



New Hall Elland

Owners & Occupiers of New Hall over the years

Some Background on New Hall, Elland

The Hall was originally built as a timber framed Tudor Gentry House by Nicholas Savile in the 1470's. A Grade 1 Listed building, this places it in the top 2 percentile of Listed buildings in the British Isles and is granted only to buildings of exceptional interest.

The below is a vernacular description of the building, originally from [Calderdale Council's listed building](#) webpages

"Important 'gentry' house, built in the second half C15 for Nicholas Savile. Exposed timber frame to the north and interior, with partial cladding in hammer-dressed stone, with dressed stone to hall range of south front. Stone slate roof. H-plan, hall-and-crosswings which project to both north and south. South front in stone, of 6 uneven sized cells, reads from the left: a) western 2-storey wing, b) 2-bay hall, refronted c.1640 by John Foxcroft, c) cross passage with 2-storey porch, d) eastern 2-storey wing, e) mid C18 2-storey extension set back from hall range but with C17 single storey out-shut with chamfered mullioned windows to north, f) early C19 gabled wing breaks forward. Cells a) and d) both have coped gables with kneelers and finials and early C18 windows of 4 lights with recessed flat faced mullions with square reveals to both floors, with projecting surrounds, and crude edged-slate hoodmould over with straight returns. Left hand return wall of a) and right-hand return wall of d) have large well-dressed lateral stacks with offsets, set upon a plinth (probably built on to the earlier timber-framed wings). Cell b) has spectacular double chamfered mullioned and transomed hall window of 27 lights arranged in 3 panels of 9 lights with two transoms, divided by king mullions. To the left there is a 2-light double chamfered mullioned window to light the upper end of the hall, and over a single arch headed light for the gallery. A hoodmould continues over the windows. Embattled parapet has C20 finials in keeping. Cell c) has impressive ashlar-faced projecting porch with flamboyant rose window of central circle surrounded by 6 mouchettes, an 'apple and pear' window, with semi-circular hoodmould over. Small gabled parapet original finial to apex and carved heads on the straight returns and embattled to the return walls.

The outer doorway has semi-circular arch rising from moulded impost and has moulded jambs and voussoirs. To either side are fluted Doric columns with straight entablature and a lozenge carved on the rectangular plinth. The inner doorway of the porch is similar, but arch and jambs have alternating flush and projecting stones with rusticated voussoirs, a vernacular version of a Gibbs surround. Cell e) is partly built over the extruded stack to the east wing which has large quoins; to the right is a cross window (for staircase) with flat faced mullions over a doorway with monolithic jambs, 4-light flat faced mullioned window with broader central king mullion and same to first floor. At the end of the bay is a large ashlar stack to ridge. Cell f) has a projecting 2-storey wing, C19. Rough rubble, with 3-light flat faced mullioned window with same over with projecting sill and square opening in gable. First floor also has taking-in door (blocked). Right hand return walls are rendered. North front has surviving timber frame at first floor level with stone walls set forward to ground floor. East wing has 4-light double chamfered mullioned window with 3 panels of timber framing over. The central panel has close



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studding and projecting window while the outer panels have diagonal braces. The gable projects and is supported by arch brace to side and has heavy tie beam and king post truss with 'A' struts protected by projecting eaves with unusual thistle shaped wooden finial to apex of gable.

This has lean to with cat slide roof over rear entry of through passage, large kneelers to entry support close studded wall over. West wing also has part timbered outshut but with re-used inserted C17 doorway and 5-light double chamfered mullioned window with hoodmould with spiral stops. Over are two flat faced mullioned windows of 3 lights and 4 lights to first floor. Only the gable shows the exposed king post truss with 'A' struts arched brace to ridge of projecting eaves. Right-hand return wall is rendered and has three small double chamfered windows and some quoins to the angle.

Interior: Both wings have parlours to south front with 'coffered' ceilings with cross beams and secondary spine-beams, all stop chamfered at the intersections; west wing has 9 panels, and east wing 6 with C16 painting of the elephant and castle, and the paschal lamb with cross, both surrounded by intertwined rope, to the underside of wide original floorboards. Both parlours have large fireplaces with heavy roll-moulding (possibly early C16). Open hall, without side-aisles, has heavy timbered post and King post truss with cambered tie beam to the soffit braced to the ridge. Oak panelled walls with brattished spring-board to dais canopy, (now gone). An oak staircase ascends to a gallery running round 3 sides. A segmental stone arched fireplace is surmounted by spectacular large plaster cast of the Royal Arms, dated 1670 (coloured and gilded).

This house is one of the most important vernacular buildings of West Yorkshire. During the C17 it was occupied by Dr. Power one of the first elected members of the Royal Society. L. Ambler, 'The Old Halls and Manor Houses of Yorkshire', (London 1913) p.80-1. N. Pevsner, 'Yorkshire West Riding' (1979) p.193, 625. C. Giles, 'Old West Riding' Vol. 1 No.2 (Huddersfield 1981) p.1-11. A J. Pacey, 'Yorkshire Archaeological Journal' Vol. XLI p.455-64. E. Mercer, 'English Vernacular Houses' RCHM (1979) p.16."



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1472-90 Built Nicholas Savile [1436-1500]

(Fourth son of Henry Savile of Copley and Elizabeth Thornhill, brother of Thomas Savile of Hullenedge)

Married Margaret Wilkinson [1475-1500] Anne Stansfield [1449-1549]
Joan Lacy [1452 - ?]



Children – Agnes (Lacy) [1470-1569], Emma [1469-1490], John [1480-1545], Henry [1502 - ?] (also Alice (Pilkington) [1487-1514], Thomas [birth estimated between 1480 & 1530], Edward [birth estimated between 1480 & 1530], Nicholas [birth estimated between 1480 & 1530], & Isabel (Dyneley) [1510(in Hullenedge??)-1549])

Savile lineage also listed in Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire found [here](#)

1500 – Sir John Savile [1470 to 1480-July 7th 1545]

Married Margery Gledhill [1490-????]

Children - Nicholas Savile [1505-1556]; Jane Savile; Alice Savile; Elizabeth Savile; John Savile; and Henry Savile of Bradley

"His will was written April 1, 1540. "my bodie to be buried in Sancte Nicholas quere within the Churche of Eylande...I will that Margerie, my wif, have the thirde parte of all the residue of my goodes....I bequeith to John Hanson one gray cote. Item, I bequeathe to my daughters, Agnes, Jane, and Elisabethe, to every one of theme, one old riall of golde.... Probate granted 30 July, 1545, to the Executors."

1545 – John Savile (II)

"John Savile of New Hall, in Elland". The house actually belonged to his elder brother, Nicholas Savile of the Haigh, who had moved out.

Said to have married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Trigot of South Kirkby, and had no children.

???? – John Savile (III) [????-1620]

(Confusion warning: in the next generation, the house was again occupied by a John Savile (III) the younger brother of a Nicholas Savile of the Haigh, Nicholas Jnr being the son and heir of Nicholas Snr (so the two Johns were uncle and nephew). Both Nicholases had wives called Jane.)

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Savile-149> Remained in the Savile family up (names unknown so far) until



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1635 - [Daniel Foxcroft](#) [1555? – 1636]

Married Grace Gawkroger 25 Oct 1580

Married Grace Lyster 15 Oct 1589

Father of Samuell Foxcroft, Judith Foxcroft, Grace (Foxcroft)

Belt, Anthony Foxcroft, Sara Foxcroft, James Foxcroft and Daniel Foxcroft



1636 John Foxcroft [1638 - ????]

House cased in stone by [John Foxcroft](#) (URL unverified)

"In 1610 part of the Hall was rebuilt in stone, then in 1640 John Foxcroft removed the south face (the face nearest to Dewsbury Road) and replaced it with the present ashlar stone front with mullion windows, a porch, an embattled parapet with finials, and perhaps most striking of all, the rose window above the porch, sometimes known as "an apple and pear" because of the shape of the window."

If that were the case, the only date we have for John's DOB shows he was 2 years old when this occurred, so there is some debate here or the URL we have is not the same John. There is no mention of a John Foxcroft in the lineage of Daniel Foxcroft, this is a mystery.

???? - Rev Charles Greenwood [1574-1643] & leased to his Son in Law Anthony

[This listing](#) is the only mention we can find of the Rev Greenwood, who appears to have been born in Heptonstall and passed away in Thornhill

???? - [Anthony Foxcroft](#) [1594-????] (Alternative URL [here](#))

who married his second wife, Jane, widow of John Power in 1638, thus becoming stepfather to Dr Henry Power. He had 2 children from his first marriage, Margery (more about her in a minute) & Anthony

The Cutting opposite from the Halifax Evening Courier is from a visit to New Hall and published 11th May 1953.

Although some of the names & dates are recognisable, it somewhat confuses some of the dates of the inhabitants we have above, which are already extremely confused.

Anthony Foxcroft obtained New Hall by purchase after the death of John Savile in 1620, and in 1658 he conveyed it to his son-in-law, Dr. Henry Power, F.R.S. who left Elland for Wakefield in 1664. George Power, the doctor's son, held New Hall till his death in 1700.
The hall is believed to have been encased with rubble stone by Anthony Foxcroft about 1640, but the ashlar front probably dates from 1670, the date of the plaster Royal Arms in the housebody.
The 17th century porch has a fine circular window in its upper chamber.

1659-1664 – Dr. Henry Power (1626 1668)

(married his stepsister Margery Foxcroft m. 1656). Dr Power is renowned for discovering (what is now known as) Boyle's Law by experiments with a test tube of mercury on Beacon Hill, Halifax. He modernised the Hall and was said to have used two beams from the local gallows in this endeavour.



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1668(?) - George Power (16?? – 1700), son of Henry inherited the hall. He in turn left the hall to

1700 - John Hanson of Back Hall, Exley as a kinsman of Power

1710 (ish) – Edward Hanson, found dead in his bed on Oct 16 1717 (according to the Northowram Register)

1717 – It is not known who immediately took over the house, possibly the widow remained with children, the next recorded owner is

Henry Fielden (1710-1762) He married Sarah Gledhill [1730-1798] who survived him and eventually married James Beard in 1765

Children

Benjamin [1766-1809] Baptised at Elland Parish Church [26th October 1766]

Nanny [bapt 1768] who married [1786] James Kitchen

John [bapt 1769-1777]

Martha [1771-1826] who married John Sheard

James (Beard) [1775- 2nd January 1842]

1765 – James Beard [1740-1803]

Married Sarah [1730-1798] (Widow of Henry Fielden) at Halifax Parish Church

Sarah died 15th March 1798

James died 10th August 1803

Members of the family were buried at Elland Parish Church (St. Mary's) with Henry Fielden

1803 – James Beard (II) [1775- 2nd January 1842]

"In March 1826, James is recorded as giving his cottage tenants a treat – a good supper – and giving them their rent back when times were hard and several of them were out of employment." Buried at St Mary's in Elland

???? – After James Beard (II) passed away

There is scant information about the occupants of New Hall. It does appear, from the above extract about generosity by James Beard (II) to "cottage tenants", that the house was beginning to be split into multiple dwellings during that period or possibly before. During this Period of little information were two parts of an article, from a Halifax Evening Courier Article dated 13th September 1952, chronicling the work of Robert Grotte to restore New Hall, the following was noted

"...Dr Henry Power, a noted Physician, who then passed to the Hansons and and later to the Waddingtons of Southowram"



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It later goes on to say:

“Another discovery on January 11th 1950 was a note which read: “this note was placed here September 26 1878 by Sam Crossland, son of Joseph Crossland, the present occupier of this house. The owner being Mr Waddington, [Whitwell Place](#), Elland”

The Mr Waddington of that address, at that date, was Ely Wilkinson Waddington¹ [1856-1888]

¹ [Link to article](#)

There is then a gap from the passing of Waddington in 1888 to:

19?? – John Herbert Harling [Jun 23 1885 – 31 Jan 1961] [LINK](#)

Married to Alice Bradley [1884-1962], Children John Herbert Harling [1922-1924] and Jessie Harling [1915-1990]

Little is known for now, but relatives are currently being consulted for further information. It is not known whether they were tenants or owners. The correspondence in Nov 2022 in the Olde Elland Facebook Group, from a lady named Madeleine Hallos was:

“My Husbands Grandparents John Herbert & Alice Harling lived in one of the cottages at New Hall. My Husband John’s Mum was born round about 1915/16 in the cottage and later moved to Britannia House in Elland. John’s Grandad owned Harlings Haulage, Elland”

It is not known with 100% certainty which ‘John’ Madeleine refers to above as the owner of Harling’s Haulage, as multiple generations of first-born males in the family were called ‘John Herbert’, including the father of the resident of New Hall.

1949 – Robert Grotte [19?? – 1965] Married to Johanna.

Bought from Joshua Wilkinson Waddington of Rose Mount, Easingwold & Wilfred Eccles of 149 Blackmoor Drive, West Derby, Liverpool

Originally from Czechoslovakia, he trained as an engineer in his home country but prior to the beginning of WWII he was interred in a German concentration camp. He managed to flee to Britain in 1939 and in 1943 became a factory engineer at Nu Swift fire extinguishers of Elland¹. Unfortunately, Mr Grotte died before finishing the restoration of New Hall, Johanna completed the work on the house body, their last undertaking, then sold New Hall to Conleth Cluskey

¹ Halifax Evening Courier 13th September 1952

One interesting development was discovered in January 2023, upon reading legal documents pertaining to New Hall, there appears to have been a number of people living in the house in November 1949 as well as Mr & Mrs Grotte, the Grotte’s appear to have bought or reclaimed the other parts of the house from them over the years. They are listed as Spence, Saxby and Peel, with one unoccupied part of the house (see picture below)



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as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926.
 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1944.
 NEW TOWNS ACT, 1946.

REGISTER OF LOCAL LAND CHARGES.
REQUISITION FOR AN OFFICIAL SEARCH.

A separate requisition must be made in respect of each parcel of land except as explained overleaf.
 A search in Part I of the Register of Local Land Charges of the above-named Authority is required for outstanding entries against the land defined in the enclosed plan furnished in duplicate up to and including the 28th day of November 1949.

Description of land sufficient to enable it to be identified.

Plot of land with the five dwellinghouses on part thereof known as New Hall Elland in the County of York occupied by Spence, Saxby Grotte, Peel and one unoccupied.

Enclosure.
 Cheque.
 Money Order.
 Postal Order 11/-

Signature of Applicant
 (or of his Solicitor)

Date 28th November 1949

For Directions, Notes and Fees see over.
 N.B.—The duplicate of this form must also be filled up. (A carbon copy will suffice.)

NAME AND ADDRESS IN BLOCK LETTERS TO WHICH CERTIFICATE IS TO BE SENT.

MESSRS. DAVID GARSD & SONS
 SOLICITORS SOUTHGATE
 ELLAND YORKS.

Later, another name crops up, but there seems to be some controversy surrounding their part in living there. As we have established, there were some major faults with New Hall, with regards to drainage and disrepair. A couple named as Esmond Rhodes Topham (a Police constable) and his wife Sylvia lived at New Hall in one section of the house, but on doing Searches for the prospective buyers, Con & Kay Cluskey, a document dated 1st November 1956 from Elland Council was uncovered, that prohibited the part of New Hall they occupied from Human Habitation.

PART 4 OF REGISTER : MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

1	2	3	4
Nature of prohibition or restriction ; and reference to order, scheme, instrument, resolution, covenant, agreement or other document, under or by virtue of which prohibition or restriction is created or enforceable	Where prohibition or restriction registered on behalf of another local authority, name of that authority	Place at which inspection may be made of any document (other than a public general statute), or certified copy thereof, mentioned in column 1	Date of registration
Housing Act, 1936. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1933. Cllwing Order dated 31st October, 1956, made in respect of New Hall Cottage, Elland, the house not to be used for human habitation.		Office of the Clerk of the Council, Council Offices, Elland.	1st November, 1956.



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This was unearthed in 1968, at which time they were only permitted to continue their residence there if the sufficient remedial works were performed. They were named in the sale to C.J. Cluskey (see below) so it does seem likely they owned one section (Cottage) of New Hall.

It does appear that after an aborted attempt to restore the West Wing of the hall in the 1950's there was some salvage taken from it and used in the restoration of the 'Little Lounge' in the East wing of the original hall *"Early in 1950 Mr Grotte drew up plans for making a cottage from empty rooms in the West Wing, but an estimated £800, mainly taken up by drainage work, was a prohibitive cost"* ibid

It can only be deduced that it was this prohibitive cost of remediation that caused them to sell the West Wing to

1959 – (WEST WING COTTAGE) Tom Lloyd Halstead [1932 - Apr 11 2010]

Assistant Manager in a Textile factory. Formerly of Marling Road, Fixby (now Ainley Top).
Wife Betty (Anderson) [1932 - Jul 22 2018] Children, James, Robert, Charles

"the parlour wing having been sold in the late 1950's to Lloyd Halstead. New Hall has attracted its share of well known people!"

[Link to article](#) by Greater Elland Historical Society

1970 – Con Cluskey [Nov 18 1935 - Mar 8th 2022] B. Dublin Ireland

Wife Catherine (McLoughlin) B. Dublin Ireland, Children Carole, Joseph (Gregory), Michael, Phillip. Conleth Joseph Cluskey, Born to Joseph & Mary Cluskey, 140 Tyrconnell Park, Inchicore, Dublin, Brother to Aidan, Brenda & Declan. Founding member of The Bachelors, emigrated to the UK in 1962 to further their singing career. Sold over 5 Million records in a career spanning 60 years. Originally lived at Coombe Lane West in Kingston Upon Thames, but bought and moved to New Hall Elland after discovering it whilst working at the Batley Variety Club in the late 1960's. The location of the house suited him due to its central location, which allowed easier travel to the locations the band worked around the country. Restoration of the House body, Eastern end of the house and the grounds were comprehensive. During his ownership the roof was twice restored. The two bedrooms connected to the House Body on the Eastern side were both finished in plaster and Mr Cluskey removed this finish and exposed the original oak frame and wattle & daub plasterwork. The Kitchen below, on the Southside of the building was modified into a 'music room' and during the restoration, the underside of the oak floorboards was exposed, with extensive Elizabethan paintings exposed (see this document's introduction for a detailed description of these paintings). These were assessed by English Heritage and then ordered to be covered by a false plaster ceiling to aid their preservation.



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2019 – (WEST WING COTTAGE) Carole Cluskey [7th October 1962 -]

Carole Cluskey bought the West Wing Cottage of New Hall from the Estate of Lloyd & Betty Halstead and set about its restoration

2022 – The Estate of Con Cluskey

Consisting of Joseph Gregory Cluskey (Executor), Carole Cluskey (Executor), Michael Cluskey, Phillip Cluskey. The house is currently in a period of sympathetic refurbishment – Contractors include Michael Wilson & Son Ltd. The 17th C. addition to the Eastern Wing of the house is being marketed by the Estate as a vacation rental property to fund the cost of restoration / modernisation. During this period, various consultants are involved, including local independent historians and the Halifax Antiquarian Society, all of whose help has been deeply appreciated and welcome. The past and continued contribution of family friend and renowned Architect, Mark Thompson, originally of Fixby, Huddersfield and now of Ripponden, Halifax has been deeply valued by the family.

V1 Michael Cluskey
31st October 2022

Updates

V1.1 2nd November 2022 – To include a description of the hall as an introduction to the document (MC)

V1.2 11th November 2022 – To include John Herbert Harling in the 20th Century (MC)

V1.3 27th January 2023 – To update the entry of Robert Grotte with other residents of New Hall in the same period and update contributors to the current owners (MC)