

March 3009

The Parish of Ayton (Graves 1808)

The History of Cleveland by Rev John Graves. First published 1808, pages 194-211. Republished Patrick & Shotton, Stockton-on-Tees, 1972. ISBN 0 903169 04 5

Early records of the village, including a comprehensive account of William Wilson's life in the East India Company and his retirement at Ayton Hall.

This was the first book on the history of Cleveland, this transcription is of the chapter on Ayton, covering Great Ayton, Nunthorpe and Little Ayton.

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Beryl Bass, three times grand-daughter of Rev John Graves, has published an index to the whole of Graves's History of Cleveland.

THE PARISH OF AYTON

OR, as it is sometimes written, *Hayton*, in the Domesday-book, ATUN....

THE most obvious etymology of the name is from the original Saxon *Dege* or *Dag*, signifying a hedge, which we find frequently softened down into the old French *haie*, or *haye*; hence the word *Ayton* may be supposed to mean a *town inclosed*, or, a town with a *haie*, or *hedge*.^{†1}

THE parish, including the townships of *Great-Ayton*, *Little-Ayton*, and *Nunthorpe*, is, in its greatest extent from east to west, about three miles, and nearly three miles broad; and is bounded by the parishes of Seamer and Stokesley on the south; with a tract of hills running several miles to the south and south-west, which divide it from the parishes of Guisborough and Kildale on the east.

IT appears, on the authority of Domesday-book, that the township of *Ayton magna*, in the Conqueror's time, containing three distinct manors; of which the first that occurs in the survey was antient demesne of the crown, being entered under the title

"Terra Regis"

"Mancrium in Atun. Ulchil II. Carucatas ad geldum. Terra ad I. car. XVI. folio"

FROM the same record it also appears, that there were six carucates rated *ad geldum*, held formerly as one manor by Norman; but, which, at the time of the survey, was in the hands of Nigel, and held of Robert, Earl of Moreton, being entered under the title

"Terra Comitum Moritonientis."

"In Atun ad geldum VI. carucatas, et III cat. pollunt esse. Ibi habuit Norman I manerium. Nunc habit Nigel de Comite. In Dominio I. car. et VIII. billani cum II. car."

"Aecclelia, et VI. acri prati. T. R. E. balebat XL. solid. modo XXX.sol"

FROM the above it appears, that there was one carucate in demesne and eight villeins, with two ploughs; that there was a church and six acres of meadow; that the manor in the Confessor's time, was valued at forty shillings, but at the time of the survey worth thirty.

The third manor recorded in the Domesday survey, is entered under the title

"Terra Roberti Mallet."

^{†1} It is conjectured by some that *Ayton* was so named from a modification of the British *ea*, which signifies water; an etymology descriptive at least of its situation on the river Leven, which runs through the village.

“Manerium in Atun. Aldred, Edmund et Turorne habuerunt IIII. carucatas terrae ad geldum, ubi II car. pollunt esse. Nunc habet Robertus ibi I. car. et IX. billani, cum II. car. et III. acris prati. T. R. E. balebat. XX. solid. modo XXV. Sol. et IIII. denar.”

FROM which we find, that this manor contained four carucates of land *ad geldum*, two of which might be rendered arable; that at the period of the survey Robert Mallet had one carucate and nine villeins or bondmen under him, who had two ploughs and three acres of meadow. It was valued in the Confessor's time at twenty shillings; but at the time of the survey was worth twenty five shillings and four pence.

WE are unable, at this remote period, to define the different manors, noticed in the above extracts; nor have we any documents to show when they first became united: it appears however, from early and authentic records, that the present manor of Ayton was granted, at a very early period, to Robert Estoteville, one of the valiant northern Barons, who in the 3rd year of King Stephen's reign, fought against the Scots at the famous battle of the Standard, near North-allerton. In this family it continued till the 17. Henry III. When issue-male failing it descended by marriage with Joan, daughter of Nicholas de Estoteville, ^{†2} to Hugh, son of Baldwine de Wake; in which family it continued till the reign of Edw. III. When John and Thomas, sons of Baldwine, son of Hugh de Wake, dying without issue, Margaret their sister, Countess of Kent, widow of Edmund do Woodstock, Earl of Kent, became the next heir; from whom it afterwards descended to Sir Thomas Holland, Knight, by marriage with Joan, daughter of the said Margaret, in whose right he became Earl of Kent. This Thomas died seized of this manor 34. Edw. III. Leaving Thomas, his son and heir; whose posterity enjoyed it for divers successions, till by marriage with Elizabeth, sister and coheir of Edmund Holland, Earl of Kent, it passed to the Nevilles, Earls of Westmorland, who had an occasional residence at Ayton, and continued proprietors here till the 13. Elizabeth, when, on the attainder of Charles, Earl of Westmorland, it became forfeited to the crown. The manor was afterwards granted by King James I. to Sir David Foulis, of Ingleby-manor, Knight, who fold it, in the reign of Charles I. to Christopher Couson, dyer, and citizen of London. From the Coulsons it descended by marriage to the Scottowes, by whose descendant it was fold, in the year 1801, to Mr. Henry Richardson, the present proprietor, and lord of the manor.

THE lands here have been long held in parcels; according to Kirkby's Inquest, Nicholas de Meinell, had three carucates, which he held of Peter de Mauley, as of the barony of Mulgrave,*³ and from the same record it appears that the heir of Baldwine de Wake, Lord of Ayton, so early as the reign of Edward I. certified his right to a weekly market here; where he had also the jurisdiction of trying felons, and other privileges within the manor.*⁴

THOUGH the market here has been long discontinued, owing probably to its vicinity to the town of Stokesley, *Great Ayton*, is nevertheless a considerable village, being nearly a mile in extent from east to

² Sir Wm. Dugdale in his Baronage (vol. 1 p458) says, that this Nicholas left issue two daughters, Joan and Margaret, : Margaret wife of Wm. Mastoc, died without issue, 20. Henry III. When Joan her sister, then wife of Hugh de Wake, had livery of the whole inheritance.

³ DiICUNT, quod Petrus de Malo-lacu tenet quatuor feoda milit. Cum Castro de Mulgrave, *de Domino rege in capite*, unde Nicholaus de Meinell, tenet unum feodum in *magna Ayton*, magna Broughton et *Tunstall*, unde X. car. Terræ faciunt feodum, et reddit Ballivo regis pro fine II. Xd.

⁴ Hæres Baldwini de Wake, qui est in custodia Domini regis, clamat habere *Mercatum* in magna AYTON, et *Warrenam* per cartam Domini Regis Henrici, et *Funcam*; scilicet qualiter, et a quo tempore non potest inquiri.

west, with some good buildings, chiefly of freestone, which abounds in quarries in the neighbourhood. It is pleasantly situated, at the western skirt of a conical formed mountain, called *Rosebury Topping*, about two miles to the east from the market town of Stokesley, and is watered by a branch of the Leven, which takes its rise near Kildale, about four miles to the east, and runs in a western direction through the middle of the village, where it is crossed by one stone bridge of two arches, and another of one arch; besides three wooden bridges for the accommodation of the inhabitants.

THE population of the village, as we shall state more particularly hereafter, is considerable; and the inhabitants are chiefly employed in the different manufactories carried on here; there being, besides the more ordinary occupations, three tan-yards, one comb and horn-manufactory, a tallow-chandlry, a common brewery, one oil-mill, one water-corn-mill, and a brick and tile kiln.

THE CHURCH of Ayton, dedicated to All-Saints, is situated towards the western extremity of the village; it is an ancient structure, but by some modern repairs, is rendered a decent and commodious place of worship. It is difficult to state the precise era of its foundation; the preceding extract from Domesday-book leads us, however, to conclude, that it had its origin before the conquest; though there is nothing about the present edifice, that can claim so remote antiquity. This church was formerly endowed with rectorial rights, and in the year 1123, was given by Robert de Meynill and Gertrude his wife, together with the chapel of Newton under *Ornbach* (Rosebury) and four oxgangs of land there, and four houses, to the Abbey of Whitby, for a perpetual alms. This grant was confirmed by William de Estoteville, and King Henry II; as also by Stephen de Bulmer, who added 24 acres to it, out of his lands here. It was afterwards appropriated to that monastery,⁵ by Roger, Archbishop of York; and at the dissolution, reduced to a perpetual curacy, which was certified to the governours of Queen Anne’s bounty, at 14/. *per annum*. It has since received several augmentations, which, with other dues, have increased the income to about 70/. a year.

THE rectorial rights, upon the dissolution of the monestry, were granted by letters patent to the Duke of Suffolk; and in the 28th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, came by purchase to the Marwoods of Little Busby. William Marwood, Esq. is the present impropriator and patron, and nominates the curate.*⁶

⁵ IT appears from the Register-office of the monestry that an inventory of its effects was made according to canonical statutes, in the year 1394; when among other things in different places, there were found at their “*rectory in Aton in Clyffland*,” as follow: viz.

	Wheat and Maseeline	30 quarters
	Oats.....	60 ditto
	Barley.....	3 ditto
	Pease.....	2 ditto
At Nunthorpe	Wheat.....	14 ditto
	Oats.....	20 ditto

IT was found at the same time, that Ayton required the sum of 10/. For repairs in buildings belonging to the said monestry.

⁶ AYTON CURACY.
DED. All-Saints. Cert. val. 14/. William Marwood, Esq. patron. Charged with *procurations* 7s. 6d. *Synodals* 2s. 8d.

IN the centre of the village, near the bridge, there is a SCHOOL-HOUSE; which from an inscription over the door, appears to have been first built by the late Michael Postgate, yeoman, in the year 1704, and rebuilt in 1785; with a small endowment, for the instructing of eight poor children within the township, in reading, writing, and arithmetic.* ⁷ Adjoining to the school-house, there are three *poor-houses*; over the doors of which is the following inscription: "THESE HOUSES WERE BUILT BY VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION; EXCEPTING TWENTY POUNDS, THE INTEREST OF WHICH, SIXTEEN SHILLINGS A YEAR, IS TO BE PAID FOR EVER BY THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, FOR PUTTING TWO POOR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL; BUILT 1764"

IT appears that the old school -room and the school-house, bequeathed by the late Michael Postgate, yeoman, became in time so ruinous, as to require a very expensive repair; it was therefore thought expedient by the inhabitants, that the said houses should be taken down and rebuilt; when a poor -house was erected by subscription on their site; appropriating one commodious apartment to the use and purpose of a school-house; for the building of which the old materials were considered a full and adequate compensation. The subscriptions towards building the poor house amounted to the sum of 100/. 2s.; the interest of which, together with the sixteen shillings above mentioned, is paid out of the poor's rate, to be applied to the yearly salary of the school-master for ever.

ON the north side of the village, near the church, stands the mansion of Mrs. Wilson, widow of the late William Wilson, Esq. formerly commodore and commander in chief of the marine force of the English East-India Company; in the situation "he displayed one continued series of acts of disinterested patriotism, and distinguished services."[‡]⁸ The situation of the mansion, which is neat and commodious is rather elevate, with some rich and fertile grounds adjoining.

1705. Geo. Spencer, nom by Sir H. Marwood	1747, Geo Metcalfe	by Chomley Turner Esq
1715. Maurice Lisle, by the same	1761, Anth. Hastwell,	by Mrs. Turner
1718, Peter Moone, by the same	1794, Tho. Deacon,	by Wm. Marwood, Esq
1723, Thomas Morley, by the same	1795, Wm. Deason,	by the same

⁷ IT is here worthy of particular remark, that in this humble village seminary, the immortal *Capt. Cook* received his school-education at the expence of *Thomas Scottowe, Esq.* ; under whom his father acted as hind or head servant at his farm at *Airy-Holme*, in this parish. A biographical memoir of this scientific circumnavigator will be given under the *parish of Marton*, the birthplace of that extraordinary man.

⁸ WE have been favoured with the following brief memorials of the late *William Wilson, Esq.* of *Ayton*, which we here present to our readers, as a tribute of respect to the memory of departed merit.

It may, perhaps, be objected by some, that as the subject of this biographical sketch was not a native of *Cleveland*, he cannot, with propriety, claim a place in the history of that district: but, when it is considered that, after the active part of life spent in the services of the first commercial company in Europe, in which he wad eminently distinguished for his worth and talents, he chose *Ayton* for his retirement, where, during the evening of his days, his virtues shone forth in the milder lustre of private life, we trust we shall be excused, if we annex to the *history of this parish*, the following brief particulars of his life and character.

CAPT. WILSON was descended from a very respectable Yorkshire family; his father was an inhabitant of London, and proprietor of considerable glass-works there; but, from some embarrassment in his affairs, left this, his third and only surviving son at an early age, to promote his own interest; and to form himself for the future service of his country in the school of adversity, which gradually established his character, and afterwards enabled him to meet the most trying circumstances with heroic fortitude.

HE was born in the year 1715; and after an education that peculiarly qualified him for the profession of a sailor, he entered at the early age of 14, from his own choice into the sea-service of the Hon. East India Company. After having,

in the course of 15 years, passed through the different gradations of rank, with great credit to himself, principally under *Capt. Westcot*, of the *Scarborough*, and *Capt. Crompton*, of the *Duke of Loraine*, he was advanced in the year 1744, to the command of the *Great Britain*, a private ship of war, of 30 guns, 12 and 18 pounders, 250 men, and three Lieutenants; the gentlemen, who accompanied *Capt. Wilson* in this capacity, were *Messrs. Norway**, *Hutton*, and *Curlet*, all belonging to the service of the East-India Company.

*MR. NORWAY was afterwards the commander of the *Britannia*, East Indiaman.

He sailed in the *Great Britain*, from the Downs on the 10th November; and on the 17th fell in with a Spanish frigate, of superior force, which he obliged to steer off, and would probably have captured her, had not the disabled state of his ship's rigging put it out of his power to prevent her escape.

ON the 22nd December following, he took a Spanish sloop of war, carrying dispatches, and with ten thousand pounds of specie, on board. He, soon after this, fell in with and engaged three French West Indiamen, furnished with *letters of marque*, and mounting from 20 to 24 guns each; two of which he captured, after sustaining considerable damage in his ship's rigging, &c.

ON relinquishing the command of the *Great Britain*, in the beginning of the year 1746, *Captain Wilson* re-entered the service of the East India Company; and in the year following was sworn into the command of the *Suffolk*, East Indiaman. For some years after *Capt. Wilson's* appointment to this command, nothing remarkable seems to have occurred, till, in his last voyage in this ship, in the year 1756, he was overtaken, in his outward passage, of the *Macclesfield Shoals*, by one of those dangerous and tremendous storms, known by the name of *tuffons* or *tyfongs*. *Capt. Wilson*, in describing the astonishing violence of this hurricane, has been heard to say, that "the fury of the elements was far beyond conception, and that a faint idea only in their rage could be conveyed perhaps by saying, that it seemed as if *heaven and earth* were coming together."

DURING his stay at China in the year 1757, there being every reason to conclude that a war with France had already broken out, *Capt. Wilson*, having taken care to have his ship furnished with the best means of defence, was ordered to proceed to England, as commanding officer, with the ships, then ready to sail. Nothing remarkable occurred, till he reached the latitude of 35.4" fourth, and 6.30" to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope; when on the 9th March, being supported by the *Hon. Capt. Walpole* of the *Houghton*, and *Capt. Hutchinson* of the *Godolphin*, the only ships then in the company: *Capt. Wilson* had the courage to encounter, and the skill, conduct, and good fortune, to beat off the *Compte de Provence*, a French ship of the line of 74 guns, commanded by *Monsieur de la Chaise*, together with the *Sylphide* frigate of 36 guns.

IN the month of June following, the *Suffolk*, *Houghton*, and *Godolphin*, arrived safe at Leith; and soon afterwards sailed for the river, with his Majesty's ship, the *Southampton*. While at Leith, *Capt. Wilson* received the following letter from Mr. Cleveland, Secretary of the Admiralty:

"Admiralty-Office, 4th June, 1757.

SIR,

I HAVE received and read to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, your letter of the 24th past, giving an account of your having in company with the *Houghton* and *Godolphin*, Indiamen, engaged two French men of war, in your passage home from the Cape of Good Hope; and I am to acquaint you, that your behaviour with that of the other officers, has given the Lords very great satisfaction.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

J. CLEVELAND."

ON this occasion *Capt. Wilson* also received the thanks of the Court of Directors of the East-India Company, who presented him with a *gold-medal*, of one hundred guineas value, in testimony of the sense the members of that Court entertained of his gallant conduct.

WHEN *Capt. Wilson* accepted the command of the *Great Britain*, to which he was appointed in the year 1744, he had, at the same time, an officer of a ship in the East-India service; but, he made choice of the former, as being a situation which would afford him opportunity of devoting a greater portion of his time to the acquisition of professional knowledge. The period was now arrived, when he was called upon to fill a situation, which would allow scope for the display of that ability, which, from motives the most laudable, he had fought and acquitted with no inconsiderable share of peril and fatigue. It being judged expedient by the Court of Directors of the East-India Company, for the better protection of their trade to fit out a ship of war, *Capt. Wilson* was solicited to accept the command, as being an officer highly qualified for such an appointment.

ALTHOUGH the fortune he had acquired, amounted only to a very moderate competency, yet, as it was, in some measure equal to the moderation of his desires, he had now begun to turn his thoughts towards the gratification of a wish he had long cherished, of passing the remainder of his life in retirement, and in the bosom of his friends. But, the *amor patriæ* which glowed within his breast, and the wish he gratefully entertained of justifying the deference paid to himself, as being the person, best qualified to discharge the duties of so arduous a trust, determined him to relinquish every private consideration, and to accept the appointment;* and being constituted (by a special commission bearing date 23rd December, 1757) *commodore and commander of all ships and vessels in the service of the English East-India Company*, he took his departure the year following, in the *Pitt*,**, a ship of war of 54 guns and 250 men; and having received on board *Colonel Sir William Draper*, and *Major Brereton*, with some troops under their command, he sailed from St. Helen's on the 7th of March, in company with his Majesty's ship, *the Grafton* of 74, and the *Sunderland* of 60 guns, having seven East-Indiamen under convoy. After landing these officers and troops at Fort St. George, he sailed from thence to China by a route till then unknown; and returning by the same tract, proved this passage to be practicable at all seasons of the year.

THE straits, through which he passed from the Indian seas, into the pacific Ocean, the islands which form them, together with some of their capes and headlands, retain, to this day, the names they received from him.

FOR this important discovery, and the facility, which the successful exertion of his bold and enterprising spirit thus obtained to eastern commerce and navigation, *Commodore Wilson*, was on his return to England, again unanimously voted the thanks of the Hon. Court of Directors; and was also presented with a *gold-medal*, commemorative of his meritorious services.

*As a proof that the conduct of *Commodore Wilson* did ample credit to the judgment with which this honourable and important commission was bestowed, it is recorded that "on his arrival in the East-Indies he volunteered his ship, and his services to Admiral *Sir George Pococke*; in the Bay of Bengal he chased, and brought to action a French ship of the line, greatly superior to his own, in *rate and force*; and at Batavia he vindicated the rights of his country against the Dutch, and by his firmness and spirit compelled the Governour-General to acknowledge, that *the English had a right to navigate, wherever it had pleased God to send water.*" See the *Naval Chronical* for August 1805.

**THE *Pitt* was originally a French ship of 64 guns, called *the Pondicherry*; and received this new name from *Commodore Wilson*, as a testimony of respect to the illustrious *Earl of Chatham*; under whose auspices the whole naval department had prospered, and become gloriously formidable.

HAVING achieved what no other officer in the service had ever dared to undertake, *Commodore Wilson*, resigned his commission in the year 1762; and uninfluenced by vain ambition, or the desire of courting empty popularity (having in the year 1755, married Rachael, third daughter of George Jackson, Esq. of Hill-House, Richmond, Yorkshire), he retired to the village of Ayton; where, practicing those virtues, which come within the reach of general imitation, he gave dignity to the walk of private life, y the pursuits of genius, the exertions of philanthropy, and the example of integrity

SUCH was *Commodore Wilson*; who, (having inculcated both by precept and example, that our country's interest is the noblest impulse of the truly brave) departed this life on the 5th day of June, in the year 1795, and in the 80th year of his age.- He was buried within the parish church of Ayton, where a marble monument of elegant workmanship has been lately erected by his son, William Wilson, Esq. with the following inscription:

To the Memory of
WILLIAM WILSON, ESQ.
He derived his DESCENT from a respectable FAMILY;
AFFLUENCE and CREDIT from his VIRTUES and ABILITIES,
How fully these were displayed
With what GALLANTRY and JUDGEMENT they were exerted
The THANKS which he received on different OCCASIONS
From the COURT of DIRECTORS of the Honourable the EAST INDIA COMPANY
Were ample TESTIMONIES.
Retiring from an active Scene,
He passed the remainder of his Life in this Village, Where, during TWENTY-SIX Years,
PHILANTHROPY and strict INTEGRITY actuated his Conduct as a MAGISTRATE;
Exemplary PIETY as a CHRISTIAN.
On this Tablet
Affection with Truth must record,
That, in every Situation deservedly esteemed,
He possessed all the amiable and social Qualities
Which must endear the HUSBAND, the PARENT, and the FRIEND.
THE ALMIGHTY,
Whose gracious Protection he often experienced
And on whom alone he had ever relied,
Was pleased to remove him from this Life
On the 5th June, 1795.
Aged 80.

THE township of LITTLE AYTON, lies at a short distance to the south east, and is of small extent; containing thirteen houses, and about seventy inhabitants, occupied chiefly in agriculture. The manor, at the period of the Domesday-survey, was found to be taxed at two carucates; besides land sufficient for one plough, valued at ten shillings.

THIS was ancient demense of the crown, entered in the survey, under the title

Terra Regis

“Manerium in alia Atun. Hauuard II. carucatas terrae ad geldum. Terra ad I. car. X. solidos.”

There were also two carucates, held before the conquest, by *Aschil*, valued at ten shillings in the Confessor’s time, and held afterwards by Robert Mallet, but was then waste.

Terra Robeiti Mallet

“Manerium in alia Atun. Habebat Aschil II. carucatas terrae ad Geldum. et I. car. potest ibi esse. Robertus habet, et wast. est. T. R. E. balebat X. folid.”

THE manor was soon afterwards granted to the ancient family of Malbisse; and was held by the King *in capite, ut de honore*:⁹ it was afterwards in the possession of the Lords Eures of Easby; and after divers alienations, was purchased by Mr. Henry Richardson, the present proprietor.

THERE was anciently a chapel here, built by Sir William Malbisse, Knt. About the year 1215; but the Abbot and Monks of Whitby, jealous of their privileges, and disapproving of the building, security was given, that it should be of no prejudice to their church of Great Ayton; but that all oblations and abventions at any time made thereto, should be faithfully given up to the mother church. This chapel was afterwards ceded to the mother-church, and consequently came under the direction and management of the Abbot and Monks of Whitby. It does not appear at what period this chapel was destroyed; there are no remains of the edifice now standing, the foundation of which is hardly visible.

⁹ RADULPHUS DE MALBISSE clamat habere *furcam* in parva Ayton; et terras fuas non gildabiles in eadem, quæ funt de honore Regis.

THE Township of NUNTHORP with the hamlet of *Tunstall*, lies about two miles to the north from the village of Ayton. It appears from Domesday-book and other authentic records, to have been anciently written *Thorp*, from the Saxon *Doppe* which simply signifies a village; and receives its present distinguishing name from a small *Cistercian Nunnery*, which was first founded at *Hutton*, in the parish of Guisborough by Ralph de Neville, about the year 1162; and afterwards removed hither, when the place, from that circumstance, was called *Nun-thorp*.

THE manor here, at the period of the Domesday survey, was rated at three carucates, and was ancient demesne of the crown, valued, in the Confessor's time, at ten shillings.

Terra Regis

"Manerium in Torp. Wichil III. carucatas terrae ad geldum. Terra ad I.cac. XVI. folid. et dimid. Ibi IIII acci prati. T. B. C. X. folid."

IT was granted by the Conqueror to Robert de Brus, lord of Skelton, to be held of the King *in capite*, by military service, and descended by marriage to Marmaduke de Thweng; of whom, according to Kirkby' Inquest, William de Percy, of Kildale in the reign of Edward first, held one knight's fee in Nunthorp, Upsall, and Arsum, where twelve carucates made one knight's fee.¹⁰

FROM the Percies, as *mesne* lords, the manor descended, in the reign of Edward III. to Robert Conyers, Knight, by marriage with Juliana, daughter and heir of William de Percy; and in the reign of Charles I. it passed from the Conyers, by marriage to the Constables, and afterwards to the Bradshaws. Constable Bradshaw died in the year 1702, leaving a daughter, Ann, who married William Pierson, Esq. of the Middle Temple, London, who, in right of his wife became possessed of Nunthorp and other estates in the neighbourhood. Bradshaw Pierson, his son, succeeded; but dying without issue in the year 1746, he left this and other estates by will, to Edward Wilson, Esq. of Brizencourt, in the county of Derby, *for life, sans waste*; remainder *in trust* to his issue *in tail*; and on failure of such issue, to the issue of his cousin Winifred Langdale, wife of Victor Repinder, in *tail-male*. Upon the death of Edward Wilson without issue, James, the eldest son of Winifred Repinder, succeeded to the estate, and according to the tenor of the said will, assumed the name of *Bradshaw Pierson*. But, in order to cut off, bar, and destroy, all *estate tail*, and all remainders and reversions, the said James Bradshaw Pierson and his son, in the year 1790, suffered a common recovery; and most of the estates have been since sold to different purchasers.

NUNTHORP-HALL, with the manor, and farm adjoining, was purchased by Mr. Thomas Simpson, the present proprietor, and lord of the manor. The mansion, or manor-house, is a strong stone edifice, with spacious apartments, which have been modernized and rendered commodious by former judicious repairs, by the present owner. This was formerly a feat of the Constables, and probably built about the time of Charles I. Over a door, on the fourth end of one of the out-buildings there is a shield cut in stone, bearing the arms of Constable: *vix. Quarterly gules and vair, a bend, or, charged with an orle.*

THE lands within this township seem to have been held in parcels at an early period. Ralph de Neville, in the reign of Henry II. gave two carucates and one oxgang of land, with a mill in this township, to the priory, which he founded for nuns here, by the licence of Arnald de Percy, and Adam de Brus. This grant, which constitutes no inconsiderable part of the original endowment, was confirmed by King Henry III. When the nuns were settled at Baysdale,¹¹ in the parish of Stokesley. After the suppression of the priory in the 27.

¹⁰ WILLIELMUS DE PERCY de Kildaile tenet in Upsall, Nunthorpe, et Arsum, unum feodum, unde XII. Car. terræ faciunt feod. Milit, &c.

¹¹ IN the year 1231, there arose a dispute between *Roger*, abbot and convent of Whitby, and *Susannah*, prioress and convent of Baysdale, about the tithes of corn for certain lands at Nunthorp called *Ingle-flatt* and *Plumtree-flatt*; and the tithes of a mill belonging to the said nuns in Nunthorp, and the tithes of a meadow also belonging to them in the said territory; which tithes the said abbot and convent demanded as pertaining to their church at Ayton. This dispute

Henry VII. The premises at Nunthorp, called *Nunhouse-Grange* was leased (31. Henry VIII.) by the King to William Snowball, for the term of twenty one years, at the yearly rent of 6/. 13s. 4d. and as appears from a record in the augmentation office, were afterwards granted by King Henry VIII. In *estate tail*, to King's College, Oxford.

WITHIN a few yards to the north from the mansion, there is an ancient chapel, dedicated to St. Mary; in which there was a chantry, founded in the time of King Edward III. John de Nunthorp, according to Torr's MS, occurs the first cantarist, and was succeeded in the year 1358 by William de Marton, on the nomination of John Greathead.¹² This chapel appears to have been originally private, built and endowed by the lord of the manor, for the convenience of his tenants and domestics; the patronage of which is still appendant to the manor: it continued *donative*, and exempt from ordinary jurisdiction, till with the consent of the patron, it was certified to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty at 10/. 12s. and on its augmentation, it became presentable as a perpetual curacy; but does not enjoy the parochial rights of baptisms, marriages, or burials.

TUNSTALL, a small hamlet within this township, was an ancient manor; and as appears from Domesday-book, was taxed for three carucates, besides land sufficient for two ploughs. It was ancient inheritance of the crown, entered in the general survey under the title

Terra Regis

Manerium in Tonnedale Leung III. Car. terrae ad galdum. Terra ad II. car.

TUNSTALL, in the reign of Edward I. was held by Nicholas de Meinell of Peter de Mauley, and he of the King *in capite*, as parcel of the barony of Mulgrave. The hamlet gave the name to a resident family; for, according to Kirkby's Inquest, Hugo de Tunstall held certain lands here of the said Nicholas; for which he paid as a fine, the sum of two shillings.

WE find little further worthy of particular notice, touching this place. The Pennymans, of Ormesby, have for some time, been principal proprietors here; but the manorial rights have been long disused.

WITH respect to the *soil*, *produce*, and *general appearance* of the parish, we have to remark that the village of Ayton is situated in a low and pleasant vale; but being shut in by a range of mountains on the east, which run for several miles southwards, does not enjoy any extensive prospects. The soil near the village is a rich clayey loam, and produces abundant crops of corn and grass, and on which clover and turnips are occasionally cultivated.¹³

was at length amicably settled, in a chapter held for Cleveland before *Serlo*, the archdeacon, and others; when it was agreed that the abbot and convent should give away for ever, and quit-claim to the said nuns, the tithes of corn in *Plumtree-flatt*, as also the aforesaid meadow; but that the said nuns were to pay tithes for ever for their corn in *Ingle-flatt*, and for their mill at Nunthorp, to the mother church of Ayton. In testimony whereof, the Chapter seal of Whitby, and the prioress' seal at Baysdale, were set to two records, one of which was preserved in each of the aforesaid religious houses.

¹² This family appears to have possessed considerable property at Nunthorp. About the year 1360 Robert Grethead granted 10 messuages and 12-----, with an oxgang of land here, to *John Aklee*, chaplain of the church of *Saint George*, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to be held of the lord of the fee by the due and accustomed fine. Witnesses, *Lord Robert Conyers, Knight*, J. Grethead, J. de Eure, John de Maltby, Richard Waxander, William de Mowbray, Walter de Stainsby, Richard de Marton, *cum multis aliis*.

¹³ AYTON has to boast of an early introduction of experimental agriculture by the late *William Wilson, Esq.* about the year 1769; whose trials were chiefly in the drill-husbandry, by a plough of his own invention, upon the principle of the *Persian wheel*, which lifted up the feed, and threw it over into tubes that conveyed it into the ground. With this machine, which sowed three rows at 14 inches asunder, or fix at 7inches, Mr. W. drilled wheat, barley, beans, and turnips with success.

See a Six Months' Tour through the North of England, 2d edition, 1771.

TOWARDS Nunthorp, and the northern extremities of the parish, the grounds rise gently, with an eastern and southern aspect; the soil here is of a stronger clay, but well adapted to the growth of wheat; and in some low grounds near *the Tame*, which runs through this part of the parish, clay, with a mixture of Moorish earth, prevails. The crops principally cultivated are wheat, oats, and beans. The inclosures, except those on the skirts of the mountains, are divided with quickset hedges, which with the trees in hedge-row, and some small plantations, give the country a rich and woody appearance.

OF *natural curiosities* within the parish, we may observe, that at the foot of *Rosebury Topping*, there are two small woods, chiefly of hazel and oak, known by the name of *Cliffrigg-woods*; in one of which there is a place called the *Iron-Mine*, where iron stone is found; but, we have no evidence, nor is there any appearance, that it has ever been much wrought. At a little distance to the north, a rocky ridge runs east and west called *Langbaugh-Ridge*;¹⁴ at the end of which, on the left of the road leading to Guisborough, there is a singular quarry of hard, blue whin-stone, or granite; which has been found of infinite value to the public, in making and repairing the turnpike roads in this part of Cleveland. The ridge is evidently a continuation of the great blue stone dyke, which appears on the surface, on Cockfield-Fell, in the county of Durham, and which is described as running through Cockfield colliery, and from thence eastwards through that county, and below Yarm to Ayton in Cleveland.¹⁵ The dyke, which makes its appearance in different places in the county of Durham, and at Stainton in this district, has been traced running in a line eastwards over the moors, to the sea below Whitby. It is conjectured to be formed of a species of Lava, similar to the Derbyshire toadstone; or, what Mr. Whitehurst called *Iceland-lava*; but does not seem to have experienced any great degree of heat in its formation. On the surface it has the appearance of ironstone; and by a chemical process, would probably be found to contain much of that metal. The working of the quarry is carried on by a large excavation of the rock, of about twenty yards in breadth, forming a long level or passage.

On the brow of a hill towards the eastern extremity of the parish, an *alum-work* was formerly carried on with considerably success; but, like the other workings of that mineral in the western part of Cleveland, it has been for sometime discontinued.

WE must conclude our account of this parish with some brief remarks on its population, which, as we have already observed, is considerable. From the return made to government in the year 1801, under the population act it appears there were at that time within the parish 236 families, and 1066 inhabitants, making 4½ nearly to each family.

STATE of population, taken 10th March, 1801.

	Inhabited houses	Families	Uninhabited houses	Males	Females	Total
Great Ayton	201	206	5	409	456	865
Little Ayton	13	13	----	34	35	69
Nunthorp	17	17	----	75	57	132
Totals	231	236	5	518	548	1066

THE following table of marriages, baptisms, and burials, given in the notes, will afford some idea of its increasing state of population; and from which it will appear that on an average of twenty years, the annual number of burials to that of baptisms is as 17½ to 24 /10, and that for every 44 of the inhabitants a child is born, while the mortality within the parish is as one to 61½ annually.

¹⁴ PROBABLY so called from the *wapontake courts* being anciently held here, as they still continue to be *pro forma*.

¹⁵ SEE Hutchinson's History of Durham, vol. 111 p.505.

Abstract of Great Ayton register.

A.D.	Marr.	Bap.	Bur
1680	4	7	28
1681	5	10	22
1682	1	15	24
1683	4	11	13
1684	5	12	6
1685	1	14	6
1686	1	15	12
1687	1	14	8
1688	0	8	15
1689	4	15	4
1690	5	16	9
1691	2	9	9
1692	3	12	14
1693	2	10	18
1694	2	17	9
1695	4	14	12
1696	2	14	13
1697	5	11	4
1698	5	19	12
1699	5	7	7
Total	61	250	245

A.D.	Marr	Bap	Bur.
1780	8	21	17
1781	3	15	12
1782	9	26	13
1783	9	26	21
1784	6	29	20
1785	5	22	18
1786	9	24	20
1787	6	28	15
1788	9	25	16
1789	3	28	19
1790	9	14	21
1791	5	25	20
1792	3	22	19
1793	7	18	15
1794	7	18	16
1795	4	30	25
1796	7	22	18
1797	8	35	17
1798	1	30	8
1799	2	24	16
Totals	120	482	346
	61	250	245
Increase	59	232	101