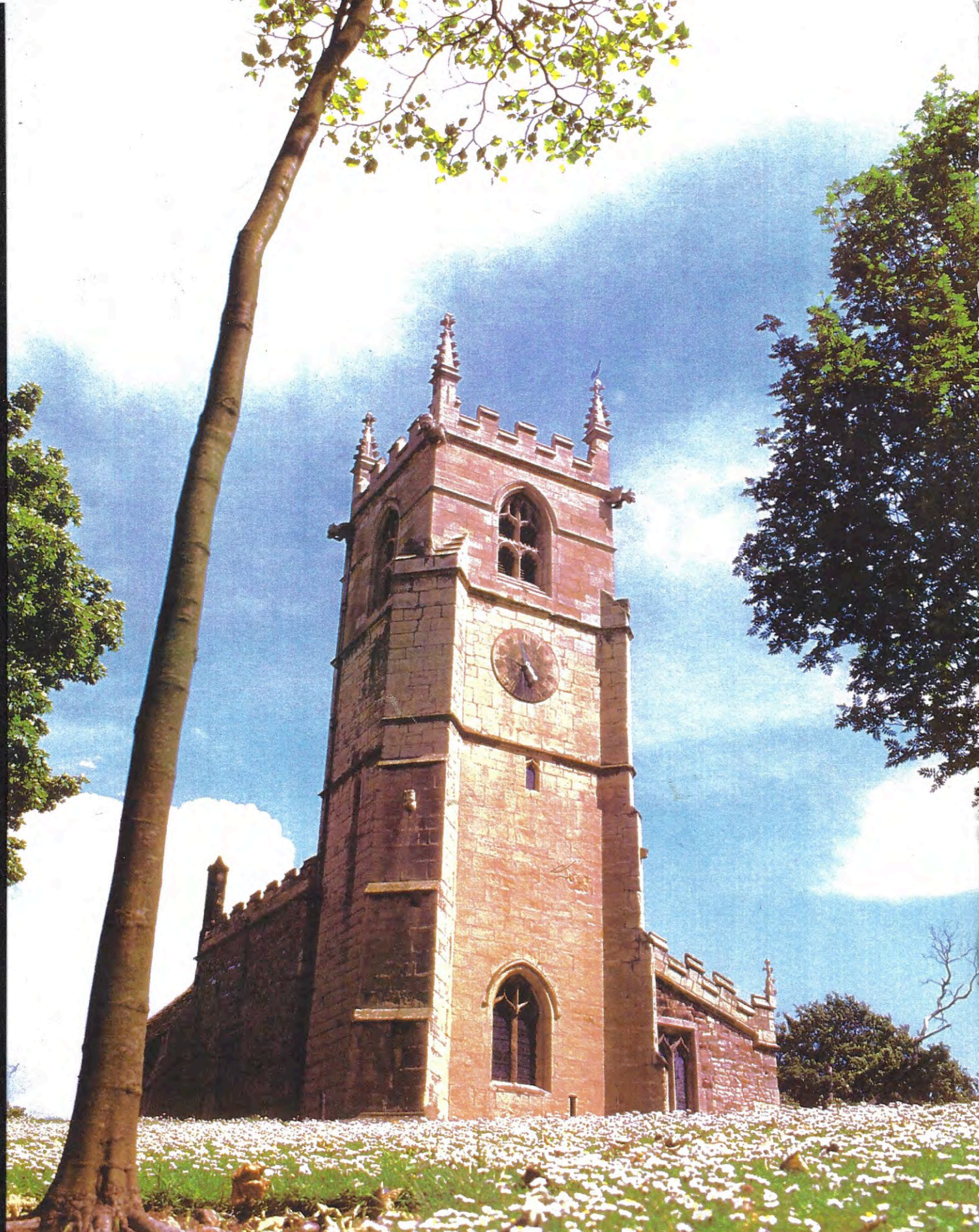




THE PARISH HISTORY OF HIGH MELTON

ST JAMES CHURCH, HIGH MELTON

THE PARISH HISTORY OF HIGH MELTON

Work began almost twenty years ago, when the intention was to produce a small leaflet in order to raise funds for urgent repairs to the church roof.

It was then suggested the work should be enlarged to incorporate some of interesting events in the Village history.



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St James Church
(from an old postcard)

HISTORICAL SURVEY

12th CENTURY

The cylindrical pillars between the nave and the South aisle, the arches joining the nave, aisle and the chancel 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 stoop 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 parol 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 Minister cannot 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 in 1768.

19th CENTURY

The present clock was installed, 6th June 1829. The cost of gilding the clock face was £3.10s.0d.

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 a 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 (1907)

THE REREDOS AT HIGH MELTON REPRESENTS THE LORD
WITH HIS APOSTLES AND THEIR EMBLEMS

St Simon Zelotes	Saw
St Matthias	Axe
St Thomas	Spear
St Andrew	Cross
St Peter	Keys
St John	Chalice
THE LORD	The Alpha and the Omega
St James the Elder	Staff
St Matthew	Square
St Philip	T Cross
St Bartholomew	Knives
St James the Less	Club
St Jude	Boat

THE GREEK QUOTATION ON THE FRONTAL IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. JAMES, IV:8

*"DRAW NIGH UNTO GOD,
AND HE WILL DRAW NIGH UNTO YOU".*



The Alpha and Omega - Central Figure of the Reredos
(reproduced from a drawing, date and artist unknown)

WINDOWS

There are several beautiful windows. John Fountayne, D.D. Dean of York, installed several pieces of stained glass, obtained throughout the country, and also introduced quite a lot of painted glass – done by Peckett of York.

THE GREAT EAST WINDOW

This window depicts the Easter story, and consists of four main panels. On the left, two panels depict the figures of Mary Magdalene, Joanne and Mary, the mother of James, confronted at the tomb by the two angels. The right side two panels show our Lord dressed in a fine red mantle, but showing the nail marks in the hands and feet and a wounded side, appearing to Mary Magdalene. Above these panels are the crests of the Fountaynes, Carews and Cressi families.

LADY CHAPEL (SMALLER EAST WINDOW).

Consists of three panels, the centre panel shows the Virgin Mary, whilst on the left hand panel is Gabriel the Archangel, and on the right hand panel is St Peter. The window is in memory of Richard Fountayne Wilson, who died 24th July, 1847, aged 65 years and of Sophia, his wife, who died 21st May, 1861 aged 76 years, window dedicated in 1880.

LADY CHAPEL (SOUTH WINDOW)

Is of a stained glass coat-of-arms of the Fountayne family, a small hexagon of stained glass, and the remainder is painted glass, most probably the work of Peckett.

SOUTH AISLE (NEXT WINDOW)

Contains four coats-of-arms, all painted work, the remainder of the window being clear.

SOUTH AISLE (THIRD WINDOW)

This is all stained glass, and depicts the adoration of the magi "In praise of God incarnate, in loving memory of Thomas Varah Hobson – Priest, 53 years served God in this church and fell asleep 20th February, 1885. This window is humbly dedicated by his daughter Georgina Mary".

SOUTH AISLE (FOURTH WINDOW)

This is clear glass except for one small painted coat-of-arms of Harringell.

WEST WINDOW (VESTRY)

This is the most colourful window, and contains some of the oldest stained glass. The first panel shows an Archbishop with his crozier and inscribed in a scroll below William de Melton, Archbishop of York. The second panel shows angels in the clouds, with musical instruments, viola and bow.

Restoration work 1991 by York Glaziers

WEST WINDOW (NEAR THE FONT)

Shows the Lord being baptized by John, in one panel. The second panel depicts the Lord receiving the children.

NORTH AISLE (FIRST WINDOW)

This window has three panels, each containing two small circles and twelve oblong panels of painted glass, the remainder of the glass is clear.

SANCTUARY WINDOWS

These are on the North side and mainly portray the arms of the Vincent family. In one panel is depicted a portrait of John Vincent with three inscriptions over it, dated 1624.

Another panel shows the Lord with the nail marks.

Restoration work by York Glaziers 1990

BELLS

TENOR BELL

Weighing about 7 cwt, 1636 inscribed "Soli Deo Gloria".

TREBLE BELL

Bears the initials H.D, possible those of Henry Dand, who was related to the Oldfield family, who had a bellfounding at Nottingham. The bell probably dates about 1500 "Sancti Antoni".

SMALL BELL

Is undated and bears no founder's name or mark. "Jesu". 1600.

These are now in working order due to the enterprise of "The Darfield Ringers".

THE LADY CHAPEL

The aisle ends in the south chapel, founded by John Melton in 1460. This has now been incorporated into the main body of the church

SILVER

The silver chalice and paton, still in regular use, date from the reign of King George II (1727 - 1760).

CHURCH REGISTERS

These commenced in the Deanery of Doncaster, in 1538, and the register of St James' High Melton dates from 27th October, 1538.

MONUMENTS

Beneath this monument lies the body of **THOMAS FOUNTAYNE**, late of this parish, esq. He was the second son to John Fountaynes, Sergeant at law, descended from the ancient family of Fountayne, of Saul in Norfolk. He was educated at Eton School and from thence elected to King's College in Cambridge, where he continued fellow till he removed to Lincoln's Inn to study the law. Upon the death of his elder brother, without issue male, he came to a plentiful estate, and married **ANNE**, the eldest daughter of **EDWARD CHESTER**, of Cockenhatch, in the parish of Barkway in the county of Hertfoed. Esq. He had by her four children; **JOHN**, his eldest son and heir; **THOMAS**, a youth of great hopes who died before him of the smallpox, in the first year of his admission at St John's College in Cambridge, and lyes buries at Barkway in Herfordshire; **ANNE**, who married **SIMON PATRICK**, of Dallam in the county of Suffolk, the only child of **SIMON**, the late Bishop of Ely; **JUDITH**, who married **THOMAS SHERLOCK**, Master of the Temple, eldest son of **WILLIAM**, late Dean of St Paul's. He died much lamented by all who knew him, for all had a loss in him. Here you might see the husband, the father, and the friend, in perfection; for these characters were supported by that of the good man and good Christian. His house was exemplary for order and government, for daily and regular devotion; for plenty without profuseness, and hospitality without intemperance. The poor were so constantly fed from his table, that they might well look upon his charity as a kind of property and self-maintenance. He was so well acquainted with the pleasures of thought and retirement, that he never wanted company to spend his time; which made it harder to know him and not to love him, for his conversation was sweetened by the cheerfulness of an innocent mind, and the frankness of an honest heart. He loved the company of his friends, but never more enjoyed himself than in the society of his family, knowing how to be easy and pleasant with his children, without losing the respect that was due to him. He lived with his wife 29 years, in the most entire love and affection. In honour to his memory she hath erected this monument, which yet cannot express the image which still lives in her heart. He died the 5th February, 1709, in the 72nd years of his age.

Near this place lyeth the body of **ELIZABETH FOUNTAYNE**, widow of **JOHN FOUNTAYNE**, esq, late of this parish, only daughter of **FRANCIS CAREW**, esq, of Beddington in Surrey. She was a constant and conscientious observer of every social and Christian duty, and greatly distinguished by the amiable ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. She departed this life January 9th, 1768, in the 80th year of her age.

This monument is erected by her son **JOHN FOUNTAYNE**, Dean of York, in grateful remembrance of her.

In memory of **ANNE**, the wife of the **REV JOHN FOUNTAYNE**, of this parish, daughter of the right honourable **WILLIAM BROMLEY**, esq, speaker of the House of Commons, and secretary of state in the reign of Queen Anne, by **ELIZABETH**, daughter of the right honourable **LORD STOWELL**. Her birth and alliance did not distinguish her so much as

those excellent qualities with which heaven had blessed her. To a most unaffected humility and uniform sweetness of temper she joined such dignity in her manners as would adorn the most elevated condition of life. The turn of her mind was naturally serious, and when she mixed in the innocent diversions of life, it was more to avoid the imputation of singularity than through any fondness for them. Her chief amusement consisted in the direction and management of her domestic concerns, in which she had the skill to unite economy with hospitality. In a large acquaintance, though affable and obliging to all, yet she was not drawn suddenly into great intimacies. Much experience and natural judgement formed her friendships, and in then her love was without dissimulation. But no complaisance for others, no business, no amusements, could interrupt the regularity of her devotions, either public or private in them she placed most substantial pleasure and most solid satisfaction. Happy to herself and to the others is the constant exercise of such graces, whilst she was daily confirming in those who knew her the character of an amiable acquaintance, in her domestics that of an affectionate and indulgent mistress, in the poor a firm and beneficent friend, and at the very time that her husband was expecting to see their mutual happiness completed by a joyful increase, she was snatched away, to the great grief of all but of him chiefly who both knew and justly esteemed her worth, and who performs this last office in grateful remembrance of her. She died February 11th, 1746, aged 33 years.

In memory of **FRANCES MARIA FOUNTAYNE**, second wife of **JOHN FOUNTAYNE**, Dean of York, eldest daughter of **THOMAS WHICHCOT**, esq, of Harpswell, in the county of Lincoln, by **FRANCES MARIA**, only daughter of **FRANCIS ANDERSON**, esq, of Manby, by **MARY PELHAM**, of Brookesby in the same county. She departed this life August 22nd 1750, in the 22nd year of her age, leaving one infant daughter, **FRANCES MARIA FOUNTAYNE**, born August 8th, 1750, married February 27th, 1773, to **WILLIAM TATTON**, esq, of Withenshaw, in the county of Chester, and died February 9th, 1777, aged 26 years, leaving two sons, **WILLIAM** and **THOMAS**, and one daughter **FRANCES MARIA TATTON** - In memory also of **ANNE**, the third wife of **JOHN FOUNTAYNE**, Dean of York, only daughter of **CHARLES MONTAGU**, esq, of Papplewick in the county of Nottingham, by **ANNE**, the only daughter and heiress of **SIR THEODORE COLADON**. She had two sons, **THOMAS-CHARLES** and **JOHN**, and three daughters, **ANNE**, **ELIZABETH** and **CATHERINE-JUDITH**. She departed this life September 12th 1786, in the 58th year of her age. The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God. In the sight of the unwise they seem to die, and their departure was taken for misery, but they are in peace. **JOHN FOUNTAYNE**, 54 years Dean of York, died February 14th 1802, aged 87 years.



*To The use of the Parish Church
at High Melton, (at The Altar)
This Book is humbly Dedicated
By John Fountayne
Dean of York
December 25th
1701*

The Handwritten inscription by John Fountayne
in a prayer book with his crest

VICARS OF HIGH MELTON

1660 - 1662	J.Norbolt
1662 - 1704	Oliver Ormerod
1705 - 1728	Edward Claringburn
1728 - 1749	John Fox
1764 - 1786	John Hall
1788 - 1798	John Coulthred
1769 - 1818	Thomas Braithwaite
1819 - 1825	Henry Ramsden
1826 - 1832	John Richardson
1833 - 1884	Thomas Varah Hobson
1885 - 1893	Ernest C.Thelluson
1894 - 1896	C.J. Duffin
1897 - 1930	A. Crawford
1931 - 1933	Walter Dyer
1933 - 1941	H.F. Greenwood, Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral
1941 - 1947	Robert William Stannard, Archdeacon of Doncaster
1947 - 1954	Robert Salusbury Brewis, Archdeacon of Doncaster
1955 - 1959	John Malcolm Nicholson, Archdeacon of Doncaster
1959 - 1967	Peter Geoffrey Bostock, Archdeacon of Doncaster
1967 - 1977	E.J.G. Rogers, Archdeacon of Doncaster
1978 - 1981	Kenneth Vine, Queens Chaplain
1982-	John W.A. Woods, Rural Dean of Wath

HIGH MELTON

In the Domesday Book made by order of William the Conqueror in 1086, the village is mentioned and called Mideltun-Super-Monten, and is described as a manor with lands and woodland on a bold eminence rising from the Dearne.

1042-1066 During the reign of Edward the Confessor, the land belonged to Swein the last Saxon Lord of Sprotbrough. He was one of the few Saxon Lords to continue to hold lands after the Conquest.

During the Conquest, William was helped by Roger de Bully, a member of a great Norman family of Montgomery. After the Conquest, he was granted large parts of the conquered lands. He lived at Tickhill Castle and became known as Roager-de-Busli.

Later the lands of Tickhill were granted to the family Tilli-Melton to Avice-de-Tilli. In the year 1153, she founded the Priory at Hampole and she erected the church at High Melton, together with some mills. Later her daughter Sybilla – wife of William de Clairfait gave the church and mills to the Priory at Hampole. The church was held by the nuns.

Sybilla was the mother of Ralph and Roger de Tilli, and Ralph was the inheritor of High Melton. The de Tilli family were of French origin and because of differences between the two governments the land held by the family had to be surrendered.

The King granted half the share of High Melton to the Cressi family and the other half to Simon Thurembert. The latter was replaced by William de St. George Knight. This was before the end of the 13th Century.

Robert Harringell married Margaret the daughter of Sir William de St. George (Knight) and there were three children, Alice, Joan and Catherine.

Alice married William Anne of Frickley, Joan married Sir Henry Gannary, and Catherine married John of the Woodhall in Wombwell, a branch of the Fitzwilliam family. Catherine had only one daughter who married Thomas Barley of Woodhall, they had two daughters. Mary married John Bosville of New Hall, Ardsley, who inherited the Manor at Melton, then valued at £13. The Manor remained in the Bosville family for many generations and in 1577 was possessed by Gerves Bosville.

The next family in Melton was that of Sywards and during the reign of Henry VI (1422 – 1462) a William Levitt married Elizabeth Syward, and thereafter the Levitt married Elizabeth Syward, and thereafter the Levitt family was prominent in Melton until the 17th century. 1650 Dr. Levitt who lived at Melton Hall is reputed to have sold his property after a gambling session, as a result of this, he promised to remove his wife and seven children out of the hall and yield possession to Dr. Berrie of All Demesna with Bentley and Cadeby. In 1651 Dr. Berrie was intending to dispose of Melton, and an agent of the Pierrepont family was expected to survey it, but in that year he died and in his will he directed that his faithful and true friend John

Fountayne of Lincolns Inn, whom he made executor and trustee to sell all his lands that were conveyed to him by Dr. Levitt for payment of his debts and legacies.

After this Melton became the residence of John Monoton nephew of Dr. Berrie. He had been a major in the service of Charles I. He had only one daughter to whom he left the Melton estate, and this automatically passed to her husband, John Fountayne, Esq, who was the son of John Fountayne of Saul, Norfolk. The Fountayne family are quite ancient, the first upon record who assumed the designation, John de Font, flourished in the latter end of the reign of Henry III and was much in favour with Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. John and Elizabeth Fountayne had two daughters only, and so on his death in 1680 John Fountayne bequeathed the Melton estate to his brother Thomas. Thomas Fountayne Esq, of Melton was married to Anne, the eldest daughter of Edward Chester, Esq, of Cockenhatch, Herts. When Thomas died in 1709 he was succeeded by his only surviving son, John Fountayne, who married Elizabeth the daughter of Francis Carew, Esq, of Beddington. The crest of the Carew family can be seen amongst others over the east window of our church.

John and Elizabeth Fountayne had two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, and also two sons firstly in 1713, Thomas Fountayne who also married into the Carew family. He succeeded his father in 1736, but tragically he died three years later in 1739, without any issue and so his brother John Fountayne inherited the Melton estate.

John Fountayne, D.D. Dean of York

John Fountayne was born in 1715, he was only twenty-four when his brother predeceased him and he became Lord of the Manor of Melton, for the next sixty three years. He made quite an impression on the village, for it was during his life that the Melton Hall was extended and re-designed in the Palladian style, the grounds were laid out with a new stable block and Lodge (since demolished) and a small temple was built as a rendezvous in Melton Warren Wood. During the same period the church was given a facelift and much stained glass and painted glass by Pecket of York was installed. The font was given a new cover and the tower was raised. Several of the village farm buildings and cottages date from this time also. John Fountayne known as Dr. Fountayne was Dean of York, and a Doctor of Divinity. He married three times in all, firstly to Anne who was the daughter of William Bromley, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and Secretary of State in the time of Queen Anne, there were no children to the marriage. He later married Frances-Maria, the daughter of Thomas Whichcote, Esq, of Harpswell. They had one daughter, who was named after her mother, born in 1750, she later married William Tatton of Withenshaw, and died three years later in her twenties. Dr. Fountayne's third wife was Anne the only daughter of Charles Montagu of Papplewick, Notts, and they had several children. Unfortunately, both she and their sons died during Dr. Fountayne's lifetime, leaving him without a male heir. Elizabeth Fountayne, their remaining child, was married to Richard Wilson, Esq, of Rudding Hall, Yorkshire, being the eldest son of the Right Rev Christopher Wilson, D.D. Bishop of Bristol, and Ann the daughter of Edmund Gibson, D.D. Bishop of London.

Three years after Dr. Fountayne's last son and heir Thomas had died, his daughter Elizabeth presented him with a grandson to inherit the Melton Estate and he was duly named Richard Fountayne Wilson. Two years later, Richard welcomed a brother Thomas Charles Wilson and

then tragedy struck, their mother Elizabeth Wilson died at the early age of twenty four on the 10th January 1786, and if that was not enough, Thomas Charles her son, aged 16, died in 1801. This must have proved too much for Dr. Fountayne, for he died shortly afterwards on the 14th February 1802 in his 87th year.

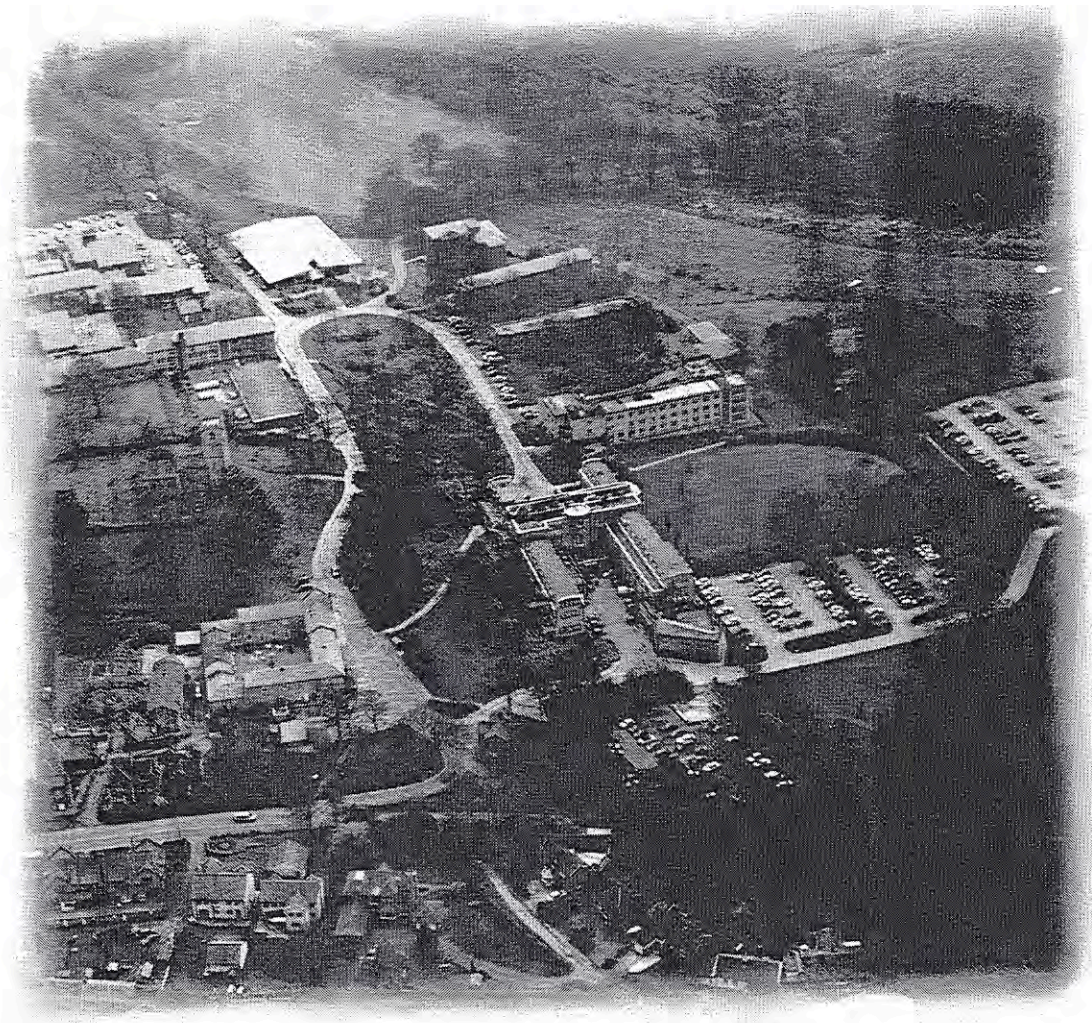
Although Dr. Fountayne had a long life and he did much to beautify and improve our village, he had a tragic family life, he inherited the estate from his brother who had died at the early age of 26; he had outlived his three wives and many, if not all of his children, even his son-in-law Richard Wilson at the age of twenty four and now his grandson at the age of sixteen. Dr. Fountayne was interred with the rest of his family at Melton and his beautiful memorial can be seen in the Chancel.

He was succeeded by his only surviving grandson Richard Fountayne Wilson, Esq, who married Sophia the third daughter of George Osbaldeston, M.P. Richard Fountayne Wilson stood for several years as M.P. for the county and was High Sheriff in 1807. His first two sons died in 1812 and 1814 which must have been a tremendous blow, but their sons Andrew and James did survive, there were also five daughters. As a young man, Andrew Wilson, the eldest son assumed by sign manual on 27th February, 1826, the surname and arms of Montagu, in pursuance of a testamentary injunction so that he could succeed to the Estates of the Rt. Hon. Fredrick Montagu of Popplewick, Notts.

Andrew Montagu Esq, as he became known, succeeded to the Melton Estate upon the death of his father in 1847. He then became Lord of the Manor of High Melton, Ingmanthorpe and Wighill; he became High Sheriff in 1853 and Deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire. (It is here that I lack information, for I believe Andrew Montagu was a bachelor and his brother James would then be in line to succeed, however, I get the impression that James died before Andrew).

James Wilson, brother of Andrew Montagu married Laura Adeline, younger daughter of Ernest Thellusson and their son Fredrick James Osbaldeston Montagu (formerly Wilson) Esq, O.B.E., M.C.J.P., succeeded to the Melton estates. He was born in 1878 and in 1906 he married Louisa, the daughter of William Collier Angove and widow of Edward Underwood, and they had several children. Frederick Montagu was known as Captain Montagu for he was Captain in the Res. of Officers and Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards. He was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1910 and J.P. for Essex. He was the last Lord of the Manor in High Melton, for in 1929 it was decided that the Melton estate should be divided up and disposed of, and the Montagu family moved to their other estates of Shortgrove Hall, Newport, Essex, and Ingmanthorpe Hall, Wetherby, Yorkshire.

The Hall and grounds were purchased by the Meanley family and later it became a Teacher Training College.



Doncaster College - High Melton

EMPLOYMENT

High Melton was almost entirely associated with agriculture and the estate as the 1851 Census shows:

Name of Heads of Household	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Henry Stevenson	50	Farmer	Wighill, Yorks
Thomas Presley	53	Farmer	Melton
William Gill	63	Blacksmith & Wheelwright	Norton
John Presley	25	Carpenter	Doncaster
Thomas Blackburn	56	Farmer, 400 Acres	Healaugh, Yorks
William Rodger	62	Labourer	
James Collins	34	Farm Labourer	Askern
John Hallam	23	Farm labourer	Ravenfield
Sarah Wainwright	55	Widow	Sprotbrough
George Hargreaves	78	Farm labourer	Melton
Charles Hamilton	30	Farm labourer	Lancashire
William Nettleton	26	Farm labourer	Melton
Jonathon Earnshaw	60	Woodman	Kirkburton
George Rodgers	50	Labourer	Melton
George Crosby	44	Butler	Long Marston
Margaret Crosby	32		Melton
Thomas Bisby	33	Farm labourer	Melton
Thomas Evers	35	Gamekeeper	Ireland
Daniel Hampshire	43	Farmer, 33 Acres	Wragby
Robert White	75	Farmer & Miller 111 acres	Melton
William Westram	39	Farm labourer (Brand)	Finningley
James Sowden	34	Farm labourer (Bath House)	Marr

Over half the inhabitants of High Melton in 1851 had been born there or in neighbouring villages.

PEOPLE

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM DE MELTON

Born about 1275 He was Janitor of the King's wardrobe in 1300. Edward II (1307 - 1327). He was rewarded by a steady succession of Ecclesiastical Preferments. He rose to be Treasurer of the Kingdom from 1325 - 27 and again 1330-31. He was repeatedly appointed as commission for the Scots.

Edward II went to some trouble to obtain his advancement to the See of York. He was Archbishop for 22 years and is remembered as a vigorous, just and charitable man, with a high sense of his own dignity. The Diocese over which he ruled had five Archdeacons - some non-resident. His enemies were Robert Bruce and his followers.

January 24th 1328 he celebrated at York, the marriage of young Edward III to Philippa of Hainault. Depicted in the vestry window.

EMANUEL SCORAH. BAPTISED (22/3/1628)

Attorney at Law. In his will dated 8.12.1675, he left 40 shillings per annum to the vicar of Doncaster, and his successor to be paid upon Innocents Day (December 28th). The vicar preaching a sermon in a Doncaster Church.

The benefactor was a native of Melton-on-the-Hill to the vicar of which place and his successors he left 20 shillings a year, he preaching a sermon on Innocents Day in the parish church of Melton. He also left 50 shillings to the poor of Melton.

THOMAS CARTWRIGHT

Alis Vicars of Scawsby, left 20 pounds per annum to be distributed amongst 30 of the poorest men and women of several towns and villages specified.....one of Melton or Cadeby.

JOHN FOUNTAYNE D.D. (1714 - 1802)

He was the second son of John Fountayne of Melton in South Yorkshire. He was the great grandson of John Fountayne, the Judge. He graduated B.A. at St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge in 1736, and proceeded M.A. in 1739, being installed Prebendary of Salisbury on 16th April, 1739. He was appointed by Patent of 3rd January, 1740, to a Canonry of Windsor, which he resigned in 1748, having the previous year been appointed Dean of York. He took the degree of D.D. in 1751. On the death of his elder brother in 1739, he succeeded to the Manor of Melton.

METHODISM

On the magnesium limestone belt estates, villages like High Melton, they had no dissenters – but elsewhere, in South Yorkshire, Methodism gained converts in agricultural and quarrying settlements. In villages like High Melton, the inhabitants were entirely dependent upon the estates for their tenancies and employment. Dissent was easily suppressed in such circumstances.

THE MILLS

Which are no longer in existence, were given by Avicia de Tania and her daughter Sibilla de Clairfait. One was situated at the bottom of Melton Mill Lane, near the junction of Cadeby Lane. This mill was on the north side of the old course of the River Dearne. It is believed that the second mill was situated further along the river to the east.

COPLEY

Sir Godfrey Copley and his descendants were the principal landowners in Sprotbrough between 4.11.1616 – 1925. An Inn in Sprotbrough was called Copley Arms.

Cadeby Church was built for the Copleys by George Gilbert Scott (Architect of St. George's Church, Doncaster). The first school in Sprotbrough was called Copley School.

The Meanwell Spring at Cadeby was owned by the Copley Estate.

One of the residential blocks at the Institute of Higher Education, High Melton Site, is named after the Copleys.

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2



Halls and Conservatories

THE HOUSE AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

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 been originally incorporated in quite a large building. The original building appears to have been replaced in the eighteenth century by Dean Fountayne who was Lord of the Manor from 1739-1802.

The first rebuilding was probably completed in 1757. It is clear from a 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 neo-classical 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 Anne portrays their young son in the foreground holding the architect's plan of these extensions to the west elevation. The portrait was painted by J.J. Downes and dated 1777, although a 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 work remodelling 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 originally have 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 Fountayne Wilson in 1807.

The Stable-Court, now partly demolished, also bears the Wilson Crest and was built in the first half of the nineteenth century.

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

The pleasure grounds must have been laid out during the eighteenth century. This was when the whole of the estate was replanned and the farmhouses 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 mansion. The pleasure grounds that took over were quite extensive, reaching into Melton Warren Wood, where a neo-classical mock temple was situated. There was an icehouse 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 had an iron balustrade and a spring of water, but it 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 and 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 Fountayne 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 Fountayne Wilson family whose burial is not recorded in the church registers and that is Thomas, the seven week old son of Richard and Sophia Fountayne 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 fleece of the latter were woven into a brown tweed and many of the family were clad in it.

Many villages 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.

In 1874 James Montagu had married Laura Adeline Thelluson. 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 extension bears 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 1897.



The Bridge

One frequently meets colleagues who complain of being overworked. The following notice was sent to us by I N Sawnsen (F) of Newcastle upon Tyne, who has just retired. He says that the poster is quite genuine and hung in the land agent's office at Melton Park, near Doncaster, circa 1904. We would like to, but unfortunately cannot, learn more about the task on Wednesdays of cleaning the footman inside.

MELTON PARK HALL

OUTLINE OF WORK FOR ODD MAN

6 a.m.—Ring bell connected with men servants' bed-rooms until the back door is opened; fill coal boxes, kitchen box, wash-house (Fridays), laundry (Mondays), remove ashes, fill log baskets, (light fire in winter), clean servants' hall, lay hall breakfast, shake cocoa-nut mats, and pump for half-an-hour.

7-45 a.m.—Fetch milk.

8 a.m.—Ring house bell for breakfast; when over, clear table and wash up.

8-45 a.m.—Take away swill and feed pigs, clean boots, sweep up yards, pump half-an-hour, take away rubbish, clean all knives used by household, chop sticks, bring down logs as required, empty ash boxes, and leave boxes full of coal.

12 a.m.—Dinner. Mondays, 12-30.

4-45 p.m.—Feed pigs.

5 to 6 p.m.—Fill coal boxes, pump water, and bring in sticks.

6 p.m.—Go home. 7-30 to 10 p.m.—Assist in pantry work, when over eight people in dining room for late dinner.

In winter, help to light up back passage lamps, kitchen, hall, and laundry.

EXTRA REGULAR DUTIES

MONDAYS, Summer 10-30 to 12-30.—Turn wringing machine. Winter 11 to 12-30.
1-30 to 3-30 p.m.—Clean windows; odd jobs to 6.

TUESDAYS, 9 a.m.—Have brick-oven ready heated for bread. 1-30 to 4-30, mangle in summer; odd jobs to 6. Leave bake-house clean, and oven ready for lighting. 1-30 to 4, mangle in winter.

WEDNESDAYS, 10 to 12 a.m.—Clean windows with footman inside. Afternoon, odd jobs.

THURSDAYS, 11 to 12 a.m.—Clean windows with footman. 1 to 2-30, clean leads, water spouts, and odd jobs to 6.

FRIDAYS—Clean all grease traps, man-holes, etc. Clean and scrub lamp-room, brushing-room, and clean bicycle-house.

SATURDAYS—Clean grate (early morning), scrub tables, benches, floor of servants' hall, clean boot-house, all outside lavatories, cellar steps and beer cellars, passage at back of laundry, all yards and outside offices, riddle ashes (remove every Thursday), clean pig-styes and hen-house; coals to kitchen and laundry, if wanted.

SUNDAYS, 6-30 a.m.—Attend to servants' hall, coals, pumping, swill tub, sticks, ashes, servants' knives, pigs to feed morning and evening, any absolutely necessary work.

AFTERNOON, 4 p.m.—pumping, coals, etc.; evening, after Service help in pantry, if more than eight in dining-room.

NOTE.—The work mentioned is entered as being absolutely necessary, but there are many other jobs and duties which the Odd Man is called upon to do.

The Bailiff superintends all matters relating to water-works and drainage system.

George Russell Venables, Printer and Stationer, Bank Street and Arcade Buildings, Mexborough.

BELOW STAIRS

We know very little of the servants at the Hall prior to Dean Fountayne. 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.Fredrick Montagu of Papplewick, for twenty-eight years.

During the time of the Fountayne Wilson's the butler was a Mr George Crosby, and the coachman was Isaac Wilkinson and later James Adams. The gamekeepers were Thomas Shields and John Hargreaves and the woodman was 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 Sara Rogers. 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 Mr Harry Stead (now deceased)



The Lodge



Melton Hall

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 carcucates 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 Priory with the Church and the Mills at Melton. Ralph de Tilli inherited what remained at Melton but during the reign of Henry II there was a division of the Tilli's interest into two moieties, one of which passed to the Cressi family with the patronage of Hampole. The other moiety became the portion of Phillipa de Tilli.

In 1249 Phillipa de Tilli had in dimension the village five score acres of land worth 6d per annum and in villanage seven oxgangs each worth 9d per annum and 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 Moety of the Manor of Melton to Simon Durembert.

Durembert's daughter Margaret married William de Saint George and granted the Manor of Melton to her daughter's husband, Robert Harringell at York on the 13th September, 1315. The following year Robert Harringell was returned as joint Lord of the Manor, probably with a member of the Cressi family.

Harringell had three daughters, Catherine the eldest married John of the Woodhall in Wombwell, a branch of the Fitzwilliam family, they had one child Isabel, who married Thomas Barley, who inherited the Melton Moety.

Their eldest daughter Mariotta married John Bosvile of the New Hall, Ardsley. Upon the partition of the lands of Thomas Barley the Manor of High Melton, then valued at £13 was assigned to Mariotta's husband John Bosvile and their son William in 1403.

The Half Manor of Melton continued in the line of Bosvile of Newhall for many generations and in 1577 was possessed by Gervase Bosville who was living in Newhall in 1585.

The Cressi moiety 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 moiety 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 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 two daughters on the 20th June, 1489 their husbands being William Levell and John Frankysh. William Levett the husband of Elizabeth Syward inherited the land at Melton, Mexbrough, Wildthorpe and Arksey. This marriage had brought the Levetts to Melton. Before that 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 Scurah had also settled in the village and intermarried at various times.

The interests of these families was bought up by Dr Richard Berrie in the reign of Charles I. We also read that a general release had been sealed between Dr Levett and Dr Berrie on the 7th December, 1649. In another letter dated 4th March 1650 Dr Levett had promised to remove his wife and children out of Melton Hall and to yield possession to Dr Barrie 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 28th May, 1651 he directed that his executor John Fountayne of Lincoln's Inn Enq, should sell all lands conveyed to him by Dr Levett for payment of debts and legacies.

After this Melton became the home of Dr Berrie's nephew John Monkton who took quite a considerable interest under the will. He was previously a major of foot in the service of Charles I. He had only one child who married John Fountayne 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, of 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, Sargeant 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 Fontayne 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 later became Dean 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 22nd 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 kinsmen John James and Andrew Fountayne. He gave £2,00 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 the 5th 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 the Law. During this time he befriended the Rev. Anthony Moyer a pious and virtuous man who quitted the church due to his conscience 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 Church preferment's.

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 14th June, 1702 to Simon Patrick Esq, of Dalham, Suffolk. He was the only child of the Bishop of Ely who incidentally 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 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 Edward 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 23rd 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 November 22nd about five of ye clock in the morning and received private baptism on ye 6th of December.

After almost (twenty eight) years as Lord of the Manor, John Fountayne died at the age of fifty three on October 30th 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's eldest son Thomas was baptised at Melton Church on the 17th 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 baptised at Melton in February, 1714, he graduated B.A. at St Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, in 1735 proceeded M.A., in 1739 being installed prebendary of Salisbury on the 16th 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 3rd January 1704 – I to a cannery 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 23rd 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 16th 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 before or since. His immediate predecessor in this position was his relation, Dean Richard Osbaldeston, previously mentioned.

Dean Fountayne decided that he would remarry on the 1st August, 1749, he married Francis Maria the eldest daughter of Thomas Whitecote Esq, of Harpswell, Lincs. This marriage was to be of even shorter duration or 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 Withenshaw, 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 a 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 14th 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 M.P. 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 Lisbon 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 at York in 1755 and baptised in the Minister on November 11th by the Presenter, Rev. Doctor Lawrence Stern, the poet and friend of the Dean. In 1758 a long and awaited son and heir was born at York. The boy was called Thomas Charles and he was publicly baptised 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, and 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 D.D. 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 terrible 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 in 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. Fredrick 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 upon his death in 1800 and the Montagu fortune and estates at Papplewick, Notts, passed down to the Dean's grandson, Richard Fountayne Wilson. Fredrick 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 14th February, 1802 Dean Fountayne died at the Deanery at 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 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 forbears he decided not to go into the church but like Fredrick Montagu he decided on a career in politics. In 1807 he married Sophia the third daughter of George Osbaldston M.P., of Hutton Bushel, in the same year he was also High Sheriff of the county. In 1807 Richard Fountayne Wilson became M.P. 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 so easily moved into marriage, in fact Andrew was to remain a bachelor all his life.

He was born in Doncaster on the 12th June 1815 and was baptised at Melton five days later. On the 27th February 1826 he assumed by sign Manual the surname and arms of Montagu, only in pursuance of a testamentary injunction in the Will of the R. Hon. Fredrick Montagu of Papplewick. He succeeded to the Melton Estate upon the death of his father in 1847.

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

In 1868, on 20th 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 and 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 Ingmanthorpe 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 younger daughter of Ernest and Emily Thelluson of Mount Audlyn, Ramsey, Isle of Man. Eleven year later the bride's father was to become vicar of Melton, he was a descendent of Isaac de Thelluson, Ambassador from Geneva to the Court of Louis XV who had accumulated an immense fortune 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 Malherth Huyshe Nevile of Skilbroke.

The next child of James and Adeline Montagu was a boy Fredrick James Osbaleston Montagu, he was born on the 9th February 1878.

Three sisters followed; Laura, who married Graeme Alexander Lockhart Whitelaw of Chelsea, a relation to the present Wm. Whitelaw M.P., Mary Edith who married Archibald Neslo 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 Montgu, 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 Foutnayne Montagu was a child of three when his own father died in 1891, and his mother remarried in 1897 to Lieu 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 - 29th September, 1899. Miss Emily Wood later lived at Hampole where she was an active magistrate and also bred foxterriers.

Fredrick 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 meet him in London. They came back to Doncaster by train and then on the Melton by carriage. When the carriage reached Cadeby Lane and 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 Mexbrough 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 Angove 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 incidentally lived to the age of eighty. A.J.P. 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 spilt 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 of grounds 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.

*Frank
Meanley
Bachelor*

H Frost

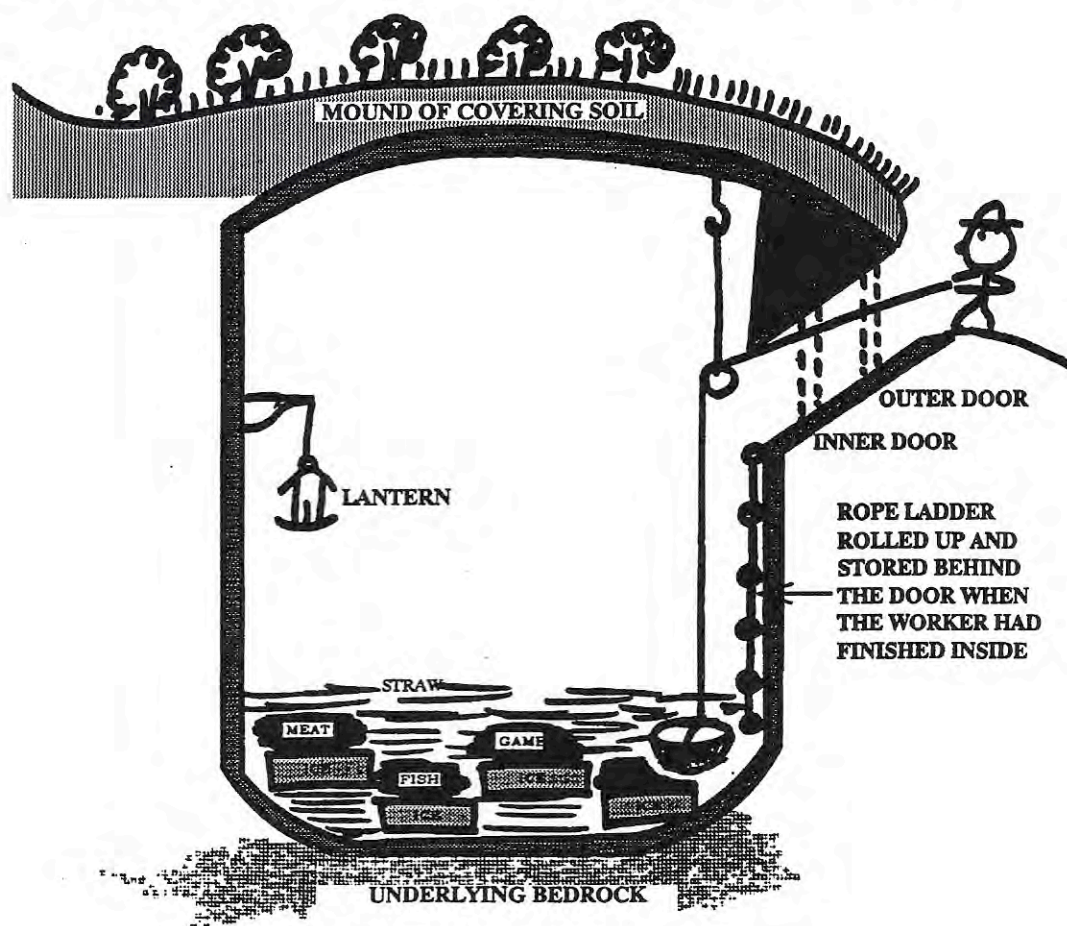


The Drawing Room

THE ICE HOUSE

This consisted of a large excavated, brick lined cavern. As there was no natural pond in the grounds, a special pond had to be made and lined with clay. This pond was used to supply ice in winter from which blocks were cut.

A block and pulley tackle was used by two men to lower straw, blocks of ice, and provisions into the base of the cavern. Once the task was complete the inner door was closed then the space between the two doors filled with straw before the outer door was closed.



COTTAGE HOSPITAL

A 14 bed Hospital served the community from 30-1-1890 until the present Montagu Hospital opened 18-5-1905.

Dr W Sykes organised meetings to begin the project and after long deliberation Mr Andrew Montagu of Melton was asked to help. He responded by giving land, plans were drawn up, workmen began, and in 6 months the Hospital was ready.

Mr James Montagu performed the opening ceremony.

Miss Moor of Mexborough was appointed the first Matron.

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DESIGN & LAYOUT

Doncaster College

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