

The History of Giles House



Giles House is situated on the border between Lightcliffe and Hove Edge just south of what was the Crow Nest estate. In the listed buildings description, the current building is dated as 1655.

Rowland Bretton in his article on the house has found references to an earlier Giles House dating back to 1529. At this time Richard Scolefield 'of Giles House' gave money to help support the priest who was to serve at the new church of Eastfield Chapel. There are further records of a continuing obligation to fund the local priest even to the extent that the owner in 1943 (when the article was written) still had an obligation to give one shilling annually to Lightcliffe Church.

In 1628, Richard Scolefield of Nether Bradley and his son, John, leased Giles House to Thomas Whiteley of Cinderhills (between Northowram and Hipperholme on the Brighthouse Denholmegate Road). Thomas Whiteley was one of the benefactors to the poor of Hipperholme and, through his will, left a grant of 40s per annum to be distributed on St Thomas's Day¹. At times, the house is named as Gill's Farm, sometimes Gilesfold. A detailed account of the early days of the house is found in R. Bretton's article² and a summary in D. Nortcliffe's Buildings of Brighthouse³

Timothy Netherwood became the owner and rebuilt the house in 1655. His initials and the date are carved above the main entrance and in an oak mantel.

The house is described, in the listed buildings documentation⁴, as being built of a hammer-dressed stone with a stone slate roof. It has 2 storeys and a 3 gabled south front of 3 rooms and 3 bays. There are drip courses, coped gables with kneelers and ball finials. The windows are double chamfered mullioned and with those on the ground floor having transoms. The outer bays retain their original 12 lights with a 6-light window over the 1st bay and a 5-light window over the 3rd bay. The central bay had 12 lights but was reduced to an 8-light window. Prominent within the central gable is a columbarium or dovecote. Various handwritten quotations are carved into bedroom windowpanes (see detail at end of article).

In 1663 the house then passed into the ownership of Alexander Bate, curate of Lightcliffe. It was then passed on to his son, William Bate. Bretton thinks, this may have been only ownership of a part of the house. Towards the end of C17 Abraham Walker of Walterclough was paying manorial rent for a large portion of the house.

Michael Gibson of Slead Hall became a part owner in 1701 when the daughters of William Bate sold their share of the house. A tenant of Michael Gibson was Joshua Holdsworth. William Walker took over part ownership from his father, Abraham Walker, and this then passed to another Abraham Walker.

Michael Gibson's initials are carved above a window at the rear of the house together with the date 1723. Bretton suggests that this is when Gibson bought the part of the house that had been owned by the Walker family. Michael Gibson died in 1735. As with Thomas Whiteley, Michael Gibson's will provided benefit for 12 poor residents in Hove Edge and Upper Lane and was based on income from Pear Tree Farm opposite St Matthew's Church.

After Michael Gibson's death in 1735, ownership passed to the Macaulay family. Read more in

The Gibsons, Firths and Macaulay and Slead Hall.⁶

At some stage a warehouse was added at the rear of the house. Joshua Hemingway was a tenant in the mid-C18 (1753).

Shortly after 1770, Jeremiah Carter became the principal tenant. Members of the Carter family lived in Giles House for the next one hundred years.

The Carters of Giles House.⁶

When Jeremiah Carter moved into the house in 1770 he brought with him an apprentice Sammy Smith. This young man's uncle was General Joshua Guest whose distinguished military career is told on p29 of the book *In the Shadow of Lightcliffe's Old Tower*. Joshua Guest had placed his nephew in the care of Jeremiah Carter as an apprentice to learn the trade of worsted manufacture.

Proprietors	Occupiers	Sum Assessed
Messrs Nichols & Macaulay	Jeremiah Carter	18/10

A 1784 copy of the West Yorkshire, England, Select Land Tax Records, 1704-1932

The document above clearly shows Jeremiah Carter occupying a property owned by Messrs Nichols and Macaulay in 1784. They were still the owners, in 1807, but now Jeremiah's son John Carter was the occupier. By the 1830s and early 1840s the Carters were still tenants of the Macaulays. John Carter's son, Jeremiah's grandson, Daniel Carter, rented Giles House from Messrs Macaulay and Ashworth.

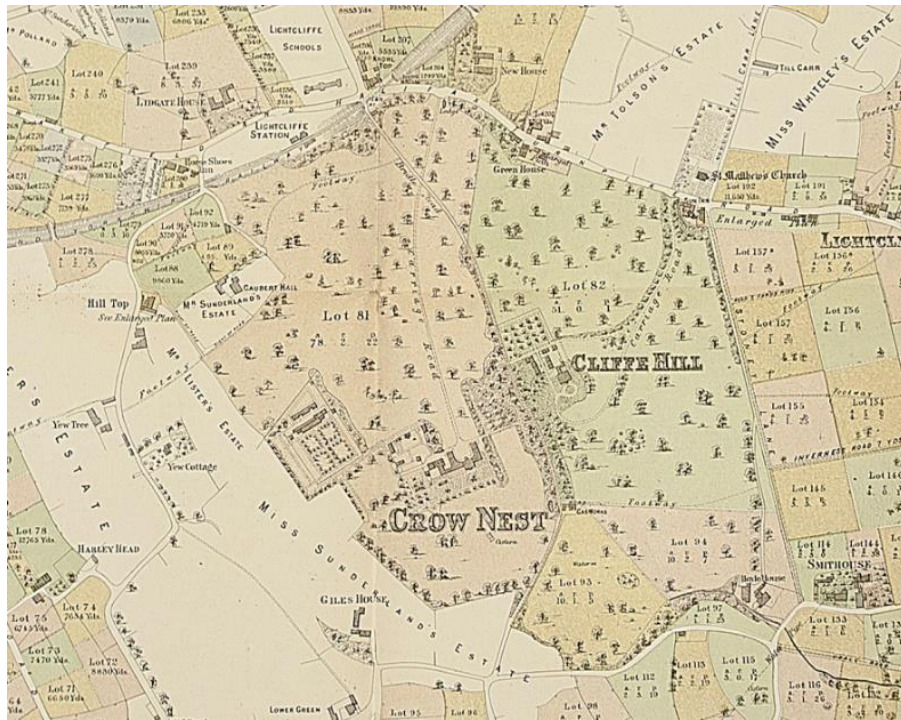
Year	Proprietors	Occupiers	Sum Assessed
12	Macaulay M ^r	George Carter	18
18 10	D ^o and M ^r Nichols	John Carter	17 9
13 10	D ^o	John Hemmingway	0 3
17 0	D ^o	Joseph Holland	10 6

A 1807 copy of the West Yorkshire, England, Select Land Tax Records, 1704-1932

In 1844 another Macaulay descendant, William Macaulay, sold the house to the Misses Sarah & Martha Sunderland of Coley Hall. Their initials and this date are carved on the keystone of an arched gateway at the southeast corner of the house.

On the 1867 plan for the sale of the Crow Nest estate by Evan Charles Sutherland Walker, a piece of land is shown as belonging to Miss Sunderland's Estate. It stretches from part of the Lister estate to the north west near Yew Cottage, the Crow Nest estate to the north east, St Giles Road and Spout House Lane to the west and more land belonging to Sutherland Walker to the south. This large piece of land included both Giles House and then nearby Lower Green Farm.

What I have not yet found out is whether all of this land was originally owned by the Macaulay family or whether it had been in the hands of the Sunderlands but excluding Giles House.



Sarah Sunderland died on February 18th 1862 and her part of the estate (in the occupation of Daniel Carter) was left to her brother James Sunderland, her nephew Thomas Lister Joseph and niece Mary Ann Sunderland. James died on March 23rd 1863 and was buried at Coley as was Mary Ann Sunderland who on died January 9th 1868. The heirs' rights to sell had to be established by the High Court of Chancery. This resulted in the October 1875 sale of the land. One of the heirs, Thomas Joseph Sunderland lived at Acacia, Guiseley/Rawdon. This was in a property acquired by Henry William Ripley (of Holme House) at his marriage to Susan Milligan in 1836.



At this 1875 sale Richard Kershaw of Brighthouse & Crow Nest bought Giles House and a large piece of adjoining land for £3,927⁵. As the plan for this sale shows, the land to the north of the house indicates the possibility of a series of houses being built along a service road. This might explain why these plots were bought by Sir Titus Salt to preserve the southern boundary of his Crow Nest estate. Soon after his death, this land was acquired by Richard Kershaw.

Kershaw almost certainly never lived in Giles House. It was tenanted for a period up to 1916 by Maurice Wayman. And then William Whitterton Milnes bought it from Richard Kershaw (& Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Young). He stayed there until 1938 when he sold it to Councillor E A Leach, director of the Brighthouse photographic business.



Arthur Comfort, Ancient Halls in and about Halifax. 1913.

Calderdale Central Library, Local Studies.



Taken from R. Bretton's article, dated 1943.

Window pane inscriptions:

Two relate to the laying of the foundation stone for Brighthouse Church and its consecration (1830 and 1831)

William Walker Esq of Crow Nest died November 22nd, 1786 “being on Wednesday about 5 o’clock in the evening”.

Daniel Nicholl died September 20, 1817 aged 69 years.

Jereh. Carter came to Giles House on May Day, 1770. The Lord is my Shepherd Therefore do I lack nothing. (in a different hand) I shall not want.

Mr Sammy Smith Departed this life the 20 July 1777.

W. Carter Born Jan. 1st, 1812,

Mary Elliott Came to Giles House 1st January 1894.

Other names are John Jaques, John Carter, Mary Carter, Laura Macaulay and Owen Carter.

References:

¹ **In the Shadow of Lightcliffe’s Old Tower**, p92 Dorothy Barker and Ian Philp

² **R. Bretton. Giles House, Lightcliffe. Halifax Antiquarian Society Transactions. May 8th, 1943**

³ **Buildings of Brighthouse.** Brighthouse Civic Trust. David Nortcliffe.

⁴ **Listed buildings** description can be found on :

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/environment/conservation/listedbuildings/list-full.jsp?address=Giles+House&lisbgde=ALL&keyval=3416910132000&offset=0>

⁵ **Brighthouse Echo**, October 9th, 1875.

⁶ **Articles on the Gibson, Firth and Macaulay families and then the Carter, Nicholl and Radcliffe families** can be found on St Matthew’s churchyard website under People of Interest.

<https://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/about-churchyard/people-of-interest>

Acknowledgements.

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Ian Philp, April, 2024