

HISTORY OF NUN MONKTON.

Nun Monkton or, as it is described in Domesday Book, Monechtone, stands on the west side of the apex formed by the junction of the Yorkshire Ouse and the River Nidd.

The name is of ecclesiastic origin, as there had previously been a monastery which was destroyed by the Danes in 867 A.D. The site of this monastery is not known, but it probably stood where the present Church now stands.

There is no known connection with Roman times, but as York (Eboracum) was occupied by the Roman legions and Aldborough (Isurium) was taken from the Britons in the time of Queen Cartismandu and made into a Roman stronghold, there would most certainly have been traffic up the River Ouse between these two places, thus passing the ferry.

The Roman road from Isurium to Eboracum was in a similar position to what it is today, but the River Nidd was possibly forded at Moor Monkton village end and until some years ago there were remains of stepping stones in the River. It is thought that the upright blocks of stone in Poole Lane were placed there in Roman times to mark the track up to the Roman road to Eboracum. Also, the ancient stone near the Maypole may have been the base of a sundial in Roman times.

With the return of the Romans to Rome to defend their own cities, Britain was left to fight off the Angles and Saxons who came over the North Sea in large hordes - burning villages and killing the inhabitants. They were too strong to be driven off and settled in Britain which was re-named Angleland (England). With the coming of Christianity to England, brought by the monk Augustine to King Ethelbert of Kent, the new religion spread to the North of England. Paulinus preached in York and a church was built, on the site of which York Minster now stands.

Tradition states that a monastery was established at Nun Monkton about the 7th or 8th century. Whether this monastery was independent, or whether it was a branch of York Minster is not known, but it flourished until the time of the Danes.

It is thought that the excavations carried out by the late Captain Whitworth between the Priory Wall and the river are the remains of a circular watch tower used by the inhabitants of the village to watch for Danish boats passing up the River Ouse. This small monastery was destroyed by the Danes in 867 A.D.

When Duke William of Normandy conquered England in 1066 A.D. he gave grants of land to the knights who had accompanied him from France and who had fought bravely for him at Hastings, and who now were to help him to keep order in the newly conquered land.

These divisions of land were recorded in the Domesday (Domesday) Book which still exists. In this Book it states that William I gave to Osberne extensive grants of land in Yorkshire - Monechtone being part of this estate. (The name Monec is an old Anglo-Saxon name meaning Monks - Monks Town).

The land extended through "Willstrop" to Thorpe Arch. Osberne made Thorpe Arch his principal seat and added "de Arches" to his name. As Osberne de Arches could not supervise the whole of his estate he appointed vassals to do this for him. In Domesday Book it is recorded. "That Hugh, a vassal of Osberne-de-Arches has at Monechstone 10 villeins (serfs) with 4 ploughs and 4 acres of meadow and half a fishery - a wood pasture one mile long and three quarters broad, valued at 25/-."

Nuns divers silken undergarments, precious furs and tunics fastened with brooches after the manner of lay women."

In conquence the Nuns were forbidden to appear other than in the garb of their Order (Benedictine) and were also forbidden to admit any male person within the confines of their establishment.

The Priory flourished until the Dissolution.

On February 4th, 1536, Joanna Slingsby surrendered the Priory to the representative of King Henry VIII, and the Nuns were disbanded. At the time of the Dissolution the Priory had a yearly income from property of £132-15-0 and there were 15 Nuns living there.

Sir Oswald Willesthorpe affirmed that Joanna had no right as Prioress to lands in Willesthorpe. He was required to prove this by Whitsuntide 1539 or otherwise Lord Latimer would claim them. He failed to prove his statement, and the lands were included in the estate of Lord Latimer.

After the Dissolution, Joanna Slingsby appears to have lived in Boroughbridge and according to Aldborough Church Register was buried there on April 19th 1544. Her sister Anne married William Tancred.

This is a list of the yearly rental of land owned by the Priory at the Dissolution (in Nun Monkton parish).

1.	Site of the monastery - a garth and 3 closes (3 acres)	3 - 0
2.	Dovecote -	2 - 0
3.	A mill for corn (disused) -	- -
4.	Fishing rights in the River Nidd	1 - 8
5.	Certain pieces of meadow lying in diverse places near to banks of Nidd and letten to various persons (21 acres)	4 - 7 - 4
6.	A meadow called North Ings 39 ac 1 rd	3 - 18 - 0
7.	A close called Bradarse 22 ac	2 - 5 - 0
8.	A pasture called Oxclose 16 ac	10 - 8
9.	A close called Ryeclose 8 ac	5 - 4
10.	A close called Clayflats 7 ac	4 - 8
11.	A close called Oxpasture 6 ac	4 - 0
12.	A close called Moreclose 100 ac	2 - 0 - 0
13.	4 closes called Gowland 36 ac	2 - 8 - 0
14.	A certain meadow called Dockmire 5 ac	9 - 8
15.	A wood called Springpart 7 ac	- -
16.	126 acres of arable land called Belling Close 9, Skall Close, 19, Middle Field 36, West Field 18, Next Town Field 38, Newton Croft 9.	2 - 6 - 8

These rents varied from 5d to 4/- per acre in 1536.

Total Income to the Priory from all Lands.

1.	Nun Monkton	19 - 6 - 0
2.	Kirk Hammerton (Tenements and Pastures)	31 - 2 - 10 ³ / ₄
3.	Bolton Canons (Land) £1 - Thorpe Arch £2-6-8 Beningbrough 16/8	4 - 3 - 4
4.	Benington & Flexton £3-6-0, Marton £2 rent, Marton (tenements) £2-10-6	7 - 16 - 6
9.	Green Hammerton tenements and land	11 - 0
10.	Newton upon Ouse	1 - 18 - 6
11.	Walton	5 - 8 - 10
12.	Ripon (a burbage)	4 - 6
13.	York (tenements)	1 19 - 8
14.	Wrigginton 1/- Kirk Leamington 3/4 Layborne (& Common)	12 - 4
17.	Marston 4/6 Moor Monkton 1/4 Thorpe Underwoods £1	2 - 5 - 10

Total Income to the Priory (contd)

20. Angram	1- 8
21. Nunstanton in Durham - a grange	13 -6 - 8
22. Willestrop	2-13- 4
23. Nun Monkton Rectory	4- 0 - 0
24. Walton	4-13 - 4
25. Kirk Hammerton	3- 0 - 0
26. St George's Church	6-13 - 4
27. Askham Richard	<u>4-13- 4</u>
	<u>£ 114-11 0³/₄</u>

But given in records as £132-15-0³/₄ so further additions must have been made.

THE PRIORY

After the Dissolution, the plate belonging to the Priory and all valuables were carried off to London. The Conventual buildings were destroyed and the material sold. Two years later, in 1538, the estate with all its appurtenances was sold to John Neville on very reasonable terms (a yearly payment of £14-18-8 to King Henry VIII) Specially mentioned in this transaction were the rights to the ferry. This seems to be the first mention that has been made in any records of the ferry, but it must have been widely used to have it specially mentioned in the deeds.

John Neville erected a house but we do not know if he lived here. His second wife was Catherine Parr of Kendall, and on the death of her husband John Neville (Lord Latimer) she married King Henry VIII and survived him.

The Priory stayed in the Latimer family and Lord Latimer's granddaughter married Henry, 8th Earl of Northumberland who then lived at Spofforth Castle. In 1585 this earl was accused of plotting with Mary Queen of Scots against Queen Elizabeth 1. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London but committed suicide. His widow then married Francis Fitton and the Nun Monkton estate then passed to that family. After this the estate changed hands many times - John Carville - Marjoribanks (1644) Paylors (1650-1748) Samual Jollyfe Tuffnell 1786.

In 1789 George IV, then Prince of Wales, lunched at the Priory after York Races.

The Butler Family followed (brother of the Earl of Kilkenny whose eldest son became Viscount Mountgarret). Then the Brown family (he was a Proctor at York Minster) and in 1860 it was bought by Isaac Crowthall, Esq., who was succeeded by his son George and later by Walter - nephew of George.

The Priory was sold in 1928 to Captain C. Whitworth and again in 1946 to Lieut. Col. George Aykroyd.

The Paylors must have rebuilt the house. The present building was built in the time of William and Mary and was designed by a Dutch architect. It was built of hand made bricks. There was a maze in the garden and 90 acres of pasture land attached to the estate. A special feature of the grounds was the collection of lead statues which are unique and very valuable. They are supposed to be the work of a Dutch sculptor named Andrew Carne in approx. 1688. There is a very peculiarly carved stone in the wilderness also attributed to Dutch workmen.

On it are the arms of the Paylor family and many scenes depicting village life. There is an old legend that there was a tunnel passing from the priory under the River Nidd and to Red House which was used at the time of the battle of Marston Moor, but this has never been found. The battle of Marston Moor was fought in July 1644 between Cavaliers led by Prince Rupert and Roundheads led by Oliver Cromwell. The Roundheads were victorious and the Royalists fled, many of them over to Nun Monkton, Thorpe and Ouseburn.

Nun Monkton was Royalist.

A pike man seriously wounded wandered to the priory and later died there. His full equipment consisting of pot helmet, gorgel, breast and back plates and tassets with sword and 15 ft pike is now in the Kirk Museum at York. Strangely, this armour was presented to the museum by a London gentleman but it had been in the possession of the Marjoriebank family who owned the priory at the time of the civil war.

Overlooking the church yard there is a 'tithe barn' which is in an excellent state of preservation and a little further along there is the site of the nuns fish pond now only a beck. Also there is the 'Nuns Walk' an avenue of trees which led from the priory grounds to the park, but which is not now used as such.

What life was like in a Country Village in the Middle Ages.

The people were desperately poor, ill clad and dirty. Their homes were, for the most part, wattle houses (wattle and daub) with one storey and usually not more than two rooms. Their furniture was home made and their beds were rsuhes on the floor with a covering of fleeces or skins. Their clothing was coarse and drab - woollen clothing was used only by the gentry - and as wool was a staple export on which depended the wealth of the country it was very expensive.

Country folk wore linen hand woven by the women from flax grown on their own plots of land. No man was his own master. If he was considered suitable, the Lord of the Manor allowed him a small plot of land to cultivate, and for this he was paid a rent sometimes in money, sometimes in produce, and he also paid a tithe (one-tenth part) to the church. He was also compelled to help in the cultivation of his lord's fields - ploughing, harvesting, etc.,

Whatever he was doing on his own plot had to be left immediately at his lord's call and he had no option but to go. The lord of the manor had power to punish him for any misdeed. A popular punishment was cutting off one or both ears in the pillory. Men were also imprisoned in the stocks and pelted with refuse. The lord could have a serf put to death. There was no justice for the poor man. The lord could at any time call upon the village to provide part of the troop of soldiers to accompany him to the wars and the men were obliged to go.

No man in the village could marry without his lord's consent, and no one could leave the village without permission. If they did so they were tracked down by dogs and were severly punished and sometimes put to death.

The lord or his sons could seduce any girl or woman in the village and there was no redress for the father or husband. No fires nor lights were allowed after sundown.

There was a great deal of famine and sickness in the land and in winter many people died of hunger and exposure.

The food was poor, chiefly oatcake and porridge with an occasional fish caught in the river. All game belonged to the lord and no serf was allowed to kill it.

Only the nuns or the priests could read or write. The nuns were the greatest benefactors to the village. They fed the poor to the best of their ability, and cared for the women and children in sickness and generally helped anyone in need.

The only pleasure in the villages was an occasional feast day or church festival when they had sports, wrestling, archery and dancing on the green.

The people were heavily taxed to provide money for the King's treasure or to finance wars. In 1378 King Richard II imposed a tax on all people in the land to pay for the war in France (the 100 years War)

This tax was known as the poll tax (per head) and it stated that all people in England over 16 years of age must pay tax according to their position. This tax was an additional one - other demands still had to be paid. The only people exempted were criminals, beggars, monks and parsons.

Married couples counted as one. At that time (1378) wages were 1½d per day and the tax varied from 4d to £1. The following year these amounts were all raised, the minimum being 1/-. Knights and squires paid from 3/4d to £1. Gentlemen without titles and farmers of manors 2/-. Merchants and chapmen from 6d upwards. Stewards, innkeepers, cattle dealers and holders of particular offices from 1/- upwards. Tradespeople 6d, the rest 4d.

Thirty years previous to this (in 1349) a plague called the Black Death had swept over England and carried off large numbers of the population. Two-thirds of the clergy alone round York died of it, and there were not many people left in the village.

The poll tax returns for Nun and Moor Monkton (given together) were. for 1379 -

37 married couples paid 4d.
Thomas Ward (Smith) 6d.
Adam Taillour (Tailor) 6d.
Robert Taillour (Tailor) 6d.
William Skinner 6d.
William Feaherington 6d.
Nicholas Watson (Wright) 6d.
John Dalton (Weaver) 6d.
John Propts 6d.
21 single people over 16 paid 4d.

In all £1-4-4 was paid in the first year. The population of the two villages in 1379 must have been about 113 adults without clergy, nuns or children.

In 1584 the country was again assessed for tax and it is recorded that Nun Monkton paid 4/-., Kirk Hammerton 3/- and Green Hammerton 2/6d.

Peculiar trade names of that period :-

cimentor,- mason; sutor - shoemaker; cessor or taillour - tailor; bocher or carnifex - butcher; faber or ferour or mareschal smith; brasiator - brazier; brewster - brewer; textor or webster - weaver; fulls or waker - fuller; lyster or tinctor - dyer; merchand or mercator - merchant.

I have in my possession a map of Nun Monkton in 1613 given to me by Maurice Beresford, Esq., of Leeds university (March 13th 1952). This map was found among records in an old manor house in the South of England and part of it had been destroyed by fire. Many of the village names still in use are marked on it, viz - Sand Buccall, Westfield, Townfield, Middle Field, Croft lands, Tuttleaze, Dockmire, Social dore, and such names as Long and Short Brotes, Brown tithe, Bargills, etc.,

It is most interesting that the present Mill Hill field is marked 'Windmill Lands,' so evidently there was a communal mill there as far back as 1613. There is also a mill at Moor Monkton marked on this old map.

'Three Field' System of Farming.

For hundreds of years farming has been carried out in the same way in the village. Crops were grown on three large fields near the village, one or part of which had to lay fallow a year in turn.

Each farmer farmed strips in different parts of the fields. There was also so much land set apart for pasture, usually the 'Ings' land and land subject to flooding. There was also a certain amount of which was common to all the villagers. This land was only grazed - never ploughed - or sown and the villagers had. 'common rights.'

It was also a place on which to hold their sports and was the centre of village life. Sometimes, as at Nun Monkton, the Common was embellished with a Maypole - sundial or pond. There was also 'Pinfold' under the care of the village pinder for the imprisoning of stray cattle. The pond was useful also for 'ducking' any woman thought to be a witch. She was placed on the ducking stool and was immersed over the head in the water of the pond. The villagers were very proud of their common and to this day bitterly resent any efforts to deprive them of their rights.

An old epigram given to me by Mr. John Bins reads:-

"It is bad enough in man or woman
To steal a goose from off the Common
But surely he's without excuse
Who steals the Common from the goose."

But methods of farming had to change. More root crops were grown and more hay, and with the discovery of chemical manures, farmers began to experiment with their crops.

They could not easily do this in a communal field so they began to enclose various portions of land, but no enclosure of village land could be made without a special Act of Parliament for that special village.

The Nun Monkton Enclosure Award was passed by Parliament on March 18th, 1776, in the reign of George III.

This caused great consternation in the village and there was great dissatisfaction because the freehold land of the village - the three fields and the Ings land - had now to be divided up into smaller portions and someone had to decide who should have each plot. No one had more than 27 acres except the lord of the manor.

(I have examined the original award very carefully) This was how the work was carried out. The Crown appointed three Commissioners to examine the land. They were - John Outram of Burton Agnes; George Nicholson of Cawood; Robert Bewlay of York. The award states :-

"The Commissioners have several times viewed the fields and have severally, carefully and deliberately examined, inspected and considered the quantity, quality and nature of the soil thereof."

Their meetings were advertised in the York Courant (local paper) and finally they came to what they considered a fair and equitable division of the land.

The award covers land stretching from Westfield Farm and the River Nidd down to the village. This land was unfenced and many villagers had the right to farm it.

When the award was made the Commissioners had to decide how much land each villager was to have as a fair and proportionate share, and where that land was to be. The decision embodied in the enclosure award was final - there was no appeal. No doubt some villagers were dissatisfied and disappointed but they had to abide by the decision of the Commissioners. Evidently the land in question consisted of :-

Town End Field	90	acres	3	rds.	15	perches.
Middle Fields	125	"	0	"	23	"
Ings Pasture (Dockmire)	39	"	3	"	34	"
Buccall or Birkhill Ings	45	"	0	"	29	"
Sorkill Pits	12	"	3	"	35	"
Teadholme	24	"	1	"	13	"
Spew (or Bow) Holme	6	"	1	"	28	"

They were called "Open Field Lands."

HOW THE LAND WAS APPORTIONED.

In Birkhill Ings

John Fewsdale	4	"	1	"	11	"
William Fawcett	3	"	0	"	21	"
Michael Buttery (on river side)	2	"	1	"	26	"
William Wilkinson	6	"	0	"	22	"
William Carr (on river side)	9	"	0	"	18	"
Charles Radcliffe			3	"	15	"
William Jolliffe (on road side towards Nidd)	1	"	0	"	14	"
" "	2	"	1	"	20	"
" "	9	"	1	"	0	"
William Rooke	4	"	3	"	6	"
Res Bridge	none					
Thomas Burkill	3	"	1	"	21	"

In Middle Field

John Fewsdale	15	"	0	"	0	"
William Wilkinson and his mother Mary Dalton	11	"	0	"	11	"
William Carr	16	"	0	"	14	"

In Ings Meadow

W. Jolliffe	27 acres	2 rds	25 perches"
"	6 "	1 "	28 "

InTown End Field

Thomas Bateman	4 "	1 "	22 "
William Carr	2 "	3 "	10 "
Richard Barfe	2 "	1 "	6 "
Robert Thompson	2 "	2 "	3 "
John Fewsdale	5 "	0 "	25 "
William Wilkinson	3 "	3 "	22 "
William Savage	2 "	1 "	7 "
W. Jolliffe	3 "	3 "	29 "
William Lupton (shoemaker)	2 "	1 "	28 "
Michael Buttery	2 "	2 "	31 "
William Calvert (shoemaker)	2 "	1 "	28 "
William Fawcett	8 "	0 "	1 "
W. Jolliffe	18 "	2 "	1 "
"	35 "	2 "	14 "
Thomas Burkill	3 "	0 "	20 "

This award only deals with land south of Poole Lane.

Each new owner had to fence at his own expense his new fields, and provide a ditch or sewer to carry away the water.

Ditches round the fields had to be 4½ feet wide at the top, 2½ feet deep and 6" wide at the bottom. Quickwood had to be planted one foot within the slough or edge of the ditch. If not, posts and rails had to be erected. Owners had to see that gates were erected and kept in repair and that bridges of brick and stone should be placed in the 'gatesteads' and kept in repair. Railways were to be placed across ditch ends of adjoining fields. Roads had to be made to the new fields. A cartway 33 feet wide clear of gutters was made from the village to Buccall (or Birkill) Ings - now called New Lane. This is called in the Award "a carriageway." A narrower road 23 feet wide was made to the river (now called Milking Lane). This is called "a lane."

There is only one footway mentioned and the owners of ditches and sewers over which it passes are to keep the "stiles" and bridges necessary to use it in order for ever. This is the pathway to Westfield over the Mill Hill Field.

There is a "private" lane mentioned. This is Fawcett Lane leading from the New Lane to the crofts at the west end of the village. Each section of the carriageway or lane would be the property of the owner of the adjacent field. The farmers would possibly amalgamate to graze the lanes, or perhaps the grazing rights would be allocated to one farmer.

All persons using the lanes would help in repairs when necessary and everyone had the right to use them (rights of way). If no hedge was planted between the fields a ditch must be made not less than 9 ft wide at the top, 4 ft wide at the bottom and 4 ft deep.

The grass on the newly made lanes was not to be grazed for 7 years, and a later note states that the grazing rights belonged to the Lord of the Manor, Samuel Jolliffe Tuffnell. No sheep could be kept for 7 years after planting the hedges unless another fence was added. The Commissioners tried to be fair to all and give each claimant a fair share of Ings land, but many villagers were disappointed. Some had to relinquish their claims because they could not pay the necessary charges, and some grumbled because their land was a long way off. My great grandmother carried her milking pails on a yoke twice a day in summer to Birkill Ings.

THE CHURCH.

The present Church was built in the 12th century on the site of the one destroyed by the Danes in 867 A.D. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was built in conjunction with the Nunnery and there is a door on the south side which gives access to the Priory grounds and which was no doubt used exclusively by the Nuns. At the restoration another door was added in the south side.

The west front is one of the finest examples of late Norman or transtion work in the Kingdom. The west door is the main entrance and has a beautiful Norman arch. On either side of this doorway are two niches which originally contained statues, but all save one were destroyed - possibly in the time of Cromwell.

One of the most noteworthy features of the Church is the triforium running all round the interior. The altar is 12 feet long, said to be one of the longest in Yorkshire. The original altar slab is embedded in the floor under the present altar. On it can be seen 5 distinct crosses representing the 5 wounds of Christ.

The use of such altar stones was forbidden in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Part of the font is very old and plain with a cresset or cavity in the base into which the holy oil was poured at baptisms (the old cresset was incorporated in the new font at the restoration.)

There are three bells which were recast in 1863. The inscriptions on them are - (1) Maria (a pre-reformation bell.) (2) Repent lest ye perish. (3) I. H. S.

There are several brasses on the walls. Two very old gravestones were found at the Restoration and placed near the north wall. Close by Alice and John de Thorpe were buried. In the s. w. corner Margaret Watt and two other Prioresses were buried.

Following the Reformation when the Nunnery was disbanded, all the nunnery buildings were destroyed except a portion of the Chapel which was most fortunately preserved and shows the skill of our forefathers - the west front, part of the triforium, the west door and part of the nave. The chancel was completely destroyed (no vestige even of the foundations remained.) To make it usable the ancient roof was removed and replaced by one of very low pitch with a plaster ceiling of very bad workmanship.

On the site of the chancel were built the necessary outdoor offices of the adjourning house with only a narrow passage between them and the newly erected east wall of the repaired Church. The Church would now be about 20 ft shorter than the original and very much debased in architecture. This church continued in use until 1869 when the first step of the restoration began.

The Laird of the Manor and Patron of the Living, Mr. Isaac Crawhall, removed the offices and rebuilt them nearer the house at a cost of £1,300. The new chancel was commenced and the entire cost of it (about £2,500) was undertaken by the Crawhall family. (This apart from rebuilding the offices) and they also contributed to the fund for the restoration of the nave-pulpit, seating, heating, etc.,

A general appeal was launched as extra expense was incurred owing to imperfect foundations - cracks in walls, etc., The village ladies (under the direction of the Vicar's wife and daughters) made thousands of small articles (pin cushions chiefly, also bags, wipers, etc.,) and these were sent all over England and sold by old friends, old parishoners, etc.,

The money was raised by efforts from everyone - young and old - and the church was magnificently restored (the marble for the pulpit was brought from Italy) and the re-dedication took place on Oct 4th, 1873. It was a phenomenal achievement (in 1871 the population of the village was only 300 and the cost of restoration over £4,400.)

I have a list of subscribers to the fund in my possession.

Surely, in our generation, it is our duty to see that this magnificent village church is maintained in a satisfactory manner.

The Crawhalls were great benefactors to Nun Monkton Church. Miss Elizabeth Crawhall (daughter of Isaac) left £1,000 for the erection of two stained glass windows - one to the memory of her father and the other to her brother George. In 1907 the Crawhall family completed the organ which was installed in 1874 but was incomplete and this inscription was placed on the organ. "This organ, commenced in 1874 was completed in memory of Anne and George Crawhall. The Priory, Nun Monkton." At the service of dedication on Oct 23rd 1907, two stained glass windows were also unveiled in memory of the same two people.

The Crawhall family also bequeathed £850-15-9 in 3½% Treasury stock for Nun Monkton Church repair fund and £1,885-2-4 in British Transport 3% stock for the Church Endowment Fund. The family also gave £396 towards the cost of the new school and alterations to the school house.

INCUMBENTS (No records before 1708)

Rev J. Huckington 1708-1754; Rev James Wilkinson 1754-1755;
Rev. Roger Beckwith 1755-1757; Rev. John Hornby 1757-1795;
Rev. Thomas Beckwith 1795-1802; Rev. Henry Fisher 1802-1811;
Rev. John Wilson 1811-1813; Rev. George Wright 1813-1837;
Rev. H. C. Radcliffe 1837-1846; Rev. Edward Greenhow 1846-1864;
Rev. Gordon Salmon 1864-1873; Rev. Septimus Crawhall 1873-1879;
Rev. Humphrey. P. Cheshire 1879-1893; Rev. George. W. Allan 1893-1896;
Rev. Wm. Scott 1896-1909; Rev. G. H. Jewdine 1909-1913;
Rev. Charles. T. Lucas 1913-1916 Rev. E. Clifton Illingworth 1916-1928
Rev. Justice F. Southam 1928-1933; Rev. Percy Davy 1934-1937:
Rev. Gerald Farrington 1937-1948.
Rev. H. Gordon Cutter 1948-1968.

* In 1948 the Vicar of Kirk Hammerton was appointed Priest in Charge (not Vicar) He was licensed on Friday, June 11th 1948 by the Bishop of Ripon.

NUN MONKTON SCHOOL.

The present school is a comparatively modern building being built by Messrs Birch of York in 1905 on the site of an old charity school, which was endowed by the Wilson family of Foss Bridge, York, in 1716. This school was used until 1905 when it was demolished to make room for a new one. The cost was £820-12-0 and of this sum the Crawhall family contributed £396.

The foundation stone was laid on August 2nd, 1905, and while the school was being built, lessons continued in the old Wesleyan Chapel, now the village shop. The cost of the new school was raised by public subscription, and this great effort was chiefly due to the enthusiasm of the aged Vicar, the Rev. W. Scott. The foundation stone was laid by W. F H. Thompson, Esq., of York, a trustee of the Dorothy Wilson's Charity.

THE OLD SCHOOL.

Dorothy Wilson, spinster, of Foss Bridge Eng, York, who died in 1717, in her will dated 1710 left lands and houses to provide £5 per year for a schoolmaster to teach 12 boys at Nun Monkton. In 1712 she bought Three Acre Close and another field and fitted up a house for schoolroom and schoolmaster's dwelling. She then purchased Moor Close in Nun Monkton to augment the £5 salary in memory of her two brothers. She also left £13, the interest to provide bibles for each scholar leaving school. In 1767 land at Nun Monkton was exchanged for land at Shipton and a yearly salary of £12-12-0 was paid to the master.

In 1820 there was an inquiry by the Charity Commissioners which reported "there were school premises at Nun Monkton consisting of master's house, schoolroom for boys, half rood of garden and a small stable - a schoolroom for girls with a chamber over it and a very small garden." The schoolmaster instructed 12 boys and 12 girls free of charge. These free scholars were chosen by the Church Wardens and overseers. Other children paid coppers per week. Evidently things were being neglected hence the Inquiry.

The girls' school and, chamber had been let to a tenant who was made to quit it, after this inquiry. Also, no bibles had been given for some time so £1-5-0 was allocated for bibles, also £2-2-0 was now to be given for books and stationary.

Another Inquiry dated March 6th, 1838, resolved "that the Master's house should be substantially repaired and an additional room added to it, and the building in which the scholars are taught taken down and a new school house erected with separate rooms for boys and girls (not to cost more than £250). The trustees to appoint the master and pay him £30 a year and he should pay no rent for the house,"

This continued until the County Councils took over in 1902 and became responsible for teachers' salaries.

The £30 which was previously paid for salary by the Dorothy Wilson trustees was then used to help village children going to Secondary schools. This is still available.

A large memorial stone in St. Deny's Church, Walmgate, York, to the Wilson family gives particulars of their gifts to Nun Monkton. Why they chose to benefit Nun Monkton no one seems to know. The following is a copy of a balance sheet of Dorothy Wilson's Charity dated 1820:-

INCOME			
Dividends on £8,800 in 3% Consuls	264	- 0 -	0
Rent of 2 Farms at Shipton	255	- 0 -	0
Rent of 1 Farm at Riccall	150	- 0 -	0
Rent of 1 Farm at Skipwith	60	- 0 -	0
Rent of Cottage at Riccall	5	- 0 -	0
	<u>£734</u>	<u>- 0 -</u>	<u>0</u>

THE ERECTION OF THE NEW MAY POLE. 1878 (St Peter's Day)

The new maypole was set about 10 ft deep in the earth with a height above ground of 70 ft. It was painted in black and white spirals and was erected at the village feast. The steamers "City of York" and "Lady Elizabeth" carried 300 people from York and many people came from surrounding villages. There were 8 vicars present from adjoining parishes. There was tea on the Green and the Priory gardens were thrown open. The May Queen was Annie Wright who had been selected because she was the cleverest girl in the school. She was carried in a chair round the village, the procession being headed by the York Model Brass Band. Races were held and dancing took place on the green.

On January 2nd 1925 this maypole was blown down in great gale. While on the ground it was repainted by Mr. J. Poulter and Mr. Cooke and the length was reduced by 8½ ft. Tenders were invited for the re-erection, but none were forthcoming, so Mr. Tom Wood, threshing machine proprietor, offered to do it. This he did most successfully with the help of the village men. The present height is about 66 ft. with about 8½ ft. sunk in the ground. This was in June 1925.

On Nov 1st 1937 a meeting was held (Mr. Robinson, chairman & Mr. R. Burton, hon. secy) to discuss the repainting of the maypole. The sum of nearly £5 had been left over from the Coronation festivities and this sum was to be used for repainting. The matter was left in abeyance until more money could be raised. In July 1939 a York firm painted it in green and white spirals. It took a week and a day to complete the work. Scaffolding was erected to reach the top. The tip and vane were done in gold leaf. Unfortunately there was a thunderstorm every day of that week and the men were wetted through every day.

The following is the balance sheet of the Fund.

<u>Receipts.</u>				<u>Payments.</u>			
Balance from Coronation	4	6	1	Mr. Cooke / new iron	0	1	5
Whist Drive 3.12.37	3	10	3	Use of hall		3	0
Raffle of Cheese	1	0	0	Messrs. Dodsworth	16	0	0
Whist Drive 21.1.38	1	12	2				
Ditto 18.2.38	1	16	0				
Collection Village Box	1	9	5				
Whist Drive 6.6.40	1	13	0				
Raffle		5	0				
Interest from bank		<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>				
	£16	4	5		£16	4	5

In 1878 a flag was bought and used until Captain Whitworth replaced it in 1935 (Silver Jubilee) and Col. Akroyd and Mr. A. C. Crowther between them paid for the repainting of the Pole and the purchase of a new flag for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

On the 5th November 1953, the front gate of the Alice Hawthorne Inn was seen on top of the maypole, 68½ feet from the ground. It was later removed. (Mischievous Night.)

THE ALICE HAWTHORN INN.

The Inn is named after a famous racing mare. Formerly the name of the Inn was The Bluebell. The breeder of Alice Hawthorne was a Mr. Plummer who kept a currier's shop in Colliergate, York, and according to local (not readable) he took the mare's dam Rebecca in payment of a bad debt.

Rebecca mated with Muley Molech in 1838 and Alice Hawthorne was the result. She was named after a Newcastle child. She ran on 74 occasions, won on 51 of them and died at Croft Spa. The most famous of her progeny was Thormanby which won the Derby in 1860. Alice Hawthorne won 16 cups at Chester, Goodwood and Doncaster - the Queen's Vase and 18 Queen's Plates. She was brought up in a field in Mill Lane, Heworth (now known as Hawthorne Grove) There is an Alice Hawthorne Inn at Wel Drake.

My father was licensee of the Alice Hawthorne, Nun Monkton, for nearly 30 years, taking over in 1892. I was born in the Alice Hawthorne.

THE COURT LEET OF THE MANOR OF NUN MONKTON

These Court Leets date back to Anglo Saxon Days and were at one time the only Courts of Law having full powers. The earliest Leets or Shire Moots for this district were held on the Claro Hill between Boroughbridge and Allerton. But for many years these gatherings had either been discontinued or their rowers curtailed and although some still met yearly and fined delinquents for various offences - the fines were seldom enforced.

The Court Leet of the Manor of Nun Monkton was either a continuation or a revival of this old custom. The records of these meetings date back to 1809 and are in the possession of Mr. C. Cobb of Blake St. York.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF OFFENCES OR PAINS AS THEY WERE CALLED.

- (1) That no light be carried from house to house unless it be properly covered.
Fine £1.19.11 for each offence.
- (2) That no entire horse, ass or tup be turned on the Common or in the Lanes.
Fine 5/- for each offence.
- (3) For every person not having a Common right turning stock on to the Common or Lanes.
Fine 10/- for each offence.
- (4) That no pigs be turned on Common or Lane without being properly ringed.
Fine 3/- for each offence.
- (5) That no person dig or make holes in the Common without leave.
Fine 10/- for each offence.
- (6) That every Juryman (having had proper notice) not attending be
Fined 5/- for each offence.
- (7) That no person be allowed to put or place any obstruction in the Mill Syke to prevent the flow of water
Fine 5/- for each offence.
- (8) That no manure be gathered off the Common or lanes
Fine 5/- for each offence.
- (9) That no manure heaps be made on the Common or Lanes.
Fine 2/- for each offence.
- (10) That the Mill Syke be properly scoured out from end to end before from end to end before Verdict Day.
Fine 1/6 for each rood undone.
- (11) That all the other pain ditches be properly scoured out before Verdict Day
Fine 1/- for each rood undone.

LIST OF PAIN DITCHES.

- (1) Mill Syke whole length.
- (2) New Lane both sides.
- (3) Ditch south of West Field Lane running N. E. and then southerly along Clay Hills, Fawcett Lane across New Lane and Twenty Lands to River Nidd.
- (4) The gutter at the back of the Poor Houses which crosses the Moor Sud and joins the Mill Syke.
- (5) The gutter commencing Field 162, running between fields 163, 164, 165, 113, 145 and. 166.
- (6) The ditch from Pool Lane down Barfe Close to Mill Syke
- (7) The ditch from Pool Lane to Mill Syke between fields 151 & 96.
- (8) The ditch from Pool Lane to Mill Syke down from the East side of Rook Lane.
- (9) The ditches on each side of milking lane.
- (10) The ditch from field 88 under Poole Lane to Mill Syke near Beggar Hall. This list varies slightly from time to time.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE

A meeting was called and 12 Jurymen invited to attend on a certain day and the meeting then proceeded as follows:-

PROCLAMATION ON OPENING COURT.

"All manner of persons that do owe suit or service to this Court Leet View of Frankpledge and Court Baron of George Crawhall, Esq., Lord of this Manor of Nun Monkton now to be holden in and for this Manor of Nun Monkton draw near and give your attendance and answer to your names."

"Call over and swear Jury."

FOREMAN'S OATH.

"You as foreman of this jury, with the rest of your fellows, shall enquire and true presentation make of all such matters and things as shall be given to you in charge, your own and your fellow counsel you shall well and truly keep, you shall present nothing out of hatred and malice, nor shall conceal out of fear, favour or affection, but in all things shall well and truly present as the same shall come to your knowledge.

So Help you God.

OTHER JURORS (FOUR AT A TIME)

"The oath that your foreman had taken on his part to observe and keep, you, and each of you on your respective parts shall observe and keep."

So Help you God

"Call your free holders and tenants."

"Take presentation of Jury."

"Lay the pains." (i.e. read the list over)

SWEAR OFFICERS OF THE JURY

AFFEEROR'S OATH.

You shall well and truly affeer and affirm~ the several amercaiments there made and now to you remembered. You shall spare no one out of love, fear, or affection, nor raise and enhance anyone out of malice or hatred but impartially shall you do your duties.

So Help you God.

BAILIFF'S OATH.

"You shall well and truly serve the Lord of this Manor in the offices of Bailiff for the ensuing year and duly execute all such processes as shall come to your hands, according to the best of your skill and knowledge."

So Help you God.

"APPOINT THE VIEW DAY."

PROCLAMATION ON DISCHARGING COURT.

"All manner of person that have appeared at this Court Leet, View of Frankpledge and Court Baron, may hence depart, and keep their day and hour upon a new summons."

At the View Day any offenders were fined unless the wrong was righted within a given period. Usually promises of amendment were made and the matter rested.

After the business was over, the Lord of the Manor invited all present to dinner and drinks at the Alice Hawthorne Inn.

My Father and mother who kept the Inn for nearly 30 years always provided the meal - an excellent one - roast beef - pork - roast goose and chickens - plum pudding with rum sauce - vegetables of all kinds - jellies - fruit - cheese, etc., for 2/6d per head. The Lord of the Manor always took the head of the table and his solicitor, Mr. Cobb, the foot. After dinner all drinks were free.

At what was known as the Swearing-in-Day only drinks and light refreshments were served (no dinner).

When the Crawhall's sold the estate in 1933 the Court Leet ceased to function.

WHAT LIFE WAS IN THE VILLAGE UNDER THE TUDOR AND STUART KINGS.

By the time of the Tudor Kings and Queens the condition of life in the country villages had improved in all ways, but the people were still subject to the King and to their landlords and still had to give a certain amount of service when required.

They had better homes (now timber plaster - also brick and stone) and their food was more varied. Their clothing, and general way of life was improved.

They were still very poor, as taxation was very heavy, and if they could not pay were severely punished. Many ran away from home and lived in the forest forming themselves into bands of robbers, thus making travelling very dangerous. The Kings and their courtiers were gay, extravagant and beautifully clothed, spending immense sums on their pleasure.

The country people made their own enjoyment - feasts - maypole dancing - archery and all outdoor sports. Wrestling was very popular.

Ways of farming had improved, but the "Three Field" farming system still continued in this village. In some places farmers now paid rent for their holdings - not by service as before, and consequently were not as dependant on the Lord of the Manor.

Fairs were now held in many small towns and even villages where merchants brought silks and velvets from overseas - cottons - spices, etc., English merchants sold wool, cloth, leather goods, metal goods, etc., and there were stalls for pies, gingerbread, etc., Pedlars travelled to country villages with horn combs, ribbons, etc.,

Many merchants took apprentices from the villager to teach them their trades in the towns.

The news of the Gunpowder Plot no doubt would be discussed in the village in 1605 as Guy Fawkes would most possibly be known to someone living in the village or its vicinity, as his house was in Scotton, and he would often pass along the highroad to York where he was educated at St. Peter's School. He had been baptized in the Church of St. Michael le-Belfrey near York Minster and for a time lived in Petergate, York.

AN OLD CUSTOM.

St. Peter's Day, June 29th, is the Feast Day in Nun Monkton and a correspondent writing in the Daily Herald in 1868 stated that it was customary in former years to observe a Festival known as "Rising Peter," but that it was almost obsolete in 1868.

According to the writer - "The festivities extended over a week, and the same procedure was observed year after year."

On the Saturday evening preceding the 29th a company of parishioners headed by fiddlers and players of other instruments went in procession across the Great Common to Maypole Hill where there was an old sycamore tree, for the purpose of "Rising Peter." who had been buried under the tree after the last St. Peter's Day. This effigy of St. Peter, rudely carved in wood and clothed in a fantastic fashion was placed in a box and conveyed to a neighbouring house (possibly the Inn) where it was exposed to viwe and kept there until the following Saturady, when another procession was formed and St. Peter was re-interred. This was called "Buryin' Peter."

On the evening of the first day of the Feast young men went round the village with large baskets for the purpose of collecting tarts and cheese-cakes and eggs for mulled ale, all being consumed at the above ceremonies. Afterwards - dancing, sports and suppers took place in the village every day while the Feast lasted.

POPULATION OF NUN MONKTON (WIDDINGTON NOT INCLUDED) THROUGH THE YEARS.

Through the kindness of the Registrar General of Somerset House the following figures have been supplied:-

Year	PEOPLE	HOUSES
1801	308	63
1811	299	55 & 2 empty
1821	344	66
1831	398	80 & 13 empty
1841	365	81 & 12 empty
1851	358	83 & 3 empty
1861	327	75 & 10 empty
1871	300	75 & 8 empty
1881	261	61 & 17 empty
1891	232	
1901	267	57
1911	285	52
1921	231	64
1931	253	61

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.

The lime tree in front of the school was planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. There is the base of a cross near the Maypole.

Nun Monkton has always been part of the Rural District of Great Ouseburn but on April 1st, 1938, it was incorporated in the newly formed district of Nidderdale.

On March 26th, 1938, the first election for Rural District Councillor took place. (Mr. P Robinson was elected)

Holland, a house on the Moor End, now occupied by Major Allan Simpson, was once 7 houses and there were 3 more joined on at the south end. They were known as Towns Houses and there were two more on the Moor End.

At one time there were 13 of these "Poor" houses built on the Waste and the Overseers of the Parish had to pay 2/6d per year to the Lord of the Manor as an acknowledgement. There were also 13 other houses built "on the Waste" and the owners of these had to pay sums ranging from 2d. to 1/- per year to the Lord of the Manor.

One man who had enlarged his cowshed on the Waste Land had to pay ½d per year. Later all these Towns houses were sold to Mr. Crawhall and the money was spent on making a good road to Carlton Farm - then in the occupation of Squire Milner.

The Roman Catholic Church was built in 1870. Previous to that date there had been no R.C. Church, and it is believed that services were held in Marie Cottage. The nearest R.C. Church was at Linton-on-Ouse, but when that was demolished, the endowment was transferred to Nun Monkton and the Church was built.

In 1951 the Church was closed, all church furniture was removed, and the Priest (Father Ward) was transferred to Rudding Park. The property (house, land and church) was bought by my husband, Richard Wray for £1,900 and we moved in on April 25th, 1952. Strangely, when we received the deeds of the property, we found that my husband's great-grandmother had owned the property in 1870 and had sold it to the R.C. Community who built the present house and chapel.

A Methodist Church had been built in 1810 and a new one in 1899. The old chapel - once a reading room, school (while the present school was being built) and joiner's shop was sold to Mrs. Rhodes and opened as a Village Store in March 1957. It was sold again, this time to Mrs. Riley in 1958. *(The Vicarage was sold to Mrs. Riley NOT the old chapel)

The New Chapel (built on land belonging to my great grandfather, Thomas Birkill) was bought by Mr. Reg. Burton (great, great grandson of the above) and converted into a house in 1955.

New heating was installed in the Church in Feb. 1957.

The Vicarage was built about 1840 and it was in use until 1948 when the Rev. H. G. Cutter became Priest in Charge and did not need to live in it. It was let, and has been vacant and is now waiting to be sold. It was, in fact, sold to Mrs. Riley in 1958.

It is thought by some that the Church House was once the Vicarage. The front door of the house, the Maypole and the west door of the Church are in a direct line and when the Church door is open, one may see the lighted altar from the door of the Church House.

Savage Garth was built by the Misses. Crawhall (sisters of Mr. George Crawhall) in 1901. St. Annes was built by the same ladies in 1883. The small cottage between the two houses was built at the same time as Savage Garth on the site of three small cottages.

St. Annes was built on the site of a large and a small house. It was known as Black Horse Passage. The large house was an orphanage.

Year of the Great Flood - 1892.

The Crawhalls sold the estate in 1933 to A. D. Makins, Esq., and it was sold in odd lots in 1934.

Electricity was brought to the Church and Priory in 1929 and to the whole of the village in 1932.

Four Council Houses were built in 1930.

Four More " "

Two more " "

Four houses, a hostel for farm workers and an Agricultural Hall were built in the New Lane Corner in by Colonel G. Aykroyd.

Ash Tree Villa, 2 Vicarage Cottages, Dickenson's and Johnson's cottages have been demolished.

A sewerage scheme was introduced in 1930.

A pageant written by Captain Whitworth was performed in 1930.

In 1937 the old Parish Meeting was discontinued and a Parish Council formed in its place.

The licence was taken from the White Swan Inn in 1935 as the house was considered redundant.

In the 1914-18 War 26 men left the village to fight. Two were killed - Walter Wright and William Taylor.

- Typist's error

DOCKMIRE MEETINGS.

Dockmire is one of the richest grazing fields in the parish. In my map dated 1613 (before mentioned in these records) this field has the same name as today. For a great many years (possibly dating back to the Enclose Award when it was apportioned to the Lord of the Manor) each succeeding Lord of the Manor allowed its 41 acres to be staked out into 28 shares of about 1½ acres each, the shares to be allotted to small holders and cottagers in the village.

At a yearly meeting shares were numbered and drawn.

In return shareholders paid a rental of £4 per share. Later the price gradually rose to £10 per share and then dropped to £7. In 1933 there were no bidders and the field was let to one person.

During the summer months while the grass was growing, shareholders had the right of pasturage in Fitz Leys and after the hay had been cut and gathered cows were turned into Dockmire.

Four tons of hay have been known to be gathered off one share but in some years all the hay was carried away by floods. Each year a Pasture Master was appointed to settle any disputes.

Dockmire now belongs to Mr. R. Barker.

OTHER CHARITIES.

In addition to the Dorothy Wilson Charity there are two other charities benefiting the village.

MARSHALL OR MILNERS CHARITY.

This money was derived from land in the occupation of Squire Milner (Carlton Farm) but on his death in 1886 the land was sold and £333-6-8 was invested in Consols bringing in a sum of approx £9-3-4 which was distributed by the Churchwardens and Overseers to the widows and poor of the village. It was usually called "Poor Money." This is still distributed.

CHARLES ROOKE'S CHARITY.

Charles Rooke of Nun Monkton by will dated Nov. 5th, 1825, left £50 to provide bread for the poor of the village. On May 14th, 1852, this sum was invested in Consols by George Browne, Thomas Birkill (my great uncle) Churchwardens, and John Holmes and John Binns, Overseers. The bread was made by the wife of one of the Churchwardens, but owing to complaints as to the quality of the bread, the interest of the money was added to that of the Marshall's charity and distributed together.

THE GHOST OF THE FERRY

Extract from Burdekins Criminal Chronology of York Castle :-

"William Vasey was executed on August 18th, 1870, at the Tyburn without Micklegate Bar for the wilful and deliberate murder of Marion, the housekeeper of Mr. Earle of Beningbrough Hall and for the attempted murder of Martin Giles, Mr. Earle's head gamekeeper."

Marion (her surname is not mentioned) was housekeeper to Squire Earle at Beningbrough Hall and had for her sweetheart a young man (Richard) from this village. Their favourite meeting place was on the river bank by the ferry, Richard crossing the river by boat. Sometimes they both crossed to this side of the river, and wandered round the Avenue and the surrounding woods. They were planning to be married when one day while on the Staith at York Richard was seized by the Press Gang and carried off to serve as a sailor in the King's Navy. Marion was broken hearted at the loss of her sweetheart.

Squire Earle was away for home most of the time and the estate was left in the hands of a man named Laurie. This steward was jealous of Marion and, after the departure of Richard (Marion blamed Laurie for Richard's seizure by the Press Gang) he pestered her with his attentions until she was nearly crazy. She used to walk along the river bank calling to her sweetheart to come to her assistance and to free her from Laurie's unwelcome attentions. Finding that she would not listen to him, Laurie hired a notorious character - a thief and highwayman named William Vasey to murder Marion.

Vasey followed her on to the river bank where she was walking from the ferry towards where the pump house now stands. He seized her and, screaming and struggling, she was dragged down the bank and thrown into the River Ouse. Her body was later found and she was buried in Newton-on-Ouse churchyard. Later Vasey attempted to kill Martin Giles, Squire Earle's gamekeeper, but he was apprehended by the police and taken to York Castle.

While there he confessed to many crimes, among them being the being the murder of Marion for which he was hanged.

Laurie was dismissed by Squire Earl and later shot himself.

Marion's ghost is supposed to haunt the river bank near the ferry where she spent so many happy hours with her sweetheart. She wrings her hands and moans, and sometimes screams and calls for Richard.

Rumour says that one dark night a woman's voice was heard calling "Boat." The old ferryman took his lamp, went down to his boat and crossed to the Newton Landing. The muffled figure of a woman stood on the bank. She stepped into the boat but never spoke a word.

On reaching the Nun Monkton landing, the old ferryman turned to help her out of the boat but there was no one there. The woman had vanished, but far away on the opposite bank he heard an eerie voice crying "Richard, Richard. Help me."

When Richard finally returned from the Navy and found Marion had been murdered it is said that he drowned himself in the Ouse.