbutt was listed as the tenant of the small farm in 1772 and still held it in 1787 when there were 66 acres but John Wilson had become the tenant by 1796 when he was paying annual rent of £37 1s for the 66 acres and ten years later the farm had gained a further 8 acres and Wilson's rent had increased to £59 8s 7d. Sometime between 1806 and 1812 there was a complete change when the two Abbey farms that had previously had a combined acreage of 238 were reduced to one with 146 acres where John Wright was still the tenant but appears to have had to change his abode and there was a further reduction before 1822 when the farm only had 87 acres and when Christopher Wright took the tenancy in 1827 it had 113 acres but gained a further 28 acres before 1845.

The estate map of 1806 shows the farm buildings of the larger of the two farms to be situated near what were known as Low Heights whilst the farmhouse of the smaller farm was situated close to the Abbey where John Wright had to move taking the 74 acres previously held by John Wilson to which were added 72 acres from his old farm from which 53 acres were transferred to High Leys leaving one surviving Abbey Farm with 146 acres whose tenants over the following 140 years are listed on the previous page.

Munday Farm

Though the name of this farm only appeared in the Duncombe Field Books of 1783 and 1796 it existed in 1693 when Ann and Andrew Munday paid annual rent of £18 for a 'farme previously Smiths', Andrew being the son of William who was baptised in Helmsley in 1658.

He was listed as a Rievaulx tenant in 1702 and though there is no record of his burial in the parish registers his widow Jane was paying annual rent of £23 for a farm in 1725 and she was paying the same rent in 1733 but there is then no listing of a comparable rent being paid in 1743 and 1772 when all the other farm rents can be accounted for and the next record of the farm is Andrew Fisher's tenancy in 1783 when he was also tenant at Stilton House. The 83 acres of Munday Farm were shown separately and thirteen years later it was still listed as a separate 156 acre tenancy of Andrew Fisher but the farm name then disappeared from the field books and its land was amalgamated with that of Stilton.

No map survives to show the full extent of the site of Munday Farm but some of its field names in 1783 can be seen as part of Stilton on the farm map of 1806 and the naming of Park Wall Close in 1783 is a further indication of its position.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Ten Acre Close | Field 360 | Ox Pasture | Field 364 |
| Sheep Pasture | Field 367 | Chester Close | Field 347 |
| Munday Pasture | Field 348 | Munday Garth | Field 362 |

Hard Ing House Farm

This small farm that used to be in Rievaulx village owes its name to the land described as Hardye Inge in the Grant of 1539 and was 10 acres described as Hard Inge in the Buckingham Survey of 1642. A field known as Penny Piece listed in the same survey was still a field at Hard Ing House Farm in 1806 and the Bridge Ing of the same period was earlier described by an entry in the Rental of 1539 which referred to 'on the northwest therof and of the Brygg called boobryg a close of medoe called Brygyng cont iij acres' which in 1642 was listed as 6 acres known as Bringing Meadow. The first recorded tenant at the farm was Matthew Brisbye in 1642 but as the Brisby family were living in Rievaulx in 1617 they could have been at the farm early in the 17th century and they remained there until some time between 1713 and 1725.

William Brisby was the tenant in 1673 and another Matthew was at the farm in 1693 followed by his widow Jane who was listed as tenant in 1713 but she must have left before 1725 as James Garbut was listed as tenant in that year, paying annual rent of £4 7s which was still the same in 1741 but had risen to £6 by 1772 when his son William was at Hard Ing.

The 1783 field book listed Hard Ing as a small farm of 21 acres where William Holiday was the tenant paying rent of £11 5s 3d but William Garbut had returned to the farm by 1787 and also had the tenancy of the smaller of the Abbey farms though he had lost the latter tenancy by 1796 and was paying rent of £16 3s for 23 acres which included Bridge Ing, Bridge End, Penny Piece, Mulcaster Close and York Close. His rent had increased to £26 0s 10d by 1806 and to £33 16s 10d six years later and Hard Ing House Farm ceased to exist in 1822 when Thomas Bowes became the tenant of the dwelling and 7 acres, Robert Richardson took Bridge End and Penny Piece and William Johnson the blacksmith took Bridge Ing.

Thomas Bowes married Mary Wainwright in 1819 and their first two children Joseph and John were born at Alexandra Cottage in 1819 and 1822 respectively before the family moved to Hard Ing House which Thomas appears to have re-named Crabtree Hall by the time his daughter Hannah was baptised in 1824 as it was her place of birth and that of another six of Thomas's children listed in the Helmsley parish registers.

Harrison Farm

The name of this farm only appeared in Duncombe rent rolls in the first three decades of the 18th century though in 1642 Widow Mason paid annual rent of £3 6s 8d for 10 acres and a house and garth called Harrisons and in 1725 Henry Harrison was paying rent of £15 7s for a farm that must have had about 90 acres which by 1733 was in the joint tenancy of Henry Harrison and son but by 1741 Thomas Riccaby the tenant of Harret Hare was paying the same rent for the farm which by 1772 had become part of the 411 acres farm then held by Thomas Smorfit. The general location of the farm can be judged from the position of Harrison Garth which was field 69 at Newlays Farm in 1806.

Cringle Carr Farm

The name of the farm can be traced back to the 16 acres that had been part of the Abbey Grange of New-lathes and listed as Krynglecarre-cum-le-Spring in the Grant of 1539 with the Spring referred to being a young wood. The Rental document prepared at a similar date listed a close of meadow called Cryngell Carr which contained 8 acres.

The earliest surviving record of a farm tenancy was that of Thomas Dabsonne (Dobson) in 1637 and in 1642 he held 5 acres of Cringle Carr being meadow and 2 acres known as Lower Cringle Carr Close which together with his other 12 acres amounted to a holding of 19 acres, not including his 19 acres known as Yosker Park which was land that became part of the present-day Oscar Park Farm. As Robert Edwards also held 3 acres called Cringle Carr Close Meadow there were 22 acres that could be identified as the beginnings of the modern farm.

It is possible that the Dobson family were tenants of the farm at least fifty years earlier as Alexander Dobson was living at Newlass in 1583 and as Elizabeth Dobson was 80 years of age when she died at Newlass in 1593 the family could have been living in the area before the Surrender of the Abbey. When Ann Kyldale died at Newlass in 1597 her description as a servant of William Dobson suggests that he must have been a farm tenant at the end of the 16th century and a hundred years later in 1694 two of his descendants were farming at Cringle Carr with Robert Dobson paying annual rent of £5 10s 8d for part of a farm and William Dobson paying £4 3s 4d for the rest. No acreages were listed but if the rents shown on the survey document of 1694 were roughly proportionate to the farm acreages the total of £9 14s 0d being paid by the Dobsons represented approximately 50 acres.

The size of the farm reduced dramatically in the next thirty years as Richard Dobson's rent of £4 3s 4d in 1725 would have been for little more than 20 acres and that situation remained unchanged until 1772 when William Dobson was paying the same rent. As part of the Duncombe Field Book of 1783 has not survived the next record of a Dobson tenancy at Cringle Carr was in the Field Book of 1796 which showed William Dobson paying rent of £3 7s 6d for 21 acres and ten years later the size of the farm had increased to 45 acres at a rent of £30 6s 7d. As fields in 1806 known as Kendry Hill and Bentley Holme were named after tenants who had farmed at Oscar Park and Sour Leys in the early 18th century it appears that Cringle Carr had extended towards that area and the size of the farm continued to increase as Michael Dobson was farming 57 acres in 1827 and 60 acres in 1855.

Sometime during the next 15 years the farm lost 21 of these acres and William Dobson held 39 acres in 1870 which was still the size of Cringle Carr as recorded in the last surviving Duncombe Field Book of 1895. The last Dobson tenant at Cringle Carr was Joseph the son of William and his departure in 1921 ended a farming dynasty that had lasted at least 330 years and possibly longer.

Fred Dennis was the next tenant and he was followed by George William Garbutt who became the tenant in 1936 and purchased the farm from Lord Feversham in partnership with Theodore Nicholson of Hawnby in 1951. The sale incorporated additional land which

increased the size of the farm to 75 acres when it passed into the ownership of H E Lawson and then James Taylor who in 1969 sold it to its present owner Miss Margaret Potts of Old Byland whose tenant is Joe Garbut.

It is interesting to note that this farm that had one family as its tenants for more than three hundred years then had four tenants or owners in the course of less than 50 years in the period between 1921 and 1969 and it is the only Rievaulx farm that is not owned by the Duncombe family who have controlled the estate for over 300 years which is a very long time but still falls short of the period of more than 400 years that the land was under the jurisdiction of the Abbots of Rievaulx. Yet even that length of time is far less than that during which the names of the farms of Griff and Stilton or their variations have been known in the locality and at the start of the third millennium AD it is necessary to look back to the first to trace the origins of those names and the beginnings of a farming estate in the area and pay tribute to the generations of farm tenants who have been responsible for making the Rievaulx landscape what it is today.

Farming families of Rievaulx

Any history of the farms of Rievaulx must include details of the important farming families and the most influential was undoubtedly the Bolbies, Bowlbys or Boulbies whose origins can be traced back to 1506 when Richard Bolbie was born in Helmsley and later married a lady named Alison by whom he had at least six children - John, Richard, Bridget, Jane, Ralph and Matthew. He died between December 1552 and May 1553 and left the following will proved on 31 May 1553 which clearly establishes his tenancy at Griff in the middle of the 16th century.

'IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. The xii day of December the yere of owre Lord God 1552 I Rychard Bolbie of Helmesley sik of body and perfytt in memorie maikith this my last will and testament in maner and forme following ffirst I bequeath my soull into the hands of almightie God and my bodie to be buried within the church earth of Helmesley. Item I give to Rychard Bolbie my sone xls within stokkyn to enter at saint Ellen Day next ensuyng and also I give to the said Rychard my sone one acre of haver that shall be sowen at the tyme of the yere and also if my sone Rychard will manor one acre of winter and a nother of ware he shall have them. Item I bequeath to Bridgett my daughter vis viii^d within stokkyn after the death of my wife. Item I bequeath to John Bolbie my eldest sone vis viii^d within stokkyn after my wif winter and somer. Item I bequeath to Jane Rowlande my daughter vis viii^d within stokkyn both winter and somer after the death of my wif. Item I bequeath to Rychard Bolbie my sone by his good abearynge vis viii^d within stokkyn after the death of my wife. Item I bequeath to Rauf Bolbie and to Matthew Bolbie my too sonnes half of the conynges garth after the death of my wif and the other half of it to Jane Rowlande my daughter after the death of my wife. Item I bequeath to John Bolbie my eldest sone half of the Lowe Medowe beneth greff the rent xs after the death of my wife. Item I will that none of my children shall taverne or put away any parte or parcel of ther bequests for if they doo they shall have no parte of ther legacie and I also will and comande that all my said children shall be griable amonge them selves as they will have my blessings and if any of them do contemne or stryve with another who so ever they be they shall have no parte of ther legacie as well John my sonne of the greff as the other of my children. Item I will that John my sone of the greff shall have xls at the greff and xs in the lowe medowe beneth greff. Item I bequeath to Matthew Rowlande a yowe and a lambe and eyther one of my childers children a lambe. Item I bequeath to Rychard Bolbie my sone my interest and title of my farmhold within Helmyslay after the death of my wif if he demean hymself gentle to his mother and she . . . it her lif and if he do any thing contrarie to the said will or comandement he shall have no part of it nor legacie nether. Item the residue of my goods I give to Alison my wiff whom I make my whole executrix of this my last will and testament. Witness hereof Thomas Vickerbie curati, Hugh Read, Christopher Raye, John Bell, Rauff Rolland'.

As Richard Bowlby was 47 when he died he would have been 32 at the time of the Surrender of Rievaulx Abbey so it is possible that he was working at Griff before 1538 and it is certain that he must have been one of the first tenants of the Duke of Rutland farming land that had previously been part of the Abbey Grange of Griff.

The bequests were stated in amounts of money that represented annual rental values of given amounts of land and a study of them raises questions that are difficult to answer.

Four of *vis viiid* (6s 8d which was one noble) and one of *xls* (40s) referred to 'stokkyn' for which the total bequests in 1552 amounted to of £3 6s 8d which if equated with the average rental value of 4d per acre listed in the Ministers' Accounts thirteen years earlier would represent about 200 acres compared with the 24 acres listed as 'stokyng' in the Rental of the same year. There are two possible explanations for this apparent discrepancy and the first involves the areas known as Stocking in 1642 which were 36 acres of The Stockings at Griff, 14 called Griff Stockings and 18 referred to as Helmsley Stockings which together amounted to 68 acres and if Richard Bolbie's bequests of 1552 referred to a similar amount of land the annual rental would have amounted to about 1 shilling per acre.

This would have been roughly three times the values stated only 13 years earlier in the Ministers' Accounts and raises the possibility that those figures approved by Sir Leonard Beckwith, a Receiver in the Court of Augmentation underestimated the rental values to the benefit of the Duke of Rutland and that he quickly increased the rents and trebled the income from his Rievaulx estate, a theory strengthened by the other bequest of 40s at Griff to Bolbie's eldest son John as the Ministers' Accounts of 1539 recorded a rental value of 13s 4d for 40 acres known as Gryff Enge and a rent per acre of 1 shilling would represent the same amount of land in 1552.

The only other explanation is that if rents changed little between 1539 and 1552 there was a dramatic increase in the acreage of the land known as 'stokkyn' which was split into smaller units with different names, but although the size of the Rievaulx estate increased nearly four times between 1539 and 1642 it seems unlikely that something like three quarters of that increase took place in the first thirteen years of the Rutland lordship.

Richard Bolbie also bequeathed half of the 'Lowe Medoe beneth Greff' to his eldest son and if a rent of 1 shilling per acre applied to the *xs* (10s) referred to in the will the total area of Lowe Medoe would have been about 20 acres and it is possible that fields 354 and 356 at Griff known as Low Pasture may have been part of the same land as they covered 33 acres in 1806.

The bequest of half of 'the Conynge Garth' to sons Rauf and Matthew and the other half to his daughter Jane Rowlande shows that Richard Bolbie was also tenant of 20 acres recorded as Conygarth in the Ministers' Accounts which later became part of Coney Hall Farm and as Conygarth was part of the Abbey Grange of New-lathes, Bolbie was tenant of land that had been part of both Granges and his standing in the farming community can be judged from the extent of his tenancies which then passed to the next generation of Bolbies.

Richard Bolbie divided his holding at stokkyn between four of his children with the largest part going to Richard though his eldest son John was also left the tenancy of a sizeable part of Griff including what was known as Low Medoe which when he died in 1568 he left his farmhold to his wife Elizabeth who didn't die until 1598.

John and Elizabeth Bowlby had six children who were John, James, Ralph, Thomas, Isabel and Dorothy and John the eldest son married Jane Forrie of Farndale in 1583 and their three children were all born at Griff. John's brother James married Ann Thompson in 1589 and they had a son James born in 1598 and a daughter Elizabeth born in 1590 whose marriage to George Richardson in 1611 started the Richardson family tenancies at Griff when George and Elizabeth began farming 110 acres. In 1587 Ralph Bowlby married a lady called Margaret and they had a son George who was born at Griff in 1592. Dorothy Bowlby married John Dobson from another Griff family in 1587.

The parish registers showed that all these Bowlbies of the 16th and early 17th centuries were living at Griff and the earliest surviving tenancy records were those prepared for the Duke of Rutland in 1637 and for the Duke of Buckingham in 1642 which showed Widow Bowlby and George Bowlby sharing a tenancy of 306 acres with Ralph Chambers. Widow Bowlby was Elizabeth nee Spence who married Richard Bowlby in 1625 and George their son was born at Griff in 1628 and married Elizabeth Brisby from another Griff family in 1649. It is possible that the man who shared the tenancy was Ralph Chambers alias Richardson.

The Hearth Tax records of 1673 showed Judith and Elizabeth Bowlby each paying tax for one hearth which indicates that they were both probably widows and there are no records that identify Judith but Elizabeth nee Brisby was the widow of George who she had married in 1649 and their son Ralph was sharing the tenancy of one of the Griff farms with Thomas Bowlby who is thought to have been his uncle. He had married Christiana Garbut in 1667 and Ralph married Mary Grime in 1675. The John Bowlby who had a slightly smaller farm at Griff in 1693 was the son of John and Elizabeth nee Manners who was born at Griff in 1628 and he was also great grandson of the Richard Bolbie whose will is reproduced on page 64 and grandson of John. In 1694 all Rievaulx tenants were assessed for a poll tax and the record gives an indication of the status of four members of the Bowlby family.

| | s | d |
|--|---|---|
| John Bowlby and his wife and servant | 3 | 0 |
| George Bowlby and his wife and servant | 2 | 0 |
| Ralph Bowlby and his wife and servant | 3 | 0 |
| Thomas Bowlby | 1 | 0 |

Ralph and John Bowlby are mentioned above and it is interesting that they could both afford to employ a servant. George Bowlby seems to have been a younger son of John and Elizabeth nee Brisby who was born in 1651 and he married Mary Frank in 1678.

These Bowlbies of the mid 17th century were Dissenters who were often at loggerheads with the local Anglican clergy and in 1665 the Vicar of Helmsley complained that he was attacked while attempting to officiate at a Bowlby funeral and to use his own words 'I was openly assaulted by a party of Quakers who both tore my surplice and my Book of Common Prayer'. It was in the same year that Elizabeth Bowlby was prosecuted for practising unlicensed midwifery, presumably in an attempt to hide Dissenter births from the local clergy. In the same period Thomas Bowlby was reported for 'not coming to church nor receiving the Sacrament' and his relation by marriage George Richardson and

his wife were similarly reported during another visitation. The Bowlby family remained Quakers until at least the middle of the 18th century as John Boulby, a grandson of the John whose funeral ended in a brawl specified in his will of 1733 that he was to be buried at the Ampleforth Quaker Meeting House.

Whilst covering the story of the Bowlbies born at Griff in the 17th centuries it is relevant to mention two members of the family who moved away from the district during that period, probably because their chances of inheriting tenancies were limited. The first of these was Richard Bowlby the son of Richard and Elizabeth nee Spence who was born at Griff in 1640 and married Frances Swainston at Helmsley church in 1665. The fact that she came from Norton, County Durham may have been the reason for their eventual move to Stockton on Tees where he became Lord Mayor and died in 1708. Richard's brother Bryan was born at Griff in 1633 and married Elizabeth Manners at All Saints, Helmsley in 1659 and they then moved to Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire where they had six children - Richard, Bryan, Elizabeth, Mary, Helen and Thomas who was born at Mansfield Woodhouse in 1665 and married Martha Baker at Old Brampton, Derby in 1693.

Thomas and Martha had nine children - Jordan, Samuel, John, Elizabeth, Thomas, George, Richard, Martha and Jane and for a reason that is not known Thomas senior emigrated to New Jersey, USA in about 1727 taking John, Elizabeth, Thomas, George and Richard with him but leaving his wife and Jordan, Martha and Jane in England. Jane married William Dalton in 1742, her sister Martha had married Jonathan Tuley six years earlier and Samuel died in 1724 so it was John, Elizabeth, Thomas, George and Richard Bowlby who started families in America that now include thousands of people who trace their ancestry back to Richard Bolbie who was born in Helmsley at the beginning of the 16th century. The Boulby family have their own web site, a family tree that covers seventeen generations of Boulbies and a mailing list that regularly lists newly found descendants of Richard Bolbie. Members of the family come from different parts of USA seeking to return to his birthplace and often stay at Griff Farm with Jonathan Fairburn.

This history of Rievaulx should be published in 2003 which will be almost five hundred years after Richard's birth and 278 years after the date of the earliest surviving Duncombe rent roll of 1725 which showed John Boulby the son of John and Thomas the son of Ralph at separate farms which were the two largest at Griff and the situation remained the same until John Boulby died in 1736 and his tenancy was taken by Thomas Ovington who had married his daughter Jane in 1725.

This takes us to the middle of the 18th century and a period of fifty years during which only four Boulby tenancies were recorded. There were fifteen Boulby family births at Griff including children of George, John and Thomas but the lack of rent rolls for the years between 1741 and 1772 makes it impossible to be sure about Boulby tenancies at Griff during that thirty one year period. The last member of the family to farm there was George whose tenancy was transferred to John Gray in 1783 after which George went to live at Forge Cottage, close to land that had once been part of Griff and he died at the cottage in 1802 ending a period of almost 300 years of Bowlby presence in Rievaulx.

Richardson

It is appropriate to follow the story of the Boulbies with that of their relations by marriage the Richardsons who farmed part of Griff for over 150 years and were first recorded living in the areas known as Cunnisland and Newlass at the beginning of the 17th century though the George Richardson who married Elizabeth Bowlby in 1611 is believed to have been baptised in the 1580s.

George and Elizabeth farmed 110 acres at Griff where they had six children - George, Ann, Thomas, Mark and John and William who both died before they were one year old. Like their relations by marriage the Bowlbies these Richardsons were Dissenters who tried to hide their births from the Anglican clergy and one of their methods was the use of aliases which in the case of the Richardsons was to use the surname of Chambers which makes it impossible to form a definite conclusion about the identity of the Ralph Chambers who shared the 310 acre tenancy at Griff with Widow Bowlby and her son George in 1642 though the baptism in 1606 of John Richison alias Chambers son of Ralfe Richardson alias Chambers and the close relationship between the Bowlbies and Richardsons suggests that the Ralph Chambers of 1642 may have been a Richardson and this theory is strengthened by the fact that Ralph and George Richardson each paid Hearth Tax of one shilling in 1673.

The situation is further complicated by two entries in the rent roll of 1693 which showed Ann Chambers as tenant of a farm late Ralf Chambers and George Richardson being at his late father's farm yet one year later neither family were recorded paying any poll tax in 1694 and the next relevant records are the Helmsley parish registers which show that John, Ralph, George and William Richardson sons of Ralph baptised in 1699, 1700, 1702 and 1708 were all born at Griff where their father died in 1715. There is no other surviving record of a Richardson tenancy until Ralph junior was shown to be paying annual rent of £18 2s 6d in 1725.

Although there is no record of the marriage of Ralph junior in the parish registers it must have taken place in or before 1723 when George his first son was born at Griff followed by the births of Ralph, Ellinor, John and Mark in 1724, 1727, 1735 and 1738 respectively and the 1730 and 1733 rent rolls recorded the tenancy in the joint names of Ralph and his wife Ellen who took the sole tenancy when he died in 1739. She died in 1743 and as no rent rolls have survived for the period between then and 1772 we have to turn again to the parish registers to follow the story of the Richardson family at Griff and they show that George must have taken the farm when his mother died as his son George and daughter Hannah were both born at the farm. As Hannah was born in 1764 and 8 years later Robert Scrafton had the tenancy previously held by George Richardson it is assumed that George ceased to farm at Griff during that eight year period and went to live with George Bowlby at Forge Cottage where he died in 1802 and as this was on land that had been part of Griff the family presence in that area had lasted over 200 years.

It will be seen in later chapters of this book that one Richardson family presence in Rievaulx village that started in 1753 is still ongoing in the year 2003 but there are no records to link these Richardsons of the village with those who farmed at Griff.

Hawkins

John Hawkins married Jayne Rodhus in 1589 but nearly a hundred years elapsed before the next surviving Hawkins entry in the Helmsley parish registers dated 1682 recorded the baptism in 1682 of Jacob son of the William who paid one shilling Poll Tax in 1694 and died in the area known as Sowerlea in 1698. As this is the only mention of the name of Jacob in a long list of Hawkins baptisms covering a period of 320 years it is worth considering the possibility that a recording error occurred and that the child was James whose five children, including a William and twins John and Joseph were born in the area known as Sowerlea between 1710 and 1726. James was listed as a Duncombe tenant in 1702 and in 1725 he was paying annual rent of £2 18s 6d for what is likely to have been a smallholding and he was paying the same rent in 1741 but sometime between then and 1772 took the tenancy of Oscar Park that had been held by John Kendray. As there is no record of Kendray's death and no rent rolls have survived for that 31 year period we have to rely on an inscription at the farm which suggests that James Hawkins became the tenant in 1749. The parish registers were not recording the names of farms when the birth of his son James was recorded in the general area known as Sowerlea in 1753 but it was he who was the tenant of 79 acres at Oscar Park in 1783 whilst his cousin John the son of Joseph who was born in the same year was the tenant of 35 acres at a farm known as Moor End. Thirteen years later James Hawkins had 164 acres at Oscar Park and John's acreage at Moor End had increased to 96 as both farms had taken the land from Sour Leas farm that had previously been held by the Bentley family since 1725. Nine children of James Hawkins were born at Oscar Park between 1780 and 1798 and they were Betty, James, Ann, John, Hannah, Mary Ann, William and Ellen and Joseph who were twins and the children of John who born at Moor End between 1790 and 1798 were Mary, John and William.

The Hawkin's tenancy at Moor End continued and the Duncombe field book of 1822 showed that the farm name had reverted to Sour Leys though the acreage remained the same and in that year John son of John was the tenant and James son of James was at Oscar Park where his children Sarah, Job and Jonah were born in 1801, 1803 and 1804. Jonah married Mary the daughter of Thomas Kirby of High Leys, Job married Mary Wood and after she died in 1841 he married Hannah Kirby, Mary's sister in 1843.

After the death of James Hawkins the tenancy of Oscar Park passed to his widow Sarah and then to her son William in 1837 whilst Job took the tenancy at Abbey Farm in 1835 and the birth of his son Thomas Kirby Hawkins took place at that farm in 1843 followed by the birth of daughter Mary in 1845. Job took the Oscar Park tenancy in 1851, his daughter Sarah was born at the farm in the same year and Hannah was born five years later.

When John Hawkins died in 1845 his widow Ann took the tenancy of Sour Leys and was living there with their son James and daughter Ann in 1851 when the Population Census enumerator listed the name of the farm as Moor End although the estate was recording it as Sour Leys and the Census contained other information that requires further explanation as the entry about Oscar Park lists the occupants as Job (47), his wife Hannah (37) and the following children — Nancy (15), John (13), Elizabeth (12), Job (10), Thomas (7) and Anne Eliza (1).

According to the Helmsley parish registers Thomas Kirby Hawkins was the eldest son of Job and Hannah and Nancy, John and Job were children of Job's brother Jonah and his wife Mary who was Hannah's sister and Elizabeth and Anne Eliza were daughters of Thomas Hawkins and his wife Ann who lived at Forge Cottage where the children were born so why were they all said to be living at Oscar Park in 1851 ?

Jonah and Mary Hawkins had lived at a cottage in the village before they emigrated to America and apparently they didn't take the children with them as Nancy married William Johnson one of the village blacksmiths in 1856, John eventually moved to Sour Leys where he worked as a labourer and had 5 acres and Job eventually moved to Stockton on Tees though his daughters Mary and Amelia were born in Helmsley and son Robert was born in Stokesley.

It is only possible to speculate about the presence of Elizabeth and Ann Eliza at Oscar Park but as Thomas and Ann Hawkins were not listed in the Census but were definitely living at Forge Cottage at the time they may have been absent on the day the Census was taken.

When Job Hawkins the tenant of Oscar Park died in 1887 the tenancy was taken by his son Thomas Kirby Hawkins who married Sarah Strickland the daughter of John the tenant at Ouldray Farm and they had three sons, William Strickland, Emmanuel and Ernest and it was the latter who became tenant at Oscar Park when his father died in 1918 and remained at the farm until he retired to live at the Old Schoolhouse in Rievaulx village and the tenancy passed to his son William who sadly died in 2001. William's son George now runs the farm and the family tenancy has lasted for about 253 years but Hawkins have been present in the area known as Sowerley for at least 322 years.

The Hawkins tenancy at Sour Leys Farm passed to George son of James in 1895 and in 1931 it was taken by George's son James who was the last member of the family to hold the tenancy and when he left the farm in 1941 his branch of the Hawkins family had been farming at Sour Leys for 160 years.

Job Hawkin's tenancy at Abbey Farm is mentioned in an earlier paragraph and the Hawkins family were once again associated with that farm in the first half of the 20th century when William Thomas Hawkins followed Isaac Trousdale as tenant and was the last person to farm at the Abbey before the buildings became a workplace for stonemasons.

Although the Hawkins family are best remembered for their long tenancies of Oscar Park and Sour Leys several other family members have had connections with Rievaulx and neighbouring villages and the marriage of Nancy to William Johnson a village blacksmith has already been mentioned but other marriages also deserve comment and the earliest on record is that of John Hawkins to Jayne Rodhus in 1589 but unfortunately although this establishes a Hawkins presence in Rievaulx at the end of the 16th century it cannot be linked to the Hawkins who followed but there are two marriages that link the Hawkins family to others who like them can trace their local ancestors back over 250 years.

In 1927 Harry Hawkins the son of John and Elizabeth and grandson of James and Tamar

married Minnie York the daughter of David York whose Scawton ancestry can be traced back to 1680. Harry and Minnie Hawkins originally lived at Rose Cottage on the site of the present-day Beck House in Rievaulx village where their children John David, Allan and Marina were born and they then moved to Manor Farm, Scawton when it was still known as Hagget Mouth. Minnie's sister Edith Mary married Robert Bentley and their son Herbert has lived in nearby Scawton longer than any other resident and carries the York family 320 year connection with Scawton into the new millennium.

Harry Hawkins was at Manor Farm in 1939 but there were Hawkins living in Scawton at least 200 years earlier and perhaps even longer though a definite link with the Hawkins of Rievaulx cannot be established. As a James Hawkins died at the age of 80 in 1763 he would have been born in 1683 making him a contemporary of the earliest Hawkins at Sowerley and he would still have been alive when another James Hawkins the son of William a tailor was born in Scawton.

The Richardson family of Griff have already been mentioned and the story of their namesakes in Rievaulx village will be covered in following chapters but their link to the Hawkins family was made by the marriage of Rose Marjorie Richardson to William Thomas Hawkins the son of John and Elizabeth of Sour Leys and they lived together at Abbey Farm until it ceased to be a working farm. Another Hawkins connection was made with an entirely different Richardson family when Mary Ann Hawkins the daughter of John and Sarah married Thomas Richardson in 1861. He was born at Sutton under Whitestonecliffe and he and his brother William originally worked as labourers at Ashberry Farm and lived at Rievaulx Bridge but Thomas and his wife Mary Ann then moved to Abbey Cottage in Rievaulx village where she died in 1913 at the age of 78.

No record could be found of the baptism of Thomas Hawkins who died at Forge Cottage at the age of 71 in 1871 making his date of birth 1800 and he was the father of eight children who were Ann, John, Isaac, Jonah, Thomas, Elizabeth, Joseph and Ann Eliza, all born at the cottage between 1825 and 1850. After Thomas senior died his son Thomas lived at the cottage which he shared with his brother Isaac until he died in 1896 and as Thomas continued to live there until some time between 1910 and 1915 when Mary Ann Atkinson became the tenant this was another dwelling where members of the Hawkins family lived for at least 85 years.

This brief history of the Hawkins family shows how their Rievaulx tenancies and marriage connections matched those of the Boulby family and there is only one other family with a similar length of farm tenure and marriage connections.

Dobson

Jayne the daughter of Alexander Dobson was born in the area known as Newlass in 1583, sister Elizabeth was born in the following year, brother John was born in 1587 later and a younger brother Henry was born in 1590 so the family were well established in the area at the end of the 16th century. There were also Dobsons living at Griff at the same time and as Elizabeth Dobson died in 1593 at the age of 80 she may have been living there before

the surrender of the Abbey in 1538 as the area known as Newlass at the end of the 16th century encompassed the lands that had formerly been part of the Abbey Grange of New-lathes of which Krynglecarre cum le Sprynge formed 16 acres. It is possible but not provable that the Dobson tenancy on land that became known as Cringle Carr Farm began in the middle of the 16th century and as Ann Kyldale was said to have been a servant of William Dobson of Newlass when she died in 1597 he seems likely to have been a farmer of some standing at that time.

The earliest surviving records to list the Dobson tenancy at Cringle Carr were the Rutland Survey of 1637 which recorded the tenancy of Roger Dobson and the Buckingham Survey of 1642 which showed Thomas Dabsonne to be the tenant of 38 acres which included Cringle Carr and also Yosker Park, later to be part of Oscar Park Farm. Thomas Dobson, born 1589 was the son of William who had another son John who was born two years later and though no records could be found in the parish registers to link these Dobsons with the Richard Dobson who married Elizabeth Oworm of Sowerlea in 1659 there is little doubt that they were related.

Richard Dobson was the tenant at Cringle Carr in 1673 when he paid tax for one hearth and he and Elizabeth had a son William who was born in 1661 and was tenant of one part of Cringle Carr in 1693 whilst a Robert Dobson for whom no baptism could be found had the other part. It is reasonable to suppose that they were brothers and that there was another brother named Richard who became sole tenant of the farm after the deaths of William and Robert at the end of the 17th century. He remained tenant until his death in 1733 when the farm passed to his son William who farmed at Cringle Carr until he died in 1772 and the tenancy was taken by his son another William who was followed by his son Michael in 1825 and held the farm until 1865. His son Joseph was briefly tenant until his son, yet another William Dobson took the tenancy and farmed Cringle Carr until his son another Joseph became the last Dobson tenant of Cringle Carr which he had left by 1921.

If we assume that Alexander Dobson of Newlass was farming land in 1583 that was later to become part of Cringle Carr Farm the Dobson family tenure on the site lasted over 330 years and as Elizabeth Dobson was 80 years of age when she died at Newlass in 1593 they may have been there even longer.

Wrightson

Although this family's period of tenancy did not compare with that of the Boulbies, Hawkins or Dobsons they farmed at Abbot Hagg far longer than any other family and saw their status as tenants improve in the middle of the 18th century when their farm of 60 acres increased to one of 229 acres when it gained land that had been part of Griff.

The tenancy of Charles Wrightson started in 1694 and his son Charles was born at the farm in 1700 but died at the young age of 29 and when Charles senior died in 1729 the tenancy was taken by Thomas who is thought to have been another son of Charles, born before the family moved to Rievaulx.

Thomas held the farm until he died in 1744 and the tenancy was then taken by George Wrightson who is thought to have been Thomas's son and had three children, George, Thomas and Margaret who were born at Abbot Hagg between 1746 and 1753 during which period the farm gained 169 acres that had previously been part of Griff.

Sometime between 1772 and 1783 George Wrightson senior moved to the farm then known as Harret Hare and his son Thomas took the tenancy at Abbot Hagg and this is strange as he was the younger son and his elder brother George continued to live and work at the farm where he died in 1830 at the age of 84 whilst brother Thomas lived nine years longer and when he died at the age of 88 the Wrightson family tenancy at Abbot Hagg ended after having lasted 155 years.

Trousdale

At the start of the new millennium there are older Rievaulx residents who still remember members of this family and though none of their tenancies lasted 80 years they are included in this history because they shared more farm tenancies than any other family in the entire history of the Rievaulx estate.

It started when John Trousdale moved from Bilsdale to Middle Heads Farm in 1869 bringing with him six children who were Jane, Isaac, Henry, George Edward, Mary Ann and Stephen, the first two being named after John's mother Jane and his grandfather Isaac. John and his wife Ellen then had another five children who were Elizabeth, John, Hannah, Eliza and Matthew who were all born at Middle Heads between 1869 and 1878 making a family of five girls and six boys, four of whom were eventually to become tenants on Rievaulx farms after John died at the age of 13 in 1884 and Henry left the district.

By 1895 John senior had moved to Newlays, the tenancy at Middle Heads had been taken by his eldest son Isaac and George Edward was the tenant at Ouldray. When John died in 1909 the Newlays tenancy passed to another son, Stephen and when George Edward died a year later the Ouldray tenancy was taken by his youngest brother Matthew who was there until 1934 when he took the tenancy of Harriet Air and was followed by his son Robert whose children Leslie and Jean Margaret were born at the farm in 1939 and 1940.

John Trousdale's daughter Eliza had a son Albert who was born in 1895 and became tenant at Newlays in 1921 after Isaac had moved to Abbey Farm where he died three years later and his son Isaac died at Middle Heads Farm in 1962 at the age of 54. The last members of the Trousdale family to live in Rievaulx were Robert son of Matthew who lived in one of the three cottages situated close to Rievaulx Terrace and Charles the village milkman who lived at the dwelling that used to be between Spring Cottage and Abbey Cottage

The Trousdale family lived in Rievaulx for almost a hundred years and their length of tenure was considerably shorter than that of other farming families included in this history but during that period they were tenants at the farms of Newlays, Middle Heads, Ouldray, Harriet Air and Abbey which was by far the largest number of farm tenancies held by any Rievaulx family.

Owram

This family farmed in Rievaulx for 183 years and the earliest surviving record of their presence is an entry in the Helmsley parish registers recording the marriage in 1631 of Thomas Owram of Sowerlea to Isabel Rook of Newlass whose father was to become the tenant of Coney Hall Farm. Their son Robert was born in the same year and sadly died before he was a year old and they then had another six children who were Elizabeth, George, Ann, William, Isabel and Mary all born at Sowerlea between 1633 and 1640 and in 1642 Thomas had two tenancies on the Rievaulx estate of the Duke of Buckingham, holding 115 acres with partners which included 80 acres known as Sowerley Pasture and being tenant of another 19 acres on his own account.

Three of the Owram girls married men from other Rievaulx farming families and the first of the marriages was that of Elizabeth to Richard Dobson of Cringle Carr in 1659 followed by Isabel's marriage to George Redeman of Ouldray in 1673 and Mary's to Christopher Mason of Newlass in 1676.

No member of the Owram family paid Hearth Tax in 1673 and this may have been because Thomas died in 1667 but his eldest son George became tenant of a small farm for which he paid annual rent of £4 in 1693 and five years later he married Mary Mason the neice of Ann Mason the widowed tenant of what became Newlays Farm and when she died in the same year George Owram took the tenancy and held it until his death in 1737 when it passed to his son Thomas who married Elizabeth Bentley the daughter of John of Sour Leys in the following year.

The earliest surviving Duncombe Field Book recorded Thomas Owram having 144 acres at Newlays in 1783 and he held the farm until he died in 1814 bringing to a close the period of at least 183 years that the Owram family had farmed in Rievaulx and as Elizabeth Owram married Richard Dobson in 1656 her descendants were to continue farming at Cringle Carr until the beginning of the 20th century.

Seamer

Lamberti Seamer was the tenant of the Rievaulx Forge before the Dissolution and then ran it for the new owner the Duke of Rutland and was followed by his son Peter who was named master of the forge when his son John was baptised in 1578, the same year as the baptism of another Peter who was the son of Lambert.

That Peter had a son William who in 1639 was living at a dwelling on the site of the present-day 'Severadus' at the foot of Rievaulx Bank and his son Peter was born there in 1643 the year after his father was recorded as the joint tenant of 249 acres that were known as Summer Field and were later split into separate areas that became parts of the farms Harriet Air, High Leys, Abbey and Newlays.

In 1682 Peter Seamer became the tenant of the farm that was then known as Harwood Hay and he kept the tenancy until his death at the age of 82 in 1725 when his son Robert briefly shared the tenancy with William Burton who had married Ann Seamer in 1723.

Peter Seamer's daughter Mary was born at Harwood Hay in 1682 and she was living at Abbey Farm in 1704 when her daughter Hannah was born and an entry in Duncombe rent roll of 1725 showed her sharing the tenancy of Abbey Farm with Hannah Wright. Mary's death at the farm in 1736 ended a period of at least 200 years when members of the Seamer family were living in Rievaulx but it is pointed out that when John Seamer was the tenant of the largest of the farms at West Newton Grange in 1745 he was still technically living in Rievaulx parish as farm tenants from the Grange were still serving as jurors at Rievaulx Manor Courts at that time. Seamer himself served as a juror in 1752 and as the family tenancy at the Grange continued until 1918 their connection with the area historically associated with Rievaulx Abbey lasted for at least 380 years.

Brisby

The earliest record of this family's presence in Rievaulx was the baptism of Robert son of John in 1610 and another John son of Harmon was born in Rievaulx in 1618. Twenty nine years later Harmon was the earliest recorded tenant of 21 acres that were later to become part of Abbey Farm and he additionally shared the tenancy of the 249 acres known as Summer Field. Two other Harmons were sons of Nicholas and William born in 1626 and 1639 respectively, a Roger Brisby died in 1630, Richard another son of Nicholas was born in 1628, William son of William was baptised in 1641 and Matthew Brisby for whom no baptism record could be found was the Duke of Buckingham's tenant in 1642 at what later became known as Hard Ing House Farm.

In the same year Nicholas Brisby shared the tenancy of 15 acres known as Great Fewlam Ings with his son Harmon and three other men so the family were already well established as Rievaulx tenants and the Hearth Tax records of 1673 showed Richard Brisby son of Nicholas paying tax for a dwelling with three hearths where his children Ann, Mary, Harmon, John Jane, Richard and Sarah were all born between 1661 and 1676. His relations William, Nicholas and another Richard each paid tax for one hearth and twenty years later in 1693 Richard Brisby had the smaller of the Abbey farms, Matthew had Hard Ing House with part of Summer Field and William had a cottage, Thomas had part of Barkhouse Ings whilst Judith shared a shop and house with George Garbut and it is interesting to note that she was a witness at a trial of a woman who was accused of attempting to murder her husband with Rat's Bread.

In 1725 Richard Brisby was paying annual rent of £9 for the smaller of the two Abbey farms and Judith and Thomas both had cottages and when Richard died in 1727 the tenancy of Abbey Farm passed to his son Richard who was the only Brisby farming in Rievaulx at the time though William, John and Ellen and her son Jordan all had cottages in 1741 and in 1762 John Brisby was recorded as tenant of a shop or milkhouse where he sold sugar, soap, candles and tobacco. Richard Brisby continued to farm at Abbey until some time between 1772 and 1783 when he moved to a small homestead in the village and when he died in 1785 there ended the sequence of Brisby family tenancies in Rievaulx that had spanned a period of at least 175 years but a William Brisby who was farming 80 acres at Eastmoors may have had connections with the family as his mother Ann was born in Rievaulx in 1807.

Rook

George Rook was living in the general area known as Newlass when his son Ralph died in 1601 and his daughter Jane was born there in 1610. Few individual farms were named at the beginning of the 17th century but Newlass would have encompassed the site of the 66 acres known as Cunnie Garth held by Richard Rook in 1642 and his other 79 acres made a farm of 145 acres for which he was paying annual rent of £21 2s 10d.

No record could be found of Richard's baptism but he may have been another son of George and when his first child Elizabeth was baptised she was said to have been born at Summer Field and the births of his four other children born between 1636 and 1649 were all said to have been at Newlass. It was his son George who was paying tax for one hearth in 1673 and George and his son Richard who were paying annual rent of £19 for a farm twenty years later.

Richard was the farm tenant in 1725 and after his death in 1731 Coney Hall Farm was held by his son Thomas whose five children were all born at the farm between 1717 and 1731 but they all appear to have left Rievaulx in the period between 1751 and 1772 and as John Hornby had taken the tenancy at Coney Hall by the latter year the period of Rook family tenure on the Rievaulx estate appears to have been one of about 150 years.

Strickland

This is the only other family whose tenure at a Rievaulx farm lasted over a hundred years and the first Strickland to be a tenant at Ouldray was William the son of William and Ann nee Sonley who was born in Helmsley in 1739 and married Mary Smithies by whom he had ten children who were William, Emmanuel, Esther, John, Hannah, Betty, Ann, Mary, Robert and Ursula who were all born at Ouldray. The absence of records make it impossible to be sure about the exact date of the commencement of William's tenure at Ouldray but he was at the farm in 1772 and held the tenancy until his death in 1823 when the farm passed to his son Emmanuel who was farming 205 acres at Ouldray in 1827 as the farm had lost 159 acres.

Emmanuel had three children - William, Mary and John who were born at Ouldray between 1824 and 1827 and it was John who took the tenancy when Emmanuel died in 1860 and he married Ann Boyes in 1856 and their children were William (1858), Mary (1860), Eliza (1861), John (1862) and Emmanuel (1863). John married Annie Ravis in 1894 and their son William was born in the same year but the family tenancy at Ouldray ended three years later and the family left Rievaulx and their tenure at Ouldray had lasted for at least 125 years.

The Strickland presence in a slightly wider area had also continued as William Strickland and his wife Ann had seven children in addition to the William who moved to Ouldray. Robert was born in Farndale in 1735 and farmed there until his death in 1805. He married Ann Clarke of Kirkbymoorside in 1768 and their five children were William (1770), George (1772), Rachel (1775), Dolly (1778) and Ann (1781). George moved to Bilsdale and he and his wife Hannah nee Barr had four children - Jane (1773), William (1775), Oliver (1778).

Emmanuel married Elizabeth Collier in 1769 and their seven children were Nancy (1770), Betty (1773), Emmanuel (1776), John (1780), William (1782), Hannah (1785), Robert (1789) and Jane (1793). The girls of the family created links with other local families and Hannah married John Trueman, Elizabeth married William Potter and Ann married Robert Kilvington and though it is outside the scope of this history to follow further Strickland connections readers will realise that in addition to the long family tenure at Ouldray the Stricklands of Rievaulx had many local relations traceable back to the William Strickland who was born in Helmsley at the very beginning of the 18th century.

The final point to be borne in mind is that although the Strickland tenancy at Ouldray ended in 1896 Sarah Strickland the daughter of John the last member of the family to farm there married Thomas Kirby Hawkins and as she was the great grandmother of George Hawkins the tenant of Oscar Park Farm in 2003 the family links to Rievaulx still continue.

Other farm tenants

The brief history of farming families has been restricted to those whose tenancies lasted for over a hundred years and it can be rightly claimed that they were the people who had the greatest influence on the development of the farms which in turn affected the economy of the entire Rievaulx community but there were other families whose tenancies lasted for over fifty years and their names are listed below.

| | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| Bentley | Holiday | Munday |
| Bowes | Holmes | Sigsworth |
| Dunn | Huggin | Spence |
| Fairburn | Kendray | Teasdale |
| Fenwick* | Kilvert | Watson |
| Fisher | Kirby | Wilkes |
| Flintoft | Lumley | Wright |
| Garbut | Mason | Yoward |
| Hoggard | Medd | |

* Although Walter Fenwick lives in Old Byland parish his grandfather was a tenant at Abbot Hagg farm and some of the land that Walter farms is in Rievaulx parish.

The changing pattern of farming

Although the Abbots of Rievaulx had forty three farming tenants on their land in Bilsdale paying annual rents that varied from 7 shillings to £4 6s 8d there is no evidence to show that the same pattern of tenancies ever occurred at the Abbey Granges of Griff and New-lathes and perhaps this is because they were both close enough to the Abbey to allow the supervision of a paid workforce. The Ministers' Accounts of 1539 show the following divisions of named areas of land that were being farmed.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Areas of 60 acres | 4 | Areas of 40 acres | 5 |
| Areas of 30 acres | 4 | Area of 24 acres | 1 |
| Areas of 20 acres | 2 | Areas of 16 acres | 3 |
| Areas of 10 acres | 3 | Areas of 8 acres | 4 |
| Areas of 6 acres | 6 | Areas of 4 acres | 4 |

The Granges were measured in 1539 for the purposes of calculating the income that the Duke of Rutland would derive from the Abbey lands but Richard Bowlby's will made only 13 years later provides evidence that suggests that far more land was already being farmed as rental values appear to have trebled and each of the individual farms of important tenants already covered more than 100 acres. The situation was to change even more dramatically in the course of the next hundred years as the area of the Abbey lands granted to Rutland in 1539 had almost quadrupled in size by 1642 and the rental income was thirty times greater. More detailed comparisons of the figures from the Ministers' Accounts of 1539 and the Buckingham Survey of 1642 show that by far the greatest expansion to the areas being farmed occurred in the land measured as 298 acres in 1539 described as Grangia de New-lathes and the following figures relate to 1642 tenancies that can definitely be associated with that particular area.

| | | a | r | p |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------|---|----|
| William Kirkham | Harrwood Hay | 349 | 3 | 0 |
| Steven Sillison | Middle Heads and Ouldray | 525 | 0 | 33 |
| Richard Rooke | Coney Hall | 145 | 1 | 6 |
| Widow Mason | Newlass | 77 | 3 | 38 |
| Robert Edwards | Cringle Carr | 16 | 2 | 32 |
| Thomas Oram and partners | Sowerley | 115 | 2 | 32 |
| Thomas Oram for himself | Sowerley | 19 | 3 | 6 |
| Thomas Dabsonne | Cringle Carr/Oscar Park | 38 | 3 | 39 |
| Alexander Watson | Newlass | 48 | 2 | 34 |
| William Seamer | Summer Field | 249 | 0 | 0 |
| Alexander Watson and others | Fewlam Ings | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | 1602 | 1 | 0 |

The total of 1602 acres was 5.4 times the figure of 298 recorded 103 years earlier and a more detailed examination reveals several large individual changes and other possible explanations for the remarkable expansion of the area of land under cultivation.

The 60 acres known as Hayeth in 1539 had become 238 acres called Harrwood Hay held by William Kirkham which together with 100 acres of Greencliffe Hagg which was not recorded in 1539 and another two small fields made a farm of 349 acres in 1642. In the same year Steven Sillison was the tenant of 525 acres that are recognisable as land that became the farms of Middle Heads and Ouldray, yet almost none of that land was recorded in the Ministers' Accounts though the Lay Subsidies of 1301 had recorded Ulraye as an area of Abbey land that was separate from the Granges of Griff and New-lathes.

The estate map of 1806 shows the position of fields known as Summer Field which were clearly in the area that was originally part of the Grange of New-lathes but no area of that size was listed in 1539 and together with the land held by Kirkham and Sillison this amounted to 1123 acres of which only 60 acres can be clearly identified in the Ministers' Accounts and though these three tenancies represented 70% of the 1602 acres that had developed from the 298 acres at New-lathes further analysis shows how other listed acreages had also increased in size.

| | acres 1530 | acres 1642 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sowerleez Pasture | 30 | 80 |
| Conygarth and Conygarth Field | 40 | 66 |
| Yowsky Park | 8 | 19 |
| Total | 78 | 165 |

Acreages of other areas such as Cringle Carr, Buskye Close and Newleez were relatively unchanged and as there were another 6 areas named in 1539 amounting to 128 acres that cannot be identified in the Buckingham Survey it is impossible to know whether the dramatic growth of the land that was once the Grange of New-lathes was due to the reclamation of previously uncultivated land or whether the Duke of Rutland benefited from inaccurate measurement - perhaps it may have been a combination of both and similar circumstances applied to the growth of the land that had been the Grange of Griff though that expansion was on a smaller scale as the 491 acres recorded in 1539 had doubled in size to become 975 acres by 1642. It was through this expansion created by the industry of the tenants of the second half of the 16th century that the framework of the farms of the Rievaulx estate was established and though there are no surviving records to show individual tenancies the baptisms for the last quarter of the century provide a means of identifying some of the farming families of that period.

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Akinside | Greenswerde | Peckytt | Thompson |
| Bowlby | Halliday | Pykebushe | Wainewrighte |
| Brande | Hardin | Richardson | Ware |
| Clemyt | Harrison | Robinson | Watson |
| Dayle | Hart | Rooke | Wightman |
| Dobson | Huggon | Ryveley | Woodde |
| Emmerson | Lyon | Seamer | Wright |
| Garbutt | Mason | Sleightholme | Yeoward |
| Garnytt | Metcalf | Tailer | |

Although many of these families were farming for much of the hundred year period between the surrender of the Abbey and the commencement of the Lordship of the Duke of Buckingham there is insufficient evidence to provide detailed records of their tenancies and it is the survey produced for Buckingham in 1642 that provides the first baseline from which the future development of the farms can be judged and shows the number and sizes of the farms in the middle of the 17th century.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| 300-400 acres | 3 | 200-300 acres | 3 | 100-150 acres | 4 |
| 50-100 acres | 5 | 20-50 acres | 7 | 10-20 acres | 3 |

After dividing the tenancy of Steven Sillison into its constituent parts of Middle Heads and Ouldray to allow fair comparisons with future years the Rievaulx estate held by the Duke of Buckingham was composed of 25 farms and the next record to have survived is a list of Rievaulx tenants in 1694, just after the purchase of the estate by Sir Charles Duncombe which when allowances are made for the four farms divided between members of the same family leaves the relatively unchanged number of twenty four and little had changed 32 years later when the rents recorded on the Duncombe rent roll of 1725 show that 22 tenants had farms whose variations in size were similar to those recorded in 1694.

Sir Charles Duncombe had died in 1711 and left the estate to his sister Mary whose husband Thomas Browne changed his name to Duncombe and built Duncombe Park in 1713. He seems to have been content with the income from the Rievaulx farms as the rents remained virtually unchanged until his death in 1745 though the number of tenancies can be considered to have fallen to 18 as there were only four at Griff, John Fisher had added Munday Farm to Stilton and Harrison's Farm had become part of Harret Hare.

The tenant roll of 1772 showed farm rents that had been virtually unchanged for at least fifty years but some time between then and 1783 the farmers were faced with sharp increases and this may have been after Charles Slingsby Duncombe inherited the estate after the death of his brother in 1779. Due to changes to some of the farms it is not possible to provide comparable rent increases for individual farms but the overall rental income rose from £537 15s in 1771 to £774 18s 6d in 1783, an increase of 44.1%.

The policy of reducing the number of farms had continued and there were now only two tenants at Griff who were sharing 316 acres compared with the 643 acres held by seven tenants in 1642 and more changes occurred between 1783 and 1796 as the field book for the latter year showed John Gray as the sole tenant at Griff which was reduced to 231 acres and John Bentley's tenancy on the 103 acre farm listed as Sour Leys had ended and the land divided between Oscar Park and Moor End.

Arthur Young the eminent agriculturist had visited the Duncombe estate, expressed the opinion that all the farms were badly run, unproductive and inefficient and suggested that the only way to improve matters was to substantially raise the rents and double them if necessary. That his views must have been heeded can be seen from the rent increases that can be seen in the field books of the period and as there were changes to farm acreages the fairest comparisons are made by calculations based on rents per acre.

The first table shows farm rents per acre for the years 1783, 1796, 1806 and 1812 and the figures have been calculated by dividing the annual rents by the farm acreages.

| | 1783 | | 1796 | | 1806 | | 1812 | |
|---------------|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|
| | s | d | s | d | s | d | s | d |
| Stilton | 9 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 18 | 4 | 23 | 11 |
| Coney Hall | 6 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 16 | 2 |
| High Leys | 6 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 0 | 21 | 19 |
| Newlays | 6 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 17 | 8 |
| Middle Heads | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 3 |
| Ouldray | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 5 |
| Abbey (1) | 6 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 0 | 19 | 7 |
| Abbey (2) | *13 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 16 | 0 | | |
| Harret Hare | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 3 |
| Abbot Hagg | 7 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 17 | 7 | 24 | 6 |
| Griff | 8 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 10 |
| Hard Ing | *10 | 8 | 14 | 0 | 20 | 9 | | |
| Moor End† | 6 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Oscar Park | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 15 | 5 |
| Sour Ley† | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 14 | 0 |
| Cringle Carr‡ | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 17 | 5 |

The next table shows the percentage increase for each farm using the 1783 figures as a base for example (the rent per acre at Stilton increased 156.2% between 1783 and 1812).

| | 1796 | 1806 | 1812 |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Stilton | +34.8% | +96.4% | +156.2% |
| Coney Hall | +26.6% | +96.0% | +158.6% |
| High Leys | +53.2% | +180.0% | +240.0% |
| Newlays | +14.4% | +80.9% | +155.4% |
| Middle Heads | +12.8% | +51.2% | +92.3% |
| Ouldray | +20.8% | +108.8% | +124.4% |
| Abbey | +23.3% | +102.5% | +205.1% |
| Harret Hare | +21.5% | +105.7% | +164.7% |
| Abbot Hagg | +35.1% | +131.8% | +223.0% |
| Griff | +12.5% | +4.1% | +10.4% |
| Oscar Park | +33.7% | +160.7% | +230.3% |
| Sour Ley† | —1.5% | +107.4% | +150.7% |

*The figures for Hard Ing and the smaller of the Abbey farms are probably distorted due to the higher cost of the buildings not being spread over larger acreages.

†The slight reduction took place between 1783 and 1796 when some of the land that was formerly part of Sour Leys was transferred to Moor End but the farm name later reverted to Sour Leys which has been used for comparison.

‡The figures for Cringle Carr are distorted as a note in the 1806 field book states that William Dobson had land in Rievaulx township that had been mistakenly shown in Bilsdale township. The acreage was amended in the 1806 field book.

It is difficult to arrive at any logical explanation for the variances in the increases when measured either on a period by period or on a cumulative basis but if the rents per acre for individual farms are placed in descending order for each of the four periods a pattern emerges that may indicate a rational attempt to set rents according to an assessment of the productive value of land on the various farms.

| 1783 | 1796 | 1806 | 1812 | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----|
| Stilton | Stilton | Stilton | Abbot Hagg | 297 |
| Griff | Abbot Hagg | High Leys | Stilton | 287 |
| Abbot Hagg | High Leys | Abbot Hagg | High Leys | 271 |
| Newlays | Griff | Abbey | Abbey | 235 |
| High Leys | Coney Hall* | Newlays | Newlays | 212 |
| Abbey | Newlays* | Coney Hall | Coney Hall | 194 |
| Coney Hall | Abbey* | Oscar Park | Oscar Park | 185 |
| Sour Ley | Oscar Park | Sour Ley | Sour Ley | 168 |
| Oscar Park | Sour Ley | Harret Hare | Harret Hare | 135 |
| Harret Hare | Harret Hare | Griff | Griff | 106 |
| Ouldray | Ouldray | Ouldray | Ouldray | 101 |
| Middle Heads | Middle Heads | Middle Heads | Middle Heads | 75 |

* The rents per acre for these three farms were all the same in 1796.

The figures in the right hand column above are the rents of 1812 expressed in pence per acre and as the three farms paying the highest rents had all been part of the Abbey grange of Griff it is interesting to look at the survey of 1642 and make the same comparisons by placing the farms in the same descending order of average rents per acre and showing the figures in pence in the right hand column.

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Griff (1) | 98 |
| Newlays (1) | 70 |
| Griff (2) | 60 |
| Griff (3) | 58 |
| High Leys | 57 |
| Cringle Carr/Oscar Park | 50 |
| Griff (4) | 47 |
| Griff (5) | 46 |
| Newlays (2) | 45 |
| Griff (6) | 43 |
| Griff (7) | 42 |
| Stilton | 39 |
| Abbot Hagg | 38 |
| Sowerley | 36 |
| Coney Hall | 35 |
| Harret Hare | 34 |
| Summer Field | 30 |
| Ouldray/Middle Heads | 29 |

It appears that a hundred years after the surrender of the Abbey the land at Griff was being regarded as the most valuable and it is interesting to note that the land at Harret Hare, Ouldray and Middle Heads was already being rated at the lowest values in 1642 and comparison with the figures on page 8 reveal that rents per acre for the Griff fields known as Horse Close and Gardells were higher in 1642 than those charged for Harret Hare, Ouldray and Middle Heads 170 years later.

It is apparent that tenant families whose rents had remained unchanged for fifty years were suddenly faced with increases in rents per acre which when calculated over the period 1783-1812 varied from between 3.1% per annum at Middle Heads to 8.2% per annum at High Leys but it should be remembered that the years 1793-1815 spanned the Napoleonic Wars when prices obtained by farmers for their grain and meat increased dramatically and the first of the Corn Laws was also introduced early in the 19th century by the landowners who dominated parliament and did not wish to their profits diminish.

After the war ended in 1815 prices fell drastically to something like their pre-war levels and in 1816 John Tuke reported to the Board of Agriculture 'that many farm tenants had no corn or cattle to dispose of to pay their rents due on Lady Day' and this situation may have persuaded Charles Duncombe to ease the rent burden for some of his tenants as the 1822 field book showed reductions for some tenants though others still faced increases as can be seen from the following table where the rents are again expressed in pence per acre and the percentage changes are shown for the different farms.

| | 1812 | 1822 | change |
|--------------|------|------|---------|
| Abbot Hagg | 297 | 295 | — 0.67% |
| Stilton | 287 | 316 | + 6.4% |
| High Leys | 271 | 248 | — 8.4% |
| Abbey | 235 | 243 | + 3.4% |
| Newlays | 212 | 217 | + 2.3% |
| Oscar Park | 185 | 172 | — 7.0% |
| Sour Leys | 168 | 171 | + 1.8% |
| Harriet Air | 135 | 130 | — 3.7% |
| Ouldray | 101 | 188 | + 86.1% |
| Middle Heads | 75 | 74 | — 1.3% |

Based on a calculation of rents per acre five tenants had reductions and five had increases and the overall effect was an increase of 4.4% but this was due to the strange situation at Ouldray which is impossible to explain as William Strickland paid £154 6s 2d for 364 acres in 1812 and £161 for 205 acres in 1822 which was the year that Coney Hall, Hard Ing and the smaller of the Abbey farms ceased to appear in Duncombe field books reducing the number of farms to eleven including Griff the Home Farm.

The Rievaulx farmers seem to have been experiencing difficult times as their rents had increased dramatically but the prices they were able to obtain for their produce had fallen and apparently nothing happened in the next eight years to improve the situation and on 29 January 1830 a petition was submitted to the first Lord Feversham by 185 of his tenants and it is reproduced on the following page.

'We the undersigned tenants on your Lordship's Estate beg to submit to your Lordship's consideration the high rents we are now paying compared with the low prices of all farm produce and the still increasing payments and poor rates. And your petitioners humbly trust that your Lordship will bear in mind that when the present high rents were fixed (except the returns your Lordship has been kind enough to make) all farm produce was nearly double the present prices. And we humbly entreat that your Lordship will be pleased to equalize our rents to the present depreciated prices ; otherwise we find it will eventually be impossible for us to continue on our farms. Your Lordship's humble petitioners have long felt great reluctance to make any complaint to your Lordship but the most convincing prospect of certain ruin and beggary compels us humbly and respectfully but anxiously and earnestly to submit our very distressing case to your Lordship's most serious and humane consideration'.

Signed by 185 farm tenants on Lord Feversham's estate

The petition was withdrawn with an abject apology on 9 February but two years later farm rents were reduced and further reductions in 1835 created the situation illustrated in the following tables where rents are shown in pence per acre and percentage reductions which are based on the 1822 figures.

| | | |
|--------------|-----|---------|
| Stilton | 255 | — 19.3% |
| Abbot Hagg | 230 | — 22.0% |
| Abbey | 207 | — 14.8% |
| High Leys | 200 | — 19.3% |
| Newlays | 176 | — 18.8% |
| Cringle Carr | 166 | — 19.3% |
| Ouldray | 150 | — 19.3% |
| Oscar Park | 130 | — 19.7% |
| Sour Leys | 139 | — 19.3% |
| Harriet Air | 106 | — 18.4% |
| Middle Heads | 60 | — 20.0% |

This rent roll of 1835 was the first Duncombe record to show rent changes that were almost an even distribution of reductions amongst all the farms, being almost a 20 per cent overall reduction in rents per acre. Once again Stilton, Abbot Hagg, Abbey and High Leys were paying the highest rents per acre whilst Middle Heads was at the bottom of the list with a rent per acre that was less than a quarter that of Stilton.

The rents were almost unchanged in the field book of 1855 and the farmers then appear to have had a period of relative prosperity and the Population Census of 1851 provides an opportunity to judge the relative affluence of each of the farming families as it listed every man, woman and child who were living in Rievaulx on the day the Census was taken. The enumeration of the farming community is shown on the following pages and that for the village is shown on pages 136-8.

Population Census of 1851- Rievaulx Farms

| | Age | Occupation | Place of birth |
|------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|----------------|
| HIGH LEYS FARM | | | |
| John Bentley | 27 | Farmer employing 4 labourers | Helmsley |
| Elizabeth Bentley | 28 | Wife | Coxwold |
| Phoebe Bentley | 1 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Robert Bentley | 25 | Servant | Helmsley |
| George Hall | 18 | Servant | Old Byland |
| George Thompson | 13 | Servant | Eastmoors |
| Mary Johnson | 18 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| ABBOT HAGG FARM | | | |
| Francis Taylor | 63 | Farmer employing 4 labourers | Scawton |
| Ann Taylor | 58 | Wife | Sproxton |
| Mark Lumley | 24 | Servant | Oldstead |
| Andrew Close | 18 | Servant | Hawnby |
| John Houlston | 16 | Servant | Helmsley |
| Sarah Tyreman | 34 | Servant | Hawnby |
| Lueza Moon | 16 | Servant | Helmsley |
| Frank Houlston | 10 | Servant | Helmsley |
| GRIFF FARM | | | |
| Ralph Spraggon | 58 | Bailiff employing 35 labourers | Morpeth |
| Esther Spraggon | 46 | Wife | Northumberland |
| Mary Spraggon | 30 | Daughter | Newton Hall |
| Jane Spraggon | 13 | Daughter | Newton Hall |
| Elizabeth Spraggon | 8 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| George Bowes | 23 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| Thomas Coverdale | 21 | Servant | Nawton |
| William Dodds | 17 | Servant | Muscoates |
| OSCAR PARK | | | |
| Job Hawkins | 47 | Farmer employing 2 labourers | Rievaulx |
| Hannah Hawkins | 37 | Wife | Rievaulx |
| Nancy Hawkins | 15 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| John Hawkins | 13 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Elizabeth Hawkins | 12 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Job Hawkins | 10 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Thomas Hawkins | 7 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Ann Eliza Hawkins | 1 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Robert Bowes | 21 | Servant | Rievaulx |

| | Age | Occupation | Place of birth |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------|----------------|
| HARRIET AIR FARM | | | |
| Mary Lumley | 55 | Farmer employing 6 labourers | Silton |
| Jane Lumley | 23 | Daughter | Boltby |
| Christopher Lumley | 17 | Son | Boltby |
| Isaac Lumley | 15 | Son | Boltby |
| Joseph Lumley | 12 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Benjamin Lumley | 12 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Martha Lumley | 9 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| James Beilby | 53 | Servant (brother) | Silton |
| ABBEY FARM | | | |
| George Lumley | 22 | Farmer | Boltby |
| Mark Lumley | 20 | Farmer | Boltby |
| William Lumley | 19 | Farmer | Boltby |
| SOUR LEYS FARM | | | |
| Ann Hawkins | 60 | Farmer employing 2 labourers | Helmsley |
| James Hawkins | 26 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Ann Hawkins | 31 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Mary Ann Hawkins | 5 | Granddaughter | Rievaulx |
| John Atkinson | 35 | | Bilsdale |
| MIDDLE HEADS FARM | | | |
| William Worthy | 77 | Farmer employing 3 labourers | Helmsley |
| Mary Worthy | 77 | Wife | Helmsley |
| Elizabeth Bowes | 25 | Granddaughter | Pockley |
| Mary Ann Bowes | 1 | Great Granddaughter | Pockley |
| William Bowes | 10 | Grandson | Pockley |
| Ellen Warriner | 7 | Granddaughter | Pockley |
| Eliza Spence | 5 | Granddaughter | Pockley |
| Thomas Nicholson | 4 | Grandson | Pockley |
| Daniel Dunning | 26 | Servant | Hawnby |
| Thomas Richardson | 18 | Servant | Sutton |
| NEWLAYS FARM | | | |
| Richard Milner | 78 | Farmer employing 4 labourers | Coxwold |
| Mary Milner | 70 | Wife | Thirkleby |
| Ann Milner | 7 | Granddaughter | Rievaulx |
| William Rose | 25 | Servant | Thirkleby |
| Stephen Holmes | 18 | Servant | Hawnby |
| Sarah Place | 18 | Servant | Stonegrave |

| | Age | Occupation | Place of birth |
|---------------------|-----|------------------------------|----------------|
| OULDRAY FARM | | | |
| Emmanuel Strickland | 56 | Farmer employing 4 labourers | Helmsley |
| Ellis Strickland | 53 | Wife | Helmsley |
| Eliza Strickland | 28 | Daughter | Helmsley |
| John Strickland | 24 | Son | Rievaulx |
| James Thompson | 21 | Servant | Sproxton |
| Mary Thompson | 18 | Servant | Cold Kirby |
| Thomas Atkinson | 17 | Servant | Gillamoor |
| George Strickland | 37 | Nephew (gardener) | Helmsley |
| Thomas Strickland | 21 | Nephew (scholar) | Thirsk |
| Mary Robson | 28 | Widow (seamstress) | Nawton |
| Sarah Robson | | Visitor | |

CRINGLE CARR FARM

| | | | |
|------------------|----|------------------------------|------------|
| Michael Dobson | 58 | Farmer employing 2 labourers | Rievaulx |
| Ann Dobson | 54 | Wife | Old Byland |
| George Dobson | 21 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Mary Pickersgill | 12 | Servant | Sutton |

STILTON HOUSE FARM

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|------------------------------|----------------|
| George Sigsworth | 42 | Farmer employing 4 labourers | Gillamoor |
| Sarah Sigsworth | 32 | Wife | Hutton le Hole |
| Elizabeth Sigsworth | 9 | Daughter | Helmsley |
| John Sigsworth | 7 | Son | Helmsley |
| William Sigsworth | 4 | Son | Helmsley |
| Sarah Sigsworth | 1 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Mary Sigsworth | 11 | Neice (servant) | Kirkbymoorside |
| Ann Hodgson | 14 | Servant | Rosedale |
| Isaac Harland | 23 | Servant | Hartofts |
| William Metcalfe | 21 | Servant | Helmsley |
| William Naggs | 18 | Servant | Gardeland |
| John Flintoft | 11 | Servant | Helmsley |
| William Sigsworth | 75 | Uncle (writer) | Bransdale |

Analysis of the census details of people living on the Rievaulx farms reveals the following

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of male farm servants | 22 |
| Number of female farm servants | 8 |
| Farm labourers employed at Griff | 35 |
| Farm labourers employed at other farms | 35 |
| Total population living on farms (excluding labourers) | 91 |
| Farmers born in Rievaulx (including adult sons) | 5 |
| Farmers born elsewhere (including adult sons) | 10 |
| Total farm population born in Rievaulx | 24 |
| Total farm population born elsewhere | 67 |

Age groupings

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|-------|---|-------|---|
| 1-10 | 15 | 30-40 | 7 | 60-70 | 2 |
| 10-20 | 29 | 40-50 | 3 | 70-80 | 5 |
| 20-30 | 22 | 50-60 | 8 | | |

80.2% were aged 40 or under

72.5% were aged 30 or under

16.4% were aged 50 or over

7.7% were aged 60 or over

Some interesting details emerge from these analyses and perhaps the most surprising thing to find is that only 26.3% of the population living on the Rievaulx farms was born in the parish and this figure does not include the seventy farm labourers only 21 of whom could possibly have lived in Rievaulx.

Omitting Griff from the figures leaves a total of eleven Rievaulx farms which employed a total workforce of 30 servants and if it is assumed that the 35 labourers employed on those farms included the 21 who were living in the village at the time, they and their 41 dependents must also be added to the number of people in Rievaulx parish whose well-being was affected by the ups and downs of the farming economy. When the farming families are included there were 153 people in that category and additionally there were 2 tailors, 2 blacksmiths, 2 carpenters and 2 shoemakers whose trade would have been similarly affected and this reliance upon the farming economy and the numbers employed as servants and labourers is not likely to have changed much in the previous 250 years.

Many of the names on the census have been referred to on previous pages but other facts are worth mention.

John Bentley the tenant at High Leys was the son of Richard Bentley and Phoebe nee Barr and his wife Elizabeth nee Milner was born in Coxwold but they were married at Stockton on the Forest and their daughter Phoebe was named after her grandmother. Robert Bentley listed as a servant was John's brother and Elizabeth was the daughter of Richard Milner the tenant at Newlays and his wife was Mary nee Rose of Thirkleby whose nephew William was a servant at the farm whilst Mary Johnson another servant was the daughter of George, one of the Rievaulx blacksmiths. George Bowes employed as a servant at Griff was the son of Thomas who originally named Crabtree Hall and his brother Robert was a servant at Oscar Park.

Francis Taylor who had succeeded Thomas Wrightson as tenant at Abbot Hagg was the son of Marmaduke who had the tenancy of Scawton Croft when it was purchased by Lord Feversham in 1839. Mary Lumley was the widow of George and her three sons George, Mark and William who were all born at Boltby, shared the tenancy at Abbey Farm and she employed her brother James Beilby as a servant at the farm.

Thomas Richardson who was employed as a servant at Middle Heads in 1851 was the brother of William Richardson whom he originally lived with at Rievaulx Bridge when they both worked as labourers at Ashberry Farm. He married Mary Ann Hawkins the daughter of John of Sour Leys at Scawton church in 1861 and they then lived at Abbey Cottage in Rievaulx village where their children John and Emma were born.

It seems strange that grandchildren with three different surnames were living with William and Mary Worthy at Middle Heads but there is no mention of the presence of their parents. The Thomas Nicholson age 4 was the son of Hannah Worthy who married John Nicholson in 1831. Ellen Warriner age 7 was the daughter of Mary Worthy who married John Warriner in 1821.

The second half of the 19th century

The rents on the Rievaulx farms were unchanged in 1855 but then increased sharply in the next fifteen years and the following table show the 1870 rents calculated on the basis of pence per acre listed in descending order with the percentage increase based on the 1855 figures.

| | rent | change |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Abbot Hagg | 345 | +50.0% |
| Griff | 342 | |
| Stilton | 330 | +29.4% |
| High Leys | 326 | +63.0% |
| Abbey | 305 | +47.3% |
| Newlays | 282 | +60.2% |
| Cringle Carr | 228 | +53.4% |
| Harriet Air | 210 | +98.2% |
| Oscar Park | 203 | +56.1% |
| Ouldray | 151 | +0.66% |
| Sour Leys | 146 | +5.0% |
| Middle Heads | 82 | +36.6% |

Rents at Griff were not shown in the 1845 or 1855 field books so no comparison can be made but it is pointed out that Abbot Hagg had also become an estate farm and it and Griff were charged the highest rent per acre and this situation and the fact that varying percentages of increase were applied to different farms suggests that the valuation made in 1868 caused a rethink about the productivity of the land which may explain why the rent per acre at Harriet Air increased by 98.2% moving the farm from the second lowest rent per acre to being above Oscar Park and Ouldray.

Rents remained the same for the next 25 years and it should be remembered that the 1870s marked the commencement of a national farming depression brought about by the combination of bad harvests and the arrival in England of cheap imports of grain from USA but the population census taken in 1881 the farming section of which is reproduced on the following pages did not reflect any downturn in the local farming economy.

Population Census of 1881- Rievaulx Farms

| GRIFF FARM | age | Occupation | Place of birth |
|--------------------|-----|--------------|----------------|
| William Sherwood | 52 | Farm bailiff | Rievaulx |
| Elizabeth Sherwood | 53 | Wife | Cold Kirby |
| Hannah Sherwood | 21 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| William Sherwood | 14 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Robert Carter | 27 | Servant | Sproxton |
| Mason Allison | 18 | Servant | Oswaldkirk |
| Henry Ransom | 16 | Servant | Scawton |
| John Allison | 14 | Servant | Bransdale |
| James Dawson | 15 | Servant | Harome |

ABBOT HAGG

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|-----------|
| Job Richardson | 49 | Shepherd | Wombleton |
| Jane Richardson | 55 | Wife | Harome |
| John Wm Richardson | 21 | Son (herdsman) | Helmsley |
| Mary Jane Richardson | 19 | Daughter (servant) | Helmsley |
| Job Richardson | 15 | Son (herdsman) | Helmsley |

ABBEY FARM

| | | | |
|----------------|----|---------------------|----------|
| George Wass | 54 | Farmer of 130 acres | Farndale |
| Ann Wass | 54 | Wife | Farndale |
| Ann Frank | 17 | Servant | Farndale |
| Hannah Johnson | 15 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| Frank Helm | 30 | Servant | Bilsdale |
| Robert Garbutt | 21 | Servant | Farndale |

HARRIET AIR

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------------|----------|
| Isaac Lumley | 43 | Farmer of 355 acres | Rievaulx |
| Ann Bentley | 42 | Housekeeper | Thirsk |
| Lumley Bentley | 6 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Hannah Hawkins | 20 | Visitor | Rievaulx |
| Mary Richardson | 18 | Servant | Helmsley |
| John Johnson | 19 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| Thomas Bowes | 20 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| William Johnson | 17 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| Isaac Leng | 14 | Servant | Rievaulx |

| SOUR LEYS FARM | age | Occupation | Place of birth |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|----------------|
| James Hawkins | 56 | Farmer with 58 acres | Rievaulx |
| Tamar Hawkins | 50 | Wife | Old Byland |
| William Hawkins | 22 | Son (labourer) | Rievaulx |
| George Hawkins | 13 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Sarah Eliza Hawkins | 11 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Betsy Hawkins | 6 | Daughter | Rievaulx |

OSCAR PARK FARM

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----------------------|----------|
| Job Hawkins | 76 | Farmer with 120 acres | Rievaulx |
| Hannah Hawkins | 66 | Wife | Rievaulx |
| Thomas Hawkins | 38 | Son (labourer) | Rievaulx |
| Ann Banks | 17 | Servant | Kilburn |
| John Stonehouse | 16 | Servant | Helmsley |
| Watson Mason | 13 | Servant | Scawton |

MIDDLE HEADS FARM

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|-----------------------------|----------|
| John Trousdale | 48 | Farmer with 150 acres | Bilsdale |
| Ellen Trousdale | 41 | Wife | Kirby |
| Jane Trousdale | 24 | Daughter (servant) | Bilsdale |
| Isaac Trousdale | 23 | Son (farm bailiff) | Bilsdale |
| Henry Trousdale | 19 | Son (servant) | Bilsdale |
| Geo Edwd Trousdale | 17 | Son (servant) | Bilsdale |
| Mary Ann Trousdale | 16 | Daughter (servant) | Bilsdale |
| Stephen Trousdale | 14 | Son | Bilsdale |
| Elizabeth Trousdale | 12 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| John Trousdale | 10 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Hannah Trousdale | 8 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Eliza Trousdale | 6 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Matthew Trousdale | 3 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Elizabeth Teasdale | 20 | Visitor (farmer's daughter) | Bilsdale |
| Dinah Teasdale | 17 | Visitor (farmer's daughter) | Bilsdale |

CRINGLE CARR FARM

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----------------------|----------|
| William Dobson | 57 | Farmer with 40 acres | Rievaulx |
| John Dobson | 30 | Son (labourer) | Rievaulx |
| Joseph Dobson | 28 | Son (labourer) | Rievaulx |
| Alfred Dobson | 25 | Son (labourer) | Rievaulx |
| Eliza Kirk | 24 | Housekeeper | Sutton |

| OULDRAY FARM | age | Occupation | Place of birth |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|----------------|
| John Strickland | 54 | Farmer with 205 acres | Rievaulx |
| Annie Strickland | 44 | Wife | Edston |
| Sarah Strickland | 24 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| William Strickland | 22 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Eliza Strickland | 20 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| John Strickland | 19 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Mary Eliz Almond | 14 | Servant | Scawton |
| Thomas Bentley | 18 | Servant | Bilsdale |
| Robert Garbutt | 16 | Servant | Helmsley |
| NEW LEYS FARM | | | |
| Robert Milner | 60 | Farmer with 196 acres | Byland Abbey |
| Rebecca Milner | 30 | Daughter | Old Byland |
| Hannah Milner | 28 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| William Hawkins | 15 | Grandson (servant) | Rievaulx |
| Richard Hawkins | 13 | Grandson (servant) | Rievaulx |
| Ann Armitage | 18 | Servant | Hutton le Hole |
| Fred Humble | 18 | Servant | Edston |
| Dowkea Smith | 17 | Servant | Kirby |
| Charles Primbler | 14 | Servant | Ampleforth |
| HIGH LEYS FARM | | | |
| Elizabeth Bentley | 58 | Farmer with 180 acres | Byland Abbey |
| Phoebe Bentley | 28 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Betsy Bentley | 25 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| John Bentley | 23 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Sarah Bentley | 20 | Daughter | Rievaulx |
| Emmanuel Bowes | 23 | Servant | Farndale |
| Abraham Wood | 50 | Servant | Kirkbymoorside |
| Isaac Dodds | 16 | Servant | Nawton |
| Mary Barker | 16 | Servant | York |
| STILTON HOUSE FARM | | | |
| George Sigsworth | 74 | Farmer with 340 acres | Gillamoor |
| Sarah Sigsworth | 62 | Wife | Hutton le Hole |
| Geo John Sigsworth | 26 | Son | Rievaulx |
| Ellen Sigsworth | 24 | Daughter in law | Rievaulx |
| John Wm Sigsworth | 2 | Grandson | Rievaulx |
| Elizabeth Airey | 43 | Servant | Rievaulx |
| Margaret Barker | 14 | Servant | Glaisdale |
| John Steel | 63 | Shepherd | Sutton |
| Francis Harding | 21 | Farm foreman | Hutton le Hole |
| William Watson | 18 | Servant | Morton |
| William Wright | 16 | Servant | Helmsley |

STILTON HOUSE (continued)

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------|------------|
| James Masterman | 14 | Servant | Hamer |
| Dawson Grayson | 46 | Servant | Helmsley |
| Thomas Slater | 14 | Servant | Lastingham |
| Robert Linfort | 42 | Servant | Slingsby |
| Henry Jackson | 44 | Servant | Cottingham |

Unfortunately it is not possible to make any comparison with the number of farm labourers employed on the Rievaulx farms thirty years earlier as the census enumerator did not list them in 1881 but other comparisons are possible.

| | 1851 | 1881 | |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|----------------|
| Total population living on farms | 91 | 102 | |
| Age 70-80 | 5 | 2 | |
| Age 60-70 | 2 | 4 | |
| Age 50-60 | 8 | 11 | |
| Age 40-50 | 3 | 10 | |
| Age 30-40 | 7 | 4 | |
| Age 20-30 | 22 | 24 | |
| Age 10-20 | 29 | 41 | |
| Under 10 | 15 | 6 | |
| | | | |
| Total farm population born Rievaulx | 24 | 44 | |
| Total born elsewhere | 67 | 58 | |
| Male servants including sons | 22 | 31 | +1 not on farm |
| Female servants including daughters | 8 | 15 | +1 not on farm |

Although this census was taken in a year when farming nationally was going through a difficult period the Rievaulx farmers were still able to employ more servants than they did thirty years earlier and it is possible to highlight the differences between 1851 and 1881 by subtracting the numbers of servants from the total population living on the farms and then showing the percentage of servants to that figure. In 1851 it was 49.1% and by 1881 it had increased to 85.6% or viewed in another way in 1851 there was one servant to every 2.03 other person living on the Rievaulx farms, excluding labourers and in 1881 there was a servant to every 1.15 persons which was almost a servant for every other person.

Searching for a reason for this increase in the number of servants during a period when farming was going through a difficult time it appears that the most likely cause is the dearth in employment which led to a reduction in wages and more people seeking work but as the century drew to a close wages began to slowly increase, the farming economy suffered further decline and there would never be a return to the times when even the smaller farms could afford to employ servants.

Dependency on farming had not changed as there were 16 farm labourers living in the village and in 1881 they and their dependents added to people living on the farms made a total of 161 compared with 153 in 1851 and the number of tailors, blacksmiths and shoemakers remained the same making a total Rievaulx population of 196 excluding a gamekeeper and a terrace gardener and their wives.

The 1881 census read in conjunction with the one taken thirty years earlier shows some tenancies that had remained in the same family during that period and other relationships can also be detected.

William Sherwood the farm bailiff at Griff was the son of John and Mary born in 1828 at the dwelling now known as Verbena Cottage. Robert Milner the tenant at Newlays was the son of Richard who had the tenancy in 1851 when Robert was living at Reins Farm in Old Byland after marrying Elizabeth Sturdy in 1842. She was the daughter of Robert the tenant of Reins and her daughter Rebecca was born at the farm in 1851 and moved to Newlays with her parents three years later. Richard Hawkins age 13 who was working as a farm servant at Newlays was Richard Milner Hawkins the son of Job and Ann nee Milner another of Robert's daughters and William the other servant was Richard's brother. Their father and mother and sisters Mary Elizabeth and Amelia and brother Robert were living in Stockton on Tees where Job worked as an agricultural labourer and looking back at that situation from the beginning of the 21st century it is strange that in the last quarter of the 19th century these two young boys were sent to work as servants to their grandfather. This seems to have been a case of hard reality overcoming any family sentimentality. The same situation probably applied in the case of Mary Elizabeth Almond who at the age of 14 was a servant at Ouldray Farm when her father Thomas was the tenant of Church Farm in Scawton, a tenancy which later passed to her younger brother Ashton.

Hannah Johnson who worked as a servant at Abbey Farm was the daughter of William Johnson, one of the village blacksmiths and George Wass the farm tenant was the nephew of Joseph Wass of Grange Farm, Old Byland whose daughter Ann married John Lancelot Cossins who was related to Ann Dobson nee Cossins the wife of Michael Dobson the tenant at Cringle Carr in 1851. Their son George moved to York and became a milk dealer and his elder brother William took the farm tenancy.

As the 19th century drew to a close the Dobson and Hawkins families could look back on a two hundred year presence in Rievaulx, the Stricklands had been tenants for a hundred years and the Milners for fifty. The Trousdale family tenancies in Rievaulx had just started with that of John at Middle Heads and the Bentley's were about halfway through their eighty years at High Leys. The twenty eight farm tenancies listed in 1693 were now reduced to eleven and as only one would be lost in the middle of the next century the number and sizes of the farms recorded in the 1881 census were little different from those remaining at the start of a new millennium though the farming population has undergone dramatic changes and the 1901 population census shown on the following pages is the last one that will be available until the 1911 census is published in 2011 and shows other changes that took place in the space of twenty years, heralding the start of a new century.

The turn of the century saw further huge falls in the rents per acre which must have reflected the continuing reductions of farm incomes and the figures from the 1905 rent roll show the extent of the reductions. As no farm acreage figures are available it is assumed that they remained basically the same as in 1895 and although any unknown changes to acreages may slightly distort the figures the trends are plain to see.

| | | 1895 | 1905 | change |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|------|---------|
| John Bentley | High Leys | 326 | 220 | — 31.2% |
| Thomas Hawkins | Oscar Park | 203 | 162 | — 20.2% |
| George Hawkins | Sour Leys | 146 | 140 | — 4.1% |
| William Hawkins | Abbey | 305 | 172 | — 43.6% |
| Joseph Dobson | Cringle Carr | 228 | 103 | — 54.8% |
| Joel Scaife | Harriet Air | 210 | 112 | — 46.6% |
| George John Sigsworth | Stilton | 330 | 228 | — 30.9% |
| John Trousdale | Newlays | 282 | 107 | — 67.0% |
| Isaac Trousdale | Middle Heads | 82 | 64 | — 22.0% |
| Edward Trousdale | Ouldray | 151 | 65 | — 53.6% |

The figures remained the same for 1910 and included the rent for Abbot Hagg which had ceased to be part of Home Farm and the rent per acre paid by Edward Herbert Myers the new tenant can be compared with the 1895 figure.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Edward Herbert Myers | Abbot Hagg | 345 | 206 | — 40.2% |
|----------------------|------------|-----|-----|---------|

The last surviving rent roll dated 1915 shows rents unchanged except for that for Harriet Air which had risen from £170 in 1910 to £230, presumably because of an increase in acreage. Christopher Barker had taken the tenancy at Abbot Hagg, Stephen Trousdale was at Newlays and Matthew Trousdale was at Ouldray.

The following table shows the changes to rents in pence per acre that had taken place over the previous 109 years.

| | 1806 | 1812 | 1822 | 1835 | 1870 | 1915 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Stilton | 220 | 287 | 316 | 255 | 330 | 228 |
| Abbot Hagg | 211 | 297 | 295 | 230 | 345 | 230 |
| High Leys | 216 | 271 | 295 | 200 | 326 | 220 |
| Abbey | 156 | 235 | 243 | 207 | 305 | 172 |
| Newlays | 151 | 212 | 217 | 176 | 282 | 107 |
| Oscar Park | 185 | 185 | 172 | 130 | 203 | 162 |
| Cringle Carr | 160 | 209 | | 166 | 228 | 103 |
| Sour Leys | 168 | 168 | 171 | 139 | 146 | 140 |
| Harriet Air | 105 | 135 | 130 | 106 | 210 | 112 |
| Ouldray | 82 | 101 | 188 | 150 | 151 | 65 |
| Middle Heads | 59 | 75 | 74 | 60 | 82 | 64 |

The figures are shown graphically in the appendix and though many of the changes appear to lack any consistent pattern the individual graphs highlight the problems faced by the Rievaulx farm tenants of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The increases originally suggested by Arthur Young had started at the end of the 18th century and the graph shows that they continued until the reductions to the 1835 levels when Lord Feversham appears to have recognised the plight of his tenant farmers and gave rent reductions which lasted until some time between 1855 and 1870 as rents in the latter year reached their highest point and continued at the same level for the rest of the 19th century. The extent of the depression faced by farmers at the start of the new century can be judged by the dramatic reductions indicated by the graphs and some rents were even reduced to below their level of a hundred years earlier.

As far as rents are concerned this is as far as this history goes as it is considered that any extension of the period being reviewed would be an invasion of privacy. Suffice to say that it is believed that the general trend for rents to be more per acre on the farms nearer to Helmsley still applies at the beginning of a new millennium. There was little improvement in the farming economy in the 1920s and 1930s and farming at the start of a new century is experiencing its most difficult period for fifty years.

Rievaulx Manor Court

Every Lord of a manor had the right to hold a court which was usually presided over by his steward. The manorial juries were usually composed of 12 homagers who had to be sworn and their first duty was to deal with the Lord's financial interests and then judge pleas brought by tenants and lay fines or 'pains' for petty offences. There is little doubt that Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland would have instituted Manor Courts by the middle of the 16th century but the earliest surviving documents that record the constitution of the courts and their verdicts date from the Buckingham Lordship in 1670 and as the juries were composed mainly of farm tenants and fines imposed often refer to misdemeanours committed by their peers lists of some of the jurors and their verdicts are shown on the following pages.

Jurors in 1684

Steven Manners
George Taylor
George Owram
John Wilkes
John Cass
Robert Walker
John Muncaster
Walter Seamer
Walter Sigsworth
Gilbert Mitchell
John Wright
William Huggon

Jurors in 1736

Richard Gray
John Brisby
William Belwood
James Smith
James Garbutt
Ralph Richardson
James Hawkins
Thomas Bowlby
Richard Brisby
John Fisher
Thomas Rickaby

Jurors in 1762

Thomas Owram
Richard Brisby
John Hawkins
John Wright
William Hoggard
Henry Belwood
William Garbutt
George Wrightson
John Atkinson
Benjamin Sigsworth
William Warriner

Jurors in 1786

Thomas Agar
Thomas Wrightson
Thomas Owram
John Gray
John Wright
William Laycock
Thomas Holliday
William Garbutt
John Hawkins
William Dobson
Benjamin Simpson
William Strickland
George Hornby

Jurors in 1804

Thomas Wrightson
John Wright
John Wilson
Daniel Richardson
Richard Medd
Robert Foster
George Staveley
William Strickland
Thomas Bulmer
George Sigsworth
John Gray
Andrew Fisher
Thomas Kirby

Jurors in 1833

John Rowland
Thomas Wells
Richard Milner
Emmanuel Strickland
James Hawkins
Thomas Robinson
Edward Seamer
Benjamin Wright
Christopher Ruddock
Joseph Wood
William Moon
Stephen Gray
William Gray

During the whole of this period West Newton Grange came under the jurisdiction of Rievaulx manor court and tenants at the Grange served as jurors.

Fines imposed by the juries on their contemporaries provide interesting information about behaviour that was regarded as unacceptable.

| Fines at a Manor Court of 1670 | s | d |
|---|---|---|
| William Grayson for encroaching of ye common | | 2 |
| William Brisbye for rating hempe being annoysome to ye cattel | | 2 |
| William Ward for the like | | 2 |
| William Browne for the like | | 2 |
| John Munchester for the like | | 2 |
| Dorothy Gosse for the like | | 2 |
| Michael Sunley for the like | | 2 |
| Harmon Allen for the like | | 2 |
| Thomas Bell for the like | | 2 |
| Nicholas Wainwright for the like | | 2 |
| Mrs Ellen Kirk for the like | | 2 |
| Richard Brisbye for the like | | 2 |
| Joseph Carter for the like | | 2 |
| Nicholas Brisbye for the like | | 2 |
| Joseph Carter for the like | | 2 |
| William Hildreth for the like | | 2 |
| Richard Hugill for the like | | 2 |
| John Constable for the same | | 2 |
| George Warde for the same | | 2 |
| Thomas Richison for the same | | 2 |
| John Cass for the same | | 2 |
| Ann Allen for the same | | 2 |
| John Milner for the same | | 2 |
| Thomas Wainwright for the same | | 2 |
| We doe mark George Boulby for his geese trespassing | | 6 |
| We doe mark George Boulby for not ringing his swine | 1 | 0 |
| We doe mark Ann Seamer for her swine not being ringed | | 2 |
| We doe mark Matthew Brisbye for his fence lying down | | 8 |
| We doe mark George Taylor for his geese trespassing | | 6 |
| George Readman and Allis Ellecar for a fould break | 3 | 4 |

No less than twenty three tenants, many of them recognisable as farm tenants, were amerced for 'rating' hemp which suggests that growing this crop was a common practice on the Rievaulx farms. It is believed that the modern version of 'rating' is retting which is the spreading of the cut stalks on the ground to reduce moisture content.

Fines for unringed swine continued to be imposed for at least the next 75 years and as the amount amerced was based on the number of animals involved it can be seen that Ann Seamer was charged for one and George Boulby for six.

| Fines at a Manor Court of 1728 | s | d |
|---|----|---|
| John Berry for his swine being unringed and trespassing upon several neighbours of the Town | 10 | 0 |
| John Berry for his fence lying down upon Mary Wilkes and Mary Ward | 1 | 0 |
| John Berry for breaking the pinfold | 3 | 7 |
| John Dodsworth for one swine unringed | | 6 |
| Mary Seamer and Mary Ward for their swine being unringed | 2 | 0 |
| John Brown for burning hedge sticks at an unlawful time | | 6 |
| Roger Garbut for his goods | 1 | 0 |
| Richard Hugill for the same | 1 | 0 |
| Charles Wrightson for neglecting of haystacks | 2 | 0 |
| Mark Foster of Beadlam for graving turves off Skiplam Moor | 13 | 7 |
| John Foster of Wombleton for the same | 2 | 0 |
| Nicholas Tate of Nawton for loading turves off Skiplam Moor being Roger Richardson turves | 10 | 0 |
| John Tate of Nawton for the same | 5 | 0 |

It was an expensive day for John Berry whose fines totalled 14s 7d which was almost half the annual rent he and John Conyers paid for the ale house they ran at the dwelling now known as Mill House. The unlawful graving of turves was considered a serious offence and as the fines were usually based on the area of turves taken it can be seen that Mark Foster must have removed more than six times the amount taken by John Foster. The reference to Nicholas Tate taking Roger Richardson turves suggests that Roger was paying turbury for the right to take a certain acreage.

Fines at a Manor Court of 1740

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| Thomas Rickaby for forceably making away over Charles Mason ground called Old Walls | 1 | 0 |
| Thomas Rickaby for forceably making away over William Taylor ground called Little Close | 1 | 0 |
| Thomas Rickaby for forceably making away over Charles Mason pasture ground into ye Parts and hinging a gate when there was never one before at ye Parts End | 1 | 0 |
| William Taylor for neglecting of ringing his pig | | 2 |
| Mark Ward for the same | | 2 |
| James Ellerker the same for his pigs | | 4 |
| John Berry for neglecting of ringing his ten pigs | 1 | 8 |
| William Mintoft of Nawton for burning and graving turves from Skiplam Moor when he hath no right | 10 | 6 |
| John Mintoft of Nawton for the same | 5 | 0 |
| Robert Moon of Nawton for the same | 1 | 0 |
| William Franck of Nawton for the same | 1 | 0 |
| John Moon of Nawton for the same | 5 | 0 |
| Richard Ford of Nawton for the same | 1 | 0 |
| William Mintoft of Nawton for stealing turfs from John Beecroft on Whitsun Tuesday last part of Skiplam Moor | 2 | 6 |

Thomas Rickaby the tenant at Harrett Hare in 1740 seems to have been the 18th century equivalent of 'the neighbour from hell' making away over other tenants' land. One of them was Charles Mason of Abbey Farm and the other William Taylor, was the tenant at Rievaulx Mill. Old Walls and Little Close can be seen south of Harrett Hare on the 1806 map of the village shown on page 129.

Fines at a Manor Court of 1767

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| In pain we do fine John Weightman for his gate and fence lying down against Griff Green and Hell Howls Bank | 1 | 0 |
| In pain we do fine John Weightman for his hedge which wanted slashing and hanging over Low Field Lane | | 6 |
| In pain we do fine Robert Scrafton for over stocking the Common | 1 | 0 |
| In pain we do fine George Cass and Thomas Boyes or trespassing and damaging the ground of John Richardson - five shillings each | 10 | 0 |
| In pain we do fine George Gamble, William Potter and Matthew Potter for the like - sixpence each | 1 | 6 |
| In pain we do fine William Sunley, John Truman, John Bulmer and Richard Russell for the like - sixpence each | 2 | 0 |
| In pain we do fine Ralph Pillmer for his fence lying down against John Willson | 1 | 0 |

John Weightman and Robert Scrafton were both tenants at Griff

The following list is a random selection of other ameracements enforced by Rievaulx Manor Court juries during the 18th century.

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| Edward Skelton washing sheep at Rivalx Bridge when he had no right | 1 | 0 |
| Sylvester Sturdy for the like | 1 | 0 |
| Christopher Spence for the like | 1 | 0 |
| John Berry for letting his dead mare be on the sheep | | 6 |
| William Bentley for housing his beasts and sheep in Rivalx Lane and trespassing his neighbours ground with goods adjoining the Lane | 5 | 0 |
| John Stabler for overstacking Town Street with his horses | 3 | 0 |
| John Stabler for keeping ducks to abuse his water | 1 | 0 |
| Ralph Richardson for cursing the jury | 19 | 0 |
| John Flintoft for burning lime on Rivalx Common for sale contrary to the custom of the Manor | 1 | 0 |
| Thomas Holiday for cutting gawills [faggots] in Thomas Oworm woods without leeve of C S Duncombe or his agent or the occupier and likewise leaving said wood full of litter and rubbish | 2 | 6 |

Edward Skelton, Christopher Spence and Sylvester Sturdy were Scawton tenants who had brought their sheep nearly two miles to wash them in the River Rye at the bridge. John Flintoft was a tenant at Ouldray, Thomas Holiday was at High Leys and a neighbour of Thomas Oworm and Ralph Richardson was a Griff tenant whose cursing the jury cost him dearly.

The 20th century

Judging from the Population Census of 1901 there appears to have been relatively little change in the employment pattern on the Rievaulx farms in the fifty years that had elapsed since the Census of 1851 and as it is likely that the same situation had already lasted for at least 200 years the start of the 20th century saw a farming structure that had probably altered little since the middle of the 17th century, but things were about to change.

In 1901 there were 34 people living on farms who could be classed as farm workers as distinct from the tenants and their families and as 12 of the men living in the village could be described as farm workers there were 46 people employed on the Rievaulx farms. Add to these the tenants and their families and the tradesmen and their dependents and a picture is created of a community most of whose incomes were derived directly or indirectly from farming although some other forms of employment were already to be seen in the village.

Acreages had remained broadly the same following the transfer of land from Coney Hall Farm to High Leys and Stilton and traditional farming tenancies were still much in evidence with the Dobson and Hawkins families tracing their Rievaulx ancestry back two hundred years and families who had reached their half centuries of tenancy who were the Bentleys at High Leys, Sigsworths at Stilton and the Lumleys at Harriet Air. Trousdale had already established a record for the number of tenancies held by one family, farming Newlays, Ouldray and Middle Heads and Lord Feversham was still farming Griff and Abbot Hagg but the next quarter of a century was to see those farms reverting to tenancies.

Farmers faced difficult times up to and after World War I and were not helped by an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 1922-24 and the continuing difficulties of the farming industry combined with the gradual introduction of more mechanisation during the next fifty years caused a steady reduction in the numbers of farm labourers and servants living on the farms and similar diminution of the labourers living in the village whilst in the same period the tailors, shoemakers, carpenters and blacksmiths all gradually disappeared from Rievaulx.

World War II brought better times for farmers which generally continued though the further outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in 1952 and 1967-8 created difficult periods and the beginning of the 21st century saw dramatic falls in the prices of grain and livestock and another devastating outbreak of foot and mouth from which the industry is only slowly recovering. So the end of the 20th century saw a Rievaulx farming community that was completely changed and a village no longer reliant upon farming for most of its income and the result of the changes can be seen in the table on the following page which shows the change to the numbers of those dependent upon farming.

| | 1901 | 2001 |
|--|------|------|
| Farm tenants and families | 38 | 38 |
| Agricultural husbandmen and dependents | 2 | — |
| Farm labourers and dependents | 29 | 6 |
| Cattlemen | 3 | — |
| Shepherds and dependents | 7 | — |
| Waggoners | 7 | — |
| Horsemen | 2 | — |
| Farm foremen and dependents | 4 | — |
| Ploughboys | 2 | — |
| Farm servants | 13 | — |
| Total dependent on farming | 103 | 44 |
| Blacksmiths and dependents | 7 | — |
| Carpenters and dependents | 4 | 2 |
| Tailors and dependents | 14 | — |
| Miller and dependents | 3 | — |
| Bootmaker and dependents | 5 | — |
| Dressmaker and dependent | 2 | — |
| Mole catcher | 1 | — |
| Total indirectly dependent on farming | 36 | — |
| Not dependent on farming | 39 | 40 |

Although the size of the farming population has fallen by 57.2% the figures below show that the total area being farmed has remained basically the same over the last hundred years and although those who live in the village are surrounded by farmland and there are still close personal relationships between villagers and farm tenants the village dependence on farming which lasted for nearly four hundred years is a thing of the past and is not likely to be repeated.

| | 1909 | 2003 |
|---------------|------|------|
| Stilton | 318 | 365 |
| Abbot Hagg | 190 | 200 |
| Griff | 240 | 265 |
| Harriet Air | 353 | 440 |
| High Leys | 180 | 264 |
| Oscar Park | 153 | 163 |
| Ouldray | 190 | 175 |
| Middle Heads | 171 | 170 |
| Abbey | 131 | — |
| Newlays | 194 | 191 |
| Sour Leys | 70 | 80 |
| Total acreage | 2290 | 2313 |

For more than three hundred years the communities of the farms and village were closely linked and we can now look at the development of the latter.