

MANORS AND ESTATES

Barlow Manor

In c.1020, a survey of the estates of Archbishop of York included half of Barlow in his soke of Sherburn.¹ Under Edward the Confessor, Barlow was held by Maerle-Sveinn – a major landholder and sheriff of Lincolnshire – as part of his Drax estate. Along with most of Maerle-Sveinn's other lands, the whole estate had passed to Ralph Paynel by 1086, who still held it at the foundation of Drax priory in the 1130s.²

By 1205, the manor of Barlow (now distinct from Drax) was held by Henry de Berlay, and his family remained lords here for over a century thereafter.³ His son, Richard de Berley, knight, had inherited it by 1250.⁴ Robert de Berlay was granted free warren in his manors of Barlow and Woodsome in 1290, and he remained lord until at least 1301.⁵ Sir Richard de Berlay was listed as the lord in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316.⁶

The family lost control of the manor when Sir Richard was apparently forced to grant it to Thomas, earl of Lancaster, for an annuity of £40 in 1321.⁷ After the forfeiture of the earl's estates in 1322, the manor was held by the crown for at least five years.⁸ Both Sir Richard and later his widow, Segrede, petitioned the king for redress or assistance during this period.⁹

By the 1330s, the manor had been divided: two thirds were held by Henry, Earl of Leicester, and one third had been regained by Segrede.¹⁰ The earl granted his portion to his son, Henry, earl of Derby, in 1337-38, for an annual rent of 40 marks, as well as 10 marks yearly to the king, with arrears of 51½ marks.¹¹ In 1343, the earl of Derby leased the demesnes of the manor to Henry de Clif for seven years at an annual rent of £16 12s. 10d.¹²

William de Bracebridge and Maud, his wife, acquired two thirds of the manor and its lands (with reversion of the final third) in 1347-48.¹³ William was still lord in 1361, but the descent of the manor over the next century and a half is obscure.¹⁴

¹ Keynes, 'Additions in Old English', pp. 82-83, 88; Farrer (ed.), *EYC*, I, pp. 21-23. The other half may have been part of Drax, but there is no direct evidence of this.

² Williams and Martin (eds), *Domesday Book*, p. 841; Clay (ed.), *EYC*, VI, pp. 86-88.

³ BIA, MFE 70 (microfilm of Drax Cartulary held at Bodleian Library, Top. Yorks. C. 72); Burton, *Monasticon Eboracense*, p. 100; William Brown (ed.), *Pedes finium Ebor. Regnante Johanne: Feet of Fines for Yorkshire during the Reign of John* (Surtees Soc., vol. 94; 1897), pp. 93-94.

⁴ Baildon (ed.), *Monastic Notes*, I, p. 39; *Calendar of Close Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office* (hereafter *Cal. Close*) (HMSO, 1892-1963), 1254-56, p. 217; J. T. Fowler (ed.), *The Coucher Book of Selby* (2 vols; YAS-RS, vol. 10, 13; Wakefield, 1891, 1893), pp. 170-171.

⁵ *Calendar of Charter Rolls preserved in the Public Record Office* (hereafter *Cal. Ch.*) (HMSO, 1903-1927), 1257-1300, p. 356; Baildon (ed.), *Monastic Notes*, I, p. 40; *ibid.*, II, p. 10; TNA, C 143/34/6.

⁶ *Inquisitions and Assessments Relating to Feudal Aids with Other Analogous Documents Preserved in the Public Record Office, 1284-1431* (6 vols; 1899-1920), VI, p. 190.

⁷ TNA, DL 25/2181; TNA, SC 8/92/4556-4557; TNA, SC/8/91/4532.

⁸ *Cal. Close, 1323-1327*, pp. 28, 415, 420, 590.

⁹ TNA, DL 25/2181; TNA, SC 8/92/4556-4557; TNA, SC/8/91/4532.

¹⁰ TNA, DL 25/2180; TNA, DL 27/212.

¹¹ TNA, DL 27/212.

¹² TNA, DL 27/213.

¹³ TNA, DL 25/1222.

¹⁴ *Calendar of Patent Rolls* (hereafter *Cal. Pat.*), 1361-1364, p. 50.

When John Twisleton, goldsmith and later alderman of London, bought it in 1519-20, the manor and estate was held in thirds: one third by Sir Richard Carewe, kt.; one third by Roger Copley, esq., and Johanna his wife; and one third by Richard Devenish, esq., and Margaret his wife.¹⁵ In 1527, John was succeeded by his son, Christopher Twisleton, who took up residence there.¹⁶ The Barlow estate was inherited by George Twisleton, esq., in 1580, then by Christopher Twisleton, esq., in 1612, and then by Sir George Twisleton, bart., in 1624 before passing to Catherine, his wife, at his death in 1635.¹⁷

Lady Catherine had married Henry Cholmley by 1638 and they were apparently resident at Barlow until at least 1649.¹⁸ By the 1670s, the estate had passed to Sir George's uncle, John Twisleton (d. 1682) of Horseman's Place (Kent), and it presumably descended with the rest of his estate to his successors thereafter.¹⁹

The lands attached to the manor at this time were substantial, perhaps including the entire township. John Twisleton began the consolidation process by buying lands in Barlow at around the same time he acquired the manor.²⁰ By the time his son, Christopher, died in 1580, the estate reportedly consisted of more than 1100a. of pasture and other lands.²¹ It was claimed that manorial demesnes were worth £500 per year from the late 1660s to the 1680s.²²

The township's lands had been split between two branches of the family by 1782, when Francis Twisleton Thompson (d. 1793), esq., was lord of the manor and owned most of the land, and Thomas Twisleton, the 13th Baron Saye and Sele, owned Barlow Hall.²³ The manor thereafter descended to George Thompson (d. 1800) of Sculcoates, esq., then to his son, Joseph Thompson (d. 1810), esq., and ultimately to Col. George Hamilton Thompson (d. 1898).²⁴

The manorial estate accounted for almost three quarters of the township's total assessment (excluding tithes) for the land tax of 1782, implying an estate of perhaps 1,600a. to 1,800a.²⁵ This figure accords reasonably well with the total of 1787a. 2r. 19p. recorded for these lands in 1847.²⁶ It shrank slightly thereafter, as the Barlow estate comprised 1,673a. at the time of its conveyance in the 1870s.²⁷

¹⁵ British Library (hereafter BL), Add. Ch. 24168; *Feet of Fines for the County of York* (hereafter *Yorks. Fines*), 1486-1571 (YAS-RS, various vols; 1887-2006), pp. 34-35, 37.

¹⁶ TNA, PROB 11/22.

¹⁷ TNA, WARD 7/20/126; WARD 7/35/60; WARD 7/69/19; WARD 7/91/6. Sir George Twisleton was created baronet in 1629, but it became extinct at his death: George Edward Cokayne (ed.), *Complete Baronetage* (5 vols; Exeter, 1900-1906), II, p. 72.

¹⁸ HHC, DDLO/1/15; West Yorkshire Archive Service at Bradford (hereafter WYAS-B), Tong/3/226.

¹⁹ TNA, E 112/610/28; Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent* (12 vols; Canterbury, 1797-1801), II, pp. 286-328.

²⁰ TNA, C 1/581/18.

²¹ See below: Economic History.

²² TNA, E 112/610/28.

²³ TNA, PROB 11/1234. See below: Economic History.

²⁴ TNA, PROB 11/1345; West Yorkshire Archive Service at Wakefield (hereafter WYAS-W), QE 13/3/1 (1795, 1802, 1830); ERYALSS, DDLO/Box12 (unsorted); *The Morning Post* (London), 27 Sep. 1898 (issue 39,410), p. 1.

²⁵ WYAS-W, QE 13/3/1 (1782).

²⁶ BIA, TA335.S.

²⁷ ERYALSS, DDLO/Box12/PartA (Conveyance of the Barlow Estate, 4 Apr. 1874).

William Henry Forester Denison, 2nd Baron Londesborough, apparently purchased the Barlow estate from the Thompsons in the 1874.²⁸ He was created the earl of Londesborough in 1887 and the estate passed to his son, William Francis Henry Denison, in 1900. At the time of the national land valuation in 1910, the 2nd earl was proprietor of 2,210a. of land in the township, including 134a. of wood and a nine-acre game preserve.²⁹ In 1913, the sale of Londesborough's lands at Barlow was advertised, including the properties of Common Side Farm, Hooks Farm and Cottages, Barlow Hall, White House Farm, Park Farm, Villa Farm, Mill House, Braken House, the Brown Cow Inn and Barlow Post Office.³⁰ This led to the fragmentation of the manorial estate.

Barlow Hall

The manor hall was built in two main phases. The north-west wing was erected in the late 15th or early 16th centuries. It was a timber-framed structure with decorative close studding, normally a signal of high status when found outside the south-eastern counties. The main range was probably constructed in the early 17th century, perhaps by George Twisleton at around the time he was created baronet in 1629. It was a brick structure with two cells and two stories, and had a two-storyed porch on the east wall to which had been added a 13th-century doorway with stiff-leaf capitals. This must have been the house with 17 hearths occupied by Mrs. Sawyer in 1672. In the 18th century, a new stairway was constructed in the hall and, in the 19th century, the side elevation was re-built and a new roof added. The house had been listed as Grade II*, but it was demolished in the early 1970s. The remaining foundations, the 17th-century garden wall, and the adjacent earthwork remains of a garden are a scheduled site.³¹

Other Estates

There were other holdings in the township throughout the Middle Ages. One of the largest must have been Drax Priory, which first acquired land here at its foundation in the 1130s, when Ralph Paynel granted the priors one bovate of land here, which yielded 12d. annually when the grant was confirmed a few decades later by Fulk Paynel I.³² Likewise, in 1204-5, Henry de Berlay granted common pasture here to Alan, prior of Drax, and later added revenues from various lands.³³ In the same period, William Talun, sometime tenant of Roger de Berlay, gave the Priory several gifts in Barlow, including land in Berlay Field, land with a toft at Berlayflatt, an assart near the Ouse, an annual rent of 12d, and the service of Thurstan de Mikelhirst.³⁴ Sometime later, John Ackewurd at Mikelhirst gave the service of Henry, son

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ NYCRO, MIC 300/1842-1868 (microfilm of NG/V).

³⁰ English Heritage. National Monuments Record (hereafter NMR), SC01330 (Sales Particulars of Selby Estates, 27 May 1913).

³¹ Eric Mercer, *English Vernacular Houses: A Study of Traditional Farmhouses and Cottages* (London, 1975), pp. 118-119, 220; Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England – Yorkshire: The West Riding* (2nd edn; London, 2002), p. 615; Hey (ed.), *Hearth Tax*, p. 321; NYHER, MNY10033.

³² Clay (ed.), *EYC*, VI, pp. 86-88, 100-101.

³³ BIA, MFE 70 (Drax Cartulary); Burton, *Monasticon Eboracense*, p. 100; Brown (ed.), *Feet of Fines*, pp. 93-94.

³⁴ BIA, MFE 70 (Drax Cartulary); Burton, *Monasticon Eboracense*, p. 100; Clay (ed.), *EYC*, VI, pp. 115-117.

of Leticia of Berlay Waterhouse, at Mikel-Lending in Berlay Field.³⁵ However, in 1535, Drax priory held only 3s. of revenues and rents in Barlow.³⁶

Selby Abbey also had holdings here. Richard de Berlay quitclaimed his common in Stayner Park to the abbots in 1257, and John Ackewurd gave them his common rights in Eswode (East Wood) at around the same time.³⁷ In addition, Robert, son of Edward de Berlay, granted five acres of meadow to the abbey.³⁸ It retained this land in the mid-15th century, though the revenue declined at this time.³⁹ The Abbots also held the tithes for the parish of Brayton, and Barlow's share was worth £3 13s. 4d., about a sixth of the parochial total, in 1535.⁴⁰

Robert de Crippellings had holdings here worth 11s. in his soke of Snaith in 1279-80, which had been acquired by William Gramary, knight, by 1353, and later became part of the Grammary Fee recorded in the 17th and 18th centuries.⁴¹ There were also other small landholdings recorded here in the medieval and early modern period, including a few parcels of land owned by Sir George D'Arcy and his descendents in the 16th century, but they were usually under 100a.⁴²

Thereafter, the Twisletons (later Thompsons) seem to be the sole landholders in the village until the late 18th century. Richard Robinson, a local farmer, bought Barlow Hall (but not the lordship of manor) and substantial lands in the 1780s.⁴³ By 1847, this estate comprised 457a. split between the trustees of Robinson's widow (415a.) and John Francis Carr (52a.).⁴⁴ The only other landowners at this time were William Addinell, who held 5a. of pastureland, and John Fletcher, a small farmer who had 12a. in hand and rented around 5a. more.⁴⁵

The vast majority of the land was still owned by the manorial lord at the valuation in 1910. The only other landowners at this time were Reginald Parker of Selby (48a.) and James Fletcher of Barlow (18a.).⁴⁶ However, the Earl of Londesborough sold his lands here soon after. As a result, the estate was broken-up and the number of owner-occupiers increased.⁴⁷

³⁵ BIA, MFE 70 (Drax Cartulary); Burton, *Monasticon Eboracense*, p. 100.

³⁶ John Caley (ed.), *Valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Henr. VIII* (6 vols; London, 1810-1834), V, p. 15

³⁷ Fowler (ed.), *Selby Coucher Book*, I, pp. 170-171.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, I, p. 213.

³⁹ See below: Economic History.

⁴⁰ Caley (ed.), *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, V, p. 14.

⁴¹ *Yorkshire Inquisitions* (hereafter *Yorks. Inq.*) (YAS-RS, various vols), I, p. 206; *Yorks. Fines, 1189-1199*, p. 53; *Cal. Close, 1354-1360*, p. 263.

⁴² *Yorks. Fines, 1246-1272*, p. 28; *Yorks. Inq.*, II, pp. 57-58; *Yorks. Fines, 1314-1326*, p. 39; *Yorks. Fines, 1327-1347*, p. 48; *Cal. Ch., 1327-1341*, p. 471; *Yorks. Fines, 1347-1377*, p. 122; HHC, U DDEV/29/1-3; John Pilkington, *A History of the Lancashire Family of Pilkington and Its Branches, 1066-1600* (Liverpool, 1894), p. 178; Nottinghamshire Archives, DD/FJ/1/196/7; *Yorks. Fines, 1486-1571*, pp. 78, 82, 157, 206, 209, 289; *Yorks. Fines, 1583-1594*, pp. 112, 121; *Yorks. Fines, 1486-1571*, p. 206; *Yorks. Fines, 1583-1594*, pp. 57, 76, 112; *Yorks. Fines, 1594-1603*, pp. 23, 27, 43, 94, 133, 157; *Yorks. Fines, 1614-1625*, p. 196.

⁴³ ERYALSS, DDLO/Box12/PartC, unsorted (conveyance, Lord Saye and Sele to Henry Thompson, 5 Apr. 1786); WYAS-W, QE 13/3/1 (1782).

⁴⁴ BIA, TA335.S.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ TNA, MAF 32/113/159.