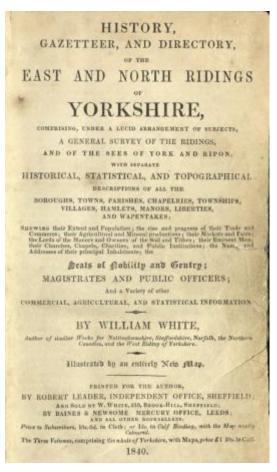
Upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale in the 1840s

One among the very helpful resources for understanding life in upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale in the 1840s is the *History, Gazetteer and Directory of the East and North Ridings of Yorkshire*, by William White.



County gazetteers and directories were popular throughout the country from the 1820s to the 1930s. Today they are extremely useful to genealogists because they were revised and reprinted quite regularly, they tended to be organised by parish, and they listed local notables such as the gentry, landowners, clergy, and school heads, as well as everyone who was engaged in any sort of business, including farmers. The better directories also gave information about local schools and churches, and some highlights of local history.

In the early years of these directories there was stiff competition among publishers to produce the best-selling editions. Between 1823 and 1890 seven different publishers produced 11 volumes covering the North

Riding of Yorkshire. For information on upper Swaledale, the 1840 *History, Gazetteer and Directory of the East and North Ridings of Yorkshire* by William White, stands out as one of the best for the quality and volume of useful information it provided.

And it's a happy coincidence that this exceptionally good volume was published a year before the first complete national population census of 1841, and just four years before the tithe apportionment surveys of upper Swaledale. The latter provided not only the names of all the property owners and tenants, but also very detailed maps to show exactly which property they owned or occupied. Combining these three important resources helps to provide a comprehensive picture of life in upper Swaledale in the early 1840s.

The author of the upper Swaledale entries in the 1840 directory is unknown, but a good guess would be the Reverend Henry Burdett Worthington, at that time the Vicar of Grinton. He lived in the village, and his parish covered the whole of the upper dale, making him ideally placed to gather all the information that appeared.

Entries in the directory for each of the four Grinton Parish townships – Grinton, Melbecks, Muker and Reeth – and for the parish and township of Arkengarthdale appear below.

The sections listing significant people in each township are grouped by an unstated class division. Gentry, professionals and high-status trades people are first, followed by lesser trades people, and then separated from each are farmers, within which, those who owned their farms rather than rented them are designated as yeomen.

GRINTON, a village and township on the south side of Swaledale, 1 mile S. of Reeth and 9 miles W. by S. of Richmond, contains 696 inhabitants and upwards of 8,000 acres of land, all in Hang-West Wapentake, but Melbecks, Muker and Reeth, the other three townships of Grinton parish, are in West Gilling Wapentake. Grinton township includes the high moorland districts of Harkerside, Cogden and Whiteaside, and the romantic hamlet of Crackpot, 5 miles W. by S. of Reeth, where there is a worsted mill, and at the source of the rivulet called Crackpot gill is a curious cavern, very spacious but approached by a narrow entrance, and having in one place a deep water issuing out of the rock below. The school at Crackpot was endowed by Ruth Garth in 1765 with £100. In Harker side is Swale Hall, which was the seat of Sir Solomon Swale, whose family held it of the Crown but having neglected to renew their lease the omission was observed by a clerk in the exchequer office, who procured a grant of the estate for himself; many law suits ensued; but they served only to increase the misfortunes of Sir Solomon, who died a prisoner in the Fleet in 1678, not however till his adversary had committed suicide. The hall has long been divided into tenements, occupied by miners who work in the prolific lead mines of this township, which are worked by three companies of shareholders. One mile E. of Grinton is Cogden Hall, the seat of Mattw. Whitelocke Esq., who owns a great part of the township, which is mostly held of the Crown, to which the minerals belong, but the game is claimed by Godfrey Wentworth Esq., except Crackpot hamlet, which is in the manor of Healaugh. Grinton Church (St. Andrew) is an ancient fabric, which was thoroughly repaired about twenty years ago. The vicarage, valued in K. B.

at £12 5s. 7d. and now at £200, is in the patronage of the Crown and incumbency of the Rev. H. B. Worthington. The *poor* of Grinton and Reeth have £2 10s. a year left by Ann Colville; the latter have 20s. a year left by two unknown donors; and the former have 13s. 4d. yearly out of an estate at Cogden. The poor of Crackpot and Whiteaside have 40s. a year left by Thos. and Richard Garth about 1735, and the poor of the whole parish have the dividends of £100 navy five per cent annuities bequeathed by the Rev. Joy, a late vicar. **Directory:**

Grinton

Asquith John, vict. Board

Atkinson Rev. George, B. A., curate

Bowes Ralph, blacksmith

Buxton Wm., miller

Harker Sarah Ann, Crackpot School

Sowerby William, tailor

Whitelock Matthew Esq., Cogden Hall

Worthington Rev. H. Burdett, vicar

Bell William, beer house keeper

Hird John, beer house keeper

Close James, joiner

Wood William, joiner

Irvin Samuel, mason

Stockdale Thomas, mason

Bell James, shopkeeper

Dunn Margaret, shopkeeper

Farmers

Harker James

Hird Robert

Heslop Chpr.

Spensley James

Wilson George

Harkerside

Farmers

Calvert John

Heslop George

Whitaside

Spensley Wm., lead mine agent

Simpson Mrs. & Stubbing Mr.

Farmers

Beaty John

Bell Wm.

Calvert George

Chapman James

Close James, yeoman

Close John

Coates Leonard

Harker L. M., yeoman

Harker Simon, yeoman

Hunt Thomas

Raw John

Spensley John

Spensley John

Spensley Wm.

Watson Jerh.

watson ocin.

White Joseph

Crackpot

Garth Mr., Rd.

Plews George, shoemaker

Farmers

Coates Wm, yeoman

Harker James, yeoman

Hutchinson Jph. Kendal Jane Nicholson John White Nancy

Melbecks, noted for its knit *hosiery manufacture* and its extensive *lead mines*, is a large moorland township on the north side of Swaledale, containing 1,455 inhabitants and 9,994 acres of land, of which 6,913 acres are wild uncultivated fells and moors. The hamlets of Melbecks extend along the romantic dale from 3 to 6 miles W. of Reeth, and are as follows, *Kearton, Low Row, Feetham, Blaides, Barfend, Gunnerside, Lodge Green* and *Wintering-Garths*. They are all in the manor of Healaugh, of which Thomas Smith Esq is lord, but the Knowles and many other resident families have estates here. There is a *Wesleyan Chapel* at Gunnerside and a *Presbyterian Chapel* at Low Row, built in 1809 in lieu of the old one, which was founded by Philip, Duke of Wharton, who endowed it with about £83 per annum from land in Westmorland. *Feetham School* was built by subscription in 1806, aided by a legacy of £50 left by the Rev David Simpson. The master has £2 5s a year as the rent of two rooms over the school, and teaches three or four free scholars.

Directory:

-end	
	-end

Storey Thomas, boot & shoe maker Pearson William, foreman

<u>Farmers</u> Chapman Edw., boot & shoe maker

Bell John

Harker James <u>Farmers</u>
Harker Solomon Bell William
Hird Anty., Park Hall Brunskill James
Law Thos., Birk Park Cantrell Ralph

Metcalfe Thos.

Newton James, yeoman Strands

White Henry, yeoman Lawes Jno., mining agent

Low Row Gunnerside

Boyd Rev. John, Independent Min. Calvert David, vict. King's Arms
Birkbeck John, gentleman Close Joseph, clog & patten maker

Knowles E. A., hosiery manufactr.
Knowles Jno. & Co. worsted spinners & hosiery manufacturers
Urwin Thomas, carrier to Richmond
Wilson George, book-keeper

Parkin William, blacksmith
Hunter Thos., joiner
Musgrave Wm., joiner
Bearpark Eliz., shopkeeper
Harker Wm. shopkeeper
Brown James, stonemason
Brown John, stonemason
Bearpark Wm., tailor

Feetham

Coates Edmund, vict. Miners' Arms Parkin Wm., carrier to Richmond Raw Thomas, vict. Board Raw Chpr., tallow chandler Spensley Harker, schoolmaster

Spence George, beer house keeper Parkin John, blacksmith Coates James, boot & shoe maker Chapman James, butcher Pratt Wm., joiner Sunter Joseph, mining agent Pratt Mary, shopkeeper Sunter Metcalfe, shopkeeper Kipling Leonard, tailor

<u>Farmers</u>

Birkbeck Thos.

Blaides

Farmers

Clarkson John, yeoman

Neesam Wm., vict. Miners' Arms Peacock James, corn miller Sunter Thomas, lead dresser

Allen Reuben, beer house keeper Harker Wm., beer house keeper Calvert John, blacksmith Wensley John, blacksmith Fawcett John, boot & shoe maker Peacock Charles, boot & shoe maker Sunter Chpr., butcher Sunter George, butcher Calvert John, joiner Calvert John, joiner Coates Thomas, joiner Coates William, joiner Shields Joseph, joiner Calvert James, shopkeeper Harker Thomas, shopkeeper Waggett Thos., shopkeeper Brown Joseph, stonemason Bell Michael, tailor Johnson Wm., tailor

Farmers

Woodward Wm.

Wintering Garths

Coates John, blacksmith

<u>Farmers</u>

Birkbeck Rt., yeoman Calvert George Harker Ann Hutchinson Thomas Rutter Ralph, yeoman Spensley James, yeoman Clarkson Michl., yeoman Hugill Thomas, yeoman Peacock Mark. yeoman Pedley John, yeoman Simpson Nathl. Spensley James, yeoman

Muker, a large ancient village of irregularly built stone houses and cottages in the higher part of Swaledale, 6 miles N.N.W. of Askrigg, and 10 miles W. of Reeth, has in its township and chapelry 1,247 inhabitants and 29,678 acres of land, of which 22,000 acres form a high and rugged district of moors and fells where there are lead mines and an abundance of grouse. Thomas Smith Esq. is lord of the manor but a great part of the soil is held by copyholders, the largest of whom are the Clarkson and Metcalfe families. The small hamlets of Muker are Angram, Keld, Birkdale, Calverthouse, Frith, Ivelet, Saltron, Oxnop, Rampsholme, Rash, Ravenseat, Spring-end, Stonesdale, Thwaite, and Tan-hill, extending to the borders of Westmorland and the sources of the Swale, from 6 to 8 miles N.W. of the village. Coal and ironstone are got at Tan-hill, which is partly in Bowes parish. A weekly market on Wednesday was established at Muker some years ago but it is of trivial importance. Sheep fairs are held at Muker on the Wednesday before Old Christmas day; and at Thwaite on the day after Brough fair. The Chapel of Ease (St. Mary) is an ancient structure, which was consecrated in 1580. The perpetual curacy, now valued at £98, was augmented with £800 of Q.A.B. from 1719 to 1810, and with £1,000 in parliamentary grants obtained in 1811 and '12. The vicar of Grinton is patron, and the Rev. Edward Lowther incumbent. The *Independent Chapel* at Keld is endowed with land let for £7 4s. a year left by the late Mr. Knowles, and was built in 1745. Muker Free School is an ancient building kept in repair by subscription and endowed with 2 acres of land arising from the bequest of Anthony Metcalfe in 1678, and 16 acres at Whiteaside given by an unknown donor. The whole produces about £20 a year, for which the master teaches eight poor children. In the chapelry are several beautiful waterfalls. One on the Swale is called *Kisden force*, and falls about 15 feet amidst an amphitheatre of rocks, finely fringed with underwood. On the *Ivelet beck* are two falls about 15 yards in height and possessing similar romantic beauties. Mrs. Cope, who has lately leased Keld-Green Cottage with a right of shooting on the moors for her son, liberally supports two Charity schools in this chapelry for the education of 100 poor girls, whom she partly clothes, and she also pays for the education of nine poor boys. **Directory:**

Muker

Alderson James, vict. King's Head
Clarke Mary, schoolmistress
Clarkson John, gent., Hill-Top Lodge
Cope Mrs. & A. Esq., Keld Green
Cottage
Fawcett Wm., gent.
Kearton Wm., tailor
Lowther Rev. Edward, incumbent
Metcalfe L. W., gent.
Peacock Wm., vict. Board
Raynard Wm., schoolmaster
Reynoldson John, gent.
Reynoldson Philis, vict. Board
Rudd Wm., surgeon & registrar

Calvert George, beer house keeper
Mason John, beer house keeper
Peacock Chpr., boot & shoemaker
Peacock Cooper, boot & shoemaker
Peacock Wm., boot & shoemaker
Spensley John, joiner
Spensley Wm., joiner
Alton Nancy, shopkeeper
Raynard Philip, shopkeeper
Waistell Alexr., shopkeeper

Farmers

Calvert James, yeoman Cherry Henry Fawcett Thos. Raw Thomas

Angram

Calvert James, beer house keeper Fawcett John, butcher

Farmers

Keld

Alderson John, gent.
Alderson Thos., vict. Miners' Arms
Craig John, lead mine agent
Garth Mrs.
Kidd Wm., lead mine agent
Wilkinson Rev. James, Indpt. Min.

Wiseman Michl., shopkeeper

Farmers

Scott George Scott John, yeoman Whitfield John

Oxnop

<u>Farmers</u>

Metcalfe James Metcalfe Thos.

Rampsholme

Farmers

Cleasby David, yeoman Close Isabella, yeoman Cooper John

Ravenseat

Farmers

Alderson Chpr.
Alderson Henry
Cleasby Anty., yeoman
Cleasby Edw., yeoman

Spring-end

Broderick Edward & John, gents.

Stones-Dale

Coates Wm.

Fawcett John, yeoman Fawcett Simon, yeoman Fawcett Thos., yeoman

Peacock Chpr., yeoman

Birkdale

Farmers

Alderson Chas.

Alderson Chpr.

Alderson George

Alderson John

Alderson John

Calvert-house

Metcalfe Edward, gent

Farmers

Coates Nathan

Frith

Farmers

Alderson Isabla.

Alderson Wm.

Alton John

Hunter John

Hunter Sarah

Metcalfe Ralph

Ivelet

White Wm., shopkeeper

Farmers

Kearton Jph., yeoman

Kearton Wm., yeoman

Clarkson Anthy., land surveyor, Smithy

Holme

Alderson Edw., beer house keeper

Farmers

Peacock John

Taylor James

Saltron

Tiplady James, boot & shoemaker

Farmers

Alderson John

Westgarth Wm.

Tan-Hill

Pounder Alexander, vict. Board

Thornes

Alderson John, shopkeeper

Farmers

Alderson Geo., yeoman

Alderson John, yeoman

Scott Chpr.

Thwaite

Butson Fras. G., vict. Joiners' Arms

Harker James, blacksmith

Harker Wm., beer house keeper

Kearton James, beer house keeper

Metcalfe Robt., boot & shoemaker

Iveson James, butcher

Butson Fras. G., joiner & cabinet maker

Hunton Jnth., joiner

Clarke Wm., shopkeeper

Metcalfe Rt., shopkeeper

<u>Farmers</u>
Alderson Edw., yeoman
Cleasby Edw.
Scott Charles

Reeth, a small market town, picturesquely seated at the southern foot of the lofty moors of Arkengarth-dale, on the small river Arkle near its confluence with the Swale, 8 miles N.W. of Leyburn, and 10 miles W. of Richmond, has in its township 1,456 inhabitants and 5,491 acres of land, including the hamlets of Fremington 1 mile E., and Healaugh 2 miles W. of the town; also many scattered houses, and about 2,000 acres of open moors, which rise abruptly on the north side of the town to a considerable altitude; abounding in *lead ore* and commanding extensive and highly diversified prospects. The lead mines of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale serve to Enright the town and neighbourhood, and give employment to a considerable number of the inhabitants. Thos. Smith Esq. is lord of the manor of Healaugh, which comprises Reeth, Melbecks, and part of Grinton, but a greater part of the soil is held by copyholders, subject to small certain fines. Reeth market is held every Friday, and the cattle fairs are on the first Friday in May, and on Nov. 3rd. Fairs for merchandise are held on the *Fridays before* the following days, viz., Palm Sunday, Old May-day, July 6th, Sept. 5th, Nov. 23rd, and Dec. 21st. The cattle fairs were formerly held at Grinton, where the parish church is situated; the only places of worship in Reeth being the Independent and Wesleyan Chapels, the former built in 1783 and the latter in 1796; and the Quaker's Meeting House in the Friends' School built in 1778 by George and John Raw, who in 1814 endowed it with £2,000, of which £200 was paid for the legacy duty. The master teaches 30 free scholars, and the charity is not confined to the children of members of the Society of Friends. Fremington School was built by James Hucthinson, who in 1643 endowed it with two small gardens; 2 acres called Langley croft; an estate at Gate Fulford now let for £52; and with a yearly rent charge of £10 out of his estate at Fremington. An allotment of 5 acres was awarded to the school at the enclosure, so that its yearly income now amounts to about £73, for which the master teaches about 80 free scholars on the Madras system. To the west of Healaugh, in a field called *Hallgarth*, are vestiges of a house said to have belonged to the renowned John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who was lord of the manor. Healaugh village is situated between the lofty hills of Harker and

Calver, on the former of which are traces of an entrenchment called *Maiden Castle*, 100 yards square, and from this a line of other entrenchments may be traced across the valley. These earth works are supposed to have been thrown up by the Romans. The *Dispensary* for the benefit of the poor of Grinton and Marrick parishes is endowed with £30 a year from *Hutton's charity* and is open on Tuesday and Friday. Mr J. R. McCulloh is the dispenser and surgeon. *Post Office* at Mr. Thos. Coates's. Letters arrive from Richmond &c. at 9 morning; and despatched at ½ past 2 in the afternoon. **Directory:**

Spensley Wm.

Bradbury John

Reeth **Joiners** Alderson Mrs. Dinah Blenkiron Thos. Boothroyd James, watch & clock mkr. Cleasby Joseph Close George, gardener Fothergill Ralph Croft Chpr., painter and glazier Peacock John Raine John Dent Jonth. & Dawson Rt., yeomen Hackett Rev. Wm., Independent min. Tennant John T. Hutchinson John, baker & flour dlr. Urwin John Kendal George, cooper Langhorn John & Sherlock Jas., gent. **Lead Mine Agents** Metcalfe Rt., miller, & Wm., gent. Blenkiron Thos. Peacock James, hair dresser Dolphin John Tennant John, maltster Gile Francis **Kendal Francis** Thompson Henry A., gent. Thompson James, corn miller **Raw Francis**

Inns and Taverns

Thistlethwaite John, Black Bull

Reed Chpr., Buck (excise office)

Gill John, Half Moon

Musgrave Francis, King's Head

Sadlers

Bell John

Metcalfe Wm.

Bellerby William, Red Lion <u>Shopkeepers</u> Thwaites Mary, Shoulder of Mutton Bell Thomas

Academics Close James
Harper Wm., clerk to Savings Bank Deacon Wm.

Jackson John Fothergill Joseph
Thompson Thos., Friends School Guy Elizabeth
Knowles Jno. Wm.

<u>Blacksmiths</u> Liddle John

Bowes George

Littlefair Wm. Stone Masons

Allison Robert

Smith Ralph

Boot & ShoemakersDinsdale JohnCoates ThomasSmith JamesDixon ThomasSmith Joseph

Peacock Chpr. Tunstall John (quarry owner)

Peacock James

Jackson John

Peacock John <u>Surgeons</u>
Peacock Thomas Corson John

Peacock Wm. McCulloh Jno. Rd. (& registrar)

Tunstall Francis

<u>Tailors</u>

<u>Butchers</u> Bradbury John Alderson James Langstaff Thos.

Alderson Thomas

Bradbury Henry Fremington

Hird James Robinson Thos., academic Hird John Ward Wm. H., academic

Peacock Thomas Bowes Thos. & R., blacksmiths

Ward Thomas Kendal Chpr., butcher

Alderson David, carrier to Barnard

<u>Carriers</u> Castle, Wed.

Close John, to Leeds, Sat.

Close Edward, to Richmond, Sat. Farmers

Clementson Rt.

<u>Cloqqers &c.</u> Greathead Peter, Whitelock

Bradbury John Littlefair John Jackson John Kendal Chpr.

Moore James Nelson Matthew (and carrier)

Smith Thos. (auctioneer) Nelson Thomas

Siddel Thomas

<u>Drapers</u> Walker John

Bradbury John

Coates George Marsh John, joiner

Fothergill Joseph Littlefair James, lead-mine agent

McCulloh Mary Petty James, shopkeeper Allison Wm., stone mason Peacock Michael

Spensley Wm.

Healaugh

Barker John Esq. <u>Farmers</u>

Alderson Thomas Hopkinson Joseph, excise officer

Allison Wm.

Blenkiron George Bell Matthew, Board Inn Simpson James, academic Blenkiron James Blenkiron Joseph Galloway James, blacksmith Brunskill Samuel Martin Edward, butcher

Fowler William

Harland George *Farmers*

Harman Thomas Alderson John Hird Ann **Dowson Robert** Littlefair John Dolphin John Peacock Anthony Hird Edw. Peacock George Pedley John Peacock James **Place Francis Raw Francis** White Henry

Richardson Rd.

Smith Ralph Thwaite Joseph, joiner

Tiplady Edmund

Shopkeepers

Metcalfe Thos. Grocers &c. McCulloh & Clarkson (&drugts. & spirit Metcalfe Wm. Pedley Wm.

McCulloh Mary Spensley William

merchts.)

Arkengarthdale, commonly called *Arkendale*, is a large moorland parish of 1,446 souls and 14,180 acres of land, abounding in lead ore mostly in high and bleak moors on the north side of the small river Arkle and partly on the south side of that rivulet where the mountain of Water Crag rears its lofty summit 2,186 feet above the level of the sea. Its hamlets lie in the deep and picturesque dale, and are Arkle, Booze, Langthwaite, Eskelith, Seal-houses, Whaw and Dale Head, extending from 3 to 7 miles N.W. of Reeth, below which the Arkle empties itself in the river Swale. The late

George Brown Esq. bequeathed two-thirds of the Manors of Arkengarthdale, Hope and New Forest to his sisters, the wives of the Rev. John Gilpin and Sir Robert Preston; and the trustees have since purchased the other third part for Lady Preston. Here is one of the most productive fields of lead ore in the county and extensive Smelt Works where upwards of 1,000 tons of lead are produced yearly. The rent paid by the Lead Mine Co. amounts to one-sixth part of the produce. The parish *Church* (St. Mary) was built in 1818 and stands at Langthwaite near the site of the old one. It is a perpetual curacy, now valued at £123, being augmented with £600 of Q.A.B. from 1733 to '84, with a parliamentary grant of £1,000 in 1815, and with £200 given by the Rev. Jas. Moore in 1783. Sir John Lowther is the patron, and the Rev. John Hayton incumbent. The Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists have each a chapel at Langthwaite. In 1659 John Bathurst M.D. bequeathed out of the manor of Arkengarthdale two annuities, viz. £4 for an apprentice fee and £16 for schooling poor children. The school was built in 1813 by the late George Brown Esq., and the present owners of the manor allow the master a yearly gratuity of from £20 to £40 and the use of a house and garden.

Directory:

Langthwaite	Booz
Languiwane	DUUZ

Alderson Job, corn miller Harker James, butcher

Alderson John, schoolmaster

Chalder George, Temperance Hotel Dale Head
Christie William, shoemaker Farmers

Croft Thomas, tailor
Hayton Rev. Jno
Alderson Enoch
Alderson Mary
Gill Abel, p. clk.
Atkinson Mary

Whitehead Thomas, blacksmith Bousfield Wm.

Inns and Taverns Eskelith

Whitehead Matthew, Red Lion

Wray John, Bull Alderson Jonathan, joiner

Smith Thomas, C.B.

Fagger Gill

Beer houses Farmers
Alderson Wm., yeoman

Alcock Ann Atkinson Enoch

Mudd James Brown Ralph, yeoman

Raisbeck Jonthn. Hird John

Robinson George

Liddle William

Farmers

Cleasby Mary

Marsh Ralph

Whiteley John

Wilkinson Wm.

Raisbeck Robert, Rigg House, lead-

mine agent

Shopkeepers

Chalder, Joseph

Jewitt Jonathan

Arkle

Bradwell Joseph, CB Inn

Hall Joseph, shopkeeper

Park Head

Hird Thomas, farmer, yeoman

Seal-houses

<u>Farmers</u>

Alderson Roger

Brown Chpr.

Guy Henry

Martin Margaret, yeoman

Siddle John

Alderson Jph. (& land), West hs., lead-

mine agent

Whaw

Robson Thomas, Board Inn

Winter John, farmer

Alderson George, lead-mine agent