

## HIGH MELTON

### THE LAND

- 1042 - 1066 Held by SWEIN Saxon Lord of Sprotbrough.
- 1086 Domesday Book referred to as MIDDLELTON-SUPER-MONTEN
- 1153 Church erected by AVICE-de-TILLI  
Grandson RALPH-de-TILLI inherited  
Later land surrendered to Crown.
- 1200's Land split half to CRESSI family half to SIMON THURBEMBERT.  
This portion came to WILLIAM de St-GEORGE (Knight). His  
daughter married ROBERT HARRINGELL. Three generations later  
through marriage came to JOHN BOSVILLE of ARDLSEY value £13
- 1577 Possessed by GERVES BOSVILLE
- 1400's CRESSI portion with the House came to SYWARD family.  
  
ELIZABETH SYWARD married WILLIAM LEVITT stayed with  
LEVITT family.
- 1650 Dr Levitt lived at Melton Hall said to have gambling debts yielded  
possession to a Dr BERRIE.
- 1651 Dr BERRIE died made JOHN FOUNTAYNE of Lincolns Inn his  
executor and trustee to sell the Levitt lands to pay debts and legacies.
- 1652 Residence of Dr BERRIE's nephew JOHN MONCKTON daughter  
ELIZABETH married JOHN FOUNTAYNE son of executor of  
Dr BERRIE's Will.
- 1680 JOHN FOUNTAYNE bequeathed to brother THOMAS.
- 1709 THOMAS' son JOHN succeeded.
- 1736 JOHN's son THOMAS succeeded.
- 1739 THOMAS' brother JOHN succeeded when 24 years old, later became  
Dean of York married three times, died 14 February 1802 aged 87.  
  
Daughter ELIZABETH by third marriage married RICHARD WILSON  
son of Bishop of BRISTOL.
- 1802 Their son RICHARD FOUNTAYNE WILSON inherited. Married  
SOPHIA OSBALDESTON became MP for Yorkshire, High Sheriff in  
1807, had 9 children. First two sons died in infancy two sons and five  
daughters survived.

- 1826 ANDREW FOUNTAYNE WILSON assumed by sign manual surname and arms of MONTAGU to succeed to the estates of Rt Hon FREDERICK MONTAGU of PAPPLEWICK NOTTINGHAMSHIRE his grandmother's brother.
- 1847 ANDREW succeeded father became High Sheriff of Yorkshire and was Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding. Did not marry lived near Wetherby died 1895 aged 80.
- 1874 Younger brother JAMES MONTAGU married LAURA ADELIN daughter of ERNEST THELLUSON from Isle of Man his family lived at BRODSWORTH. Brides father became Vicar at Melton Church.
- JAMES had 7 children, 5 daughters, 2 boys eldest daughter ADELIN ELIZABETH MONTAGU lived at High Melton until the sale in 1927.
- 1903 Eldest son FREDERICK JAMES OSBALDESTON MONTAGU succeeded. Captain in Coldstream Guards buried in Church Yard 1957.
- 1927 Sale of house and grounds bought by a Mr MEANLEY.
- 1948 Bought by Doncaster Local Authority for Teacher Training College (120 acres £10300).
- 1976 Amalgamated with other Doncaster Colleges to found Doncaster Metropolitan Institute of Higher Education.
- 1993 Doncaster College Corporation independent from Local Authority.

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George Montagu

1996

Mr./Capt. Montagu died in Cannes at the end of August, aged 85. His ashes were buried at St. James' on Sunday, October 27th, with his wife and family present as well as church members and friends.

George Montagu had a distinguished war record in the Coldstream Guards. In civilian life, he settled in the south of France, where he was an estate agent, often for very distinguished customers. But wherever he travelled, he never forgot his links with the Montagu family here, and was always very generous to St. James.

St. James' Offering envelopes. New supplies are available for January onwards. It will be assumed that existing envelope users wish to continue, unless they say otherwise. Any one else who would like to join the Scheme should ask the Rector.

#### St. James' Fellowship

Harvest supper held in St. James' Church on October 14th raised the sum of £194.60.

Apple Pie competition winners were: Lynn Wilkinson and Margaret Hill.

Quiz winner: Glenys Mawson

All raffle prizes were claimed on the night. Our thanks to Crusty Cob bakers, for the delicious pie making, and thank you to all who helped in making it an enjoyable evening.

M. Boxhill

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TRE 1041-1066

Snocevi

Rogus de Busli  
Willem de Claufant  
w Anna de Tama d Sybilla de Claufant  
Ralph Rogus (de illi.)

noctus  
Cressi 1249 Philippa de Ulli

HTU confiscatus

1253 Simon de Walsart d Margaret = William de St George

1315 d. Robert de Walsart Robert Harrage

1315 joint bond with Cressi

3 d. Catherine

John of Woodhall

d. Anabel = T. Barlog

d. Marotta = J. Rowell

↘ Sir John de Blakham

1463 > Willem

1521 Sir John de Blakham (w. Th.)

1577 Ceroux. Soswelle

1577 Robert Lewis

John Lewis of Lewis

d. Edith = Timothy Boggit

1617 buried at Stilton

1485 Robert Sjuer

d. Elizabeth = Walter

1649 Levell & Do Berrie

50 1651 John Fentoye to sell all Levell lands  
Berrie nephew John Blakton

1666 Elizabeth or John Fentoye

d. Elizabeth Theodesea

Richard Esbaldston

Robert Blakton

J. Fentoye  
1687

6 1639 d. 1709  
Thomas

Harrington

to John Lewis Andrew

John d. 1736

or Anne

d. smallpox

Anne Thedeb

or Elizabeth Carew

11 children

Anne

John

Andrew d. 1741

Robert d. 1752

Elizabeth 1738

Charles Eyre

Anne Carew

John

Anne Blakton

or Anne

Francis Merce

Anne

Thomas Charles

John

Elizabeth

Catherine

Judith

Richard Wilson

1786

↘

Michael James Norman

1786

Fontaine + Antagne Mary  
1807 in Sophie O'Galdeter

nine children: 2 died: <sup>to 1815</sup> Andrew James 3 daughters

1826 became Antagne  
resided in ~~Canada~~ <sup>Canada</sup> ↓ 1871  
Laura Adeline Thelwax

7 children:  
Adeline Elizabeth Estlin Sophia Fred James Laura Mary Edith

Mary Edith James

became Colonel Henry John Lindley Wood

in ~~Louis~~ <sup>Louis</sup> ~~Burgess~~ <sup>Burgess</sup>  
Anny Mary - Cleopatra Hypatia

old 1926 - 27 2 day sale Cleuney

DONCASTER COLLEGE (1.4.90) formerly

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

formerly

DONCASTER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

High Melton Hall, Doncaster DN5 7SZ

A THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

1 The Village

The village of High Melton is very old. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as having once been part of the manor of Sweyne, the last Saxon lord of Sprotborough. In 1086 it was worth sixty shillings and sixteen pence with three ploughs, eight villeins and one border belonging then to the Norman Roger de Busli, the centre of whose power was his castle at Tickhill. In 1391 the village was referred to as Melton by Wath and Hunter, writing in the nineteenth century, calls it Melton on the Hill. There may have been a church in the village at Saxon times. The church as it now stands, dates back to about 1153. It was then built by a certain Lady Avicia de Taine who endowed the church of Melton and its mill and gave it a chaplain to be appointed by the Priory of Hampole as convent which she also founded.

2 The Hall

It is very probably that there was a large house in the village from very early times. Indeed the tower which runs up the centre of the present building is said to be medieval and we know that the property was in the possession of a certain Thomas Fountayne, a lawyer, at the end of the seventeenth century. Eventually this house came to the possession of the grandson, John Fountayne, who has become Dean of York. It was he who rebuilt the mansion about 1750 and naturally built it in the fashion of his day. James Paine, the architect, had just completed the Mansion House in Doncaster and he tells us that he also worked on many of the houses of the small gentry in the area such as Cusworth, Serlby, Nostel Priory. I like to think that he had something to do with the replanning of High Melton Hall. It may be noted that in the part of the house that survives from this rebuilding, viz. the principle entrance with the Dean's Motto above it, Nisi Dominus, is very like the entrance to Mansion House. That the Great Hall or rustic floor, though on a much smaller scale to that of Nostell Priory, has some similarity to it and that the first floor is the typical 18th century sash window with pediments above the main ones, (that is the windows of the present library) - up to the mid 1970's when a new Library was built in the College grounds.

John Fountayne the Dean of York, married three times. Each time finding a wife with money and thus adding to his own fortune which must have been considerable from his family's pursuit of the law and his own stipend as Dean. His first wife was Anne, the daughter of William Bromley, who was speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of Queen Anne. (William Bromley, was wealthy and I was interested to see his robe as a speaker still preserved in Capesthorn, the Cheshire home of the Bromley-Davenport family). Fountayne's second wife was, Frances Maria, the daughter of Thomas Which who died in 1750 leaving an infant daughter. Her portrait, which is a very beautiful one, hangs at Temple Newsam, near Leeds, today, but for three months hung in the Great Hall of the college in 1957 when it was loaned to us by Temple Newsam. We like to think that this was the portrait of the first lady of the eighteenth century house. The Dean's third wife was Anne Montagu, the daughter of Charles Montagu of Papplewick of Nottinghamshire. She died in 1786. All Fountayne's male children predeceased their father who lived to be over eighty years old, but some of his daughters survived. Fountayne lived in great comfort as a typical country gentleman of his day. He had, for example seven male servants in the year 1780 which indicated he was about the wealthiest man in the district and we know, from Hunter, that it was to him the village church owes its interesting stained glass. Some of it is fifteenth century which was collected by the Dean from old churches in York and two windows, which are filled with heraldic glass were executed by the

famous Pecket of York. It was the Fountayne coat of arms which contained an elephant, which is commorated to this day in the College badge (up to the mid 1970's)? and in the two elephants which stand on the east facade of the house.

Eventually the house passed into the hands of the Montagus through one of the Dean's daughters. We know that this family was also a very wealthy one deriving its wealth from coal mines, and, it is said locally, from money lending. A connection of theirs in 1826 derived nineteen thousand, three hundred and twenty-two pounds from his holdings in the Aire and Calder navigation undertaking. This naturally would be a useful supplement to the family. The last Montagu who owned the house was a Mrs Mary Montagu, who had been widowed and who later married Henry John Linley Wood, the third son of Charles, Viscount Halifax, one of whose houses, of course, was Hickleton Hall, in a neighbouring village. Colonel Linley Wood, who became very popular in the village, died in 1903. but his widow and her daughter, Miss Emily, together with a sister. Miss Montagu, lived on at the Hall until the 1930's. (A few years ago, I met an old lady who had stayed at the Hall as a guest of Mrs Wood as a child. She still recalled the house and how the Montagu boys teased the spoiled little girl Emily and made her cry). Miss Emily Wood was still living at Hampole where she was an active magistrate and bred fox terriers. Miss Montagu recently died in 1952, in the Lake District and left a large fortune, mainly to the University of Leeds.

Mrs Wood had a repulation of being a difficult women in her old age. It is said that she delighted in catching out her servants - thus, when her butler was asked had he cleaned the silver and was he sure that he had cleaned all of it and when he replied certainly, she would produce a silver spoon from her pocket and ask, what about that one. It was also said, locally, that when a young girl would arrive at Doncaster station with her tin trunk and ask the way to High Melton Hall where she was going into domestic service, the porters would say "Take my advice, missy, and go back home".

## **B THE PURCHASE BY DONCASTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

In 1946, the Ministry of Education invited Doncaster Education Committee to consider the establishment of a training college. Within a few months the proposed sale of High Melton Hall came to the notice of the local Education Authority and protractive negotiations ensued, completed in November 1948. In December 1949 the Ministry approved the purchase of the Hall, out-buildings and one hundred and twenty acres of grounds and the former village hall for ten thousand, three hundred pounds. But since the Hall had, during World War II, been occupied by troops and later by prisoners of war, the buildings were very dilapidated and some of the oldest portions had fallen into decay. It was extremely difficult to adopt the buildings for a training college but the architectural problems were at last overcome and the building was completed in 1951. It cost about ninety-eight thousand, three hundred and thirty four pounds and the furnishings, twenty three thousand pounds. The residential block known as Montagu was completed at the end of 1953 at a cost of seventy-five thousand pounds and Dean's Lodge was started in 1961 while Church House was completed in 1965.

The Hall was actually purchased from a Mr Meanley who had bought the property from Mrs Wood, intending to use it for building purposes.

## **C INTERESTING PARTS OF THE HOUSE**

1 The eighteenth century part is the main entrance with the courtyard and two small wings except the top floor which was added in 1949 to give extra sleeping accommodation. (This courtyard was, until recently, cobbled and is remembered by older residents of the area as the meeting place of the local hunt. All the local families took part, including the Copleys of Copley Hall, Lord Halifax and his family at Hickleton, the Batty-Wrightsons of Cusworth and the Anne family from Burghwallis).

2 The east front of the house was extended in the year 1878 and is a good example of Victorian building. This has the effect of enlarging the rooms on that side of the house.

3 The most beautiful room in the house is, of course, the Conference Room, formerly the Library, already mentioned, which contains the original oak floor and a very handsome marble fireplace, said to have been purchased in Italy. It commands a beautiful view over the Dearne Valley. Unfortunately the only piece of original furnishing left in the Conference Room, formerly the Library, formerly the Ballroom, are the curtain poles, still attached to the windows??

4 The tower, which originally contained a circular staircase, was altered when the College took possession but its handsome paladian window has been preserved, an unusual feature of it being that it is in the round instead of flat.

5 The Great Hall, a typical small eighteenth century rustic floor is worth noting.

#### D THE GROUNDS

1 The grounds, which must have been very beautiful, contain some of the famous eighteenth century trees, including a weeping ash and a fine walnut tree.

2 Where the tennis courts are now, was the rose garden and it was told that in Colonel Wood's day the villagers were invited each summer to a garden party and to see the roses.

#### E THE CHURCH

The church, with its transitional work, a splendid chancel arch, its medieval glass, its fifteenth century woodwork is well worth a visit. The tower is perpendicular and anyone interested in the history of the families which have occupied the Hall can learn much about them from the fine mural tablets in the church. While the graves of Mrs Wood and her husband are in the churchyard.

MISS E M M HURST  
former Senior Lecturer in History - died 1988.

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES, HIGH MELTON, MELTON-ON-THE-HILL

The ground plan of the Church is unusual, a short nave with the Chancel and Western Tower, and a continuous South Aisle, the whole length of the Church.

The fine arcade of two bays is Norman, and in front of the Norman chancel arch is a fine screen, with a vaulted lift, the rood figures reaching the roof.

Until at least the reign of Richard II (1377-1399), the church was known as "The Church of All Saints". It was built by Avice-de-Tania, who also founded the Priory at Hampole in 1153 AD. Later her daughter Sybilla gave the church to the priory at Hampole. It was held by the nuns served by the Chaplins appointed by them.

The Church walls are built from local limestone, with roof timbers of oak. It has a footpath from east to west, leading to the porch and door. Fragments of ancient crosses are said to be in the porch walls and also old coffin lids serve as lintels to windows.

### HISTORICAL SURVEY

#### 12th CENTURY

The cylindrical pillars between the nave and south aisle, the arches joining the nave, aisle, and the chancel arch are all part of the original fabric. This is a good example of the very fine workmanship of the time. The font. 1291 the Church was assessed 13 shillings 4 pence.

#### 14th CENTURY

The arch to the south door (now the only entrance to the church). The north door (now built up to provide a recess for a flower vase). The holy water stoup to the right of the north door, Windows in the north wall of the chancel. South wall of the aisle, the Clerestory, the lower part of the tower.

#### 15th CENTURY

The chantry Chapel of our Lady, founded by John de Melton, with its old Piscina is enclosed by a beautiful parclose screen. The upper part of the tower, and the battlements on the nave walls.

#### 1575 VISITATION REPORT STATES:

"The Chauncell is in decaie so greatlie that in raynie wether the Mynister cannot well saie service"

#### 17th CENTURY

The north windows were inserted in the sanctuary.

#### 18th CENTURY

The font cover. The tower was raised. The great east window which was originally all painted glass, was taken down and replaced by stained glass. A clock was installed in the tower 1788.

#### 19th CENTURY

The present organ was installed, 6 June 1829. The cost of gilding the clock face was £3.10.0.

## 20th CENTURY

The rood screen and figures 1905. The reredos 1907. These are the work of Sir Ninian Comper, who also did work for York Minster. The cost was at least £1,500. Due to industrialisation of the Don and Dearne Valley, saturation of the atmosphere with chemicals injurious to magnesium limestone, resulting in serious damage to the stonework.

In 1949 public electricity supply came to the village, and it was installed in the church at the cost of £127.18.9d.

In 1953 standard electric light was installed in the church yard - bend in the path, together with an electric organ blower at a cost of £100.

The reredos represents Christ with His Apostles and the emblems.

## THE HOUSE AND PLEASURE GARDENS

It appears that a structure has stood on the site from very early times. The earliest remaining portion is the circular tower incorporated in the present building. Although much altered with eighteenth century additions, one can clearly see that the architecture of the tower is from the medieval period and would have originally incorporated in quite a large building. The original building appears to have been replaced in the eighteenth century by Dean Fontayne who was Lord of the Manor from 1739 - 1802.

The first rebuilding was probably completed in 1757. It is clear from close examination of the exterior stonework that a further programme of work was undertaken to enlarge the house shortly afterwards. The house was made much grander, the whole of the west front was remodelled with the addition of wings projecting from the earlier central block on the south front, thus forming a courtyard that was originally cobbled.

The neoclassical decoration of the main apartments inside reflects this and they were probably remodelled at the same time. The handsome marble fireplace, in the drawing room, now in the \*Library is said to have been purchased in Italy. We do not know the date of the second remodelling programme, but a portrait of the Dean and his third wife Anne portrays their young son in the foreground holding the architects plan of these extensions to the west elevation. The portrait was painted by J J Downes and dated 1777, although the date of 1765 would probably be more accurate. The architect is also unrecorded although it is likely that the Dean may have drawn help from John Carr of York or James Paine who did so much fine remodelling work on houses in the locality.

The principal entrance which resembles Paine's Mansion House entrance at Doncaster bears Dean Fontayne's motto, Nisi Dominus.

The house must have originally contained furnishings of the same period and from documentary evidence we know that the Dining Room and Drawing Room contained early Regency, furniture, possibly brought to the house after the marriage of Richard and Sophia Fontayne Wilson in 1807. The Stables Court, now partly demolished also bears the Wilson crest and was built in the first half of the nineteenth century.

In 1877 the "Director of the West Riding" described Melton Hall as, "A pleasant residence commanding an extensive project; it is situated in a well wooded park near the church and containing several very valuable paintings of the Fontayne, Wilson and Montagu families".

\* Conference Room

In 1874 James Montagu had married Laura Adeline Thellison. Various alterations were to be put underway; the widening of the east wing facing the church and the addition of a Billiard Room on the west wing. The east wing extensions bear the initials of the eldest son, F R O Montagu whose birth occurred in 1878. The east wing must have been a particular favourite of Mrs Wood. It was here that she led morning prayers with all the household and she had photographs taken here with her daughters. Just through the doorway outside she was to stand and have her photograph taken with many of the great local families on her Wedding Day in 1897.

The pleasure grounds must have been laid out during the eighteenth century. This was when the whole of the estate was replanned and the farm houses and cottages were built in the village. The village Cross originally stood in the grounds at the back of the Hall near the main road, and presumably the village was originally between this area and the church. The area must have been cleared to give greater privacy to the new mansion. The pleasure grounds that took over were quite extensive, reaching into Melton Warren Wood where a neoclassical mock temple was situated. There was an Ice House in the grounds and also a grotto called "The Aviary", where ferns grew under a glass roofed pseudo gothic building of early nineteenth century date. This building has an iron balustrade and a spring of water but is now in a sad state of repair.

The conservatories were very elegant buildings and contained all manner of exotic plants. They were an extension of the west front, immediately in front of them were the rose gardens and during the time of the Hon Charles Lindley Wood, they were thrown open to the villagers one day per year when the roses were in bloom.

During the time of the Fontayne Wilson's a group of trees known as Nelson's Clump was planted in the grounds to celebrate that great Admiral's victories, as was the fashion. Some of these trees are still in existence and it is said that one of the infant members of the family was buried amongst these trees with an inscribed stone that has since been removed. There is one member of the Fontayne Wilson family whose burial is not recorded in the church registers and that is Thomas, the seven week old son of Richard and Sophia Fontayne Wilson who died in 1814.

During the early years of this century fallow deer roamed the parkland and a small flock of black sheep were kept. The fleeces of the latter were woven into brown tweed and many of the family were clad in it.

Many villagers will remember the bridge that was built across the main road to link the pleasure grounds with Melton Warren Wood and the old gamekeeper's cottage. Early this century Melton sported one of the finest shoots in Yorkshire.

#### BELOW STAIRS

We know very little of the servants at the Hall prior to Dean Fontayne. We do know however that The Dean had several male servants. His coachman was Mathew Hall and His Estate Steward was a Mr John Smith who died in 1799 and lies buried with his family in the chancel of Melton Church. Also in the church is the grave of Mrs Ann Falconer who was the servant of the Rt Hon Frederick Montagu of Papplewick for twenty eight years.

During the time of the Fontayne Wilson's butler was a Mr George Crosby and the coachman was Issac Wilkinson and later James Adams. The gamekeepers were Thomas Shields and John Hargreaves and the Woodman Jonathan Senior.

Later in the century when the house was in the occupation of James and Laura Adeline Montagu the butler was James Rodgers who was replaced after his death in 1885 by Alexander Baird. James Montagu's footman was Henry Wink and his cook was

Sarah Rodgers, Catherine Hampshire being one of the housemaids. The Coachman was John Burrows and Edward Foster the groom, the gamekeepers being several members of the Fisher family. There were innumerable gardeners and the Masons, Carpenters and Wheelwrights were members of the Presley family. The last estate carpenter and joiner was George Stead, the father of the late Mr Harry Stead (deceased 1988).

#### THE LORDS OF THE MANOR

At the time of the Confessor (1041-1066) Melton belonged to Swein. After the conquest it was included in the grant to the Lord of Tickhill, Roger de Busli. The Domesday book describes Melton as a Manor of eight carucates and a portion of woodland. Roger de Busli probably granted out the land at Melton to William de Clairfait, whose wife Avicia de Tania later inherited it.

The next notice of Melton is in about 1153, at the foundation of the Priory at Hampole. Avicia de Tania and her daughter Sibilla de Clairfait the mother of Ralph and Roger de Tilli endowed the Prior with the Church and Mills at Melton. Ralph de Tilli inherited what remained of Melton but during the reign of Henry II there was a division of the Tilli's interest into two moeties, one of which passed to the Cressi family with the patronage of Hampole. The other moety became the portion of Phillipa de Tilli. In 1249 Phillipa de Tilli had in demesne in the village five score acres of land worth 6d per annum and in villanage seven oxgangs, each worth 9d per annum and the rents of free warren 8s 6d per annum. The Hall and Court were valued at 5/- and Wood 20/- per annum. The total annual value of her Melton Moety was £7.6s.6d.

At this time Henry III confiscated all the lands of the French in England and the name of Tilli disappeared from the district shortly afterwards. In 1253 the King granted the Moiety of the Manor to Simon Durembert.

Durembert's daughter Margaret married William de Saint George and granted the Manor of Melton to her daughter's husband Robert Harringel at York on the 13 September 1315. The following year Robert Harringel was returned as joint Lord of the Manor, probably with a member of the Cressi family. Harringel had three daughters Catherine the eldest married, John of the Woodhall in Wombwell, a branch of the Fitzwilliam family, they had one child Anabel who married Thomas Barley, who inherited the Melton Moety. Their eldest daughter Mariotta married John Boswell of the New Hall, Ardsley. Upon the partition of the lands Thomas Barley the Manor of High Melton then valued at £13 was assigned to Mariotts's husband John Bosville and their son William in 1403. The Half Manor of Melton continued in the line of Bosville of Newhall for many generations and in 1577 was possessed by Cervase Bosville who was living in Newhall in 1585.

The cressi moety eventually came down through marriage to Sir John de Markham the husband of one of the Cressi Co heirs, and their descendant another Sir John Markham was resident in 1521. By 1577 this moety had passed to Robert Lewis and later John Lewis of Marr Esq., Recorder of Doncaster. John's daughter Edith married Timothy Bright the barrister son of Dr Timothy Bright the author of several medical treatises. Timothy and Edith Bright were married for nine years and died within ten days of one another. They were buried at Melton in 1617.

The Syward family had owned land in Melton as far back as the fifteenth century. Hugh Syward had left land to his son Robert Syward. When Robert died his land was divided between his two daughters on the 20th June 1489, their husbands being William Levett and John Frankysh. William Levett the husband of Elizabeth Syward inherited the land at Melton, Mexborough, Wildthorpe and Arksey. This marriage had brought the Levetts to Melton. Before that time they were said to have come from Normanton. Successive generations of the Levett family lived at Melton for upwards of one hundred and sixty years. During this time the Hall at Melton had also passed into the Levett family. The family of Mote and Scolah had also settled in the village and intermarried at various times.

The interests of these families were brought up by Dr Richard Berrie in the reign of Charles 1st, we also read that a general release had been sealed between Dr Levett and Dr Berrie on 7 December 1649. In another letter dated 4 March 1650 Dr Levett had promised to remove his wife and children out of Melton Hall and to Yield Possession to Dr Berrie of all the Demesne lands with Bentley and Cadeby. Local rumour has it that Levett forfeited the property to honour a gambling debt. The following year Dr Berrie died and by his Will dated 28 May 1651 he directed that his executor John Fontayne of Lincolns Inn Esq., should sell all lands conveyed to him by Dr Levett for payment of debts and legacies.

After this Melton became the home of Dr Barrie's nephew John Monckton who took quite a considerable interest under the Will. He was previously a major of foot in the service of King Charles 1st. He had only one child, Elizabeth who married John Fontayne Esq., in 1666 the executor and trustee of Dr Berrie.

### THE FOUNTAYNE FAMILY

This family originally came from Salle in Norfolk and assumed the surname of De Fonte, or Fontibus, from the springs or fountains near which they resided. The earliest member of this family which we need concern ourselves with is, Judge John Fountayne Esq., Sargent at Law and Commissioner of the Great Seal of England in 1661. It was his son John that married Elizabeth Monckton. Like his father before him John Fountayne studied the law and was a barrister at Lincoln's Inn. He was the first Fountayne to acquire the Melton estate and he had two daughters Elizabeth and Theodosia Fountayne, Elizabeth married Sir Richard Osbaldeston whose son Richard later became Duke of York and Bishop of Carlisle and London. Theodosia married her cousin Robert Monckton Esq., and became the mother of the 1st Lord Galway.

John Fountayne Esq., died in September 1680 and in his will dated 22 August 1674 he left all manors etc., in the counties of York, Middlesex, Essex, Norfolk, Huntingdon, Cambridge, the Isle of Ely and the City of London to his brothers Thomas and Harrington Fountayne and his kinsman John James and Andrew Fountayne. He gave £2,000 each to his two daughters and their Mother's jewels and after the Will was proved in Chancery, the Manor of Melton came into the possession of his brother Thomas Fountayne Esq.

Thomas Fountayne Esq., was born on 5 February 1639. At the same time as he succeeded to the Melton estate he married Anne the eldest daughter of Edward Chester of Cockenhatch, Herts. Thomas Fountayne was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, where he continued as a fellow until he moved to Lincoln's Inn to study Law. During this time he befriended the Rev Anthony Moyer a pious and virtuous man who quitted the church due to his concence at the time of the revolution. The Rev Moyer had studied at Oxford and Thomas Fountayne received him into his chambers at Lincoln's Inn where he lived for eight years, after which he came to Melton where he continued to live for the rest of his life. We can only surmise what effects this man had on the Fountayne family, but it is interesting to note that from this time onwards the emphasis the family had placed in careers in the Law moved to preferments.

Thomas and Anne Fountayne had four children. Their eldest son and heir John will be mentioned later, their second son died of smallpox during his first year at St John's College, Cambridge in 1708, and was buried in his Mother's former parish of Barkway, Herts. Anne their third child was married at Melton on Sunday 14 June 1702 to Simon Patrick Esq., of Dalham, Suffolk. He was the only child of the Bishop of Ely, who incidently performed the service. The fourth child of Thomas Fountayne was Judith, who married Thomas Sherlock, Master of the Temple, and was also the eldest son of William Sherlock, Dean of St Paul's.

In 1709 at the age of seventy two and after twenty eight years as Lord of the Manor, Thomas Fountayne died and was buried at Melton. Anne his widow lived on and reached the quite exceptional age of eighty two. She outlived both her sons and several of her grandchildren and was buried with her second son Thomas at Barkway, Herts.

John Fountayne Esq., succeeded his father in 1709 when he was about twenty five years old. He married Elizabeth the only daughter of Francis Carew Esq., of Beddington, Surrey. John and Elizabeth had eleven children although only six survived him. Their daughter Anne, married Elizabeth Weston the second son of the Bishop of Exeter. Andrew Fountayne the next child died whilst studying at Catherine Hall, Cambridge in 1741, similarly his brother Robert, a merchant at Lisbon died in 1752 before he had reached the age of thirty. Elizabeth Fountayne their youngest child did live and on the 23 May 1738, married Charles Eyre Esq., a physician of Doncaster at Melton.

The parish registers at this time make very interesting reading, not only do they give the date of baptism but also the date of birth and the hour. For instance in 1724:- Nicholas, son of John Fountayne, Esq., was born on Nov 22 about five of ye clock in the morning and received private baptism on ye 6th of December.

Almost twenty eight years as Lord of the Manor, John Fountayne died at the age of fifty three on October 30 1736 and was laid to rest at Melton. His widow Elizabeth lived on for another thirty two years and reached the age of eighty, her monument tells us she was, "a constant observer of every social and christian duty and greatly distinguished by the amiable ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit".

John and Elizabeth Fountayne's eldest son Thomas was baptised at Melton Church on the 17 December 1713 and he inherited the estate upon the death of his father in October 1736. Thomas married his Cousin Ann the daughter of Sir Nicholas Carew. They had only one child John who died shortly after his birth. Almost two years later in 1739 his father Thomas Fountayne Esq., died at the early age of twenty five and the Melton estate then passed to his brother John the second son of John and Elizabeth Fountayne.

John Fountayne Esq was baptized at Melton in February 1714, he graduated BA at St Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, in 1735 proceeded MA in 1739 being installed prebendary of Salisbury on the 16 April of the same year when he also succeeded to the Melton estate upon the death of his brother Thomas, he was appointed by patent of the 3 January 1704 - 1 to a Canonry at Windsor which he resigned in 1748.

The Rev. Mr John Fountayne was married to Anne the daughter of the Right Hon. William Bromley of Baginton, Warwickshire, Secretary of State in the time of Queen Anne and Speaker of the House of Commons. They were married at Temple Church, London, on the 23 April 1744, the Rev. John Fountayne's (uncle) Thomas Sherlock, Lord Bishop of Salisbury officiating. Unfortunately her premature death less than two years later concluded the marriage and she was buried at Melton on the 16 February 1746.

In 1747 the Rev Fountayne was appointed Dean of York, a position he was to hold for fifty four years, a record which has not been surpassed either before or since. His immediate predecessor in this position was his relation Dean Richard Osbaldeston previously mentioned.

Dean Fountayne decided that he would remarry and on the 20 August 1749 he married Francis Maria the eldest daughter to Thomas Whichcote Esq., of Harpswell, Lincs. This marriage was to be of even shorter duration for the following August she died shortly after giving birth to their first child, Francis Maria. The little girl survived and later became the wife of William Tatton of Withernshaw, who later assumed the name of Egerton. In 1751 Dean Fountayne took the degree of Doctor of divinity.

In 1754 Dean Fountayne decided to remarry for the third time, to Anne the only daughter of Charles Montagu of Papplewick. The marriage took place at the fashionable St George's, Hanover Square, on the 14 May. John Thomas, Lord Bishop of Lincoln officiated.

Charles Montagu, the bride's father was a descendant of the Duke of Manchester and a nephew of George Montagu, Earl of Halifax of the Second Creation, and he held a considerable fortune. His wife Mrs Elizabeth Montagu was well known in London Society, her London house being in Hanover Square. She was an intimate friend of Mary, Dowager Countess of Gower and known as the "Queen of the Blue Stockings". Her many letters were published by Dr Doran in "A Lady of the Last Century". Charles Montagu was MP for Northampton and Auditor General of the Duchy of Cornwall, whilst Frederick was Prince of Wales. In 1755 Dean Fountayne published a sermon on the Lisbon earthquake. The Dean's brother Robert had been a merchant in London and died in 1751 (2).

The Dean also published a Fast sermon in 1756.

Dean Fountayne and his third wife Anne had five children in all, although only two daughters survived him. Their first child Anne, the Dean's second daughter was born in York in 1755 and baptised in the Minster on November 11 by the Precentor, Rev Doctor Lawrence Stern the poet and friend of the Dean. In 1758 a long awaited son and heir was born, at York. The boy was called Thomas Charles and he was publicly baptized at York Minster by John Gilbert Archbishop of York, on the twelfth of July. This boy was followed by another called John who died young and two girls Elizabeth and Catherine Judith.

In 1777 Francis Maria, the Dean's eldest child from his second marriage died at the premature age of twenty six, but three years later the Dean's son and heir Thomas Charles Fountayne died at the age of twenty one. This must have been a tremendous blow, however the following year the Dean's daughter Elizabeth married Richard Wilson Esq., of Rudding Hall, Follifoot, Yorks, the eldest son of the Rt Rev Christopher Wilson D.D., Bishop of Bristol and Anne the daughter of Edmund Gibson DD Bishop of London.

There were three children from the Marriage, Richard, Thomas Charles and Marianne Wilson, the little girl having died in infancy.

Then a trebble disaster was to occur. In 1786 both the Dean's daughter Elizabeth Wilson and his third wife Anne died in the January and September respectively and then the following year his son in law, Richard Wilson also died.

The Dean was now left with his two spinster daughters and two orphaned grandsons.

The Right Hon. Frederick Montagu, the politician and brother of the Dean's third wife Anne, was Lord of the Treasury in 1782 under the Marquis of Rockingham and again in 1783 in the Duke of Portland's Coalition Ministry. He was a bachelor and upon his death in 1800 the Montagu fortune and estates of Papplewick, Notts, passed down to the Dean's grandson, Richard Fountayne Wilson. Frederick Montagu's marble bust can be seen in the mausoleum at Wentworth.

In 1801 Thomas Charles Wilson was to die at the tender age of sixteen, leaving Richard Fountayne Wilson his brother sole male heir to the Fountayne and Montagu estates.

On the 14 February 1802 Dean Fountayne died at the Deanery of York and nine days later he was interred in the Family Vault under the chancel floor of Melton Church. The Dean did leave two spinster daughters, however, Anne and Catherine Judith Fountayne who left Melton to live in the very fashionable spa of Bath in Somerset.

Richard Fountayne Wilson inherited the Melton estate when he was only eighteen years of age. Unlike the Dean and many of his Fountayne and Wilson forebears he decided not to go into the church but like Frederick Montagu he decided on a career in politics. In 1807 he married Sophia the third daughter of George Osbaldeston MP for Hutton Bushe in the same year he was also High Sheriff of the County. In 1807 Richard Fountayne Wilson became MP for the undivided County of York, a position he was to hold for several years. The Fountayne Wilson's had nine children, four boys and five girls.

The two eldest boys both died in infancy but Andrew and James both survived as did the five daughters Theodosia, Sophia, Ann Elizabeth, Mary and Catherine Judith.

The girls all married but their brothers Andrew and James were not easily moved into marriage, in fact Andrew was to remain a bachelor all his life. He was born in Doncaster on the 12 June 1815 and was baptized at Melton five days later. On the 27 February 1826 he assumed by sign Manual the surname and arms of Montagu, only in pertinence of a testamentary injunction in the Will of the Rt Hon Frederick Montagu of Papplewick. He succeeded to the Melton estate upon the death of his father in 184

Like his father before him he was High Sheriff of Yorkshire. Although he never went into politics he was Dep Lieut. of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

In 1826, on 20 September, Disraeli wrote to Andrew Montagu from Balmoral Castle suggesting that due to his vast wealth and landholdings he may care to avail himself of an elevation to the peerage. Andrew Montagu replied in the negative, wishing only to be known as the richest commoner in England. Andrew Montagu seems to have settled on one of his Montagu estates at Ingmanthorne, near Wetherby.

James Montagu, Andrew's younger brother did marry although he was over fifty at the time. In 1874 he married Laura Adeline, the youngest daughter of Ernest and Emily Thelluson of Mount Audlyn, Ramsey, Isle of Man. Eleven years later the bride's father was to become Vicar of Melton, he was a descent of Isaac de Thelluson, Ambassador from Geneva to the Court of Louis XV who had accumulated an immense fortune in London and settled in nearby Brodsworth.

James Montagu had lived at Elm, Isle of Ely, but after his marriage he moved to the family home at Melton Park to raise seven children, five daughters and two boys.

Firstly there was Miss Adeline Elizabeth Montagu, who never married and lived at Melton until shortly after her Mother's death in 1926. She was the last of the line to live at Melton stretching back to Sir John Monckton who came to Melton in the second half of the seventeenth century. Afterwards Miss Montagu went to live in the Lake District where she died in the 1950's. Evelyn Sophia Montagu was born in 1876 and was later to marry Albert Martin Ruyshe Nevile, of Skelbroke.

The next child of James and Adeline Montagu was a boy Frederick James Osbaldeston Montagu, he was born on the 9 February 1878. Three sisters followed: Laura, who married Graeme Alexander Lockhard Whitelaw of Chelsea, a relation of the present Wm Whitelaw MP., Mary Edith who married Archbald Nelson Gavin Jones of Southsea and Amy Violet who married George Anne, of Burghwallis.

James and Laura Adeline Montagu's last child was a boy, James Fountayne Montagu, he and his wife Margaret later had a child that died in infancy and was brought from Westminster to be interred in Melton in 1911.

James Fountayne Montagu was a child of three when his own father died in 1891, and his Mother remarried in 1897 to Lieut. Col. the Hon Henry John Lindley Wood, third son of Viscount Halifax.

Col. Wood had served on the Staff of Sir Garnet Wolsey in Cyprus. They had one child Emily Mary Marguerite, so called because she was born on Michaelmas Day - 29 September 1899.

Miss Emily Wood later lived at Hampole where she was an active magistrate and also bred foxterriers.

Frederick James Osbaldeston Montagu, the eldest son of James and Adeline Montagu joined the Coldstream Guards as a young man and served in the Boer War, rising to the rank of Captain. When he returned from serving in the Boer War in 1902, his Mother, the then Hon. Mrs Wood went to greet him in London. They came back to Doncaster by train and then onto Melton by carriage. When the carriage reached Cadeby Lane end the horses were relieved by at least forty young men of the village and the carriage was pulled to the entrance of Melton Hall where a huge assembly awaited Captain Montagu. Several speeches were made and the Mexborough Conservative Association presented Captain Montagu with an illuminated address. This was followed by a supper for five hundred provided in a marquee in the grounds of the Hall and the festivities continued until the early hours of the following morning, the scene having been lit up with fairy lamps in the trees.

In 1903 Col. Wood died and was buried at Melton.

Captain Montagu married in 1906, Louisa the daughter of William Collier Angrove and they had four children. In 1910 Capt. Montagu was High Sheriff of Yorkshire, his father had died in 1891 and his uncle, Andrew Montagu in 1895, who incidently lived to the age of eighty. A JP for Essex and Magistrate for the West Riding of Yorkshire Capt Montagu decided to part with the Melton estate after the death of his Mother in 1926 in favour of his other estates. Although, like his brother James Montagu his ashes were brought back to Melton after his death in 1957. The Estate was split up during a two day sale in 1927. The House and grounds being only one portion. The contents of the house were dispersed, the House being bought by a Mr Meanley.

In December 1948 the Ministry of Education approved the purchase of the Hall, outbuildings and one hundred and twenty acres from a Mr Meanley for ten thousand, three hundred pounds. After spending a considerable amount of money on the structure the Hall was opened as a teacher training college.

#### EXTRACT FROM A DIP HE PROSPECTUS

##### **The Site And Its Buildings**

The High Melton site, which was incorporated into the new Doncaster Metropolitan Institute of Higher Education in 1976, was previously known as Doncaster College of Education, founded in 1950. The last student teachers, who began their course in September 1977, completed their training in the summer of 1981. The original buildings on the site are however much older than the former college.

Old Hall is on the site of an older, medieval building. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, a member of the Fountayne family, the owners of the estate, who was the Dean of York, rebuilt the house; the architect was probably Payne, who designed Doncaster Mansion House. The Dean gave his name to Dean's Walk, in the grounds near Deans Lodge. After his death in 1803 the estate passed to the Fontayne-Wilson family, one of whom, Captain Fontayne-Wilson, was given the estate by his brother on condition that he changed his name to Montagu. Upper and Lower Montagu are named after his family. Church House is so called because of its proximity to the Village Church, which was formerly the estate church. Copley which houses laboratory subjects, is named after the founder of the Royal Society's Copley Medal. His family home was Sprotbrough Hall, now demolished.

Nelson obtained its name from Nelson's Clump, a copse in the College grounds. Rumour has it that the Clump was planted to celebrate Trafalgar. Hoskin is named after the Chief Education Officer for Doncaster who occupied the position with distinction during the formation and early growth of Doncaster Training College, later called Doncaster College of Education until its amalgamation in Doncaster Metropolitan Institute of Higher Education in September 1976. Harvey also commemorates a good friend of the College, Alderman Harvey of Doncaster, who among

his many public duties, took a particular interest in the College and was Chairman of the Governors for many years.

The Gwyneth Williams Library is named after the second Principal of the College of Education.

RE-TYPED

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1989