

# ***Rakes Head Farm (no longer in existence)***

## ***Introduction***

Although this farm no longer exists many people in the village remember it well. It was situated about 50 yards from Hest Bank Lane at the beginning of Raikes Head Lane (Old Bob's as it is sometimes called). The land between the site and Hest Bank Lane is now for sale as building land.

Rakes Head Farm was demolished in the early 1960s with Seaview Drive and Raikes Hill being built on its land. Rake means land near, or containing, a narrow hill path; the name comes from the Old English: "hraca". When the Misses Derhams were children, the farmer at Rakes Head had a small house built on stilts on the left of the lane (opposite the farm) and in the single room was a table on which was a Bible. Here he went to read and he left it open so that the children could also go in to read. This was about 1913 so the owner was probably Joseph Frankland.

The first definitive reference to the owner of Rakes Head farm was in 1813. The Manor Court documents show Thomas Mansergh as the owner and when he died, his only daughter Ellen inherited the property. Ellen was the wife of Joseph Barnes, they probably did not occupy the property and eventually sold it in 1817 for £650 to Richard Clark

## ***The Manserghs of Slyne-with-Hest***

As I imagine that Rakes Head was built in the early 1700s it is probable that the Manserghs were the builders, they certainly owned the house and the land and would at that time be an important family in the village. The Manserghs had been in Slyne from the early 1700s and previously there were Manserghs in Ancliffe which was part of Slyne. It is almost certain that they were the same family. Here are some relevant items from the registers of Bolton-le-Sands Church.

1734: Margaret Mansergh, widow of Ancliffe in Sline, dies.

1733: John, son of Richard Mansergh of Sline, born.

1734: Margaret, daughter of Robert Mansergh of Sline, born.

1725: Robert Mansergh of Antcliffe in the Co. of Lancaster, husbandman, and Ellen Edmundson of White Lund in the Parish of Lancaster. married.

1738: Mary, daughter of Robert Mansergh of Hest, born

1741: Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Mansergh of Hest Bank, born

1750: John Shut 29, Middleton, husbandman and Anne Mansergh, 22, Hatlex, 24th. Nov.

The Manor Court record in 1756 shows a surrender by Robert Mansergh of several fields for the use of Leonard Stout:

**Feb. 1756: Slyne with Hest Manor Court, Surrender before John Tatham Deputy Steward for the King, by Robert Mansergh and Isabell Lodge of one acre in Waite Myer or Slyne Pasture for the use of Leonard Stout of Hatlex, gent, who is admitted as tenant, Rent 6d.**

Robert Mansergh was a copy-holder on a list of tenants from 1759-63, this copyhold is probably Rakes Head, which his son Thomas inherited from him. Unfortunately there is no record of the birth of Thomas.

Thomas Mansergh was a juror at the Manor Court from 1792 until 1805. There is mention of him in 1805: "Thomas Mansergh is now 78 years old". This means that he was born in 1727, so he was most likely the son of Robert Mansergh of Antcliffe and Ellen Edmundson who were married in 1725; he named his only daughter Ellen, probably after his mother. We certainly know that he could write because he signed his name on Manor Court Documents! Thomas died in 1812 aged 85.

1812; Thomas Mansergh is dead, a heriot hath accrued. Ellen the wife of Joseph Barnes is his only child and heir.

### **Later Owners of Rakes Head**

The Richard Clark who bought Rakes Head in 1817 probably did not stay very long for I can find no mention of him after this time. In 1827, there is a death recorded of Sarah Tate of Rakes Head aged 4, so it appears that the Tate family were the next tenants. By 1841 the owner was Thomas Greene and the tenant was Thomas Hodgson.

Thomas Hodgson, farmer, aged 30.  
Jane Hodgson, aged 30.  
Jennet Hodgson, aged 8.  
Robert Hodgson, aged 5.  
Sarah Hodgson, aged 3.  
Elizabeth Mount, aged 20, female servant.  
James Taylor, aged 4. And Henry Taylor, aged 2. [Census return 1841]

The Tithe map of 1845 shows that the owner of Rakes Head was Thomas Greene, the land included part of Mansergh Meadow, Long Rakes, Stripe and Slyney Parrock. The tenant was still Thomas Hodgson. In 1846 there was a death recorded of Amelia Ord, Rakes Head, aged 34, wife of Mr. John Ord, Railway Overlooker. It is possible that the Ords were lodgers at Rakes Head.

### **The King Family**

By 1861 the family of King originally from Slyne had moved in to Rakes Head Farm.

Rakeshead farm, Hest Bank Road. Francis King, aged 50, farmer of 17 acres and joiner, employs 2 joiners and a labourer.  
Ann King, wife 52.  
Francis, son, aged 25, joiner.  
John, son aged 23, joiner.  
Daniel, son, aged 16, scholar.  
James Clark, male servant, agricultural. [Census return 1861]

In a directory of 1866 Francis King of Rakes Head described himself as a wheelwright. By 1871 the family had suffered a tragedy, their eldest son Francis lost his wife, there were two small children from the marriage and all were living at Rakes Head:

Francis King, aged 60, farmer of 13 acres and joiner, employing 1 man.  
Ann, wife, aged 63.  
Francis, son, widower, aged 35, joiner.  
Daniel, son aged 25, agricultural worker.  
William, grandson, aged 6, scholar.  
John, grandson aged 2.  
Charles Fothergill, aged 23, lodger, Hop Merchant. [Census return 1871]

In 1873 Agnes King of Rakes Head died aged 66, she was obviously the wife of the elder Francis but for some reason her name is wrong in the register. In 1881 we see that the second son Daniel had become a gardener, and William the eldest grandchild had left the farm.

Francis King, aged 70, Joiner and Wheelwright, widower.  
Francis Holden King, son, widower, Joiner.  
Daniel Park King, son, aged 35, gardener.  
John Hodgson King, grandson, aged 12, scholar. [Census return 1881]

The King family continued in the village until at least the 1930's, mostly in Slyne. Mrs Schofield tells me that there were Kings using the barn and the area behind Little Grange when she was a child, they were blacksmiths and the children in the area called it "The Kings Smithy". In 1891 Christopher Robinson and his family were living at Rakes Head.

**Christopher Robinson, aged 45, born in Lancashire, farmer.**

**Mary Ann Robinson, wife, aged 51.**

**Mary Ann, daughter, aged 13.**

**Mary Ann, granddaughter, aged 4.**

**Michael Metcalfe, aged 48, servant. [Census return 1891]**

In 1913 Joseph Frankland was the tenant at Rakes Head and in 1920 it was sold as part of the Dawson-Greene Estate. By that time the area was only 2a-3r-18p and its rental was £20 per annum. The tenant in 1920 was George Armistead.