

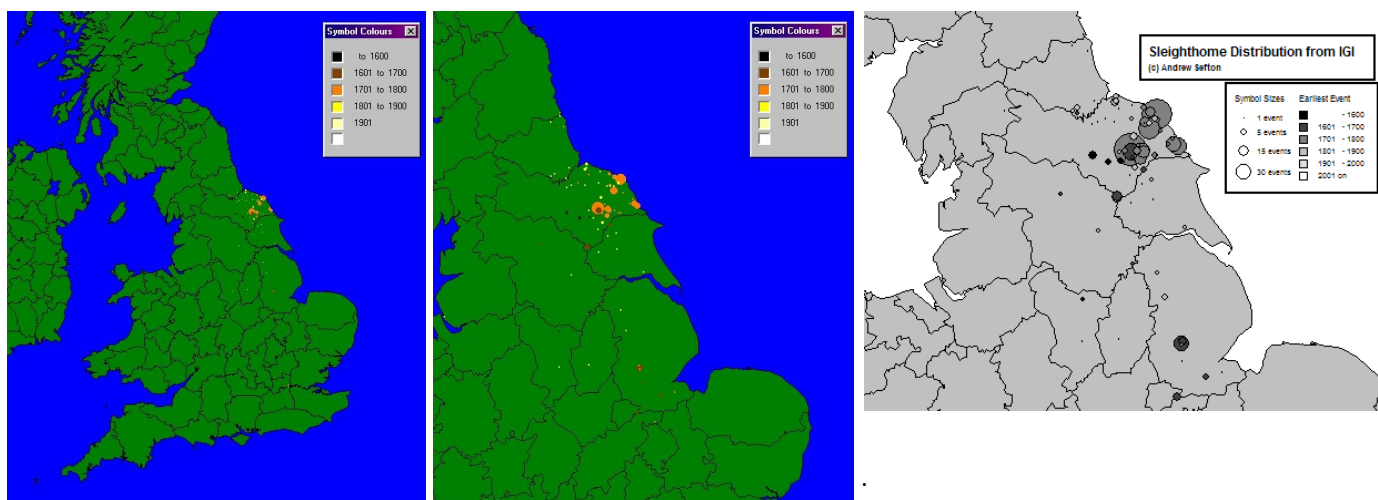
A Sleightholme Gazetteer

26th July 2022

By Andrew Sefton

The purpose of this document is to give a guide to my cousins where our Sleightholme branch of our family lived and worked, were baptised, married and buried. The Sleightholme name seems to have its origins in North Yorkshire although some place names suggest Cumbria and Northumberland. But by and large most origins are in North Yorkshire.

I have plotted the Sleightholme name using some mapping software which tracks the IGI and Census and plots every occurrence on a generated map. **Variants are with and without the suffix 'e'**



Our Sleightholme family Line

My Grandmother was Mary Eleanor Sleightholme (b.28 Nov 1886 in Little Barugh, Kirby Misperton & d. 15th Oct. 1936) who married Reginald Ramsden RIVIS in Sherburn in 1907 they had 8 children. She attended school in Kirby Misperton.

My GGrandfather was George Henry Sleightholme a local methodist lay preacher and farmer. He was born at Farndale in 1857. He married Isabel Fenwick (b.1857 Swinton) in 1880 in Saville Methodist Church Malton. She was the daughter of John Fenwick (b. Helmsley 1823). In the 1881 census John (married Mary WILKINSON) was a farmer of 500 acres in Appleton le Street. George Henry became a farmer at Stainers Farm in Little Barugh until 1904 when he moved to Sherburn nr Scarborough and ended his days farming in Wold Newton until his death in 1919. They had 12 children.

George Henry's father was Joseph Sleightholme (my GGGrandfather) a local methodist lay preacher and farmer. He was born in Fadmoor in 1827. He married Jane Smith (b. Farndale 1830) in 1855 in Kirby Moorside church. The daughter of Robert Smith (b. 1803 Farndale) a farmer at Low Mill, Farndale and Mary CLARKE (Robert was the son of Matthew SMITH and Elizabeth MEDD) (Mary Clarke was the daughter of Henry CLARKE and Sarah PEIRSON who married in Rosedale in 1795).

I have never found the birth record for Joseph and this still remains a slight mystery. However, I have linked him to his father via the entry in the 1851 census where he was listed as a SON to Ellen who was a widow at the time. Is that enough? By the way, there is separate tale of another Joseph Sleightholme, born about the same time, that is supposedly the true inheritor of the Wykeham Estate—but that's another story!

Joseph's father was George Sleightholme (my GGGGrandfather) a farmer in Fadmoor and later Farndale. Born Fadmoor in 1795. He married Ellen Garnett (b. 1801) in 1823 in Kirby Moorside church. The daughter of Joseph Garnett and Elizabeth of Farndale. Thank goodness Kirby Moorside has a Dade Register!.

George was the son of John Sleightholme (my GGGGGrandfather) a farmer in Fadmoor. He married Hannah Fowler. (unknown date or place). Hannah is the daughter of George Fowler and Elizabeth DUNNING from Hutton near Malton. I have managed to find some Tythe maps and locations of their farms and field boundaries in both Farndale and earlier in Fadmoor. Children: Nanny, Elizabeth (Betty), Hannah, John, George, Rachel, Mary and one more unknown. But the tree gets unreliable earlier than this.

For the previous generation, my research assumes John Sleightholme b. Fadmoor married Anne Watson 29 Jan 1749. From which I identified 3 children but there may be more: John, William and Richard. But Andrew Heaton (see later email) thinks his parents were William Sleightholme (1724-1810) and Sarah Pilmoor(1713-1756), and he could be correct.

The connection to Fadmoor

The villages of Fadmoor and Gillamoore have always fascinated me and I came across an interesting article on the Story of the two villages by Raymond H. Hayes in the Number 4 April 1969 edition of the "Rydale Historian".

It lists the details of holdings before and after enclosures.

Fadmoor 1763

FREEHOLDERS:

James HOBSON - 78 acres
Matt. and Mich. PILMORE - 8 acres
John SIMPSON - 16 acres

COPY HOLDERS (Under the Manor Court)

John and William SLEIGHTHOLME - 104 acres
Matthew and Mich. PILMORE - 44 acres
Raebanks PILMORE - 26 acres
Thos. BOYES - 35 acres
Johnathon DUNNING - 26 acres
John CHAPMAN - 32 acres
Widow CHAPMAN - 13 acres
G. GAMBLE - 13 acres
T. PORTER (Bitterdale) -32 acres
S. PUDAMS - 6 acres
W. RICHARDSON - 3 acres
T. & J. BAKER - 4 acres
Wm. POTTER (Woolah) - 67 acres

(Far Wolley was divided between J.CHAPMAN, Jon. DUNNING, Wm. SLEIGHTHOLME and Wm. CASS)

Fadmoor 1796

John WILKES - 138 acres (£51)
Wm. SLEIGHTHOLME - 115 acres (£27)
John PROUD - 104 acres
Geo. SLEIGHTHOLME - 91 acres (£55)
Will. DUNNING - 68 acres (£36)
John DUNNING - 58 acres
John BOYNTON - 38 acres
Wm. RICHARDSON - 15 acres
Elizabeth CHAPMAN - 44 acres
R.Wm. POTTER (New Wooley) - 163 acres
John WAYND (Ankness) - 271 acres (£89)
L. NORMINTON (Stonely.Wds) - 117 acres (£23)

By 1796 both the amount of land and the value (Duncombe Estate Office Valuation) had increased. Fadmoor now had 1269 acres, valued at £542.11.0. The common pasture had been incorporated.

From the Ryedale Historian April 1969 "The Story of Gillamoor and Fadmoor"

Extract: "A Tax levied on heads of households in 1301 provides the following names:

Gillamoor:

Walter Swetelaf

Johanne son of Hawis

Ada Sonlay

Willelmo Preposito (reeve or bailiff)

Waltero Percy

Johanne Belle

Waltero Pinder (the pinder impounded stray beasts; Pinfold House now marks the site of Gillamoor pinfold)

Fadmoor:

Rogero de Sletholme

Rogero de Fadmoor

Willelmo son of Walter (he had land in Farndale)

Rudulpo Bene Nicholas le Clay

The first Fadmoor name implies there was a farm at Sleightholmedale by this time. But by 1700 members of the Sleightholme family farmed at Fadmoor. "

In the churchyard of Gillamoor, near Kirby Moorside the following inscription:

"In Memory of George Sleightholme of Fadmoor who died July 11 1834 Aged 67 years.

Jane Sleightholme his wife who died July 17 1827 Aged 71 Years.

Jane Sleightholme their daughter who died March 31 1819 Aged 27 and John Sleightholme their son who died October 5 1833 aged 51 years also of George their son who died May 18 1853 Aged 65 Years.

Eleanor his wife died Nov 6 1856 aged 63 years also their three children

Jane died Jan 27 aged 11 years, George died Nov 1 1854 Aged 31 years and of Jane who died in her infancy."

There is a mystery here. I have a copy of the will of George which states he died in 1821 and the PR states he was buried 20 July 1821. So why does the gravestone say 1834???

The Borthwick holds wills for the Yorkshire area and these are amongst their holdings:

Jun 22 1565 Thomas Sleightholm Fadmore (bur, Kirkebye Morshed)

May 31 1589 Thomas Sleightholme Fadmore (bur. Kirbie Moreshed)

Apr 25 1588 Peter Slegtholme Kirkbie Moreshed

May 21 1621 Agnes Sleightholme Fadmoor Spinster

Mar 26 1650 William Sleightholme, Kirkby Moorside

Feb 6 1661 John Sleightholme Fadmoore bur Gillamoore

I have many references and Tithe maps which show them owning land in Fadmoor right through the 1700's.

There are other Sleightholmes dotted around in other locations in Yorkshire but it does show that Sleightholme's were consistently in Fadmoor from the earliest of times up until the early 19th century when they all disappear.

In the Ryedale Historian Number 4 April 1969 is "The story of Gillamoor and Fadmoor" by Raymond H. Hayes. Hayes asks why these twin villages were founded where they are on the high limestone land 500 feet above sea level, without any regular water supply, and only half a mile apart? Hayes quotes R.W. Crossland who had a theory that the long line of English named villages along the northern edge of the marshy vale of Pickering represents the first wave of English settlements, and at a later influx of immigrants colonised the limestone hills about A.D. 700, when Cropton, Appleton, Spaunton, Fadmoor and Gillamoor appeared. By the time of the Norman conquest the villages were well established and appear in the Domesday Book. In 1301 a tax levied on the heads of households has one "Rogero de Sletholme" living in the parish of Fadmoor but Hayes believes this name may have come from a farm in Sleightholmedale.

This is the earliest date I have found the name and may indicate that the name does in fact come from Sleightholme Dale and may it may have got its name from the two villages close by which were 'Slight' islands of dry limestone above a surrounding Marshy vale of Pickering.

What is the Sleightholme link to Joseph Pilmoor?

The obituary in the Malton Gazette of May 30 1903 of my Great Great Grandfather Joseph Sleightholme led me to investigate the great American missionary Joseph Pilmoor. The newspaper report read as follows: Death of Mr Joseph Sleightholme of Little Barugh.

*Those who knew the "grand old man" of village Methodism, Mr. Joseph Sleightholme of Little Barugh, will hear with some amount of surprise of his sudden demise which took place on Thursday morning about 3 o'clock at the ripe old age of 76 years. Though he had for some time, shown signs of failing health, especially in sight and in memory, he continued to visit the various markets, and on Sundays carried on his preaching appointments the last service being conducted in Little Barugh chapel on the 26th April. Deceased was a native of Fadmoor, and his early manhood was spent at Farndale. **He was a relative of Pilmoor, the American missionary.***

Following this report I was determined to find the connection and something about this man Pilmoor. I went to Malton library and found this extract from a book called "Romantic Ryedale" by Joan & Bill Spence.



"A Fadmoor man Joseph Pilmoor, and Richard Boardman of Gillamoore visited Leeds in 1769 to hear John Wesley. They were converted to Methodism and were responsible for its foundation in these two small Yorkshire villages. Wishing to undertake further service to their newly found religion they put themselves at the disposal of the brethren. They were sent to America where they separated. Pilmoor going to Philadelphia and Boardman to New York. Boardman stayed only four years but Pilmoor stayed longer. He eventually returned to Fadmoor where he made an appeal for foreign missions in England. With their connections with American Methodism through these two men, Fadmoor and Gillamoore organised a three day open meeting in 1866, and the centenary of their departure for their mission to the "wilderness" was marked by the construction of a chapel at Gillamoore. It is a strong building, and a worthy memorial to the two men who helped prepare the way for the ten million Methodists in the United States today."

Some of Joseph Pilmoor's Letters to John Wesley show that they did not always agree on the future path of Methodism. But there is no doubt of his influence in N. America and the famous Liberty Tree is almost certainly the "very large tree on a fine piece of ground" under which Joseph Pilmoor preached the first Methodist sermon in Maryland on July 11, 1772. The Liberty Tree in Maryland is on the grounds of St. John's college in Annapolis.

I have found that Joseph Pilmore married Mary Benezet Wood in 1790 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

More information is to be found on a recently published book called "Water from the Moors" by the late Isobel Anne McLean. The author has carefully researched the life of the famous engineer Joseph Foord who was famous for building a water course and aqueduct from Rievaulx all the way across the moors to give water to Fadmoor and Gillamoore which have no water sources. This remarkable man, and his story is told in the book, had a skeleton in his cupboard, that he was the father of Joseph Pilmoor! He made a girl pregnant called Sarah Pilmoor but did not marry her, Joseph Pilmoor was to grow up fatherless until William Sleightholme (from our line) came along and married her and they then produced issue of further Sleightholmes. The story is told in the book and it is a fascinating account.

JOSEPH PILMOOR

The following details were supplied to me by Brian Pilmoor and were taken by him from a profile by F D Stranger in the Journal of Joseph Pilmoor, edited by F E Maser (published by Message Publishing for the Historical Society of the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1969)

A brief summary of the life of Joseph Pilmoor:

Born 31 October 1739 at Fadmoor.

Converted to Methodism at the age of 16 by John Wesley and attended Wesley's Kingswood School, near Bristol for 3-4 years.

Entered the Methodist ministry on 20 August 1765 and worked in Cornwall (1766), Wales (1768).

On 4 Aug 1769 at the Leeds Methodist Conference he volunteered with Richard Boardman to be Wesley's first missionary to the USA.

Preached his farewell address from the steps of his father's house at Fadmoor (BP sent me a sketch map showing the location of the cottage), before sailing for the USA on 21 Aug 1769 on the 'Mary and Elizabeth' arriving in New Jersey nine weeks later. [I have not managed to trace this ship or its passenger lists, but I have only tried sources on the Internet.]

He crossed the Delaware River by ferry then walked the six miles to Philadelphia. He and Boardman alternated between New York (population 20,000) and Philadelphia (population 30,000), spending four months each in either town. He established his congregation in an unfinished Dutch Presbyterian Church and introduced prayer meetings and the communion service.

On 26 May 1772 he began an extended missionary journey through Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia which lasted a year. On 2 June 1773 he was back in Philadelphia. On 2 Jan 1774 he returned to England due to the War in the USA.

After his return he worked in London (1776), Norwich (1777), Edinburgh (1779), Dublin (1780), Nottingham (1782), Edinburgh again (1783) and York (1784).

In 1784 he returned to the USA and was ordained in the Anglican Church on 27 November 1785 by Bishop Samuel Seabury. He had apparently always regarded Methodism as a movement within the Church of England, and had had various disagreements and misunderstandings with Wesley.

In 1786 he became rector of the United Parishes of Trinity Oxford, All Saints, Lower Dublin (now Torresdale) and St Thomas Whitemarsh (in the vicinity of Philadelphia). He was a leader of the evangelical movement in his denomination and was a pioneer in the field of religious education. In 1789 he was additionally appointed assistant minister of St Paul's, Philadelphia.

In 1790, aged 51, he married Mary Wood, a widow. She died in 1808.

From 1791 he worked full time for St Paul's and in 1794 moved to Christ Church, New York where he remained for ten years. On 5 March 1804 he returned to St Paul's in Philadelphia where he enjoyed a long and successful career, increasing the congregation, founding a Sunday School and encouraging lay visiting and preaching. In 1807 he was created an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the University of Pennsylvania. In resigned his position at St Paul's in 1821, due to ill health, and died on 24 July 1825.



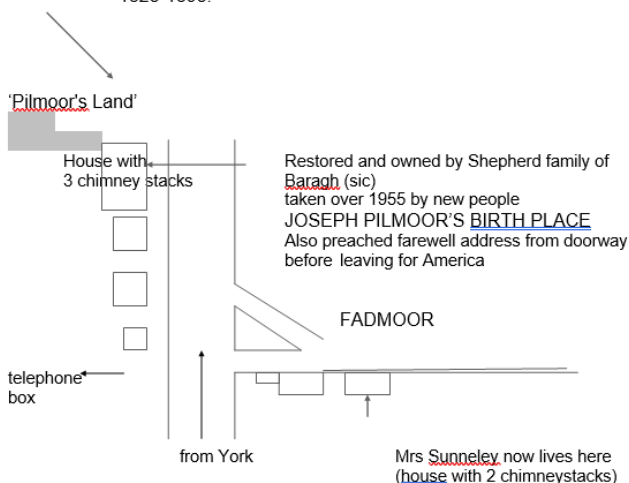
Photo supplied by John Kane

The page on the right is an extract of a document sent to me from Ann Winduss a member of the Pilmoor family who was granddaughter of Mabel Pilmoor (1901-1968; married Irvine Winduss; one son, Ian, her father), eldest of four children born to Fred Pilmoor (1877-1931) and Sarah Ann (nee Brown).

PILMOOR'S LAND IN FADMOOR:

Source: Letter (undated) from Brian Pilmoor to his sister Mabel Winduss (therefore before 1968 but after his main visit to Fadmoor in 1954 as it mentions changes in 1955)

Small sketch map of Fadmoor and note referring to Mrs Sunneley. 'She showed us the birthplace of Joseph Pilmoor and also a record of 'Memoir of Joseph Smith' Wesleyan local preacher 1823-1898.'



'Benefactions to the poor of Gillamoore and Fadmoor:

"Mary Boyes out of her Freehold House and Garth Fadmoor left 10/- per annum to each town forever. Paid by Myers Webster out of PILMOORS LAND at Fadmoor called Stockton Dale 10/- per annum to each town forever, Paid the Right Honourable Lord Eversham"

The above tablet is to be seen in St Aiden's Church at Gillamoore'

The following is an email received from Andrew Heaton who is the eldest son of Mary Heaton, the daughter of Albert (1897-1977) and Kate Sleightholme. It was sent to me on 19th October 2017 and Andrew proposes another theory and has a different opinion on the earlier Sleightholme line. I do not think Andrew will mind me sharing his research with other Sleightholme descendants.

Dear Andrew,

I don't know if you ever solved the Sleightholme/Pilmoor link. If not I have come up with a strong possibility.

Having put the Sleightholme tree that you kindly sent me on to my "Ancestry" membership I keep getting "hints" regarding the family. One of these was from a family tree which disagrees with your research. The common agreed point is "John Slightholm b 2-12-1756 at Kirkbymoorside and m Hannah Fowler 17-10-1786 at Cropton)". It then has an alternative and that John S's parents are not John S = Anne Watson. His parents were William Slightholme(1724-1810) and Sarah Pilmoor(1713-1756) His tree then takes us back a further five generations to a John Sleightholm(1520-1568) from Oswaldkirk.

I then searched for Rev Joseph Pilmore(1743-1825) to find his parents were Sarah Pilmore(1713-1756) and Joseph Foord(1714-1788). There is no sign that they were married and indeed Rev J P took his father's Christian name but not his surname. Could the two Sarah Pilmoor's be the same person? Well, joining up the evidence I have put together her timeline:

1713 Sarah born 12th Feb at Fadmoor to Ralph Pilmoor and Jane Teasdale

1743 Son Joseph(the Rev) born in Fadmoor. Father was Joseph Foord aged 29.

1754 Sarah married William Sleightholme, aged 31 on 27-2-54 at Kirkbymoorside.

1755 Son William born 30-5-55 at Kirkbymoorside

1756 Son John born 2-12-56 at Kirkbymoorside ***

1756 Sarah died presumably soon after childbirth.

If we are to accept this evidence then the Rev Joseph and our direct ancestor John*** are half-brothers and most definitely related as stated in the article you unearthed from Malton Gazette of 30th May 1903.

I say all this knowing that relying on many family trees is often dangerous and I have not tried very hard to verify. Also both Sleightholme and Pilmoor are spelt differently each generation! and lots of Johns Williams and Josephs to get confused. So I suggest this finding is likely to be correct.

What do you think?

Best wishes,

Andrew Heaton

As you can see the early Sleightholme family tree is quite ill defined and open to further research if anyone else would like to follow this up.

Kirby Misperton School c. 1892—Mary Eleanor Sleightholme is marked



Below is the presentation gift to her. It reads "Presented to Miss Sleightholme By the members & Friends of the Wesleyan Chapel on the occasion of her marriage in recognition of her services as organist. Little Barugh. 1907". The Chapel has recently been demolished.



The Building of Gillamoor Church in 1802

I became interested in Gillamoor Church when my mum, Dorothy, kept telling me that as a young girl she was told by her mother, Mary Eleanor, that Gillamoor church had been built single handed by a relative of ours. She could not remember who or what the relationship was. For years I thought that this must have been another tale that gets confused over the years and then in 1999, I decided to investigate. Some years back a Sunday ride through the Yorkshire Moors landed at Gillamoor and a look around the church revealed a plaque on the wall which gave some substance to my Mum's story. Now, I knew that her mother was a Sleightholme and that James Smith must related to her somehow. At the time I was not aware of any relationship to any Smiths on the Sleightholme branch. On the Sleightholme side I had only gone back as far as my Great Great Grandfather



Dorothy stood by the monument of James Smith on Gillamoor Church

Joseph Sleightholme. I knew (from speaking to older members of the Sleightholme family) that his wife was called Jane. So I found their Marriage in 1855 (pre-Internet!). When I got the marriage certificate back it told me that Jane's maiden name was Smith and her father was called Robert. I thought I was hot on the trail! I knew that Jane was born in 1830 as her age was shown on the marriage certificate and the 1881 census showed her birthplace as Farndale. I found a Jane Smith christened 10 Feb 1830 in Kirkby Moorside with the father shown as Robert and her mother shown as Mary.



Jane Smith who Married Joseph Sleightholme in 1855 and whose great uncle built Gillamoor church

Robert Smith was married twice. First to Mary Clarke on 29 August 1829 and next to Christiana Jackson on 5 Dec 1832. I found 2 children by Mary Clarke who were Jane and Cass. Robert and Christiana had nine children. My theory is that Mary died giving birth to Cass (but I have no evidence for that). It is interesting to see that Jane was living with her Grandma Sarah Clarke in the 1841 census and the 1851 census and not with the Smith family.

Was Robert's father the James that built Gillamoor church?

I found Robert's father was Mathew Smith who had married Elizabeth Medd in Old Malton in 1799. I was slightly disappointed but my hopes were raised after a visit back to Gillamoor when I found the gravestone of Mathew and Elizabeth Smith located directly underneath the plaque of James Smith. I still believed there was a connection. I then looked back further to find that Mathew Smith's father was a Mathew Smith from Lastingham who had married Mary Helm and checking all his offspring led me to the Christening of James in Lastingham church on the 14th September 1755.

So there it was. James Smith who built Gillamoor church was in fact the brother of Mathew Smith, father of Robert Smith and hence the great uncle of Jane Smith who married Joseph Sleightholme. The fascinating thing for me is that unless my mother had given me that snippet of information passed down via 6 generations, I would never have found out about my Great Great Great Great Great Uncle James Smith who built Gillamoor church with his own two hands almost 200 years ago.

From the book of the Memoirs of Thomas Langton, it states that Joseph Sleightholme was proud of his connection to Joseph Pilmoor. Ref: THE LIFE STORY OF THOMAS LANGTON OF MALTON THE YORKSHIRE EVANGELIST by Watson, Isaac C. Published by Thomas Champness 1895, 1895

and the recollection of the circumstances under which he began the Mission caused great amusement, and in many great thankfulness.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Joseph Pilmoor—a page of Methodist History.

WHILST I was staying with Mr. Langton at the home of Mr. Joseph Sleightholme at Little Barugh in the Malton Circuit, our host related a page of Methodist history which I here repeat.

About the year 1778 at the Conference held in Leeds at the Boggart House, Mr. Wesley read in the hearing of all the preachers a letter he had received from America from Barbara Heck and Philip Embury, in which they urged for two preachers to be sent to them from England. Their need was pressing, so much work was waiting to be done, and souls were daily being lost through the inability to supply the Gospel.

Notwithstanding Mr. Wesley's earnest entreaty for volunteers, not one was forthcoming, at which he was greatly dejected.

Next morning he preached to ministers and people, taking for his text, "I have nourished and brought up children and they have rebelled against me."—Isa. i. 2.

His implied rebuke sank into the hearts of two men there, Joseph Pilmoor and Richard Boardman, who later in the day, in the session of Conference, in-

formed Mr. Wesley that they had heard God's call in his sermon and would obey it.

Joseph Pilmoor, who afterwards became D.D., was a native of Fadmore, near Gillimoor, three miles from Kirby-Moorside. He went to his parents' home to bid farewell to the people, and a great excitement prevailed, for a journey to America was a serious matter in those days. He arranged to do a stroke of work for the Lord before he went, and taking advantage of the great interest his departure was creating, he announced that he would preach from the threshold of his father's house, in which he was born. It is said an immense number of people came from far and near, and to them he preached of the Father's "Omnipotence of Love," pleading for their prayers for God's blessing on his work in the unknown world whither the Lord's finger beckoned him.

In this same cottage nearly a hundred years later, was born our host, a lineal descendant of Joseph Pilmoor. He has inherited much of Pilmoor's force of character and preaching power. He hates, with a strong and bitter hatred, any injustice or oppression, and with the ability to expose such, he has the courage to do so, to the great alarm of many who would abuse the helpless poor were it not for his protecting hand. There are many tender spots yet remaining in our village life in England; but, Praise God, oppression must "go slow" now-a-days, and hide itself from the keen searching eye of the omniscient "journalist," or it will be blazoned forth all over the country in twenty-

four hours' time, and in another day pertinent questions may be asked in the House of Commons itself.

About the year 1860 a centenary gathering was held at Fadmore to commemorate Pilmoor's and Boardman's farewell. The meetings extended over three days, and took the form of rejoicings. The Rev. Joseph Hargreaves was the moving spirit of these meetings. They were a great success, and led to the initiation of a scheme for paying off the debts on all the chapels in the then Pickering and Kirby-Moorside Circuit. The magnificent sum of £3000 was raised, and all the chapels were cleared of debts, many of them of long standing. To commemorate this great success, a memorial chapel was built at Gillimoor—a bonnie spot, now suitably supplied with a bonnie chapel.

The old homestead of the Pilmoor family is now in ruins, and presents a very deserted appearance. But I hear good news about the house. A gentleman at Great Barugh, some twelve miles away from it, has recently come into possession, and has decided to restore it to a condition fit for residence again. The gentleman's name is Mr. Shepherd, an adherent of Methodism, and a good fellow. All honour to him for preserving an ancient landmark. May he do it well and substantially, with a brass-plate inscription, at once setting forth the labours of the *early* Methodists, and his generosity.



From the book of the Memoirs of Joseph Smith, it states that Joseph Sleightholme was involved in the creation of Gillamoor Chapel. Ref: Memoir of Joseph Smith of South Holme by J Smith. Published by R J Smithson, 1900

CHAPTER XXII.

“Come, oh come, with sacred lays,
Let us sound the Almighty's praise :
Hither bring in true consent,
Heart, and voice, and instrument.
Let the orpharion sweet,
With the harp and viol meet ;
To your voices tune the lute,
Let not tongue nor string be mute ;
Nor a creature dumb be found,
That hath either voice or sound.”

DURING the summer of the year 1866, a very large open-air meeting, to commemorate the centenary of American Methodism, was held at Fadmoor, and continued for three days in succession, in memory of Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor. Joseph Pilmoor was born at Fadmoor. Eventually he became one of John Wesley's ministers, and laboured for some time in Wales. Being very much impressed by the need of missionary enterprise in America he resolved to go there, but before leaving England he returned to his old home at Fadmoor, and preached on the threshold of his father's house to a large concourse of people, and at the close a collection was made. We believe this was only the second collection made in England on behalf of Wesleyan Foreign Missions. This old house has lately been restored, and is now owned by the Shepherd family, of Barugh. In vol. 4, page 414, Mr. Wesley's Journal, he says :—

“On Sunday, July 30th, 1769, Mr. Crook being out of order, I read prayers and preached in Hunslet Church, both morning and afternoon. At five I preached at Leeds, and on Monday 31st, prepared all things for the ensuing conference. Tuesday, August 1st, it began, and a more loving one we never had. On

Thursday I mentioned the case of our brethren at New York, who had built the first Methodist preaching-house in America, and were in great want of money, but much more of preachers. Two of our preachers, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor, willingly offered themselves for the service, by whom we determined to send them fifty pounds, as a token of our brotherly love.”

But to return to this large centenary gathering.—

Great was the enthusiasm and interest shown by the people on this occasion, who gathered here in large numbers, and it was a very picturesque sight to behold this assembly congregated on the side of the beautiful dale below the village. The Farndale Band was in attendance and enlivened the hearts of everyone by their fine music. Mr. Isaac Hartas was the chairman. Many renowned ministers took part, including Revs. Charles Bourke, W. T. Ratcliffe, J. Hargreaves, etc., and many local preachers. Mr. Smith, from Riseborough, was there, also Mr. Sleightholme, who here made the suggestion that a new chapel should be built at Gillamoor, to be called the Memorial Chapel, which readily met the approval of the people and soon came to pass, as we find Mr. Smith was present at Gillamoor on May 23rd, 1867, at the foundation stone laying, and not long after this it was opened for service. Many people will remember this great gathering at Fadmoor and the impetus it gave to Methodism throughout the circuit.

Returning to the diary,—

“February 17th, 1867, preached the funeral sermon in Normanby Chapel of Mrs. Harrison, who died at Hob-ground House.” We regret we have not space to give the sermon and a description of the beautiful life led by this noble Christian character, who was so beloved and respected by the whole neighbourhood. The text for the sermon was :—“In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord,

Gillamoor Chapel now a private residence.



**Tithe Map
of Fadmoor**



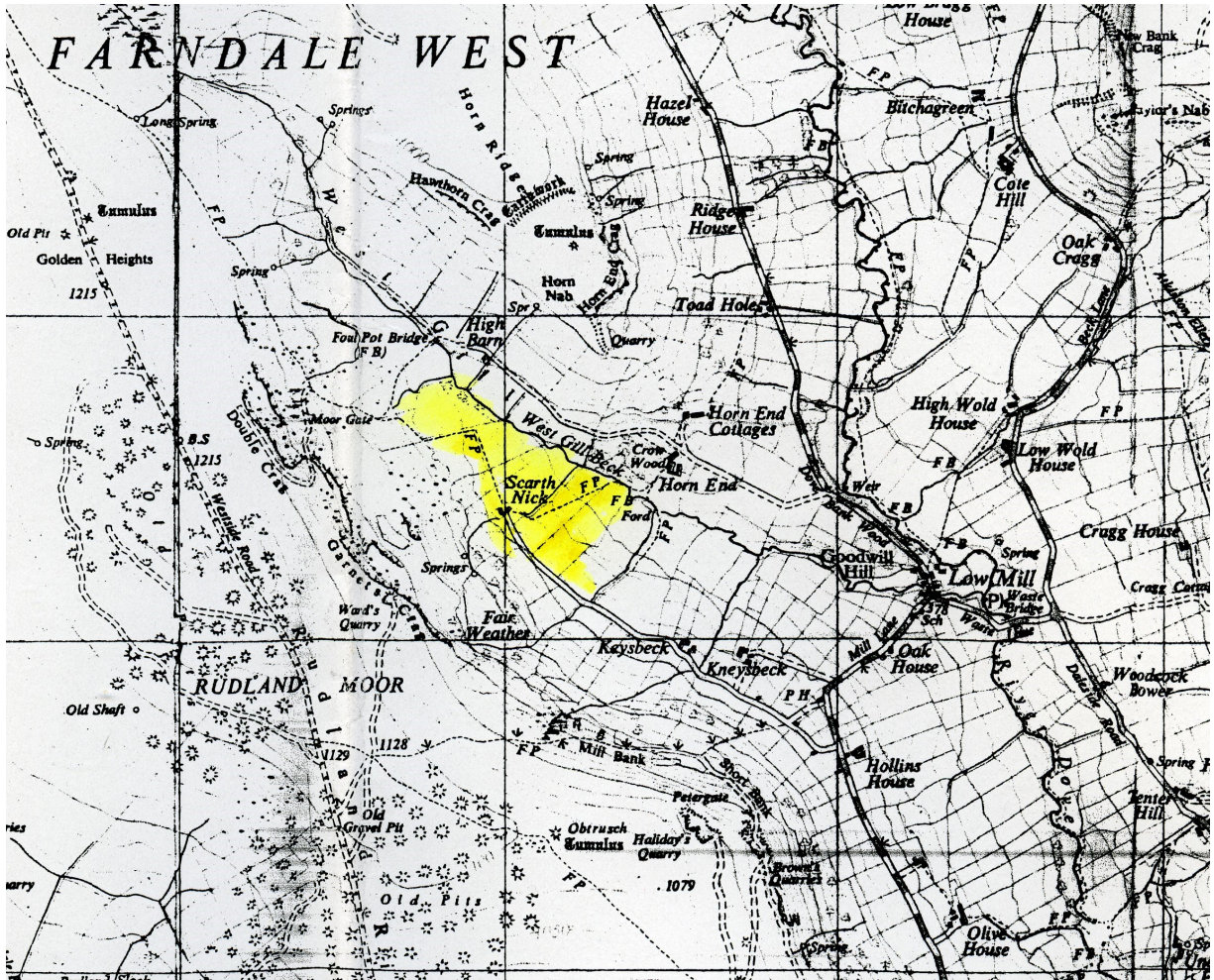
The house where Joseph Pilmoor was born. Did he preach outside this house prior to his emigration to America?

Photo: John Kane



The house which is the long standing home of the Sleightholme family in Fadmoor

The Sleightholme farm at Scarth Nick in Farndale where GGrandfather George Henry Sleightholme was born in 1857.



LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers relating to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES BY STATUTE MEASURE.		PAYABLE TO the Crown by the Proprietor.		PAYABLE TO the Proprietor.		REMARKS.
					a.	r.	£.	s.	£.	s.	
Srd. Dewarham/ Const	Thomas Maul William Mitchell Executors of the Parr. Srv. Peacock	150	Cottage and Garth	Brought forward	393	1 26	12	12	51	10	
		152	Stable	Grass		1 21		2			
		154	Cottage and Garden			2 28		9		2	
		167	School House and Garth			10		2			
		123	Low Close	Orchard	6	2 13	0	3	19	9	
		124	North field	Grass	5	2 26	7		17	2	
		125	Low Leys	Orchard	4	2 23	6		13	11	
		126	Round Close		4	2 8	5	9	13	8	
		127	Croft	Grass	1	35	1	6	3	7	
		129	Swang		4	2 38	6		14	3	
		129	Swang	Orchard	3	1 19	3	10	10	3	
		130	Swang		2	1 5	3		7	4	
		131	Swang	Grass	2	1 8	2	10	7	2	
		132	Homestead and Backyard	Garth	1	1 6		2	7	6	
		133	Barn Garth	Grass	1	1 19		2	4	2	
		142	Stone Close	Orchard	1	3 24	2		5	8	
		143	Navy Intake		2	3 18	2	9	8	6	
		144	Old Intake		2	2 28	2		6	6	
		145	Old Close		2	32	2	1	6	8	
		146	High Fox Intake		1	3 4	1	8	5	6	
		Richard Russell	Richard Russell	1	Low Holme		3	22	4	7	9
2	High Holme			Grass	2	14	3	9	6	9	
3	Low Intake			Orchard	1	3 4	1	7	5	4	
4	Middle Intake				2	1 22	1	10	7	2	
5	Barn Stable Yard				1	1 21					
6	Box Intake			Grass	2	2 17	2	3	7	10	
John Rickaby	John Rickaby	164	Strip		2	37	2	10	2	3	
		167	Barn and Garth			23					
		204	Low Close	Orchard	2	1 3	1	6	6	10	
		205	Quiver Hills		3	3	2	8	11	3	
		206	Swang		4	3 8	3	10	14	5	
		207	Swang		4		3	4	12	2	
		208	South Field	Grass	3	1 21	2	9	10	1	
		209	Homestead and Garth		1	11		2			
		210	Garth	Grass	1	8		2			
		211	Woody Intake		7	2 6	4	9	1	3	8
		Ellen Sleightholme	Ellen Sleightholme	212	Near Broad field		4	1 2	3	3	12
213	Swang				2	3 37	2	3	9		
214	Little Swang			Orchard	3	3 36	3		11	9	
215	Box field				7	29	4	4	1	6	
216	Hagg field				9	10	5	8	1	7	4
	Carried forward					570	2 31	18	3 3	68	16

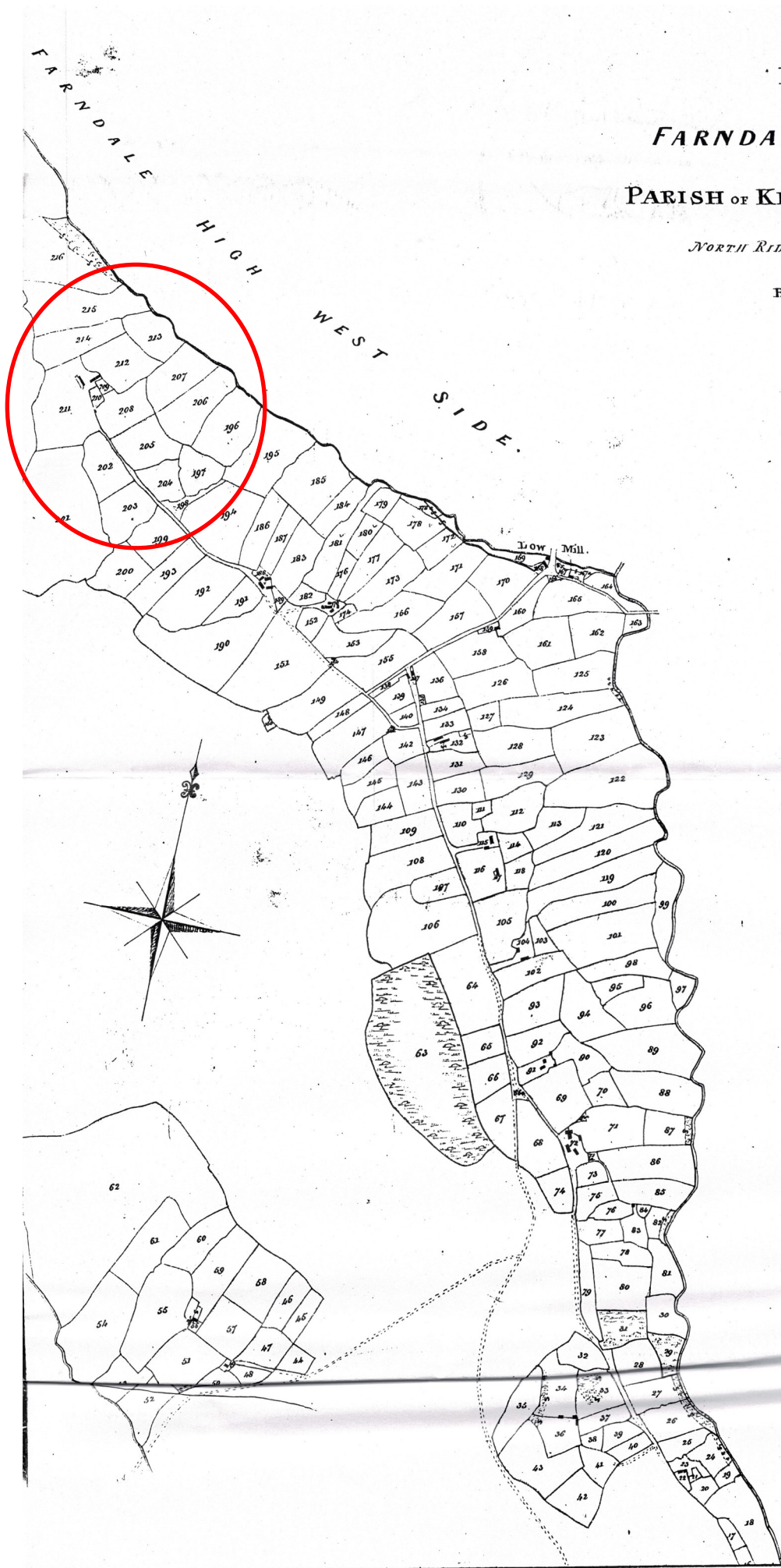
PLAN
of
FARNDALE LOW QUARTER
in the
PARISH OF KIRBY MOORSIDE
in the
NORTH RIDING of the COUNTY of YORK

By J. H. Phillips

1848.

*Signed, John Townsend
Agent for the Court*

424
Farndale Low Quarter T. Phillips



FARNDALE

EAST

SIDE.

Funeral of the late Mr. Joseph Sleightholme of Little Barugh.

JOSEPH SLEIGHTHOLME: AN APPRECIATION.

By REV. DINDALE T. YOUNG.

Friend follows friend into the unseen. One is always receiving tidings of an exodus. Returning from a round of services last week I found an intimation that my dear old friend Joseph Sleightholme had ascended to brighter worlds.

I met him scarcely a year ago, and found him wearing his weight of years quite lightly. He said "I am as well as I ever want to be." He will say that always now.

I have known Joseph Sleightholme these many years, and the flight of years has deepened my respect and affection for the fine chryse personality. Mr. Sleightholme's death is a distinct loss to the community. He represented a noble type of manhood; a rare quality of christian; and an influence wholly healthsome.

Often do I contemplate my friends in the Malton district. Many of them are gone. They were a worthy order of men. And none was of a greater quality than Joseph Sleightholme. He was a true Briton. There was nothing mean or peddling about him. He scorned all that was not straight, clean, beneficent. How he could wither those who had a genius for dirty dealings. Himself always candid, honest to the core, he had small patience with evasion; trickery he despised. Few could apply more pungent epithets to cowards, hypocrites, and all that brood. Emphatically he was a lover of truth.

Joseph Sleightholme was the soul of honour. He was always as good as his word, and generally better than his best word. He belonged to a chivalric order. He never trimmed to catch favour. He was loyal in the highest degree. Our friend was a strong man intellectually. What logical acuteness he possessed! He had really remarkable reasoning faculty. He has exposed many a weak argument. He has kicked many a rickety piece of logic to atoms. Joseph Sleightholme was a champion in debate. Many learned that to their mortification. He has rendered great service to many good causes by his unerring arguments.

He had a remarkable mind. Few could appreciate intellectual elements as he could. I have never known a man of more striking native mentality than he revealed himself to be.

Joseph Sleightholme was a notable example of the best type of yeoman. Men of his order have been the true makers of rural England. Everyone respected our friend. He was in his own locality a general referee. How many he has helped with wise and sympathetic advice. No local king could afford to "know not Joseph."

What a real friend and helper of young men he was! When others depreciated he encouraged. He has made many lives brighter. Many have risen to call him blessed.

Mr. Sleightholme, in his strength, was a very remarkable public speaker. On a platform, political, philanthropic, moral, religious, he was quite distinctive. He had a natural eloquence, trenchant, vivid, arresting. The demand for his services was widespread and great. And ungrudgingly he served all manner of good causes. I mourn the silencing of so effective a voice. The memory of it will be an inspiration.

As a lay-preacher our departed friend was at his very best. The most educated and refined rejoiced to hear him. All sorts and conditions appreciated his utterances. He graced every pulpit he occupied. I remember sermons I heard from him in my boyhood. None could challenge his right to preach. He had the supreme right of ability and character. His life backed up his sermon. The man throbbed in the preacher. That is the quality we need in all pulpits. The passing of Joseph Sleightholme from the pulpit is a deplorable impoverishment to the pulpit. I sorrow that my old friend is gone. I owe him great obligation. His memory will be ever green, and ever fragrant to me. So it will be to many. "The memory of the just is blessed."

We never needed such men all over the country more than we need them now. The churches greatly require such men. Our friend was utterly loyal to his own denomination, but he had no trace of bigotry. He loved and honoured all upright men. No sect could narrow him. He was first and last a christian.

With grateful affection I place my stone upon my old friend's cairn.

DINDALE T. YOUNG.

Edinburgh, June 1st, 1903.

The Medical Officer was re-elected for another year on the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. HORSFIELD.

Death of Mr. Joseph Sleightholme of Little Barugh.

Those who knew the "grand old man" of village Methodism, Mr. Joseph Sleightholme, of Little Barugh, will hear with some amount of surprise of his sudden demise which took place on Thursday morning about 3 o'clock at the ripe age of 76 years. Though he had for some time, shown signs of failing health, especially in sight and memory, he continued to visit the various markets, and on Sundays carried out his preaching appointments, the last service he conducted being in Little Barugh Chapel on the 26th of April. Deceased was a native of Fardale, and his early manhood was spent at Fardale. He was a relative of Pilmoor, the American missionary. He came under the influence of the Wesleyan Methodists at the early age of 18, and about a year later came on the plan of the Kirbymoorside and Pickering circuits which at that day were one large circuit. He came on the plan with four others one of whom was the Rev George Piercy, the Chinese missionary. Thirty five years ago deceased came to Little Barugh and since then has been a regular worker on the Malton Circuit Plan, as well as doing occasional duty in the Pickering and Kirbymoorside Circuits. Though not a pledged abstainer, he gave allegiance to total principles when he became a Wesleyan Methodist and was thus somewhat in advance of some of his fellow workers. He became a member of the Ryedale Highway Board at its foundation, and later on sat on the Pickering Highway Board of which he was vice chairman for six years. Last Sunday afternoon the Malton Supt. Minister Rev Thomas Law met him at the Little Barugh Chapel and congratulated him on looking so well, and on returning home with the minister he remarked that they had had a beautiful service and had enjoyed it very much indeed. In the evening he walked down to Great Barugh and seemed to be in very good form. He was taken ill on Wednesday, and though medical aid was called in, nothing serious was anticipated, and at night he seemed quite cheerful, but in the early hours of Thursday morning he passed peacefully away in his sleep. He leaves behind him his widow, his son George Henry who has long been in the succession as an acceptable local preacher, and one daughter. There are also 14 grandchildren. The interment will be at Kirby-misperton on Saturday afternoon at 3.0 o'clock.

THE MALTON BAPTISTS.

RECOGNITION OF REV EDWIN SMITH.

The Malton Baptists are to be congratulated on the following among them of the Rev Edwin

Bramley
him
Their
on the
there
had
All the
increased
their pas
believed t
right plac
thanking
given in
was with
Rev E. S.
the hope
long with
him." B
extended
and prom
them the
THE R
spoke of
good th
deserved.
Ireland t
secondly
it out o
lastly th
new chu
place to
while we
had spok
Malton (w
was gl
shade be
increase
of the s
should n
Master.
The R
that Mr
was ena
loved. T
ality an
Smith, l
minister
cal advi
and to t
A h
F. J. I
Smith a
himself
the feel
being in
work in
sure Mr
of frien
Smith a
encoun
Smith
behalf
town.
The
heartv

1841 England Census for Joseph Sleightholme

Joseph Sleightholme's life As told by the UK Census

The 1841 Census Shows Joseph Sleightholme (GG Grandfather) aged 14 living in the farm 'Scarth Gill' in Fardale Low Quarter of his father George and mother Ellen.

The Farm was later called 'Scarth Nick' but it is the same farm.

City or Borough of -
Parish or Township of *Fardale Low Quarter* Enumeration Schedule.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
<i>Scarth Gill</i>	1		<i>George Sleightholme</i>	15		<i>Farmer</i>	Yes	
			<i>Ellen Sleightholme</i>		38		Yes	
			<i>Brother do</i>		17		Yes	
			<i>Joseph do</i>		14		Yes	
			<i>George do</i>		11		Yes	
			<i>John do</i>		7		Yes	
			<i>Elizabeth do</i>		3		Yes	
<i>Oak Tree</i>			<i>Theresa do</i>		80		Yes	
			<i>Parish Priest</i>		60	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	Yes	
			<i>Theresa do</i>		58		Yes	
		<i>William do</i>		13		<i>Stone Mason</i>	Yes	

1851 England Census for Joseph Heigltholme

Yorkshire > Farndale Low Quarter > ALL > 16

1											
Parish or Township of		Municipal Borough of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of		Hamlet of	
No. of Inhabitants	No. of Houses	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	
						Male	Female			Blind	Deaf
		1	Wayside	Matthew Smith	Head	Mar	52	General Servant	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth Smith	Wife	Mar	46		Yorkshire		
				George Smith	Son	Un	11		Yorkshire		
				Edith Smith	Daughter	Un	19		Yorkshire		
				Matthew Smith	Son	Un	7		Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth Smith	Daughter	Un	7		Yorkshire		
		2	North View	William Heigltholme	Head	Mar	49	General Servant	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth Heigltholme	Wife	Mar	42		Yorkshire		
				William Heigltholme	Son	Un	7		Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth Heigltholme	Daughter	Un	7		Yorkshire		
				William Heigltholme	Son	Un	7		Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth Heigltholme	Daughter	Un	7		Yorkshire		
		3	End View	Matthew Smith	Head	Mar	63	General Servant	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth Smith	Wife	Mar	55		Yorkshire		
				John Heigltholme	Son	Un	7		Yorkshire		

Ancestry 1851 census has a mistranscription for Joseph Sleightholme. Note the neighbour Matthew Smith

1861 England Census for Joseph Sleighthaline

Yorkshire > Farndale Low Quarter > ALL > District 9

91											
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Township of Farndale Low Quarter [Page 7]											
Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	
No. of Inhabitants	No. of Houses	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	
						Male	Female			Blind	Deaf
		35	Three Houses	Ann Winchase	Head	Mar	61	Widow	Yorkshire		
				James To	Son	Un	10	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				George To	Son	Un	8	Scholar	Yorkshire		
		36	Green Lane House	William To	Head	Mar	68	Widow	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Wife	Mar	65	Widow	Yorkshire		
				Mark Rudson	Son	Un	10	Scholar	Yorkshire		
		37	Little House	Joseph Sleighthaline	Head	Mar	64	Widow	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Wife	Mar	61	Widow	Yorkshire		
				George To	Son	Un	5	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				William To	Son	Un	1	Scholar	Yorkshire		
		38	Harland	John Heigltholme	Head	Mar	71	Widow	Yorkshire		
				Ann To	Wife	Mar	58	Widow	Yorkshire		

Ancestry 1861 census has a mistranscription for Joseph. Joseph and Jane are living in Farndale. Son George Henry age 5.

1871 England Census for Joseph Sleightholine

Yorkshire > Barugh Ambo > ALL > 4

Page 5											
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c., of	
No. of Inhabitants	No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	
						Male	Female			Blind	Deaf
		45		John Heigltholme	Head	Mar	77	Farmer	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Wife	Mar	77		Yorkshire		
				George To	Son	Un	10	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Daughter	Un	7	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				William To	Son	Un	6	Scholar	Yorkshire		
		46	End of Water Lane	William To	Head	Mar	69	Farmer	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Wife	Mar	65		Yorkshire		
				William To	Son	Un	10	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Daughter	Un	7	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				William To	Son	Un	6	Scholar	Yorkshire		
		47		Joseph Sleightholine	Head	Mar	44	Farmer	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Wife	Mar	44		Yorkshire		
				George To	Son	Un	11	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				Elizabeth To	Daughter	Un	7	Scholar	Yorkshire		
				William To	Son	Un	6	Scholar	Yorkshire		

Ancestry 1871 census has another mistranscription for Joseph. Joseph and Jane are living in Great Barugh. Son George Henry is there age 15 and a farmers son.

Appendix

Origin of the name Sleightholm(e)

I pronounce it this way "SLITE-HOME". I have always been intrigued by the name and it's origins. 'Holme' is a good old Viking/Danish word:

From: <http://viking.no/e/england/danelaw/epl-danelaw.htm>

"HOLME In Scandinavia, the place-name element -holm is usually associated with an island. Not very far from this in meaning is the -holm or -holme found in The Danelaw, where we consider the name to indicate farmland reclaimed from marshy waste. The meanings remain quite close, for such a reclaimed area would, of course, be an 'island' in an otherwise wet area."

The word HOLM is defined in the Abridged Oxford Dictionary as, Quote,

" Holm, Holme ,[in sense (1) OE (Old English,i.e. before 1150 A.D.)holm sea,ocean,wave; in sense (2),a ON (Old Norse) holmr islet in a bay,etc. meadow on the shore corresponding to OS (Old Saxon) LG, (Lower German),holm,hill.]

1 The sea,the wave OE only. 2 An islet; especially in a river. Frequently in place names(Old English) 3 a piece of low lying flat ground by a river or stream(ME, Middle English i.e. after 1150 A.D.)"

From: <http://www.surnameweb.org/centers/h/hume/meaning.htm>

"The most well known example of the Nordic use of the name is the capital of Sweden. Stockholm was founded on an island now known as Stadholm, which when translated becomes City,(Stad),holm,(island in the mouth of a river). The fact that Stockholm was not founded until the middle of the 13 century would not preclude the possibility that the HUME/HOME/HOLME/HULMES came specifically from that area."

The book "The Origin of English Place Names" supplies the following :- ON (Old Norse), holmr 'higher dry ground amidst marshes' ; 'a piece of flat ground'; 'an island', is extremely common. Forms in 'hulm' are definitely Danish, but most place-names appear to be from the Norse element. The word becomes common outside Scandinavian areas and many of the place-names in -holme in the Danelaw may really be from the ODa(Old Danish) hulm, its real origin being obscured by AN spellings as holm. A classic example is Holme - On - Spalding Moor, if anyone has passed it by or looked at it from the wolds it stands out from the surrounding landscape very much as an island and was in early times surrounded by marsh land.

The word "SLIGHT" is more of an obscure origin. The Norwegian word for family is "släkt". However it is pure speculation to link this word to ours. It may of course be literal. If the word is derived an island in a stream or river or just a raised piece of ground like "Holme on Spalding Moor" for example, then it may just mean a slight hill of reclaimed area around a wet or marshy area.

There are various places that the word crops up. Enter the word Sleightholme in Streetmap.co.uk and you get the following entries:

Sleightholme,Durham []

Sleightholme,Cumbria []

Sleightholme Beck,Durham [Water Feature]

Sleightholme Dale,North Yorkshire []

Sleightholme Fm,North Yorkshire [Farm]

Sleightholme Moor,Durham []

Sleightholme Moor,Durham [Land Feature]

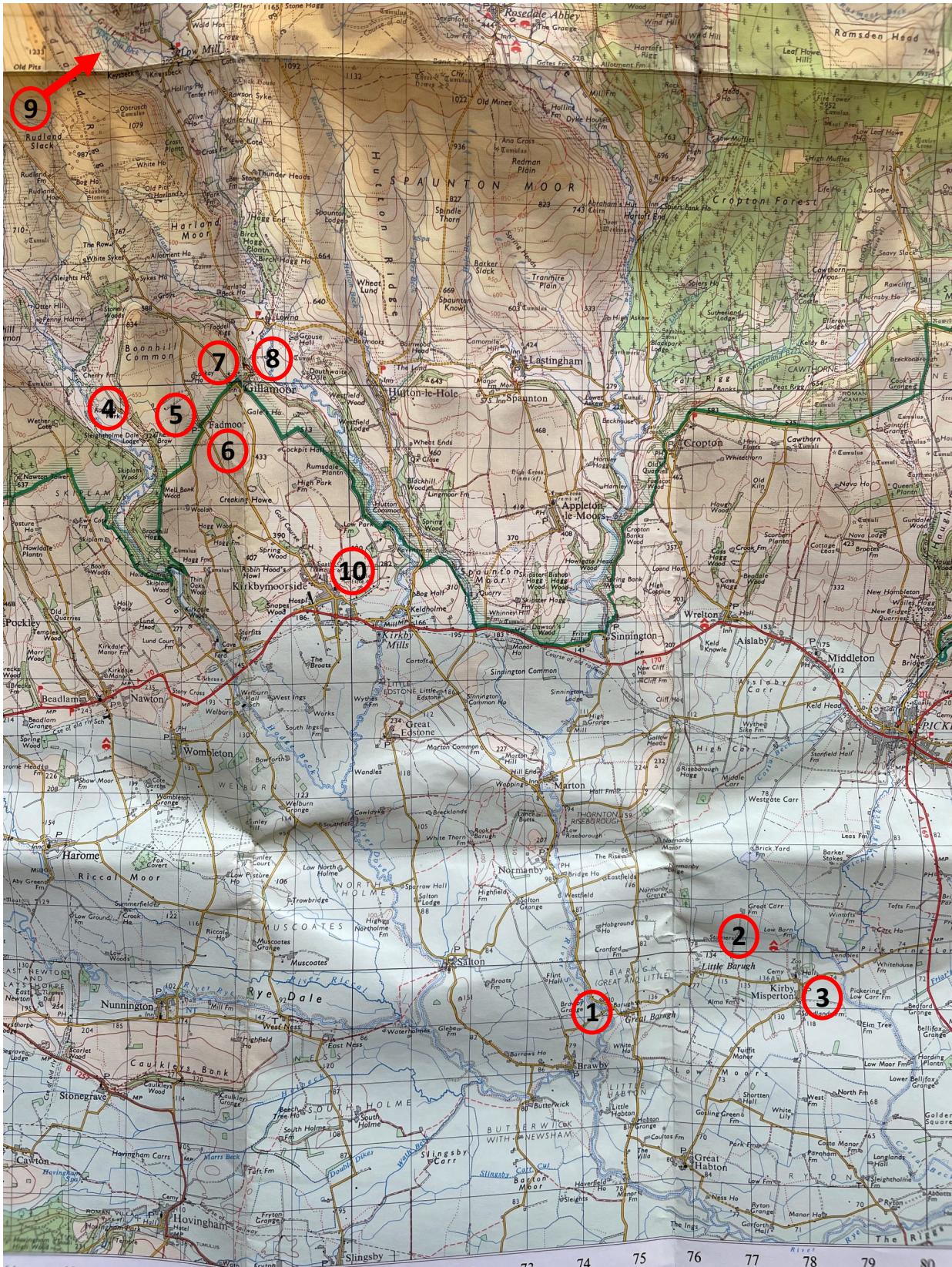
Interestingly there are no places called Slightholm without the 'e'. We are mostly interested in "Sleightholme Dale", mainly because it is very near to where our Sleightholme ancestors had their origins in the village of FADMOOR. It is the only place that can trace a line back using the Viking sounding surname from the people that lived there to the distant past, when records began, of where the Sleightholme name can be found.

The eliminant historian Raymond H. Hayes attributed an influx of immigrants colonising the limestone hills about A.D. 700, when Cropton, Appleton, Spaunton, Fadmoor and Gillamoore appeared. It is tempting to speculate that the people using the later Viking / Danish surname of Sleightholme were part of those immigrants.



Holme-On-Spalding Moor Church standing on top of a glacial mound

The Sleightholme area of interest in North Yorkshire



1. Great Barugh Chapel (now a private residence) where Joseph Sleightholme preached.
2. Little Barugh where Joseph, later followed by son George Henry Sleightholme lived on Stainers Farm.
3. Kirby Misperton where Grandma Mary Eleanor Sleightholme went to school and played the organ in the chapel (as well as Little Barugh Wesleyan Chapel—now demolished).
4. Sleightholme Dale (which is possibly the origin of the name).
5. The house in Fadmoor where Joseph Pilmoor was born and preached outside before his emigration to America.
6. The house in Fadmoor, the ancient home of the Sleightholme family.
7. Gillamoor Chapel which was built following the suggestion of Joseph Sleightholme.
8. Gillamoor Church was built by family member James Smith 'with his own two hands'. See the plaque on the South wall.
9. Scarth Gill or Scarth Nick in Farndale which was the farm where Joseph was raised by George and Ellen Sleightholme.
10. Kirkby Moorside Church where Joseph and Jane married and where generations of Sleightholmes were married and baptised before them.