

ANGROVE HALL

The information in this account, and the image of Angrove Hall are taken from an unpublished article, 'Angrove Hall, a lost Cleveland house', by Peter Meadows.

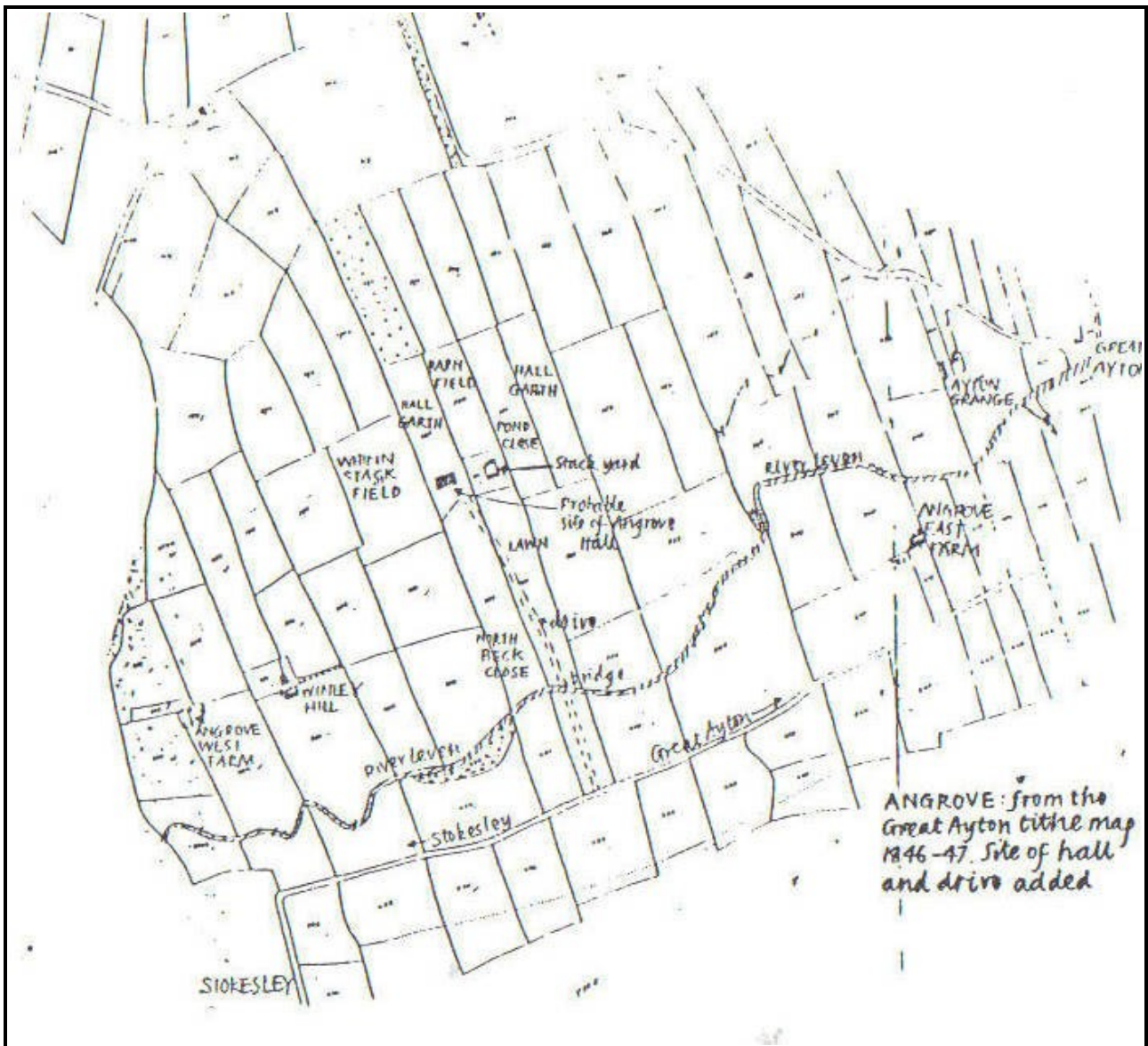
*Westward from Ayton Ann-grove's little seat
Apparent stands, place well-design'd, compact;
Within a virtuous pair in peace reside,
Humane, propitious both, contented live.*

from Thomas Pierson's blank verse poem, *Roseberry Toppin*, 1783

Angrove Hall stood for about seventy years to the north of the Ayton to Stokesley road, slightly nearer to Ayton than Stokesley. It was pulled down in 1832 and now nothing remains, and a coniferous plantation occupies the site. The name Angrove does not seem to be local. It was probably chosen by Thomas Wayne, a member of a prominent family from Stokesley and Richmond, who built the house in about 1760 and might have named it after his wife, Ann. Three farms, Angrove North, Angrove East and Angrove West perpetuate the name, and the gate pillars now outside Stokesley Manor House were taken from Angrove Hall.

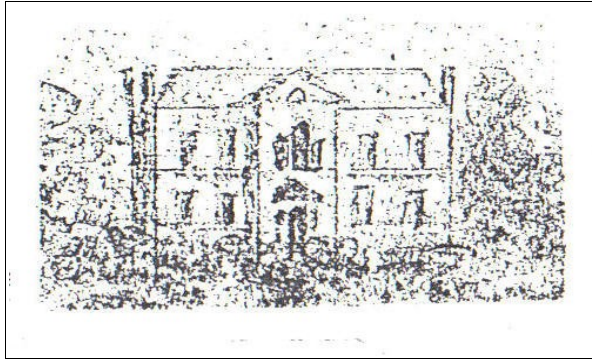


From an 1803 map. 'Ann Grove' is shown immediately south of Stanley Houses.



An extract from the 1847 tithe map of Great Ayton, showing the precise position of Angrove Hall.

The hall was a typical, modest Palladian house of two storeys with perhaps a semi-basement. The entrance front had two bays with sash windows on either side of a slightly protruding central bay which was probably pedimented. These facts were gleaned by Peter Meadows from a contemporary painting of the Hall which he discovered in a house near Taunton, the owners of which were descended from the Wayne family.



Thomas Wayne died in 1806, after which there occurred a bitter legal dispute among his various relatives as to his will. We know that in 1810 Major General Robert Tipping of Stokesley sold Angrove Hall and its grounds to the Rev. Henry Hildyard and hence the property became part of Hildyard's extensive local estates. After that, the Hall may well have stood empty for a period, until, as we know, it was demolished in 1832. According to John Fairfax-Blakeborough this was because it was haunted. He recounts the story of a coachman, Henry Edwards, who tried to elope with the daughter of the Hall's owner (unnamed in the story), and who was murdered by this gentleman and buried in the stackyard behind the Hall. Peter Meadows and Geoffrey Stout of Stokesley tried to investigate this story, which Fairfax-Blakeborough had obtained from oral accounts collated and noted down by his father, Richard. They decided that the murder and the ghost story might have had a grain of truth in them because in 1818 it had indeed been reported that a coachman from Angrove had attempted to burgle another house in the area and when his crime was discovered had shot himself.